

# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

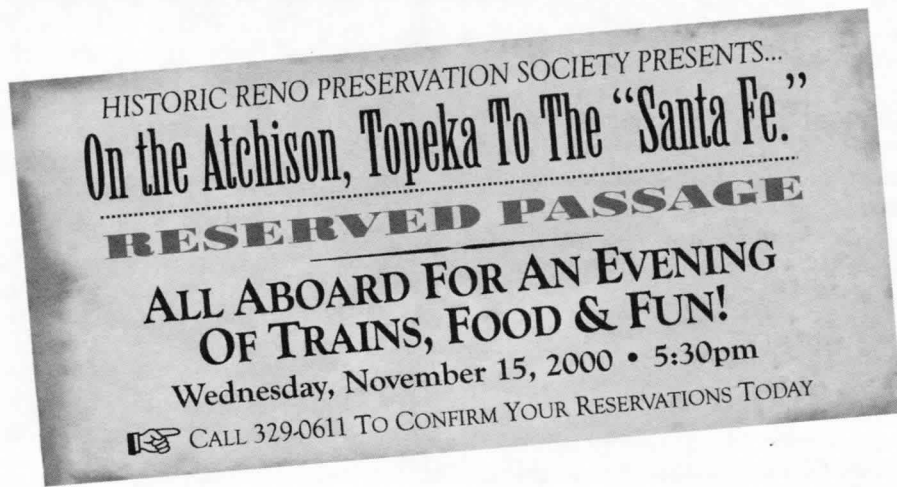
# FootPrints

Newsletter of Historic Reno Preservation Society

*Dedicated to Preserving Reno's Rich Past with  
Education, Advocacy, and Leadership.*

WINTER 2001

VOL. 4, NO. 1



Wednesday, November 15, 2000.

Historic Reno Preservation Society has done it again. Once again, HRPS brought more people downtown for a wing-ding then they could accommodate. 150 celebrants gathered together for a railroad themed party.

This years party started at the RR depot, which is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its ground-breaking. Railroad Historian Dale Darney gave the group a glimpse of the mid-twenties effort, as well as a pictorial



Divorcees and cowboys, from left: David and Pam Ginsburg; Ginger and Pete Salcedo



Some 150 history buffs enjoyed dinner at the Santa Fe Hotel.

history of the many other buildings to previously occupy this space.

HRPS thanks member and railroad buff Bob Kline for hosting the complimentary wine bar at the depot.

Around 6:30 people left the depot to wander (safely we're happy to report) across the tracks to the Santa Fe Hotel, where a no-host cocktails and traditional family-style Basque dinner were enjoyed amidst the din of constant laughter and conversation.

As if that wasn't enough, Florence Etcheberry, long associated with the Sante Fe, filled us in on the colorful history of the Sante Fe and Reno's Basque community.

We're sorry there were more people who wanted to join the fun than could be accommodated by the facility. We apologize to those who missed out, and promise that next year we'll try to find an even larger facility.

In three years time this party has tripled in attendance. Who said history isn't fun?



Inga Jahn and Mark Taxer are packed and ready to take that long trip.



## COLUMN NOTES...

From President  
Cindy Ainsworth

### *PRESERVING LA LA LAND – A Report from Your President on the Annual Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation*

At first Los Angeles seemed an unlikely place to hold the 2000 National Trust Conference. Freeways, strip malls, a donut shop on every corner. What was left to preserve? But in relation to Reno, L.A. is facing the same issues as we are, only on a much larger scale.

Downtown L.A. revitalization is in full swing with a new concert hall and the development of mixed low and moderate cost lofts (sounds familiar, Riverside supporters) in the Banking District. They, too, are trying to bring people back to the downtown core. They still face problems such as restoring and bringing back the magnificent theaters on Broadway. Preserving the recent past, which includes L.A.'s car culture icons, Bob's Big Boy drive-ins and motor lodges, can also be a challenge. Why save those? Because they're part of L.A.'s wacky and wonderful culture.

I was impressed with the number of historic neighborhood districts the area has to offer. I toured Pasadena and West Adams districts. Both are multicultural




*One conference tour included a look at a penthouse in Castle Green in Pasadena. The apartment was filled with original Stickley furniture and Art and Crafts designer items.*

areas close to the downtown core and contain some of the finest craftsmen influenced residential buildings. The West Adams area has the largest concentration of designated landmarks and federal and local historic districts in Los Angeles. These designations help preserve the overall ambiance and quality of life in these neighborhoods and encourage the restoration, rebuilding and adaptive reuse of as many buildings as possible. Each of these districts has proactive neighborhood associations.

I have come back from the conference with new ideas, contacts and files of information from the National Trust and other preservation programs from around the country. Locally, HRPS can offer guidance to neighborhoods by having workshops and by being the clearinghouse for information. But it will be up to each Reno neighborhood to spearhead its' own programs.

Mentioned many times at conference sessions was the formation of "conservation" districts, sometimes know as "preservation lite." Historic districts generally follow United States Department of the Interior National Park Service guidelines. Conservation districts offer an alternative program by working within the local zoning codes. A board looks at the context of the neighborhood and less to its' historic nature. They do not change the zoning, but modify by using a conservation overlay. Generally, a local neighborhood task force develops a comprehensive plan. They may look at setbacks, demolition or perhaps downsizing the number of building per acre. These districts stabilize communities and in the long run help preserve the neighborhoods unique characteristics. Conservation designation as opposed to historic designation may be less threatening to a neighborhood, and may work in many of Reno's districts.

The conference presented a look at preservation trends by offering many local tours and educational sessions from the best preservation people from across the country and around the world. If you care about learning more about preserving Reno's past for future generations, then I encourage all HRPS members to attend next years conference in Providence, Rhode Island. 

## HRPS AND HRPS LEADERS RECEIVE AWARDS in 2000

At the recent "Accentuate the Positive" luncheon presented by *Truckee Meadows Tomorrow*, HRPS was honored with the Silver Star award presented to those who make a significant contribution to the Quality of Life we all enjoy in the Truckee Meadows. "The Silver Star award winners are doing the work it takes to protect and improve our quality of life every day." President, Cindy Ainsworth, received the award on behalf of HRPS.



Our compliments to board member Joan Dyer who received an individual Silver Star award at the same luncheon in recognition of her volunteer work at Sierra Arts. Twenty-three years ago Joan began the Arts-In-Education program that has now reached over 90,000 children. Joan's program is sometimes the only art exposure these children get.



Earlier in the year board members Cindy Ainsworth, President, and Nancy Holmes, Vice President, received an award from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office for their work in promoting heritage tourism. You may recall that HRPS facilitated the creation of our Heritage Tourism Coalition which has brought many groups in the Truckee Meadows together. HTC has produced a book on Historic Organizational Resources as well as a site map for heritage tourism. In part the award read, "They have raised awareness of the role historic places can play in our tourist economy."

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has."*


Margaret Mead

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

*Are You at Home,  
or Perhaps in the Office?*

*By Nancy Holmes*

HRPS has an opportunity sometime this year, perhaps as early as June, to have our own downtown office/store where we will receive visitors, book walking tours, and sell appropriate merchandise or products. This is something the founders and the Board of HRPS have dreamed of since our initial organization. Now, with possibility becoming probability, we want to be ready to open our space when the space is ready! I would like to hear from everyone willing to represent our organization with the general public – and can donate time – four to five hours a week, on a fairly regular basis. It will be fun, challenging, and exciting!

We will gather all the HRPS Angels (sorry, I couldn't resist) in late January or early February for training sessions. At that time we will work out schedules amenable to everyone. Please call Nancy Holmes now at 852-2094. Leave your name and phone number and, together, we'll get started on this wonderful, historic adventure for HRPS and the City of Reno. 



VIRGINIA STREET LOOKING NORTH, RENO, NEVADA

3A-H78

## The Last Word

*By Sharon Adler Walbridge,  
Editor*

Happy New Year everyone!

Isn't it hard to believe that we've now reached the year 2001? Thirty-three years ago when the famous Stanley Kubrick film, *2001 – A Space Odyssey*, was released 2001 seemed infinitely distant. Of course, the lesson for us is that nothing is infinitely distant, time forward or time past.

As you read this edition of our newsletter you will no doubt notice several things. Perhaps you've already noticed we've gone beyond calling this communication tool something other than merely newsletter.


We hope you'll like the change, and appreciate the allusion that we walk in the footprints of others as others will walk in ours.

You will find two "pullout" pages in this issue: one the form for making nominations for HRPS Preservation

Awards; the other is our Goals for 2000–2001. We hope you'll pull both of these out and keep them in your HRPS file for future reference.

If you read the Goals carefully, you will recognize that they are specific and ambitious. Perhaps you will also realize that there is more work than 12 board members can accomplish alone.

Please give consideration to helping with improving the walking tours, staffing a downtown office, researching materials to be used in community information workshops, helping to gather and properly file historical information that might otherwise be lost, and nominating people, properties or organizations for our Preservation Award.

We are a young, growing organization with significant accomplishments to our credit. With your help, we will raise the bar a little higher, alert the community to our seriousness of intent, and make historic preservation a permanent part of the on-going agenda of the City of Trembling Leaves. 





## Our Town, One Town; Neighborhoods to Downtown

by Sharon Adler Walbridge,  
Editor

One of HRPS' primary concerns is the integrity of historic neighborhoods.

By that we mean that HRPS is interested in seeing neighborhoods protected, revitalized and renovated in such a way as to preserve as much of their original context and texture as is reasonably possible.

Vital neighborhoods are the building blocks for overall community well-being. Neighborhoods are more than the artifacts of their built environment. They are that – plus people.

People create the dynamics essential to mobilize residents to take pride in their area, whether they are owners or renters. It takes people to provide economic incentives to businesses to keep them in the neighborhood. It takes people to maintain property and landscapes. Collective energy makes neighborhoods vibrant and alive.

In recent years, the City of Reno has emphasized the desirability of addressing neighborhood issues at the neighborhood level. Currently, there are seven Neighborhood Advisory Boards, or NABs in the City. Each NAB receives a \$50,000 Community Pride Grant from the general fund with which to address needs particular to their neighborhood. Having a budget empowers the NABs.

There is also an additional venue that addresses issues on an even more intimate level than the NABs. These are Neighborhood Associations, and are designed to cover an area within a NAB that has a more specific commonality of interest. Unlike NABs, which are creatures of the City, Associations are self-sustaining groups with their own by-laws.

One of the first such associations in Reno is the Keystone Neighborhood Association. Louise Gilmartin is the first and current President. Louise is the owner of Kitchens and Baths, a design business that has been at the same Vine Street location since 1978.

In those 22 years, Louise has witnessed a dramatic change in the neighborhood. Even though she is a busy sole-proprietor, when she saw the notice for the formation of the Association she said, "I finally decided to do something about the neighborhood."

In 1999, a group of disparate people gathered at the Gold and Silver where restaurant owner Jeff Paine donated meeting space. Once they'd reviewed their problems and assessed their needs, the group decided that priority one was to get additional street lighting to help reduce crime and improve neighbors' sense of security.

Within one short year new streetlights were installed on Keystone Place, Vine, Second, Gardner and Chism. Funding was made available from the Neighborhood Advisory Board.

Having the NAB to turn to for funding gave the Association the confidence that solutions were possible.

The Keystone Association boundaries are west of Ralston Street to Chism and Stoker streets and from I-80 to the river. It is an area with many opportunities and many challenges.

Freeway access is excellent. Access to McCarran is less than two miles. Fourth and Second Streets serve as major arterials. Downtown is within walking distance.


The river corridor serves as a natural boundary, and the city's most pleasant

esplanade. At Keystone and the river, the McKinley Arts and Culture Center is literally a bright spot within the neighborhood now that the lights have been installed in the parking area. At the other end of the district, the Lear Theatre is another cultural bright spot. In between these two gracious historic facilities, there are a number of attractive older homes on tree-lined streets, many still in use as single family residences. Others have been and are being converted to professional office space.

The railroad runs parallel to 3rd Street, which, of course, has a major impact on the area. There are at least a dozen halfway houses within the district. Additionally, there are a number of rundown and abandoned properties. But most of what's within Association boundaries looks pretty good. It's a microcosm of the larger city.

There's everything here, facilities of all sorts: tourist, religious, professional, commercial, industrial, residential, educational, cultural, and the prettiest little river in the "Biggest Little City in the World."

As I drove through the area one recent winter afternoon, large, dry snowflakes drifted down to settle on tree-lined streets. Evening lights began to flicker on. A sense of place whispered to me saying, "I'm worth saving."

Louise Gilmartin and those in the Keystone Association must have heard that whisper also. 



Keystone  
Assoc. President  
Louise  
Gilmartin  
stands in  
front of new  
streetlights on  
Vine Street.


## City of Reno Conference of Neighborhoods

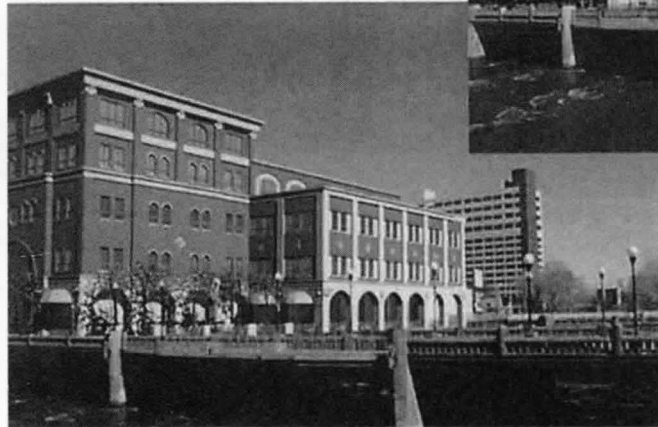
by Joy Orlich,  
Ombudsmen, City of Reno

The City of Reno sponsored the first ever "Conference of Neighborhoods" on Saturday, October 7, 2000 from 8am - 3pm. The day was designed to be a forum for residents to hear speakers, gather information, and discuss ideas for neighborhood improvement. We had 143 people attend which was great attendance for a first time event on a beautiful sunny Saturday during the Italian Festival.

City Manager Charles McNeely and Vice Mayor Dave Aiazzi welcomed attendees on behalf of the City, and then guest speaker Elton Gatewood gave an address about the power of getting involved. Elton is the Neighborhood Coordinator for the city of Tacoma, Washington, a consultant /urban strategist to governments, nonprofits, colleges and universities, and grassroots organizations. He is recognized as a national expert in the areas of citizen participation, governmental and community coordination, neighborhood planning, and is the current President of Neighborhoods USA, the nation's largest grassroots neighborhood organization.

The rest of the day consisted of breakout sessions with panel discussions on Community Resources for Neighborhood Development, Neighborhood Conflict Resolution, and How to Organize Your Neighbors; then lunchtime Table Topics with over two dozen local experts on everything from landscaping ideas to neighborhood clean-ups to recycling to park development.


The overwhelming response was, "Do This Again!" The kickoff meeting for next year's planning effort is tentatively set for January 29. Anyone interested in being on the planning committee can contact me at 334-2018, and I'll get them the information. 



## AT & T Before and After Renderings

This '60's era telephone switching building owned by AT & T has never blended with anything in downtown Reno. AT & T deserves much credit that in its' redesign of this building they worked so creatively with the new design guidelines for use in the Riverfront District.

The design guidelines are intended to strengthen the historic identity of the riverfront. New and refurbished buildings are meant to blend into the historic fabric of this area. Traditional materials and colors must be used.

As the Masonic block comes forward for approval, be sure to see how the design fits in with the AT& T building. Things are looking up along the river! Now if something good could happen for Woolworth's. 

## HRPS THANKS DONORS FOR OUR NOVEMBER PARTY FUNDRAISING ITEMS!!!

2 Volume Book Set *Railroads of Nevada & Eastern California*

Two Tickets to each of two concerts

*America by Design* and *Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*

Singing Telegram Gift Certificate

One pair tickets to opening weekend of "Clue" at the Bruka

Silver Basque symbol and pendant and chain

Bottle of Basque Dessert Wine

Basket of Basque Brochures

Reno Millenium Photo

*Nevada Place Names*

Admission to National Auto Museum

*The Land Of My Fathers* by Robert Laxalt

Artown T-shirts

Admission pass to Wolf Pack Women All Sports Package

*Over Tahoe*

*Nothing like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental RR*

One Bottle Beaulieu Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Centennial Release

One Bottle of Wine

Chocolate Truffles

Paperweight from San Sebastian, Spain

"Steel Rails" Classic RR Songs audio tape

University of Nevada Press

CJ. Walters, College of Extended Studies

Don Fowler, Professor, UNR

Eastern Onion Company

Mark Taxer

Felvia Belaustegui

Felvia Belaustegui

Pat and Mile Klos

Pat and Mike Klos

Nancy Holmes

Nancy Holmes

Nancy Holmes

Scott Gibson

Scott Gibson

Joan Dyer

Bill Walbridge

Bill Walbridge

Ed Wishart

Kathy Wishart

Kathy Wishart

Charlotte and Dick McConnell

Very special thanks to artist, Roy Powers, for his print of the historic Winters Ranch.



## MEET A BOARD MEMBER

*Leanne Stone*

In 1956 my family moved to Reno from Patterson, California. In 1960 I graduated from Reno High and married Tom. Carl, Marnie and Rodger are the product of that union. They are married and living in the area with their spouses and our nine grandchildren.

I have worked at the University since 1979, and graduated from it in 1993. In 1988 Don Fowler, Professor of Anthropology and Historic Preservation came to the Division of Continuing Education, where I then worked, with the concept of professional development courses for archaeologists and historic preservation professionals. I worked with him to coordinate the Cultural Resources Management (later Heritage Resources Management) program with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service and other agencies to develop and present the courses. That's how I became hooked on history and preservation, and started taking some classes.

In one class I did a photo-documentation of the reconstruction/restoration of Mackay School of Mines, gathering a lot of information about the Historic District of the University along the way.

My long-time good friend Ginger Salcedo introduced me to Pat Klos


*Mercedes de la Garza, leading a tour this past summer, gets kids interested in architectural history.*



about the time she founded HRPS. With Pat's vision of the walking tour aspect for HRPS, I saw a way I could share the information I'd collected about the University. Somehow, that managed to evolve into my becoming the Walking Tour Coordinator. Thanks to our dedicated and enthusiastic guides, this program has expanded beyond our wildest dreams.

My favorite quote is from Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, "How will we know it's us without our past?" I feel strongly about the need to preserve what we can in our area. It has become evident on the walking tours that there is still a lot of historic stock in Reno, the very visible demolitions of the Mapes Hotel Casino and Harold's Club not withstanding.


But much is threatened too. The only way we will be able to rescue any of these remaining sites is to become active in pursuit of preservation. Because you're reading this Newsletter, you've taken the first step—you're interested! Take the next step, contact a HRPS Board member to volunteer.

There's much to be done – and the clock is ticking. 

## IN OUR FOOTSTEPS WALKING TOUR INFORMATION

*By Leanne Stone*

Thanks To Glee Willis, Joan Collins, Gaye Canepa, Scott Gibson and Mark Taxer for leading the October bike ride and walking tours that added about 30 people to our growing roster of participants. HRPS is fortunate to have this enthusiastic and dedicated group of guides. These tours are a primary source of new members.

Once again, HRPS will offer a Tour Guide workshop on March 3rd. I encourage all of you who might be interested in any one of several aspects of the tours to join us. In order to meet growing demand for our walks we need help in the following categories: tour leaders for existing tours, people willing to take existing information and create a new tour in a new neighborhood, people who like to do research and would ferret out information on additional areas of town. Lastly, we need people who will partner with guides to act as assistants: distribute handouts, collect fees, and herd stragglers. It is simply too much to expect one person to perform all these tasks with our larger groups. 

**March 3, 2001**  
Walking Tour—Location TBA. Call  
Leanne Stone at 322-1638 for  
information or reservations.

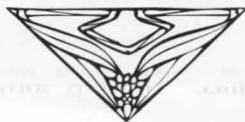


# HRPS WISH LIST

- A carousel slide projector with remote control
- A desk and chair
- Guest chairs
- A lockable merchandise display case
- Lockable bookcases
- Easels
- Money to further equip the office

## Los Angeles Preservationist...

...and developer Tom Gilmore: "Life isn't just about what we do as individuals. What accomplishes things is the collective achievements of society at large—building on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and taking it to the next level."



# Renewing Members

Dave & Delores Aiazzi, Lynn Allen, Hildegard Alvarado, Robert & Sandra Backus, Carrol Baird, Bill Barnard, Mary Beedle, Dana Bennett, Diane & David Buckman, Tom & Phyllis Cates, Neal Cobb, Cheryl & Mitch Cohen, Megan Condon, Judy & Steve Dollinger, Joan Forssell, Don & Kay Fowler, Theresa Firsch, Loretta Frudden, Penny Gilbert, Jeff Goldsmith, Mella Harmon, Mary Ellen Horan, Beverly Hubbard, Karen Hume,

Madelon & Hank Isbell, Red & Connie Kittell, Pat & Mike Klos, Susan Lombardi, Denise, Albert, Zack, & Ethan Martinez, Nancy Mawson, Madeline Murray, Steve & Teri Norman, Janice Oberding, Al & Nancy Pagni, Marilyn Paradis, Mike Harper & Nanette Pepe-Roeher, Suzanne Sexton, Fran & Paul Skrotzki, Shirie Wallace, JoAnne Waters, Glee Willis, Kathryn & Ed Wishart, Holly Young

# We Welcome New Members

Joan Arrizabalaga, Nancy Benischek, Tosca Byars, Irene & Doug Douglass, Louise Gilmartin, Dorothy Good, Nilsine & Skip Hansen, Linda Harrison, Judy & Ken Heitzenrader, Sally Jeffers, Donnie Kimmel, Kenneth & Victoria Krater, Loretta Terlizzi & Jim McCormick, Sue McDowell, Kathryn "Sug" Miles,

Rosemarie Mueller, Jim Nicholson, Tony & Nettie Oliverio, Peggy Palmer, Darla Potter, Barbara Price, Carl & Ruth Reiterman, Dick & Margaret Richardson, Mahree Roberts, Ross Soderstrom, Judy Stevens, Pat Wehking, Raymond & Leslie Wittkopp,

**Dues Are Due:** Check your mailing labels. Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno.

# Membership Application

☐ **Yes**, I want to become a member of the Historic Reno Preservation Society. Annual membership includes:

- HRPS newsletter
- Walking Tour brochure
- Free participation in walking tours

- ☐ Student .....\$8.00
- ☐ Individual .....\$10.00
- ☐ Family (children 18 and under) ...\$15.00
- ☐ Supporting .....\$100.00
- ☐ Additional Donation.....\$\_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and return to: **Historic Reno Preservation Society, P.O. Box 33444, Reno NV 89533**

Please make checks payable to:  
Historic Reno Preservation Society

- ☐ New Member
- ☐ Renewal

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### PROGRAMS 2001

MARK TAXER  
Program Chair (826-7070)

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

#### January 24, 2001

Learn what it was like in northern Nevada during the Great Depression with "A Walk in Their Shoes;" a living history presentation featuring a Nevada rancher, a WPA foreman, an influential politician, and a Depression-Era CCC worker.

#### February 28, 2001

Divorce, Reno Style! From Dude Ranches to Boarding Houses, Mella Rothwell Harmon, historic preservation specialist for the State of Nevada, discusses Reno divorce in the '30's and its effect on the built environment - particularly the architectural styles in Reno's neighborhoods.

#### March 3, 2001

Walking Tour-Location TBA. Call Leanne Stone at 322-1638 for information or reservations.

#### March 28, 2001

Reno's Lost Past. Reno historian, Neal Cobb, has a thought-provoking slide presentation using before and after photos that display the look of old Reno and what has replaced it. Judge for yourself which urban landscape you prefer.

#### April 25, 2001

Mella Harmon returns to separate myth from truth regarding the National Trust nomination and registration process as it applies to individual buildings and entire districts. What has it done for other cities? How does it really affect property values? Be sure to bring your neighbors to this one!

#### May 23, 2001

Annual Picnic in the Park! Bring your own picnic dinner to Whitaker Park between Washington and Ralston, just above I-80, for a lovely spring evening and a talk about the history of the area. We may even have a walking tour of the West University Neighborhood. Meet at 6 PM.

Remember to join HRPS in July, during the month long celebration of Artown. We'll be walkin' and talkin' all over town.

#### HRPS OFFICERS

**President:** Cindy Ainsworth 747-0340  
**Vice President:** Nancy Holmes  
**Secretary:** Kathryn Wishart  
**Treasurer:** Holly Young

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sierra Arts Liaison:** Joan Dyer  
**Uptown, Downtown, ARTown Liaison:** Scott Gibson  
**Community Liaison:** David Ginsburg  
**Heritage Tourism Coalition Liaison:** Nancy Holmes  
Felvia Belaustegui, Debra Perry Lockwood, Charlotte Jones McConnell, Leanne Stone, Mark Taxer, Sharon Adler Walbridge, Kathryn Wishart

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