

Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FootPrints

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting Historic Resources in the Truckee Meadows through Education, Advocacy, and Leadership.

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The Beginnings of HRPS, Ten Years Ago

by Debbie Hinman

I have long admired those who see a need for a particular service and instead of complaining "Why isn't there any ---," they quietly set about creating it themselves. This is, in fact, the genesis of the Historic Reno Preservation Society or HRPS, and the inspiration for the organization was that of Pat Ferraro Klos.

Although a Reno native and high school English teacher who had long appreciated our city and all it has to offer, the concept of historic preservation was not a familiar one when Pat attended the first Oasis Conference in March of 1987.

The Oasis Conference, now a biennial event, was created when all statewide cultural organizations felt the need to come together and talk. Previously, libraries were not talking to museums, museums were not talking to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and SHPO had no idea what tourism was doing. None of the different arts groups were talking; Nevada Humanities was operating all by itself.

Oasis is a multi-day conference with guest speakers and breakout sessions on various topics. It was while attending one of these sessions entitled "Historic Preservation," led by a personal friend, that Pat became focused on the concept. Out of this session grew a statewide preservation organization named Nevada Heritage, which Pat eagerly joined. Within two years, she was president. Two years after that, she decided on a narrower focus—specifically, a Reno organization.

Pat wrote a letter to the editor of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, asking why there was no such organization, only to find out through the Nevada Historical Society that there was a county preservation group on the books. Pat immediately requested a meeting with a group representative, who told her that the group was basically inactive. Pat's reaction to this information was, "Well, that's crazy."

Probably most HRPS members are under the impression, as was I, that the walking tours were created as an offshoot of the original HRPS group, but they were actually a predecessor of the organization. Pat got the idea for doing her own walking tours down Riverside Drive, and into the downtown court house and post office, when she was asked to take a social studies class from McQueen on a bus tour of historic Reno. From there, she went on to do walks for friends and interested groups such as the Junior League, Friends of the Library, the YWCA, YMCA, and the Retired Teachers Association. It was only a

short time until she was doing walks for SHPO, for Historic Preservation Week. The only payment Pat received was the knowledge and satisfaction that she was exposing new people to the concept of historic preservation and increasing awareness of the historic treasures found in our city.

For Historic Preservation Week in the spring of 1997, Pat conducted a program for SHPO called "A Walk and a Talk." The group met at My Favorite Muffin on California Avenue. Owner Melinda Gustin, who along with her husband Dan,



100 people joined the July 10, 1999 HRPS "Walk Along the Historic Truckee River Corridor," led by State Historic Preservation Officer Ron James. They pose in front of the Mapes Hotel.

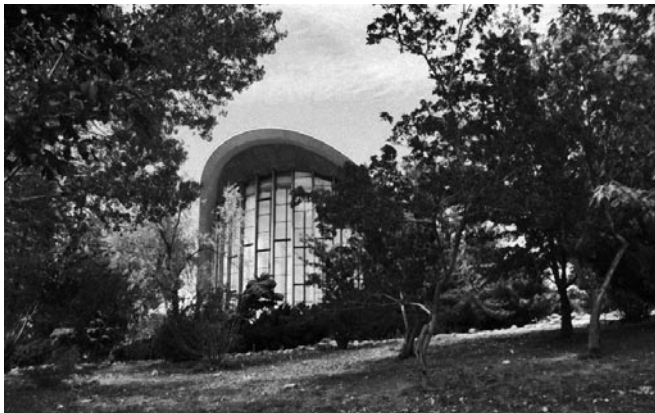
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HRPS Beginnings (continued)

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has been a good friend to HRPS from its inception to the present, closed the shop and served refreshments to the group. Pat announced it was her belief the time was right for an active Reno preservation organization. Says Pat, "We knew that the Mapes was in trouble, we knew that the Riverside was in trouble, and we knew that the downtown core was changing dramatically."

Frustrated by the inactivity of the Historical Resources Committee while a member of that group, Pat was ripe for a fresh new organization with new ideas and energized members. Present at this event was creator of the Nevada Women's History Project, Jean Ford. Jean stood up and proposed to Pat that she form a summer interim committee, to plan for a local preservation group. All present agreed, and Pat was off and running.



Fleischmann Planetarium was the focus of a 2002-2003 effort by HRPS to save the property. UNR announced plans in December, 2002 to raze the facility to build a parking garage. Photo courtesy of www.nevadamax.com

This summer committee first met on June 10, 1997 on the patio of the Klos home. Present were Mike and Pat Klos, Cindy Ainsworth, Nancy Holmes, Sandy Saunders, Holly Young and Bill Thimmesch. Holly Young, whose husband Tom Miller is a descendant of Reno founder Myron Lake's brother, urged the group to set ten goals. The goals were:

1. Train walking tour docents
2. Develop educational programs for children and adults
3. Build a strong membership
4. Make available to the people of Reno lists of historic properties
5. Identify endangered sites in the city
6. Inform HRPS members of historic preservation issues within the city
7. Build partnerships between HRPS and City of Reno Historical Resources Commission, neighborhood councils and other groups
8. Recognize and reward historic preservation projects
9. Build a partnership with the Native American community
10. Purchase and develop a house museum in the Truckee River corridor.

HRPS and Reno Milestones 1997-2007

- Historic Reno Preservation Society becomes a reality on September 22, 1997, when 60 people meet at Mt. Rose Elementary School.
- The organization's logo is unveiled featuring the Virginia Street Bridge.
- Monthly evening programs at Mt. Rose Elementary and walking tours are offered.
- The first newsletter asks members to pay attention to the fate of the Amtrak train station, the El Cortez Hotel, as well as the "jewels" of the city: the courthouse, the post office, the Riverside and the Mapes.
- Sharon Walbridge comes on as the newsletter editor for the second issue. Ginger Salcedo is named Membership Director.
- HRPS offers three walking tours for May 1998 Historic Preservation Week: Historic Truckee Corridor with Carol Winans, UNR Historic District with Leanne Stone, Newlands Neighborhood with Anne McCarty and Scott Gibson and Bricks and Stones with Pat Klos.
- In 1998, the Mapes is placed on America's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places List.
- The proposed ReTRAC project threatens the old downtown train depot.
- Walking tours increase to eight offered in May, June and July of 1999. New Walks added include Fourth Street Corridor with Gaye Canepa and Rick Macauley; Wells Avenue with Mark Taxer; and Trailing the Donners, a day-long adventure with Frank Mullen, Jr.
- HRPS offers an Oral History Workshop.
- The East Fourth Street Corridor, once known as the Lincoln Highway and Highway 40, is declared a Special Planning district in 1998-1999.
- HRPS receives an award from the Reno City Council and the Reno Historical Resources Commission.
- Cindy Ainsworth is HRPS President from 1999 to 2001.
- In September 2000, HRPS offers an in-service class on "Reno History" to 40 Washoe County teachers.
- HRPS sponsors First VIP Bus Tour, a 17-mile tour of historic Reno sites, led by Pat Klos and Mercedes De la Garza.

HRPS and Reno Milestones (continued)

- The Mapes is imploded on Super Bowl Sunday 2000.
- In 2000, HRPS presents its First Preservation Award to the Reno Quakers for the restoration and adaptive reuse of their meeting house at 497 Highland Avenue.
- Holly Young is noted as HRPS Treasurer until May, 2001. Bill Walbridge has been HRPS' Treasurer ever since.
- In 2001, HRPS presents Preservation Awards to 551 California Ave. and 127 Burns St.
- On May 12, 2001, HRPS joins the National Automobile Museum, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nevada Arts Council, Reno's Historical Resources Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office to present "Neighborhoods for Everyone," a day-long Historic Preservation Conference.
- Fall of 2001, the Wingfield Mansion at 220 Court Street burns.
- May of 2002, HRPS holds "The Master's Works: A Bus Tour of Frederic J. DeLongchamps' buildings in the Truckee Meadows."
- HRPS 2002 Historic Preservation Award is presented to Artists' Co-op Gallery.
- Leanne Stone is Walking Tour Director from 1999 to 2002, Pat Klos from 2002 to 2003, Susie Carter from 2003 to 2005, Debbie Hinman from 2005 to 2007.
- Cindy Ainsworth is HRPS' first Program Director from 1997 to 1999, Pat Klos from 1999 to 2000, Mark Taxer from 2000 to 2001, Felvia Belaustegui from 2001 to 2004, and Jack Hursh, Jr. from 2004 to the present.
- Carol Coleman joins Sharon Walbridge and Joan Collins on *FootPrints* for the Spring 2002 issue. Linda Sievers joins in Winter 2004. Debbie Hinman joins in Fall of 2004 and Carol became Managing Editor for that issue. Sharon retires to Editor Emeritus with the Winter 2006 issue. Kim Henrick joins the editorial staff in Fall 2006. Mella Harmon has unofficially supported *FootPrints* with interesting articles and as a proofreader. Distribution is handled by Lynne Allen, then Jane Bowden and friends, and lately by your editorial staff.
- Kathryn Wishart is HRPS President from 2001 to 2003.

HRPS Beginnings (continued)

Pat calls this last item her "swan song," from that evening to the present time. "We have to have a physical presence within this community," she says.

They met again a month later, on July 7. "We just clicked," said Pat of this core group. While other groups spend months planning before actually getting organized, this small band of dedicated preservationists moved with lightning speed, holding their first general meeting on September 22, 1997, at the Mt. Rose Elementary School. Local architect Max Hershenow was the guest speaker. Pat and Max had become acquainted while fellow members of the City of Reno's Historical Resources Commission. Hershenow delivered a slide show on the topic "What is historic preservation and how can a community embrace it?" Officers of the new organization were elected with Pat as president, Cindy Ainsworth as vice president, Holly Young as treasurer and Sandy Saunders as secretary. Others becoming involved in the organization at this time were Scott Gibson, Mercedes De la Garza and Pat's childhood friend, Charlotte McConnell.



*Another landmark gone.
A win with Fleischmann, but a loss with Wingfield. 219 & 220 Court Street: The Wingfield Mansion on the right, and the adjacent property burned in the Fall of 2001.*

The Historic Reno Preservation Society initiated a three-pronged approach to preservation: walking tours, monthly meetings, and a newsletter.

Realizing that once goals were created, people had to be informed of them, Pat, working with Frank Ozaki and his partner Hillary Velazquez at Double Click Design, created the first HRPS newsletter, which was simply called Historic Reno Preservation Society Newsletter. Its initial focus was the reporting of activities of interest to the general membership. Frank, who still handles graphic design and printing of *FootPrints*, had been present at HRPS' genesis at My Favorite Muffin and wanted to help the organization. This first newsletter was an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet Pat had run off at Kinko's and which was sent out to the budding membership and everyone else Pat knew. By the second issue, which was actually Volume 1, Number 1, the newsletter had expanded to four pages and sported an impressive new logo, combining the work of Double Click and illustrator Loren Jahn.

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HRPS Beginnings (continued)

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Volume 1 Number 2, dated May 1998 announced Sharon Walbridge as Editor. The newsletter became *FootPrints* with Volume 4, No. 1 in Winter 2001 and has remained so ever since.

Programs continued on a monthly basis, September through May, and the growing interest in them soon caused the group to move from a small classroom in the Mount Rose School to the auditorium.

The number of available Walking Tours began to grow, as members created their own new walks and walkers enthusiastically joined the walks again and again, bringing new friends and noticing things they had missed in previous walks.



HRPS Annual Party in November, 2001. From l-r; Joan Collins, HRPS Board member; Montana cowboy Mike Klos; Pat Ferarro Klos, HRPS President 1997–1999; and Patty Cafferata, HRPS President 2003–2004.

While the initial success of the organization can be largely attributed to the efforts of Pat Klos, who had a “great notion” and the other early board members who brought it to fruition, timing was also critical, according to Pat. “The community was wanting this,” she said. “Wherever you went, people were talking about “what’s going to happen to the Mapes? What’s going to happen to the Riverside?” And indeed, echoes of this are still heard today, as in “What’s going to happen to the Lear Theater? What’s going to happen to the Virginia Street Bridge?” The buildings change, but the issues remain the same—preservation versus progress.

HRPS is still thriving and still working to educate the public and advocate preservation. We have a strong history behind us and much work ahead of us but we can make a difference. We are making a difference. 🏠

Information for this article came from discussions with HRPS’ first President, Pat Klos, and from reviewing the past issues of *FootPrints*.

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Board Member, HRPS Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.

HRPS and Reno Milestones (continued)

- HRPS celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the completion of the Lincoln and Victory Highways with an Exposition Social at the California Building.
- The Fleischmann Planetarium is threatened with demolition in order to make space for a UNR parking garage.
- Patty Cafferata is HRPS President from 2003 to 2004.
- HRPS 2003 Preservation Award is given to Joanne deLongchamps House, 821 North Center Street.
- HRPS begins the Powning Addition project.
- In August, 2003, HRPS *FootPrints* receives grant from Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts.
- Joan Dyer is HRPS President from 2004 to 2007.
- The Lake Mansion is moved to Court & Flint Streets on July 11, 2004.
- In 2004, Sharon Walbridge, Editor of HRPS *FootPrints*, is given the 2004 Advocate Award by the Historical Resources Commission at the May 12 Reno City Council meeting. *FootPrints* is awarded the 2004 Significant Historic Resource Award by the HRC.
- The 2004 HRPS Historic Preservation Award is given to Steve and Linda Atcheson, for their adaptive reuse of 93 Bell.
- The new UNR General Plan threatened the Queen Anne structures on Center Street.
- In October, 2006, HRPS staged A Night of Not-So-Living History, a self-guided tour of Hillside Cemetery, with HRPS members portraying cemetery inhabitants.
- The Interstate celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- The historic Mizpah Hotel on Lake Street burns in October, 2006.
- Shangri-La, a stately white colonial at 1640 South Arlington, burns in November, 2006.
- On March 28, 2007, the Reno City Council unanimously recommends the Virginia Street Bridge be torn down and replaced.
- Felvia Belaustegui is HRPS President in May of 2007. 🏠

A Tale of Five Presidents

by Debbie Hinman

As a relatively new member of HRPS, I took on this assignment, interested in knowing more about the genesis of the organization and looking forward to interviewing those key people who made it what it is today. I already knew and admired the five past presidents, but after speaking with each and hearing their stories, I have an even greater admiration for them, and all that they accomplished. HRPS is a thriving organization and these five extraordinary women were key to making it the success it is today.

Pat Ferraro Klos was a woman with a great notion, back in 1997, to create an organization with a specific focus on Reno historic preservation. A high school English teacher, Pat was the first president, holding that position for the next two years.

She was followed by the very able Cindy Ainsworth, who had been involved with the group since that first meeting at My Favorite Muffin, and had a keen interest in Nevada history and preservation. In 2001, Cindy handed over the reins to former Reno councilwoman Kathryn Wishart. Kathy provided her leadership until 2003, when Patty Cafferata, former state Attorney General, stepped into the role. Patty completed a one-year stint until Joan Dyer took over from her in 2004. Joan, a long-time key figure in many local arts organizations, stayed at the helm for three years. Just this May, Felvia Belaustegui became HRPS president. Felvia completed her MS in Land Use Planning and Historic Preservation from UNR in May of 2000.

I asked all five past presidents a set of questions and found their answers to be thoughtful, insightful and occasionally humorous. Through their answers I gained a new appreciation of just how much effort goes into creating a new association, and perhaps even more into keeping it going, and how remarkable these key people really are.

What do you feel was the main focus or vision of the organization during your tenure as president?

Pat: Once we had established our ten goals (see "Beginnings of HRPS" article),

we set about clicking them off, as we moved through the next several years.

Growing the organization became a priority, through the newsletter and personal contacts, especially those in the university community, such as Don Fowler. "There was already a community of preservationists," says Pat. "We were all here. But nobody had just said, 'let's concentrate on Reno.'"



Pat Ferraro Klos
HRPS President September 1997–May 1999
Photos for this article taken by
Debbie Hinman.

HRPS also needed to differentiate itself from another new preservationist group active at that time, Truckee Meadows Heritage Trust, whose main focus was saving the Mapes. By the end of the first year, HRPS could boast a membership of 100-200.

Cindy: As HRPS was still a young organization, just keeping it going was a challenge. The administrative details had to be worked out, such as creating the bylaws, and getting the organization's 501C3 designation as a non-profit established. And building the membership was still a priority. "We didn't have much money," Cindy reported.

Kathy: During Kathy's tenure, the group was experiencing some fairly rapid growth, and so was continuing to focus on organizational or administrative details. "These were sexy, exciting things such as the strategic plan, with annual

planning retreats, and we developed a budget," quipped Kathy. "We developed job descriptions, and went over and revised the bylaws."

Patty: "Publishing the Powning Addition booklet was our main focus," reported Patty Cafferata. Patty spoke with each board member individually when she assumed the presidency, asking them for their individual visions for the organization. Felvia Belaustegui wanted to see the Powning Addition declared a historic district, and the first part of that was to do the research and select the houses, and the booklet concept was born.

Joan: "I was lucky," said Joan, "when I came on as president, HRPS was already in a wonderful holding pattern and a whole lot had already occurred, and I think I saw my mission as just steering the ship and enhancing the three areas that we already were doing, and encourage people to enlarge upon those."

Joan mentioned the walking tours—they were something HRPS had done from the beginning so she felt HRPS needed to "take them and run with them." Joan referred to the evening programs as wonderful and informative, with a very attentive audience. She wished to encourage people to make suggestions for future programs.

And the newsletter stepped up from "doings of the masses," in Joan's words, to more historical and investigative writing. "In my tenure we didn't innovate any new big endeavor. We looked at a few things that could be fun in the future. We had stepped away a little from our past relationship with the educational community and looked at re-establishing those ties. And thanks to Jack Hursh for taking us sideways into the barns," laughed Joan.

What roadblocks, if any, did you encounter?

Pat: "There were some definite roadblocks. People did not want a preservation district, which of course we still

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A Tale of Five Presidents (continued)

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don't have, because they wanted the ability to pick and choose what they were going to do with their property; they didn't want anybody telling them that." People at that time in Reno were very divided over the Mapes issue, and confused HRPS with TMHT, as mentioned above. HRPS had made an organizational decision not to get involved with TMHT, which was taking an openly adversarial position to the City Council. "You catch more flies with honey than vinegar," commented Pat, explaining that HRPS preferred to educate and inform rather than jump into the fray with gloves on.

Cindy: "Money was a big issue," said Cindy. "We really had to economize and figure out how to fundraise, as the newsletter was expensive and we were investigating insurance coverage for the walking tours."

Kathy: Where HRPS did decide to get involved was over the issue of the University's announcement that they were going to demolish the Planetarium. However, rather than attack the University management over the issue, HRPS wished to offer the University its resources with regard to adaptive reuse and advisement toward obtaining grants for the purpose, and joined with other preservationists towards this goal. While the university management refused to meet with the organizations, they must have felt enough pressure that the demolition project was abandoned.

Patty: With regard to the Powning Booklet, the question of lack of finances again became an issue. However, a grant from the Nevada Humanities Committee and contributions from the general membership made the project possible. "I think everyone was surprised at how much money we did raise," laughed Patty.

Joan: "There weren't many," Joan stated. She went on to say that anytime you deal with an organization of human beings, there are differing opinions and



*Cindy Ainsworth
HRPS President May 1999–May 2001
Photo submitted by Cindy.*

that's a healthy thing. In Joan's opinion, the one wonderful thing about HRPS and its boards over the years, is that unlike many organizations, all our board members are actively participating in the group's events and projects—none merely sit on the sidelines.

What do you see as your most significant accomplishment during your tenure as president?

Pat: "I know I have created an awareness that was not there before," stated



*Kathryn Wishart,
HRPS President May 2001–May 2003*

Pat. She is particularly proud of the tradition of walking tours that she began those ten years ago. She says that when she now sees groups walking through historic Reno neighborhoods, "it warms the cockles of my heart," Pat says. Her only fear is that her tombstone will someday bear the epitaph "She was a streetwalker."

Cindy: "Being a part of an organization that was offering so much to our community, in terms of the programs, the walking tours and the newsletter. And this was all early on. It came together quickly and we were able to keep it going."

Kathy: "Bringing a sense of structure and order to the organization so that we could go forward. I think HRPS has since then been very successful with everything they have done, such as the annual parties, and the walking tours, which are dynamite." Kathy feels that the walking tours are really what HRPS is becoming known for, "as well as throwing a nice party," she adds, laughing.

Patty: "The publishing of the Powning Addition booklet," she quickly responded. She went on to comment that every new president and board builds on the accomplishments of the previous president and board, and that in her tenure, they continued the structured approach that Kathy had begun, with the annual strategizing for the future. Patty also commented on the continuing improvement in the walking tour offerings, and quality of the newsletter.

Joan: "I took over after we had had the Planetarium situation, which came out positive, and it made our presence stronger with the hierarchy of the university. I was invited right from the get-go to these morning breakfasts the president of the university had, dealing with many subjects. They insured that we were in the loop." Joan went on to comment that this has changed, with the new university management, and she feels it is something HRPS needs to keep its eye on.

A Tale of Five Presidents (continued)

Tell me about one of your fondest memories of your time with HRPS.

Pat: "Cindy said to me 'Pat, I think we need to have a dinner. Why don't we, this November, have a dinner at Louie's Basque Corner.' I said, 'Cindy, that is a really good idea.'" Pat went on to say that a notice was placed in the newsletter, and Pat went to Louie's that evening expecting to see the usual group of HRPS core members. Instead, "Louie's was packed," Pat exclaims. "Everyone I ever went to school with, people I had known all my life, all came to this dinner to see what we were all about. And the money rolled in. And as Cindy and I were never ones to leave anything alone, the next year we did retro at the Trocadero Room. We were a real organization when we could pull in 150 people for a dinner."

Cindy: Cindy also cites the HRPS annual parties as some of the most fun events. In particular, she enjoyed the train station event, laughing that the planners had to "pull a few strings and soften up the ticket taker" to make things happen.

Kathy: "The board that I worked with at that time was very supportive. They volunteered to do things and they did them, and a lot of it was paperwork and just drudgery. The people with whom I interacted were terrific."

Patty: "It's hard to pick any one thing out, but certainly the parties and the different themes were fun. And turning out the booklet, in such a short period of time." Patty saw this as a very rewarding endeavor.

Joan: "I think our socials have been great fun. I'm not a big theme party person but I've become more of one, and our creative board has thought up some great things. Also, to tie speakers with the party gives validity to the gathering and entices people to come—our turn-outs have been very good in the eight or so years we have been doing this."

Can you think of specific people who made a significant contribution to the organization?



*Patty Cafferata
HRPS President 2003-2004*

Pat: "Cindy Ainsworth. It couldn't have happened without her. And Frank Ozaki, who volunteered his services from the very beginning. And Loren Jahn, who helped create our logo."

Cindy: "Charlotte McConnell. She really kept us on track. And Sharon Walbridge, who took on the newsletter and really moved it up a step."

Kathy: "Pat, and the other founders...Jean Ford, and Mella Harmon has been a great resource. And anyone who is willing to be



*Joan Dyer
HRPS President 2004-2007*

a walking tour guide. It takes a lot of work and preparation. If it weren't for this great volunteer spirit, we wouldn't be here."

Patty: "Kathryn Wishart, who preceded me as president, was a former city councilwoman and very prominent. And Joan Dyer, who is so active in the arts in the Reno community. And the new president Felvia Belaustegui, who is so involved in the historic preservation community. Of course Pat Klos, and Lindy and Jack Schroeder."

Joan: "The most visible person who came on board during my tenure was Patty Cafferata. She brought a very structured, businesslike approach, and also her expertise with the law was helpful. Also, those members of the university community who have always supported us."


Is there anything else you would like to tell our current members, or advice you could offer to future boards for the betterment of the organization?

Pat: "Get your children and grandchildren involved."

Cindy: "Just continuing on being of service to the community. I know the members appreciate what we do."

Kathy: "No advice—they're doing a heck of a job. It's an organization people can be proud to support—they get a lot of "bang for their buck" for their membership dues. We've always been fortunate to have a cadre of people willing to step up and do the work."

Patty: "You have to have a plan. I think the organization is very good about this. You can't do it all, so you have to focus on one or two things and accomplish them."

Joan: "Just hang in there and keep at it and throw the ideas—if they're not good, we'll sift through them, and if they're wonderful we'll use them." 

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Board Member, HRPS Tour Guide and a member of the HRPS Editorial Staff.

Meet HRPS Newest Board Members

Sharon Honig-Bear

We moved here over 21 years ago and we liked it right away. Every day seemed to offer a special event and the summer skies were spectacular. I love the mountains and the dry climate.

I am married with two grown children. My husband teaches at UNR. Both my son and daughter were small when we moved here and were always sorry they "just missed" being native Nevadans. I always have cats.

I have proudly worked for the Washoe County Library for 17 years, as Development Officer. Looking back, I am especially happy with the development of the Friends of Washoe County Library and the passage of two ballot initiatives to improve libraries. I can remember as a girl, living in a town without a public library, and "lobbying" my parents to vote for a bond for libraries. The measure passed and my life direction was set!

My hobbies are hiking and camping, travel, geocaching, food and cooking (I was the restaurant reviewer for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for almost seven years), gardening, movies.

I am still finding the best way to serve the HRPS organization. I love to give tours and hope to do more. I have experience planning special events. I'd love to see a Reno Heritage Center one day.



HRPS Board Member
Sharon Honig-Bear

Jerry Fenwick

I have lived in Reno/Sparks for 61 years arriving here at the age of 10. I attended Orvis Ring, Billingshurst and Reno High Schools. I graduated from the University of Nevada in 1958 with a degree in Foreign Language and History/Political Science. I worked with my parents in our store, Fenwick's for almost 30 years and then the City of Reno for 17 years where I retired as Risk Manager/Safety Inspector in 1992. I am currently single (divorced) and have two sons, Daniel and Raymond, who both live in Sparks.



HRPS Board Member
Jerry Fenwick

I worked with the Sparks Centennial Commission on a history program about Sparks that was presented to various organizations and schools and created a DVD that the commission and Sparks Heritage Museum sold. I have many interests including history, collecting real photo post cards from early Nevada and Lake Tahoe. I restore old photos, sell enlargements and also have done restoration work on photographs for the Nevada Historical Society and the Sparks Heritage Museum. I have been on the museum board of directors. Currently I am a director for the Reno High School Alumni Association and a member of the Westerners Nevada Corral.

My main interest is the preservation of our heritage. I have worked with Neal Cobb creating and presenting programs on the history of Reno and Nevada and have created DVDs on Reno and early Nevada that are sold at the Nevada Historical Society.


Barbara Swart Courtnay

I was born and raised in Reno, went to Southside, Billingshurst, Reno High, and graduated from the University of Nevada. I taught at Billingshurst and Wooster the first year it opened.

I then moved to California where I taught for eight years, married, had two children, was a stay-at-home mom, and then worked at De Anza College in Cupertino as a program assistant in a computer applications lab for 14 years. My husband Ralph and I moved to Reno six years ago, and we enjoy living in Reno. Our two children live in California.

I minored in history in college and have always had a great love for that subject. My father was one of the founders and volunteers of the Sparks Heritage Museum, so I come by my interest in Reno history quite naturally.

I am an active member of the Assistance League of Reno/Sparks. I enjoy gardening and reading, and my husband and I like hiking in this wonderful area.

I am ready to do whatever HRPS might need from a new board member with a special interest in old Reno. 



HRPS Board Member
Barbara Swart Courtnay

Bits and Pieces of Information

High Noon at the Nevada Historical Society

The Nevada Historical Society invites you to a free documentary series in the Research Library at noon on the fourth Monday of each month. High Noon will feature a selection from the series Exploring Nevada, with a special guest speaker on hand to present and discuss each film.

September 24, 2007

Steam Up Carson City
Bert Bedeau

October 22, 2007

Neon Unplugged
Peter Bandurraga

November 26, 2007

Tireless and Unremitting,
The Chinese on the RR
Speaker TBA

NHS Evening Lecture Series

The Nevada Historical Society invites you to a free lecture at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Fall programs are listed below:

September 25, 2007

The Iron Horse Reaches Nevada
Wendell Huffman, Curator of History
Nevada State Railroad Museum

October 23, 2007

Reno and the Railroad
Mella Harmon, Curator of History
Nevada Historical Society

November 27, 2007

Is Stuff Enough?
Peter Barton, Acting Director
Division of Museums and History

Many Thanks to those who volunteered for the HRPS Board of Directors 1997-2007

Pat Klos

Cindy Ainsworth

Holly Young

Sandy Saunders

Scott Gibson

Nancy Holmes

Charlotte Jones McConnell

Kathryn Wishart

Mark Taxer

Sharon Adler Walbridge

Joan Dyer

David Ginsburg

Felvia Belaustegui

Debra Perry Lockwood

Leanne Stone

Patty Cafferata

Ann McCarty

Duane Rasmussen

Susie Carter

Phyllis Cates

Fritz Grupe

Jack Hursh, Jr.

Jack Schroeder

Gordon Foote

Bob Harmon

Marilyn Fuetsch Turville

Linda Sievers

Joan Collins

Debbie Hinman

Jim Smith

Carrie Young

Barbara Swart Courtney

Jerry Fenwick

Sharon Honig-Bear

Docent Training and History Lectures at the NHS

Have you ever thought about becoming a docent at the Nevada Historical Society? Training sessions are beginning this fall for the 2007 Docent Class. NHS is trying a new approach with this year's training.

Starting October 11 from 9:00 am to noon, there will be four Thursday training sessions for those interested in assisting the curators of Manuscripts, Photographs, Artifacts and the library. In addition to the training sessions, current docents will be assigned to mentor the trainees. Classes on education for people interested in doing tours and outreach will be scheduled later.

If you are interested in either or both of the education or curator training programs, please contact Nancy Oakley, 322-1130 or Linda Sanderson, 358-4662 for details.

In conjunction with the training program, the Docent Council will be presenting a mini-Nevada history course with sessions to be held on consecutive Monday afternoons from October 15 through November 5. The sessions begin at 1:30pm the 15th, 22nd, and 29th. The Nov. 5 session begins at 1:00 pm. The course is being coordinated by Dr. Jerome Edwards, emeritus professor of history at UNR. The history course will be open to all docents and docent trainees, as well as the public. Space is limited, so please contact Mella Harmon at 688-1191, ext. 223 or mrharmon@clan.lib.nv.us to indicate interest in attending. Docent trainees will be required to attend, so they will get the first seats.

Do You Have Rosemount Lodge Stories?

Do you have stories of the Rosemount Lodge (now the Reindeer Lodge) during the period 1957 to 1959? We're planning an article about the Lodge on its 50th anniversary. Please send your remembrances to Kim Henrick, khenrick@rtci.net.

From Your HRPS President, Felvia Belaustegui

I am truly honored to be chosen as President during HRPS' momentous ten-year anniversary celebration. Our many accomplishments during this period have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life here in the Truckee Meadows. This could not have been accomplished without the dedication of the first HRPS President Pat Klos, followed by Presidents Cindy Ainsworth, Kathryn Wishart, Patty Cafferata, and Joan Dyer and the dedication of the past and present Board Members. Our financial records are in immaculate order thanks to our treasurer, Bill Walbridge. Gordon Foote, our current membership director and his predecessor, Ginger Salcedo, have worked to bring our membership from five people in November of 1997 to almost 500 at the present time.

Our mission is to preserve and promote historic resources in the Truckee Meadows through education, advocacy and leadership. Over the past 10 years, our influence has brought attention through education and assistance to the Fleischmann Planetarium, UNR's General Plan and the Virginia Street Bridge. On its tenth anniversary, HRPS has become one of the most well-respected preservation organizations in Northern Nevada.

HRPS' educational programs bring Reno preservation issues and history to the public's attention. The community and new visitors to the area now enjoy twenty different walking, bus and bike tours offered throughout the year. I am grateful to the many members who have contributed countless hours to lead our walking tours, making HRPS Walking Tours a well-known and respected introduction to our historic neighborhoods. What a wonderful way to teach Reno's citizens about our unique neighborhoods and landmarks and to share the importance of preserving our significant buildings.

FootPrints has become a valued source of information over the years thanks



Felvia Belaustegui
HRPS 2007 President
Photo by Debbie Hinman.

to editors Sharon Walbridge and Carol Coleman, the many editorial staff members and a variety of contributing writers. Today, members receive our terrific *FootPrints* publication four times a year, featuring in-depth articles on local history and architecture.


For four years, HRPS has been working to bring the Powning Addition to the attention of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and to sponsor the neighborhood's nomination as a National Historic District. With help from then president Patty Cafferata, HRPS members and Nevada Humanities Commission sponsored the publication *A Walk Through Time, The Historic Powning Addition in Reno, Nevada*, a look at Reno's first subdivision. HRPS volunteers have almost completed the enormous amount of documentation required by SHPO and the nomination about to be submitted.

In the last ten years, HRPS has presented many educational lectures and entertaining special events. We've had an Oral History Class, a Donner history

bus tour and we've conducted a History of Reno class for Washoe County School District elementary teachers. How many of you remember our first party at Louis' Basque Corner? How many annual parties have you attended? How about "On the Atchison, Topeka to the Santa Fe," the party that included costumed attendees, wine at the Southern Pacific Depot, and a traditional Basque dinner and celebration at the Santa Fe Hotel?

Our monthly programs have always been interesting and innovative. Speakers have included HRPS members and friends, such as Mella Rothwell Harmon, now of the Nevada Historical Society, Neal Cobb, local historian and "historic photo king," Vicki Ford, University of Nevada Oral History Program, university professors Don Fowler and Jim McCormick and former mayor, Sam Dibitonto. Topics ranged from ice harvesting, depression-era Reno, the art of Cartoonist Lew Hymers, and various slide show presentations on topics related to local preservation.

HRPS' role in historic preservation has been and will continue to be an educational or "resource" one through our strategy of walking tours, programs and articles in *FootPrints*. We offer recognition and assistance with regard to adaptive reuse, and information on grants for refurbishing properties. Already on the drawing board is a proposed brochure of HRPS walking tours that would allow self-guided walks, enhance a tour guide's walk and help support HRPS financially. HRPS is also looking for an office in a central historic location, to be a gathering place – a hub – for information sharing and storing archival materials for research.

HRPS' future looks bright and promising. I look forward to working with all the dedicated people that put their time and effort into preservation in our area. 

2008 Call for Proposals

The Eighth Biennial History Conference on Nevada History will be held May 20-21, 2008 at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, NV. The focus will be Alphabet Soup: The New Deal in Nevada. Proposals for papers and presentations are due March 15, 2008. For information, call Mella Harmon, 775-688-1191, ext. 223.

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check your mailing label! Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno!

Please make checks payable to **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, and mail along with this application to:
P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507

- ☐ New Member
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Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
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Annual membership includes: Footprints (HRPS Newsletter) • Free participation in walking tours

- ☐ Student \$15.00 ☐ Individual \$25.00 ☐ Family (Children 18 yrs and younger) \$40.00
☐ Business Contribution \$50.00 ☐ Supporting \$100.00 ☐ HRPS Angel \$250.00

Additional donation: _____

Thank you for joining HRPS. An organization is only as strong as its members. There are many areas in our organization where your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication will be invaluable to historic Reno and future generations. The goal of the Historic Reno Preservation Society is to preserve the historic resources of our community. What would you like to contribute to HRPS?

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY**

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Membership Report February 22, 2007 - August 22, 2007

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FALL PROGRAMS, 2007

Jack Hursh Jr. – Program Chair: 746-3252

All program events are on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, at Mt. Rose School (Lander Street between Taylor and LaRue, just off Arlington), unless otherwise noted.

Monday, September 24, 12:00 noon. High Noon at the Nevada Historical Society. Bert Bedeau will speak following an Exploring Nevada video, "Steam Up Carson City."

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 pm. Nevada Historical Society Lecture Series features Wendall Huffman, speaking on "The Iron Horse Reaches Nevada."

Wednesday, September 26. Larry Martin will speak on "A History of Aviation in Reno" starting with the earliest flights over the Sierra with all the early airfields of the Reno area. Larry Martin is a member of Reno Airport Board of Trustees.

Wednesday, October 24. Join the crowd at HRPS' Fall Social, celebrating our 10th anniversary. This annual party will be held at the Siena Hotel. As a HRPS member, you will receive an invitation with full details about time, cost, etc.

Wednesday, November 28. Debbie Hinman will speak on a history/retrospective of the Reno Post Office, with emphasis on the 1934 Main Post Office. Debbie is Senior Administrator of Environmental, Health & Safety for AT&T; HRPS Board Member, Editorial Staff writer for *FootPrints* and a Tour Guide for HRPS.

Opinions expressed in *FootPrints* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff, the Historic Reno Preservation Society executive board or the general membership. *FootPrints* is a quarterly publication printed in Reno, Nevada. All rights reserved. © 2007 Historic Reno Preservation Society (HRPS).

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