



Happy Spring, everyone!

I hope you have been enjoying this wide-ranging weather. I love this time of year, with the blossoming trees adding splashes of color around the UNR campus and having time to work in my yard. I spotted the mated pair of Canada geese a couple of weeks ago, grazing on the grass, walking through the parking lots, and sitting on our roof. Did you know that these birds' life spans can range from 10 to 24 years? Assuming it's the same pair, I believe that they must be around 15 years old, since I first saw them around NHS in 2011.

We have some exciting news to share! The NHS has been selected by the Reno Historical Resources Commission to receive a 2026 City of Reno Preservation Award for our **Nevada Historical Society – On The GO! Program**. The staff are honored by the recognition of our work to help preserve Reno and Nevada's history. A huge shoutout to the amazing authors and historians that love sharing their programs with our members and the public.

Catherine has been very busy, between overseeing our building renovation project, working on budgeting, and submitting new Capital Improvement Project (CIP) proposals for funding a complete remodel of our galleries and a possible off-site gallery display. There are several things in the works, and we will share more information soon. Interviews for the Facilities Manager position have been conducted, and we hope to have a new staff member soon. Finally, NHS has a new blue cargo van, replacing our old unreliable van.

Sarah Patton, Archivist, along with Theresa Nielson, Collections Technician, have been busy working on collections and assisting with research requests. Here is Sarah's report:

- In addition to collecting and preserving our state's cultural heritage, the core of the Nevada Historical Society's mission is to make it accessible to the public. One way we do this is by providing digital copies of the photographs in our collection for use by members of the public, academic researchers, and the media.
- Recently our photos have been requested for use in educational videos created by Bodie State Historic Park, a local news segment about the history behind Nevada being the battle-born state, a ski lodge at Heavenly Mountain Ski Resort, and the American Society of Civil Engineer's magazine, to name a few.
- You can also be on the lookout for images from the Nevada Historical Society in the new season (Season 8) of "Wild Nevada." Episodes air on PBS Reno and are available to stream on their website and on YouTube. We love to see our photographs out in the world! (Properly credited, of course.)

Debra Brastoff, Collections Manager, continues to be busy with moving, organizing, and rehousing collections. Debra, Kristina, and Sarah have been working with the Nevada Museum of Art as they review select portrait paintings from our art collection for possible inclusion in their 2028 Comstock exhibit.

Kristina Hornback, Curator of Education, and docents Lorraine Petersen and Tabitha and Salem Neufeld, attended their first springtime community outreach event, the Reno Aces' Education Day, on April 28th. This is such a wonderful event, providing an opportunity to engage with Washoe County students and their parents. The average attendance for each event is 2,000 students. Go Aces!

Make sure to check out our May programs!

Nevada History – On The GO!
Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 1–2pm

David and Gayle Woodruff, historians and authors, will talk about **Daring and Dangerous Donner Summit**.

Using a trove of rare and seldom-seen photographs, local historians and authors David and Gayle Woodruff take you on a fast-paced and often humorous journey across Donner Summit—one of America's most storied and heavily traveled mountain corridors. From the heroic three-day, round-the-clock effort to rescue 226 passengers and crew from a snow-stranded and danger-filled train, to the spirited "Snow Shoveling Bee" that rallied an entire community, this program uncovers the remarkable characters, bold feats, and improbable moments that have shaped this legendary Sierra summit's fanciful history.

David and Gayle Woodruff offer history programs throughout Lake Tahoe, the Carson Valley, and Eastern Sierra, often bringing their characters to life in Chautauqua performances. The Woodruffs have written a series of three books about Highway 395 called "Tales Along El Camino Sierra" and a book on the Furnace Creek Resort called "Magnificent Oasis."

We want to thank Sierra View Library for being our community partner and hosting this series while we are closed for building renovations. Their address is [4001 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502](#).

[Click here for more lecture details.](#)

NHS Docent Council Lecture & Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 10:30 am–12 pm

Our Docent Council lecture is scheduled in the PBS Reno community room on Thursday, May 7, 2026. This month's speaker, Barbara Czerwinski from the Truckee Donner Historical Society, will talk on **The Donner Party Campsites**.

Writers' Wednesday – On The GO!

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | 5:30–6:30 pm (doors open at 5pm)

Tammy Buzick, author and curator, will talk about her book, "Bowers Mansion: The Legacy of a Comstock Family," published by the University of Nevada Press.

Few estates born from the discovery of the Comstock Lode still survive. Among the grandest, Bowers Mansion dates to the height of the Civil War. The property has a tragic history shrouded in legend, laid bare within these pages: from the mansion's construction to Eilley Bowers's fight to maintain the property after her husband's death, running it as a resort and telling fortunes, to the mansion's restoration in the 1960s with the aid of a handful of determined women. "Bowers Mansion: The Legacy of a Comstock Family" is a tale of wealth and poverty, of decay and revival, offering up a powerful story from Nevada's history for readers of all kinds to enjoy.

Tamera J. Buzick is the Bowers Mansion curator. While teaching at Hug High School, she worked closely with Betty Hood, former Bowers Mansion curator, as the historical researcher traveled extensively in search of new information about the Bowers family. She is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno.

We want to thank our community partner, the Knights of Pythias, for hosting this lecture series while we are closed for building renovations. Their address is [980 Nevada Street, Reno, 89503](#).

[Click here for more lecture details](#).

High Noon, A Virtual Lecture Series

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 12pm

Dr. Michael Green, historian and author, will talk about **After Another Eight Score: Jefferson, Lincoln, and Nevada**. This is an **America 250 Nevada Program!**

At Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln referred back to Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence in describing "a new birth of freedom." Less than a year later, Nevada was a state. How were these people and events connected? This lecture will examine how Nevada reflects—and does not reflect—what Jefferson and Lincoln had in mind.

Michael Green is chair of the UNLV Department of History. He is the author of "Nevada: A History of the Silver State" and several other works on Nevada, as well as books about the Civil War era, including "Lincoln and the Election of

1860” and “Lincoln and Native Americans.” He is the executive director of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association and Preserve Nevada, and writes “Nevada Yesterdays,” read by former U.S. Senator Richard Bryan for Nevada Public Radio.

[Click here to register for this program.](#)

Mark your calendars for this special History Panel Program!

Nevada History – On The GO!

Saturday, June 6, 2026 | 1–3pm

Michael Fischer, Jeff Kintop, Stan Paher, and TBA panelist will talk about Nevada’s Age-Old Question: Dayton vs Genoa. This is an **America 250 Nevada Program!**

This is a special two-hour program that will look at the age-old question of whether Dayton or Genoa was the first settlement. Our distinguished panel of historians, who have spent years looking into this topic, will talk about the available historic documents, newspaper articles, and limited diary entries; the establishment of a mail station and route between Salt Lake City and Sacramento; and the cast of characters who worked and lived in the Carson Valley and Gold Canyon areas.

Here’s your chance to find out if this on-going debate can be resolved. This will be an engaging Nevada history program that you won’t want to miss.

[Click here for more details.](#)

NHS Artown Talks in July will be hot, hot, hot!

Mark your calendar for this year’s **Artown 2026 – On the GO!** Every Saturday in July, join us for two FREE Artown talks and learn some new Nevada history facts!

Saturday, July 4, 2026

America 250 Nevada Programs – Happy Birthday America!

1pm | Emerson Marcus | **Lexington, Concord and Nevada: The Militia Tradition and Its Evolution in the Silver State**

2:30pm | Caleb S. Cage | **Nevada in Literary Fiction of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars**

Saturday, July 11, 2026

1pm | Buddy Frank | **From Rick's Resort to a \$120 Billion Entertainment Industry...And How Reno Got Left Behind**

2:30pm | Jean-Guy Tanner Dubé | **Nevada's Participation in Expositions and World's Fairs**

Saturday, July 18, 2026

1pm | Sydney Martinez | **Finding Nevada Wild: Stories of the Terrain, Culture, and People of the Most Mysterious State in the West**

2:30pm | Dr. George D. Baumgardner | **Sliding Bones on Historic Smith Creek Playa in Central Nevada**

Saturday, July 25, 2026

1pm | M. Christina Schlosser | **DMV: A Cautionary Tale**

2:30pm | Joe Tingley | **Historical Mining in the Military Lands of South-Central Nevada**

We want to thank our community partner, Nevada Sunset Winery, for hosting this free series. Nevada Sunset Winery is an official Artown Passport partner, which makes all our talks official passport events!

[Click here for more details.](#)

I want to thank our April speakers for their engaging programs: Dana Bennett, Mark Curtis, and Sean Pitts. A huge shout-out to Bill Mardon for giving a wonderful Knights of Pythias Cemetery Talk & Tour, our first Exploring Nevada tour program.

We are thinking of creating a **special bus tour** in early October 2026 based on our June Nevada History – On The GO! program, “Nevada’s Oldest Settlement: Dayton or Genoa.” We also have several people interested in an early spring 2027 tour of the Sutro Tunnel in conjunction with our Exploring Nevada series. If you are interested in any of our upcoming tours, please [click here to fill out the form](#) for more information.

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) platforms, where we share our upcoming programs, news, and general history posts. Be on the lookout for posts showing some of the wildlife at the NHS!

Have a wonderful day,
Shery

Sheryln L. Hayes-Zorn

Curator of History

Keep up with our latest events and [follow us on Facebook!](#)



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