

## Our Mission

To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women.

### Mary S. Doten - A Woman of Many Letters: Her Life and Writings

You loved our luncheon and fashion show at San Rafael in 2014, and NWHP will present another program there in November of 2015. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 14th.

Lynn Bremer, Mary S. Doten's foremost biographer, will present a program at the historic San Rafael Ranch house on this fascinating woman. Lynn has just published a two volume anthology, *From This Land of Sagebrush and Alkali: The Writings of Mary Stoddard Doten*. The books are based on Mary's writings, taken from newspaper articles published throughout the country, her scrapbooks and diary entries. In her own style, Mary's writings present life from a woman's perspective, in early mining communities of the west.

In October of 1910, the citizens of Reno passed a school bond that in part provided the financing to build two new elementary schools that were to be similar in design to the previously built McKinley Park and Orvis Ring elementary schools. Both new schools were built in the same one story mission type architecture, and were almost the exact counterparts of McKinley Park and Orvis Ring. The four schools were known as the "Spanish Quartet" and were representative of that period in Reno's history.

In accordance with the Washoe County traditional school naming process, Mt. Rose School, was named for a geographical feature and the other named in honor of one of Reno's most treasured educators, Mary S. Doten. Sadly, that school which educated so many of Reno's children, was demolished in 1974, and Mary S. Doten, the person, is now mostly forgotten.



Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society

Many Nevadans are familiar with Mary's husband, Virginia City newsman Alf Doten, by the multi volume personal diaries that he wrote, and that were ultimately consolidated into a three book set entitled the *Diaries of Alf Doten*. His cryptic entries are wonderfully descriptive of everyday life in a Nevada mining town.

Arguably, Alf's wife, Mary Stoddard Doten, had a far greater sphere of influence during her lifetime. She had a greater impact on numerous generations of Nevada citizens. In addition to her teaching career, she became a school administrator, she served on several state and local educational boards (including the State Department of Education), she was active in the Women's Suffrage struggle, she held membership in many of Reno's most influential organizations, and was an accomplished writer in her own right.

Bring your daughters, mothers, spouses and friends. Sit in the ambiance of the historic ranch house, partake in a delicious home cooked lunch of soups, salads and desserts, and be educated and entertained by Lynn's informative talk about this wonderful woman who was so important in Reno's early history, and who definitely deserves more public awareness than she has received.

Mary Stoddard Doten's short biography, by Lynn Bremer, is available on the NWHP website at [www.nevadawomen.org](http://www.nevadawomen.org) in the biographies tab.

Patty Cafferata reviews Bremer's Mary S. Doten books in the Summer, 2015 *Nevada in the West* magazine, pgs. 37-38.

**WHERE: Rancho San Rafael Ranch House**

**1595 N. Sierra, Reno, NV**

**WHEN: Saturday, November 14, 2015**

**TIME: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**COST: \$35.00 (NWHP member discount \$5)**

**For further information contact Patti Bernard 826-3612**

## NWHP RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE JOHN BEN SNOW MEMORIAL TRUST

The NWHP received a grant titled “The History of Two Women’s Organizations and Interviewing Nevada Women” from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust. The grant total costs are \$24,059 of which NWHP received \$10,000 from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust. The grant request was for \$13,969 with a \$10,090 match from the NWHP, so the project will need to be scaled down to match the actual funds received.

This is an 18-month project which will end in December 2016 to accomplish two goals. The first goal is to video interview two panels of four or five women each: those who were founding Board Members of the Nevada Women’s Fund and women who were founders of the Nevada Women’s History Project. The NWF was established in 1982 and the NWHP in 1994. With the passage of time it becomes a priority to interview the women involved in these two major Nevada women’s organizations. These video recordings will be conducted in Fall of 2015.

The second goal is to interview individual women in Northern Nevada counties. The project is tied to

Interstate 80 and Hwy 50. The women will be selected for their significant contributions to their county. For this project the counties involved are Carson City, Churchill, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing, Washoe and White Pine. Women in Battle Mountain were interviewed for the 2014 Women of Diversity project, so for this grant Lander County will be represented by Austin women. Future grant requests will focus on Highways 93 and 95 for additional counties.

The grant application asked for two women in each county, but with the reduced funding amount we will need to reduce that number and complete as many as possible with the existing funding.

Since the NWHP established a collection at the Nevada Historical Society and they do not accept media, the grant included funding for transcribing these interviews for permanent paper housing at the NHS. The media will also have archival storage elsewhere.

Project Manager for this grant is Patti Bernard.



## PROGRESS REPORT ON ESTELLE J. KELSEY WEBSITE GRANT

The NWHP website committee and the NWHP Board of Directors will be meeting with Shannon Hataway, [Tangerine Design for Print & Web](http://TangerineDesign.com), at the end of August. Tangerine is a full-service design and development shop whose owner works closely with her clients to grow a website for specific needs. Tangerine made the NWHP Suffrage Centennial website [www.suffrage100nv.org](http://www.suffrage100nv.org) in 2014.

Shannon will present three layout concepts for the new site. We will keep the existing content and add a media section to include video and oral interviews. In previous years and now with the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust grant for 2015-16 NWHP will have several media items to add to the new site.

Also an exciting addition will be linking to any and all websites that contain biographical information on Nevada women. There are many local and statewide libraries, museums, archives and newspapers that

either have online access to biographical information or have paper biographies, journal articles or clipping files the NWHP can link to. If you have suggestions for those links please send them to Mona Reno, [mreno@gbis.com](mailto:mreno@gbis.com).

The files at the Nevada Historical Society are being indexed to the individual item and added to a database for enhanced access. This database will be added to the new website.

As a work in progress this database will be updated as we add items. Our vision is an alphabetic list of women’s names to a database that indicates if the information is at the NHS, on the media page, at a local library, museum, etc., linked to another webpage or in a book via the 2nd edition of the NWHP Annotated Bibliography.

[www.nevadawomen.org](http://www.nevadawomen.org)

**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: June 16, 2015**  
**At Nevada Historical Society**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Mona Reno called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. In attendance were Patti Bernard, Mary Anne Convis, Marcia Cuccaro and guest Alice Brown, Christianne Hamel, Jon Hamel, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot and guest Jennarene Whaley, Kathy Noneman, Margee Richardson and guest Jan Walker, Catherine Sanders and Holly Van Valkenburgh.

**BUSINESS of the CORPORATION**

Minutes – The April 29, 2014 minutes were read by Recording Secretary, Marcia Cuccaro. Lisa-Marie Lightfoot moved the minutes be approved and Christianne Hamel seconded the motion. The minutes were voted on and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report – Jon Hamel presented the Treasurer's report. Currently the NWHP has a bank balance of \$27,621.98 and a net income of \$1,159.44. Total assets of the NWHP are \$30,561.25 as are total liabilities & equity.

Membership Report – Christianne Hamel gave the Membership Report which shows 85 members in good standing. Four new members were added since the April board meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The slate of Officers for two year terms ending in 2017 were presented and elected by acclamation. Those Officers are President: Mona Reno, Vice President: Kathy Noneman, Recording Secretary: Marcia Cuccaro, Newsletter Editor: Holly Van Valkenburgh and Website First Ladies: Patti Bernard. Program Chair remains open. The Treasurer, Jon Hamel and Membership, Christianne Hamel positions will carry over through 2016.

**ACTIVITIES of the NWHP**

**REPORTS:**

Wildflower Hike – Kay Sanders announced the annual hike will take place on Saturday, July 18th at Spooner Lake. Members were encouraged to sign up by Friday, July 17th.

Jean Ford Research Center – Kay also reported 19 biographies featured on our website [www.nevadawomen.org](http://www.nevadawomen.org), were featured in the *Reno Gazette Journal* during March. We will now need to produce 22 more biographies for next year.

First Ladies and Oral Histories – Patti Bernard gave a short report on the status of oral interviews, First Lady biographies, Native American Women biographies and Nevada Women Legislators.

The agenda contained a summary of the activities during the past year.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Lee Brumbaugh, Ph.D.** – **Curator of Photography** at the Nevada Historical gave a presentation on old photos and explained how to identify their time periods by type of photo, dress, identifying information on the backs of photos, etc.

**Sheryl Hayes-Zorn** – **Acting Museum Director and Curator of Manuscripts** then talked about manuscripts held within the Nevada Historical Society, how they are maintained and how they can be accessed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was informally adjourned at 4:00 pm. Members were given the opportunity to visit the museum at the Nevada Historical Society.

Light refreshments were served.

Submitted by Marcia Cuccaro, Recording Secretary

## NEW BIOGRAPHIES POSTED ON NWHP WEBSITE

Several new biographies have been added to our website since January 2015, making us closer to achieving our goal, which is to add 22 new biographies by the end of January 2016. Happily a few of our members have volunteered to step up their research and writing to help us reach this number. To date the following historical Nevada women have been posted on our website since the first of the year:

Una Reilly Dickerson, former Nevada First Lady

Marcia Cuccaro (researcher and writer)

See the September 2014 *NWHP News* pages 6-8 for this biography

Luella Kirkbride Drumm, former Nevada Assemblywoman

Bunny Corkill (researcher and writer)

Marianne Williamson Griswold, former Nevada First Lady

Janice Hoke (researcher and writer)

Elizabeth Kinkead, former Nevada First Lady

Patti Bernard (researcher), Janice Hoke (writer)

See the April 2015 *NWHP News* page 6-7 for this biography

Olga Constantina Lord Kipanidze, Anesthesiologist

Sally Zanjani (researcher and writer)

Alice Allegra Dove List, Mother of Nevada Governor Robert List

Bonnie List Sutphin (researcher and writer)

Katharine (Kay) Norrid Mergen, Journalist and Educator

Bernard Mergen, Jr. (researcher and writer)

See pages 6-9 of this issue of *NWHP News* for this biography

Our next issue of the *NWHP News* will contain some suggestions on who we would like to include in our biography website. Volunteer writers are welcome to add their own choice of someone who has lived in our state and has contributed to her community.

Kay Sanders,

Editor, Biography Website



## FIRST LADIES WEBSITE REPORT

NWHP members have been busy adding biographies of former Nevada Governor's wives to our First Lady Biographies Collection. Since the first of the year, Marcia Cuccaro completed the biography of Una Reilly Dickerson and Janice Hoke added Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Kinkead and Marianne Williamson Griswold to our ever growing list of completed biographies. Check them out on our website. The biographies provide interesting and little known facts about these women.

Patti Bernard and Christianne and Jon Hamel also presented a program in July for OLLI members during the organization's summer session. The NWHP video of interviews with First Ladies Bette Sawyer, Jackie Laxalt, Kathy List, Carolyn O'Callaghan, Bonnie Bryan, Sandy Miller and Dema Guinn produced by Women of Diversity, Inc. was shown. A question and answer period completed the presentation.

Patti Bernard

Editor, Nevada First Ladies Biography Website

## Profiles of Members

### *Christianne Hamel*



A newcomer to the Nevada Women's History Project, Christianne Hamel came to us via her mother-in-law, Peggy Hamel, who brought Christianne to the 2013 annual Pink Tea. Peggy has been a long-time NWHP member, loved what the group stood for and thought her beautiful daughter-in-law might find the group interesting also. Christianne not only met her mother-in-law's expectations but immediately joined right in! She soon accepted the position of Corresponding Secretary, later Membership Chair and has been active in our organization ever since!

Christianne originally moved to Reno with her family in the summer of 1978 from Van Nuys, California. She attended UNR where she met her future husband, Jon. They married the following year and lived in the area until 1992 when Jon accepted employment in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Christianne went back to school and obtained a degree in Horticulture Marketing and Production.

After two years in Wisconsin, Jon found employment in Las Vegas, NV and Christianne started an indoor plant maintenance company.

Christianne and Jon moved to Reno from Las Vegas two years ago when both their families needed a little extra help.

Peggy Hamel's decision to bring Christianne to the NWHP Pink Tea was a decision that enriched our organization. Christianne is always one of the first members to volunteer; her mother, sister and brother are now members and her husband Jon serves as our Treasurer. Christianne's smile can be counted on to brighten the day of anyone who meets her. Christianne is the epitome of how a new member can help strengthen an organization and help carry its mission and goals forward.

Marcia Cuccaro  
Recording Secretary



## **2015 PINK TEA REPORT**

The Annual Pink Tea was held on May 9, 2015 inside the Governor's Mansion. This year Patti Bernard and Mona Reno came up with a great program about Nevada women legislators. Handheld signs for several individuals were made with a photo on one side and a brief legislative biography on the other side. Attendees held the signs in front of their face and read the back as a tribute to the woman legislator.

There were 29 attendees at this year's Pink Tea. Several attendees wore period garments which gave an elegant ambiance to the event. Special guests were Emma George and Sam Funk who are members of the Silver State Young Chautauqua group. Janette Dean a UNR political activist for women's rights gave us a summary of the status of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2015.

This is a wonderful event that we want to share with more people. The attendance has been getting smaller each year for several years. Beginning in 2016 the event will be rebranded as "High Tea in the Governor's Mansion." We will still try to hold the event in May, but it will not be on Mother's Day weekend. We hope these changes will make this a more popular event and a greater fundraiser. The program will still be focused on Nevada Women's History.

Mona Reno,  
Chair NWHP



## Featured Historic Nevada Woman:

KATHARINE (KAY) NORRID MERGEN (1910-1997)

### *At a glance:*

**Born:** September 18, 1910

**Died:** June 12, 1997

**Maiden Name:** Norrid

**Race/nationality/ethnic background:** Caucasian

**Married:** Bernard M. Mergen

**Children:** a son, Bernard M. Mergen, Jr.

**Primary city and county of residence and work:**

Wabuska (Lyon Co.), Reno (Washoe Co.)

**Major field of work:** Journalism, education, soil and water conservation.

**Other role identities:** mother, civic and women's organizations.



Photo credit: Courtesy Mergen Family Collection

Katharine (Kay) Norrid was born September 18, 1910, in Gainsville, Texas. Her parents, William Andrew (Andy) Norrid and Eunice Gregory, were both natives of that town, but lived in Nevada since 1904. Kay's father worked as a section foreman for the Southern Pacific Railroad, moving frequently along the routes of the SP in Nevada. When it came time to enroll his daughter in school Andy Norrid took the section foreman's job in Wabuska, the village she proudly considered her hometown the rest of her life.

What Kay Norrid enjoyed most about Wabuska was the excitement of watching the "reefers," the refrigerated cars that carried the vegetable and fruit products of California's Central Valley eastward through Nevada. In a brief memoir written thirty years later, she evokes the now lost time of steam engines and ice-filled freight cars:

"Autumn never came at Wabuska until the reefers arrived, yellow as the cottonwood trees around the water tank. They were switched onto the east leg of the wye in the night, by the southbound local, their summer work of hauling lettuce and other perishables eastward from California across the Nevada desert to city markets across the country. Then they traveled the hotshot schedule, pounding along faster than a passenger train, stopping only for more ice in the compartments that ran the depth of the car at each corner, filled from a trapdoor at the top of the car.

The next morning, there they stood in a long row, stretching far down the tracks. If it was a school day, I left with regretful glances over my shoulder. If it was a Saturday, the first thing after breakfast was an exploratory trip along the lines of cars. Some were weather-beaten and dull, the finish gone from the paint. Others were a brilliant, clear yellow. You didn't climb on them immediately. You walked the length of the string and savored the far-away name chalked on the sides of some; a few still dripped from the remainder of the ice yet in the bunkers. When you got to the end of the string, you tentatively swung up on the first ladder, and climbed slowly to the top. Up there it was a new world, the sun was brighter, the desert softer. You felt a kinship with the mountains away to the north; you were as tall on the horizon as the mountains with shades of mauve and blue in the west. The narrow catwalk atop the cars was a path that could lead right to the sky. The excitement of the first few steps was almost unbearable, as you looked at the ground below, but there was the path ahead. Before you knew it you were running, running toward the end of the path. It was a game that never grew old." ( Editor's

note: see Sources of information, Katharine Norrid Mergen, "The Wabuska Years".

Shortly after she started school, Kay's sister Margaret was born. But after Kay graduated from Yerington High School in 1928, Margaret was diagnosed with diabetes, for which there was no cure at the time. Margaret died in 1932. Her death was the second misfortune Kay experienced at this time. Strongly encouraged by her father, Kay enrolled at the University of Nevada and completed two years, but the effects of the Great Depression hit the SP and her father was laid-off. Reassigned to a lower-paying job, Andy Norrid took his family to Susanville, California, where Kay found part-time work and enrolled at Lassen Junior College (now Lassen Community College).

Returning to the University of Nevada in 1934, Kay took classes in Journalism, English, and Spanish, wrote for the student newspaper *The Sagebrush*, and worked part-time at the *Reno Evening Gazette*. She graduated with a B.A. in journalism and a teaching certificate. On May 25, 1936, she married journalist Bernard M. Mergen of Sparks, Nevada, in a civil ceremony in Virginia City. Future US Senator Alan Bible, Bernard's friend, was one of their witnesses. She and her husband lived at various times in Carson City and Reno while he worked as a reporter and in the state government and she worked for the *Nevada State Journal*. Their son, Bernard M. Mergen, Jr., was born in March 1937. Failing to find suitable work, Kay's husband left the state and they were divorced in 1940.

By that time her father had retired from the Southern Pacific and, in 1940, she moved with her parents and son to Wadsworth, where she taught in the elementary school for one year and the high school for a second year. She also coached women's sports. In 1942 she and her family moved to Long Beach, California, where her mother's brother helped her find employment. Andy Norrid's death in September 1943 precipitated a move to Gainesville, TX where she worked for a year as a reporter for the local newspaper. In 1944, GIs were beginning to return to civilian life and enrollments at colleges and universities were increasing. Kay was contacted by her former

journalism professor Alfred Higginbotham and offered a teaching position at the University in Reno.

She lived in Reno for the next 16 years, teaching journalism for four years, before rejoining the staff of the *Reno Evening Gazette* as "Women's Editor" in the era when newspapers devoted several pages to weddings, births, women's clubs, and social gatherings by prominent citizens. She interviewed well-known political figures, Eleanor Roosevelt and Pat Nixon, among others. In 1957



Photo credit: Courtesy Mergen Family Collection

she became the editor of the *Gazette's* first weekly special feature section, which included an entertainment supplement. In addition to her newspaper work, she was active in a number of civic organizations: Business and Professional Women, National League of American Pen Women, Nevada Press Women, the Twentieth Century Club, Reno Little Theater, and the Washoe County Democratic Women's Club. Her close friends in these years included Peg Wheat, Maya Miller, poet Margaret Bartlett Thornton, artist and journalist Betty Bliss, U.S. Forest Service administrator Harriet Metcalf, and most of the faculty of the English Department at the university.

Kay Mergen's career, like all journalists', was vulnerable to rapid changes in newspaper production and management. Locally owned and managed newspapers with deep roots in a community were being replaced by corporations that owned dozens of formerly independent newspapers in large markets. Moreover, technological innovations such as the teleprinter

or TTY made it possible for a reporter in another city or country to send copy instantaneously to newspaper offices throughout the world. Later this machine would be linked directly to a linotype, eliminating the jobs of local typesetters as well as reporters. Reporters' salaries were notoriously low and women journalists were usually paid half as much as men.

Such was the situation in Reno in 1959. The *Reno Evening Gazette* was an independent, locally owned newspaper until 1939 when it and its rival, the *Nevada State Journal*, were acquired by Speidel Newspapers, whose employment practices provoked workers at the *Gazette* to organize under the auspices of the American Newspaper Guild (ANG). Under the leadership of Frank McCulloch, Jr., a rancher's son from Fernley and a Marine veteran of World War II, Reno Local 208 of the ANG was chartered in 1950 with ten members, including Kay Mergen. Contract negotiations over the next few years brought some improvement, but when McCulloch left to become a reporter for *Time* magazine, Speidel's president Charles "Chick" Stout saw a chance to break the union, of which Kay Mergen was now president.

For many reasons, contract negotiations broke down in May 1959, and the members of Local 208 voted 33-0 to "strike if necessary." On June 29, Guild members began picketing the *Gazette* building. Using wire service stories from around the world and non-union workers, the *Gazette* continued to publish. Local 208 published its own paper, *Reno News*, to inform the public about the causes of the strike. Despite the efforts of Reno Mayor Bud Baker and Governor Grant Sawyer to mediate the dispute, Speidel Newspapers Inc. fired the striking workers and withheld all but a fraction of their retirement funds. On October 13 the pickets were withdrawn. The ANG decertified the Local, ending all legal protest.

In 1960, age 50, Kay Mergen began a second career as a writer and editor for the U.S. Forest Service. One of her early pieces, for the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, was on the role of women in forming public opinion on conservation. Citing the work of women's club and garden club members, who have on their own initiative reforested burned-over hillsides,

established soil conservation districts, published river basin studies, and provided window boxes for flowering plants in cities, Mergen concludes by urging more efforts in conservation education in elementary and secondary education. In addition to science classes, she concluded that: "conservation materials should be used in all classes—art, literature, social studies, history and geography."

In 1966 Kay transferred to the Education Relations Section of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC, where she wrote and edited various publications and represented the SCS at national meetings of garden clubs, elementary and secondary school administrators and teachers, and environmental groups. When she retired in 1980 she was Head of the Educational Relations Section. She was a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America, the Conservation Education Association, the American Newspaper Women's Club, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. While living in Washington, she kept her Nevada contacts by attending meetings of the Nevada State Society and visiting Reno as often as she could. She remained in Washington to be near her son and grandchildren. In retirement she devoted much time and effort to the League of Women Voters and several environmental protection organizations. She died of lung cancer on June 12, 1997. Her family scattered her ashes in the desert near Reno.

Kay Mergen's legacy in Nevada is part of the as-yet-unwritten history of women journalists in Post-World War II America. Also, like many women in the 1920s and 1930s, she was the first member of her family to graduate from a university. Thirdly, and most important, her role as president of the Reno Newspaper Guild in the anti-union environment of the United States in the era of Taft-Hartley and "right-to-work" laws helped call attention to the plight of white collar workers in general and of women in particular. With the rise of the women's movement in the 1960s, more and more workers in what were considered



women's occupations—teachers, nurses, clerical workers, restaurant workers, and domestic workers—joined or organized unions. Working women still face opposition from employers, politicians, and rival unions, as Jane McAlevey documents in her history of the Service Employees International Union, but gains are being made. Kay Mergen's journalistic career in Nevada suggests that losing one battle may inspire future successes.

According to an interview she gave in 1957, Kay "loves Pyramid Lake, Moby Dick, scotch, science-fiction, Segovia, lasagna, cats, people and Fall." In later years she added Dolly Sods, West Virginia, Gore Vidal, Loren Eiseley, cervelle de veau, owls, and grandchildren to her list; idiosyncratic loves that defined her.

**Biographical sketch by Bernard Mergen, Jr. Posted to website May 2015.**

### Published works of Katharine Mergen:

Daily stories in the *Reno Evening Gazette* (mostly unsigned), 1948-1959.

Mergen, Katharine Norrid. "Pyramid Lake," *Nevada Magazine* 3, no. 7 (1948),: 3. Reprinted in Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs. *Sage in Bloom: An Anthology of Verse*. Reno: Silver State Press, 1950, 55-56.

Mergen, Kay. "Land Developers Eye Pyramid Lake as Prospective Resort Area," *Reno Evening Gazette*, May 20, 1959, 8.

Mergen, Katharine N. "The Role of Women in Forming Public Opinion in Conservation," *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 20, no. 4 (July-August 1965): 133-134.

Mergen, K.N. and C.H. Thomas. "Schoolyards Have Class as Outdoor Laboratories," U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Yearbook of Agriculture*, 1972. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972, pp. 257-262.

Mergen, K. "Soil Science for Four Year Olds," *Soil Conservation* 42, no. 9, April 1977, 6-7.

### Sources of information:

Katharine Norrid, *Diary 1930-1935*. Mergen family papers.

"Wadsworth School Opens," *Nevada State Journal*, August 17, 1941, 8.

Katherine Norrid Mergen, "The Wabuska Years," typescript, 6 pages, undated ca. 1950. Mergen family papers.

"Renotables—Kay Mergen," *Reno This Week*, November 3, 1957, 6. Mergen family papers.

*Reno News* 1, no. 2, July 30, 1959. Mergen family papers.

Lingenfelter, Richard E. and Karen Rix Gash. *The Newspapers of Nevada: A History and Bibliography, 1854-1979*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1984.

McAlevey, Jane. *Raising Expectations (and Raising Hell): My Decade Fighting for the Labor Movement*. 2012.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

As of July 12, 2015

The Year to Date financial report shows a bank balance of \$23,536.98 and a net income/<loss> of <\$2,925.56>. With fixed assets totaling \$2,939.27 (for office furniture and equipment) the total assets of the NWHP is \$26,476.25.

Jon Hamel  
Treasurer



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## SPOONER LAKE HIKE—MEMORIES

On a beautiful day, July 25th, 10 hikers enjoyed the wildflower hike at Spooner Lake State Park, located on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe at 7,000 feet. Kay Sanders, hike leader, was pleased that even in late July there were numerous flowers to see and the lake still contained water.

Participants on the hike were Patti Bernard, Susan Burkhamer, Marcia Cuccaro, Jacki Falkenroth, Christianne Hamel, Jon Hamel, Vicki Omnes, Kay Sanders, Jan Walker and Patti Wallace.

We identified snowplant, buckwheat cinquefoil, cow parsnip, senecio, mule ears, horse-mint, phlox, Anderson’s thistle, gilia, blue flax, paintbrush, phlox, lupine, and penstemon. There were many others that were identified but not recorded. According to the guide book, the meadow around the lake is a nesting and feeding area for birds. They are home to osprey, killdeer, and bald eagles.

Kay Sanders

Wildflower Hike Coordinator



blue flax



lupine



Jan Walker, Jacki Falkenroth and Christianne Hamel



horse-mint



snowplant



Kay Sanders, Marcia Cuccaro, Christianne and Jon Hamel, Jacki Falkenroth, Sue Burkhamer and Patti Bernard

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AND DONATIONS

### New Members

*Individual - \$30*

Madeline Carpenter

Janice Hoke

Antonia Lowden

### Renewing Members

*Friend - \$100*

Debbie Smith

Arlene Oakes

*Individual - \$30*

Cynthia Pickett

Jeanell Pevey

*Organization - \$50*

DKG XI Chapter

Churchill County Museum & Archives

### NWHP Donations

In Memory of Marijeanne Reno - \$500

Mary Anne Convis - \$60

Jeanell Pevey - \$10

Christianne Hamel

Membership Chair

# NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

## Membership Form

(Membership is for January thru December of each year)

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Nevada Women's History Project. Our new year is here and it is time to renew your membership. You are vital to maintaining our educational website of women's biographies and interviews, having special events and to offset the operational costs of the NWHP.

Please notice that we have added a lifetime membership category, Best Friend Forever. Membership comes with an event discount and a newsletter. All levels of membership may be tax deductible since NWHP is an educational non-profit.

### Membership Levels

Individual	\$30.00	_____
Family of Two	\$55.00	_____
Friend	\$100.00	_____
Good Friend	\$250.00	_____
Best Friend	\$500.00	_____
Best Friend Forever	\$1,000.00	_____
Organization	\$50.00	_____
Corporate Sponsor	\$250.00	_____

I also enclose an additional \_\_\_\_\_ donation for the NWHP.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I prefer the **digital copy** of the newsletter.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this membership form to:  
 Nevada Women's History Project  
 770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502



2015 - 2016

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# NWPH News

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

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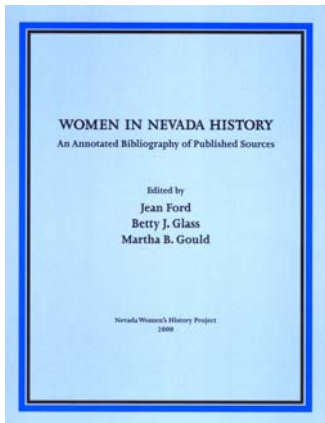
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## NWHP WOMEN IN NEVADA HISTORY SECOND EDITION

### In This Issue



We need NWHP members, their friends, their book clubs and their civic organizations to visit regional museums throughout the state to see if new publications about Nevada women are available for consideration for the new edition. The same goes for community organizations, including school fund-raising projects that might have resulted in publications. Visits to local bookstores, churches, and libraries may also lead to relevant discoveries.

To help with the effort, the first edition has been scanned and is now available online for everyone to consult. The book is linked on this Webpage in the “Historical Resources” box:

<http://guides.library.unr.edu/c.php?g=51198&p=331409>

The form to suggest books for including in the second edition is on [www.nevadawomen.org](http://www.nevadawomen.org) in the Regular Features.

For more information and to submit suggestions contact Betty Glass at [glass@unr.edu](mailto:glass@unr.edu).

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