

# The DC Bee

Vol 33 Number 5

January 2022

**In Person Docent Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.**

## ***The Fire Museum and the History of Fire in Virginia City***

In 1958, Joe Curtis's family moved to Virginia City, where his parents opened a museum. This started Joe's lifelong love of the Comstock. He grew up surrounded by historical artifacts and photographs of the Comstock, and started collecting for himself when he was about 12.

After serving in the US Army as a counter-intelligence special agent, Joe returned to Nevada, where he worked for the Carson City Sheriff's Department for 20 years (retiring as assistant sheriff) and then served as the Storey County Director of Emergency Services for 22 years, retiring in 2021.

In addition, Joe and his wife, Ellie, owned the Mark Twain bookstore in Virginia City (1993—2013.) The bookstore specialized in the opening of the American West and the Comstock. Joe has a significant cache of Comstock photographs and original documents and regularly makes presentations on Comstock history.

A genuine Comstock history fanatic, he is always searching for historical material on Virginia City (if you want to get rid of any, let Joe know!) His expertise on the Comstock has been used for programs by NatGeo and the Discovery and History channels, by the Smithsonian Institute, and by UNR's Special Collections.



*Fire Museum in 1938. Headlights show the 1929 Chevrolet fire truck, the first motorized apparatus in Virginia City.*



*Museum a few years ago with restored and operational steamer out front.*

## Notes from your Docent Council Board

### New Time! New Location!

Beginning with this month's program, the Docent Council is returning to **in-person general meetings at the Nevada Historical Society**. The doors open at 10 a.m. and the program will begin at 10:30. Come a little early and spend time greeting your docent friends!

If COVID restrictions force a change in plans, you will be notified by e-mail.

### Year of the Docent

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Nevada Historical Society Docent Council, NHS Director Catherine Magee has declared 2022 to be the Year of the Docent. Join us throughout the year as we lift up some of the things docents have done to forward the mission of the NHS over four decades of service!

### Election of DC Bee Editor

Betsy Morse, the interim DC Bee editor, has agreed to stay on until the end of 2022 or until Sandy Vickers-White is willing and able to resume, whichever comes sooner. An election for DC Bee Editor will be held at the January meeting.

### New Time Card Procedures

You should have received an e-mail with instructions from our statistician, Bill Kolton, on sending him your hours worked as a docent in December. We will continue with e-mail submissions through 2022.

### Please Pay Your 2022 Docent Council Dues

Docent Council membership dues for 2022 need to be paid by January 1. Dues remain \$15.00 per year. These are paid on a calendar year basis. Checks may be made to the Docent Council. They can be sent to the following address:

Nevada Historical Society Docent Council  
ATTN Marc Ullom  
1650 North Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89503

**The DC Bee** is published monthly, excluding July and August, by the NHS Docent Council. **Docent Council general meetings** are held September—June. The April meeting is the Fordham luncheon, where docents have the spotlight for their hours devoted to the work of the NHS.

## Meet Sarah Patton, New NHS Archivist

At long last, the NHS has a third full-time staff person! Sarah Patton is filling the vacancy left by Head Librarian Michael Maher. However, the job has been completely revamped and carries a new title: Archivist. In this role, Sarah will be in charge of all collections at the NHS, not just those which are part of the library.

Since she was a child, Sarah has loved reading, looking at old family photographs and letters, and organizing things, so a job in the library/archives field seemed like a logical fit based on her interests and skills.

*I'm very excited to be starting this position with the Nevada Historical Society and to start working with, and learning from, the docents!*  
*- Sarah Patton*



*Sarah relaxing on a recent vacation in Belize*

"I particularly enjoy helping researchers connect with material and find what they are looking for to support their project, whether it's an academic book or a high school paper," she said.

"I was drawn to the position at the Nevada Historical Society because of the opportunity to do a wide variety of work -- process collections, catalog, staff the reading room desk, respond to reference inquiries, assist with database cleanup, participate in public programming, etc. Being able to interact directly with collection material is one of my favorite parts of being an archivist!"

Sarah was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area—San Mateo, to be exact. She received a BA from UC San Diego in psychology, then picked up a Masters in Library Science with a concentration in Archives, Records, and Information Management from the University of Maryland, College Park.

After graduate school, Sarah volunteered at the California Historical Society (which undoubtedly provided her with a good background for working with NHS docents!)

She also volunteered with the Institute of Dental History and Craniofacial Study (part of the University of the Pacific Dental School). She worked briefly as an office assistant at her dentist's office; she notes that it was just a coincidence that she did two dental-related things!

***Continued on next page***

## Sarah Patton Continued

Sarah started a full time job as a case assistant at the law firm of Gordon & Rees, where she worked for two years, and followed that by becoming a Research Services Coordinator at another law firm, Morrison & Foerster.

From there, Sarah began working at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives. This is a research center and archival repository located at Stanford University in Palo Alto.

Sarah worked at the Hoover Institution for more than six years. She started as a processing intern, arranging and describing small collections and paging materials. Later, she was hired full time as a project archivist, working with the institutional records in preparation for the institution's centennial (which was in 2019).

Four years ago, Sarah transitioned into another role, Public Services Archivist, which was then renamed the Research Services Manager. In this role, she managed the reading room and oversaw reference related operations, including responding to reference inquiries, duplication orders, and copyright questions/permissions to publish.

When the reading room was closed to non-Stanford researchers during the pandemic, Sarah ramped up free reference scanning, and by the time she left the Hoover Institution, they had provided over 100,000 pages of scans.

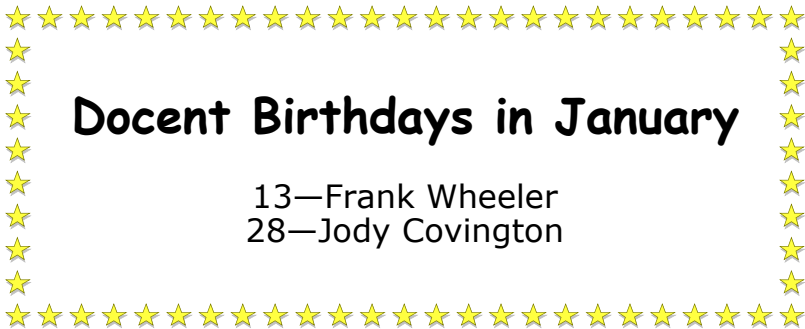
Sarah concluded by saying, "I'm very excited to be starting this position with the Nevada Historical Society and to working with, and learning from, the docents! I thank everyone in advance for their patience and understanding as I learn the ropes and brush up on my Nevada history."



*Sarah's last day at the Hoover Institution*

**Please help us welcome Sarah to the NHS staff!**

**So glad that she will be joining us!**



## Docent Birthdays in January

13—Frank Wheeler  
28—Jody Covington

### Upcoming Docent Council Meeting Speakers

10:30 a.m. in the NHS

**February 3** Dr. Elwood Schmidt *The Doctor’s Black Bag: A Doctor’s life in the rural West*

**March 3** Dana Lee Freund *History, Mystery and Folklore: Tales of the Underground Tunnels of Eureka, Nevada*

### High Noon: Shootout with Neal Cobb

At noon on ZOOM

**January 20** Paul Franklin, *Nevada Mining from Silver & Gold to Copper & Lithium - 170 years of Development*

To obtain a link for this, register at <https://events.washoecountylibrary.us/event/8449217>

**February 17** Dr. Michael Fischer, *Baby Face Nelson in Nevada*

**March 17** Speaker to be determined.

### Docent Council Officers

**President:** Pam Walker  
(775) 847-0143 plwalk@nvbells.net

**Vice-President:** Linda Burke  
(775) 313-1103  
lulubelle1986@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Jody Covington  
(775) 544-6131  
mjhmconv@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer:** Marc Ullom  
(775) 313-6403 mfullom@att.net

**Statistician:** Bill Kolton  
(775) 771- 7730  
bdkolton@gmail.com

**Past President/Parliamentarian:**  
Sam Macaluso (775) 233-8730  
Sagebrush\_sam @yahoo.com

**D C Bee Editor:** Betsy Morse  
(775) 826-0534 morsee13@gmail.com

### Nevada Historical Society

(775) 688-1191

**Museum Director:**  
Catherine Magee, x222  
cmagee@nevadaculture.org

**Curator of History:**  
SherylN Hayes-Zorn, x223  
shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org

**Museum Archivist**

### NHS Hours

Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
docents, researchers, and  
museum visitors welcome.

Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. -  
4 p.m. docents welcome.  
Researchers and museum visitors  
by appointment only.