

# A Celebration: 40 years of the NHS Docent Council





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

## Barbara Harmon

Barbara saw the Nevada Historical Society needed a volunteer organization to help with programming, tours, and so much more



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Barbara Harmon worked with NHS Director Peter Bandurraga and founded the Nevada Historical Society Docent Council on April 12, 1982





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Barbara Harmon worked hard as the founder, first Docent Council President, and in other offices to promote and nurture the Docent Council

Barbara even gave her home number to prospective docents



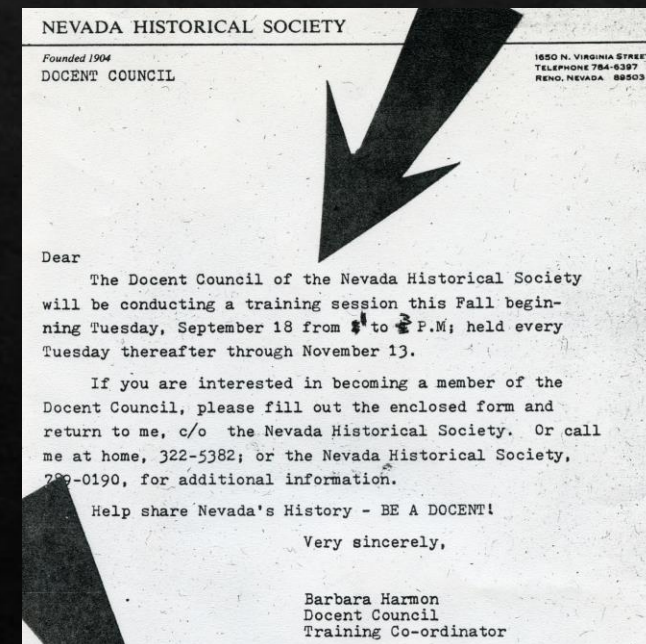
DOCENT COFFEE  
DECEMBER 1982

Barbara Harmon  
Frank Brown  
Phyllis Gurries  
Charles Breese



Doris Folsom  
Merle Owen  
Dorothy Breese

Georgia Vasko  
Cathie Harmon  
Frank Brown





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Barbara Harmon worked at the NHS and in the community to promote the Docent Council and her family supported her and the NHS

Docent Council exhibit at the 1983  
Volunteerism Fair



Cathie Harmon  
Barbara Harmon



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Education was always the goal of the Docent Council

Docent training required docents to write at 4-5 page research paper about Nevada history and present their research at their docent graduation ceremony



The Docent Council Graduating Class 1985

May 24, 1982

## Docent Council Training Schedule, 1982

All sessions begin at 2:00

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| May 25  | Introduction<br>Tour of Galleries and Departments   |
| June 1  | Library (Lee Mortensen)<br>Gallery: Native Americans (Phil Earl)  |
| June 8  | Archives and Photographs (Eric Moody & Dorothy Nylan)<br>Gallery: Nineteenth Century Nevada (Phil Earl)       |
| June 15 | Artifacts (Jeff Hunt)<br>Gallery: Twentieth Century Nevada (Phil Earl)  |
| June 22 | Gift Shop and Special Events (Darlene Ammons)<br>Touring<br><i>Sierra Nevada Museum of Art (Dancy Peppin)</i> |
| June 29 | Presentation of Projects (Docents)<br>Graduation  |

Each Docent will be asked to prepare a 4-5 page report of background information on one of the exhibits in the Main Gallery. The Project Presentation on June 29 will consist of a five minute discussion of each report with the rest of the class. The completed reports will be duplicated and distributed as the foundation of the Docent Notebook.



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

## Docent Graduation Teas



1984 FALL GRADUATION TEA  
DORIS FOLSOM POURING



Barbara Harmon  
Vivian Kirckof



La Verne Burmeister



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

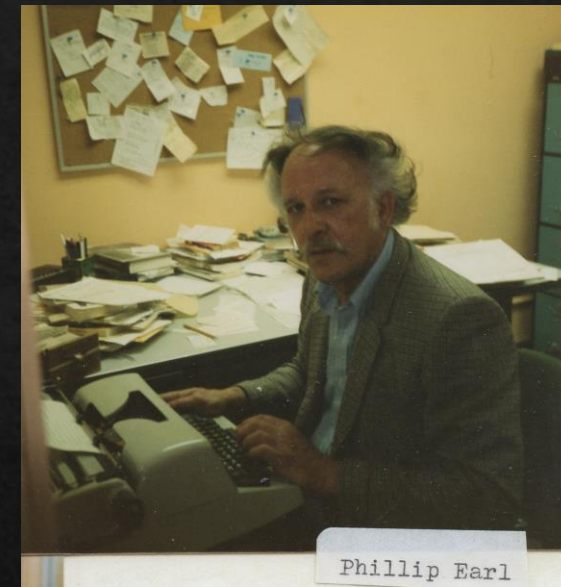
Education was always the goal of the Docent Council

Docents organize internal training with NHS staff, including Librarian Lee Mortensen and History Curator Phil Earl

Docents learned the details about current exhibits



Lee Mortensen



Phillip Earl

Dr. Cynthia Irwin-Williams

Lecture on Hopi  
Artifacts in  
conjunction with  
"Year of the Hopi"  
Exhibition at NHS

January 17, 1983

Barbara Harmon  
Dr. Irwin-Williams



Charles and  
Dorothy Breese;  
Vivan Kirckof  
Gretchen Bettler

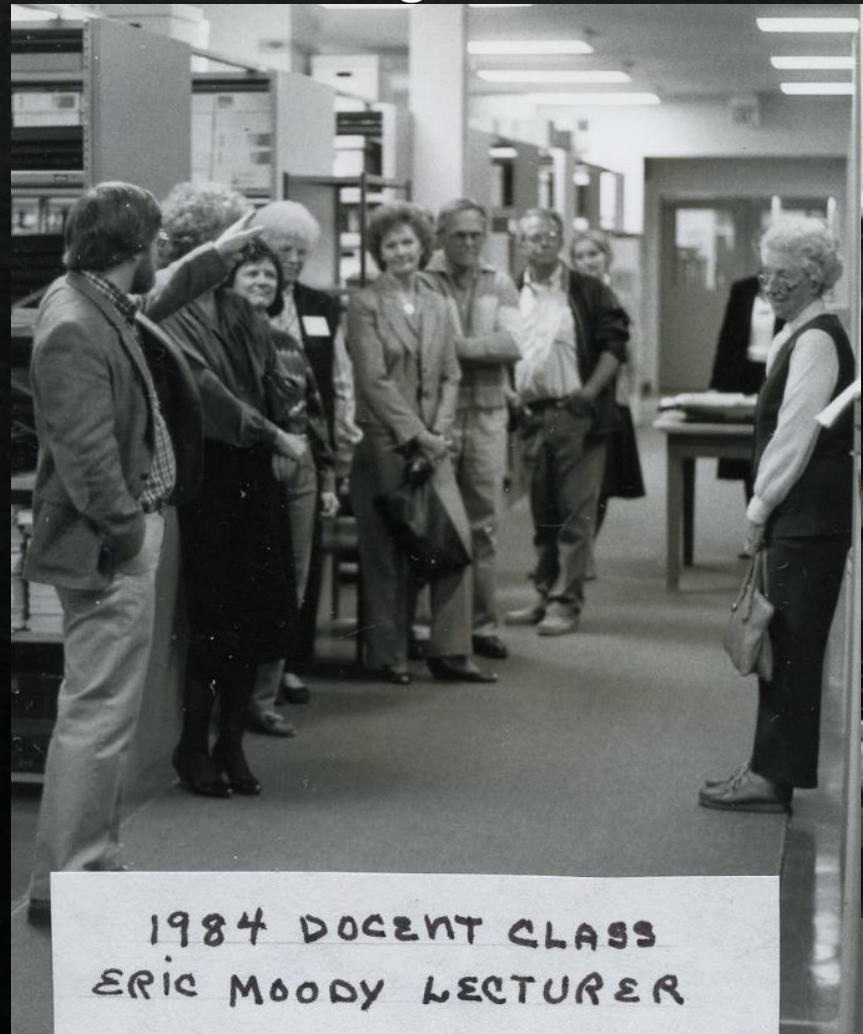
Phyllis Gurries  
Frank Brown



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Education was always the goal of the Docent Council

Docent training with NHS and other museum curators





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Education was always the goal of the Docent Council

Docent training from experts 1984 and 1985 include:

Prof. Joe Tingley: Nevada Mining History (NHS Docent 2022)

Linda Howard: Nevada Tribal History and Government

Dr. Anne Howard: The New Woman in Nevada 1890-1920

Prof. James Hulse: Nevada History



JIM HULSE  
DOCENT TRAINING 1985



DR. ANNE HOWARD



FALL 1984 DOCENT CLASS  
LINDA HOWARD LECTURER



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Education was always the goal of the Docent Council

Docent training at other cultural institutions



1986 trip to Ft. Churchill



1984 Nancy Pepin of Sierra Nevada Museum of Art



1982 and 1983 docent Council on steps of Getchell Library, University of Nevada Reno



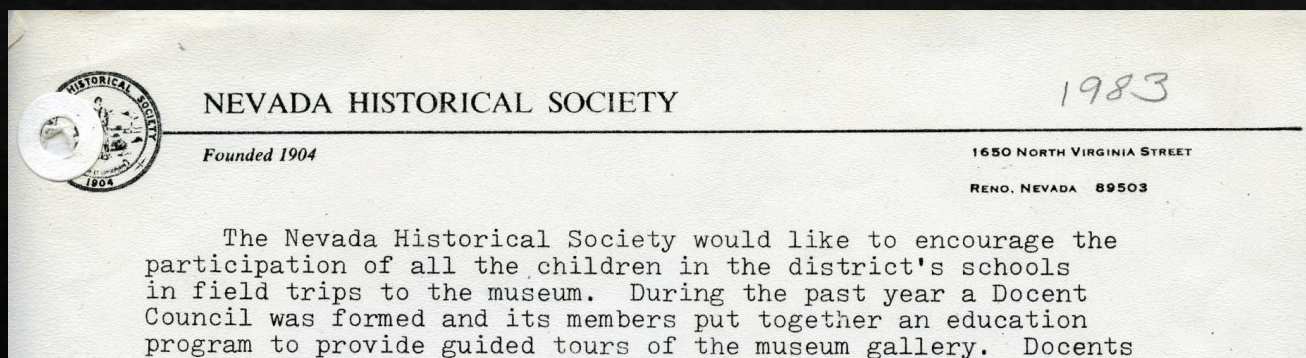
1986 Sacramento Historical Center



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Education was always the goal of the Docent Council  
Outreach to teachers through letters, pamphlets, and  
newspaper articles

**Over 17,000 children**  
had docent lead tours from 1982-1988





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

Education was always the goal of the Docent Council  
Outreach and tours

Guided Tours  
at the

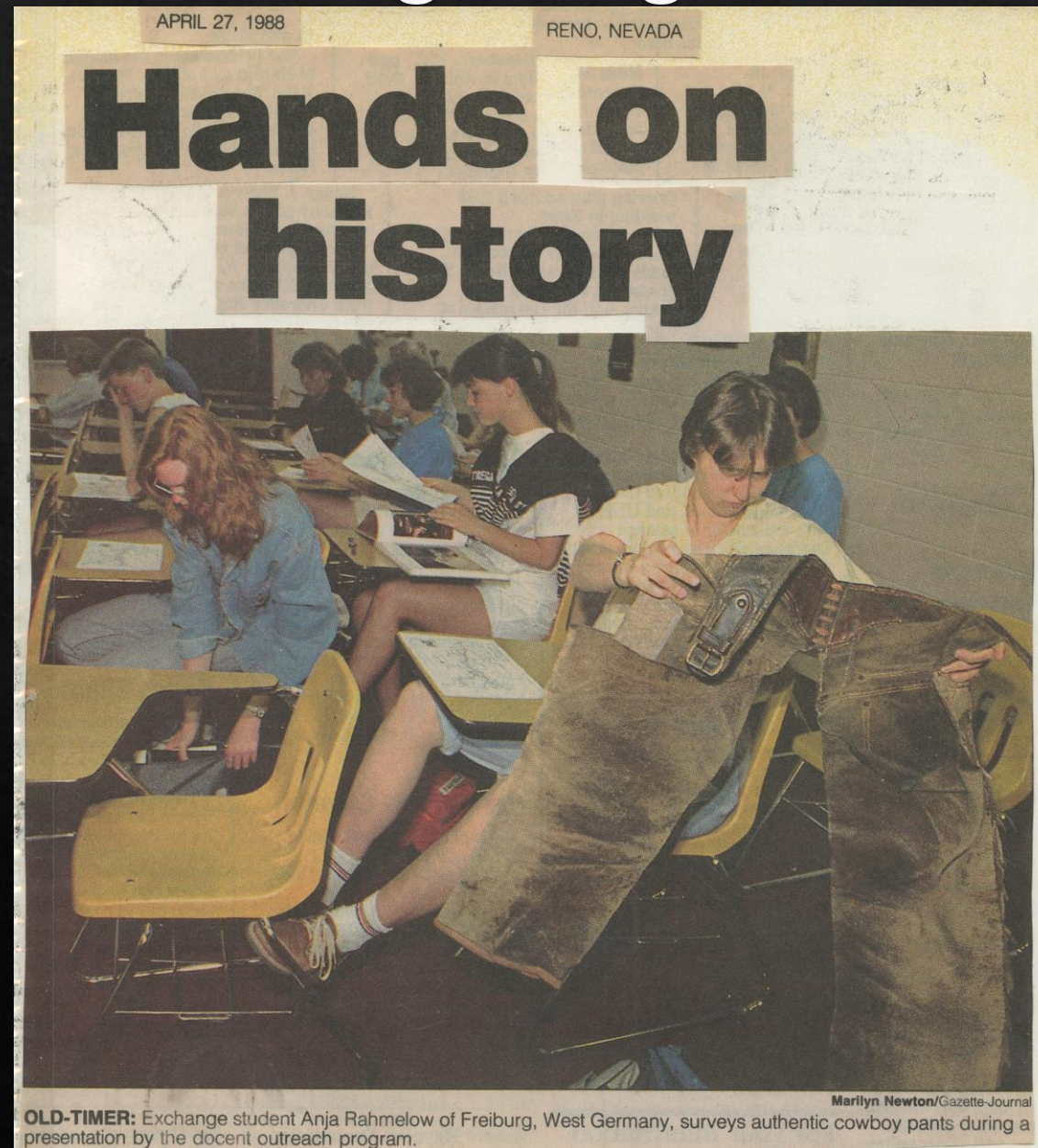
## NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### *An Invitation to Teachers*

The Nevada Historical Society would like to encourage field trips by local school children to the museum. In 1983, a Docent Council was formed and its members developed an education program to provide guided tours of the museum gallery. Since then, docents have provided guided tours for more than 17,000 children from Northern Nevada and California.



Mildred Reinhardt, school tour 1985





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning.....

The Docent Council keeps the NHS operational, from day one and class one

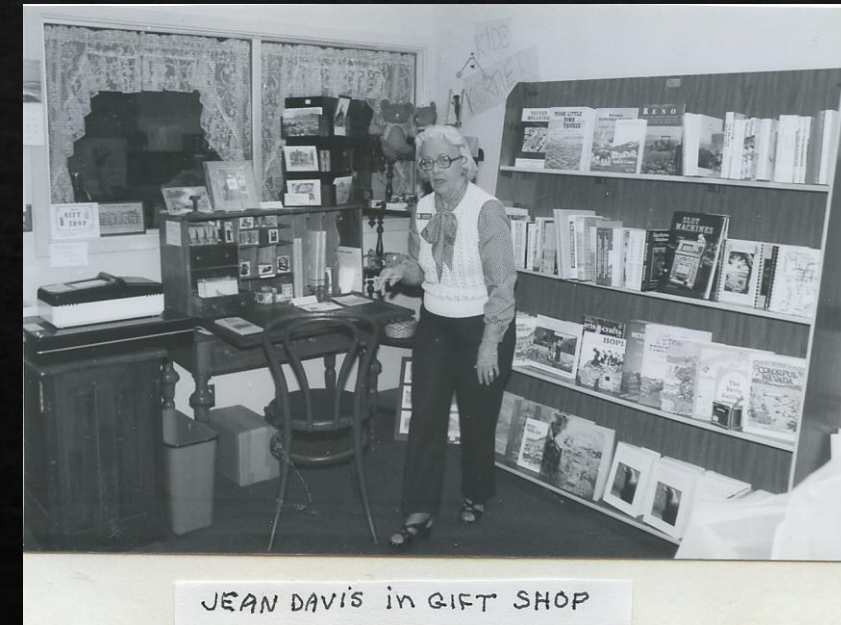
“The opportunities for rewarding service are limited only by the needs of the Society and the imagination of the individual.” September 1982 *Trestle*



Cathy Harmon enchants pre-school children on tour of the NHS with some down-home bluegrass rhythm.—  
Photo by Frank Brown, NHSDC



Dorothy Breeze, school tour 1984



JEAN DAVIS in GIFT SHOP



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

The Docent Council keeps the NHS operational

Staffing NHS's downtown gallery in Reno Tahoe Visitor's Center

1984 June- August there were over 700 visitors

Impressive as the gallery was closed on Saturdays and Sundays

NHS Docents to the tourism commission-

"Don't overlook what you already have in place and functioning. We're ready when you are."



**Dorothy Breese, left, NHSDC Director of Educational Services, introduces some young visitors to the NHS Museum.—Photo by Frank Brown, NHSDC**



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning.....

## The Docent Council graduating classes of 1982

Alice  
Coursey,  
Doris  
Folsom,  
Dorothy  
Breese



Barbara  
Harmon,  
Frank  
Brown,  
Phyllis  
Gurries,  
Charles  
Breese



Doris  
Folsom,  
Marge  
Means,



Merle  
Owen,  
Dorothy  
Breeze,  
Georgia  
Vasko,  
Barbara  
Harmon,  
Cathie  
Harmon



Gretchen  
Bettler,  
Vivian  
Kirckof



Frank  
Brown,  
Geno  
Oliver





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning.....

The Docent Council graduating class of 1983

Back Row: Katie Crouse, Pene Herman

Front Row: Ursula Daines, Marty Teipner,  
Kathyrne Crouse, Donna Murphy





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

The Docent Council graduating class of 1984:

Names in alphabetical order

Lee Berk,  
Mary Artz,  
Roy Baker,  
Adam Bass,  
Felvia Belaustegui  
Darlene Bridges,  
Merriam Brown,  
Pearl Cartwright,  
Janice Dahl,  
Jan Douglass,  
Marilyn Dousharm  
Marjorie Fordham,  
Grace Fujii,  
Jean Gregory,  
Alta Harrison  
Ann Kerns,  
Mary Ann Kidder

Marie Kirby,  
Julie Kleppe  
Eva Leiker,  
Alice Lohse,  
Pattie Mooney,  
Maynard Meyers,  
Agnes Nelson,  
Virginia Payant,  
Don Potter,  
Jocelyn Ray,  
John Ross,  
Fran Sabine,  
Linda Saltern,  
Margaret Schade,  
Polly Thimgan,  
Diane Van Orden,  
Pat Young





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

The Docent Council graduating class of 1984

Marjorie Fordham, Fordham Award creator



Marjorie Fordham, Jean Gregory, Dorothy Breeze

Docent Graduation Tea



Ann Kerns, Doris Folsom, Linda Saltern, Margaret Schade, Marilyn Douglas, Maynard Myers, Polly Thimgan, Julie Kleppe, Jean Gregory, Marge Means



# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

## The Docent Council graduating class of 1985

Names left to right  
Robert Lauderdale,  
Dorothy Lauderdale,  
Betty Lewis,  
Waltzie Long,  
Peter Bandurraga,  
Arline La Ferry  
Ed (Sandars) Jordan,  
Norma Gregory,  
Polly Metz,  
Pam Sliker,  
Jeanne Davis,  
Mary Bailey,  
Mildred Reinhardt,

Not pictured:  
Audrey Brooks,  
Hope Estes,





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

## The Docent Council graduating class of 1986

Names left to right

Carlos Brown,  
LaVern Burmeister,  
Ida Staub,  
Frosty Giovo-Stowell  
Katherine Ralston,  
Suzanne Sobel,  
Carolyn Beaupre,  
Janet Timmons,  
Carol Baker,  
Barbara Swim,  
Marcelia Crossen,  
Marlene Maxwell,  
Evelyn Windham Kayte  
Van Remington,  
Jeannette McBride,  
Marie Nelson,  
Marie Swanson,  
Not pictured Ruth Brown





# Celebrating our Docents: in the beginning...

The Docent Council graduating class of 1988

Names left to right

Edward Kurtz,  
Jeanice Mabey,  
Don Wiggins,  
Rosemary McCorkel,  
Margie Swall,  
Edward Stubbs,  
Andy Swall,  
Juliet Pierson,  
Jeannette Porter,  
Kathy Johnson

Not pictured Ruth Canak





# A Celebration: 40 years of the NHS Docent Council

Coming soon: NHS Docent Council 1989-2002

