



FootPrints

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

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Oh What “Joy” HRPS’ 10th President Takes Office

by Amy Burton

Since its first formal meeting on September 22, 1997, HRPS has voted in 10 presidents to guide its preservation efforts. In December 2023, President Carol Coleman resigned after eight years of service. Joy Orlich, HRPS treasurer, stepped up to become the organization’s tenth president in its 27-year history.

Joy comes to the position with extensive nonprofit management experience. She retired from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2018 where she was the finance and operations manager for the Northern Nevada International Center. The center hosted visiting international delegations in collaboration with the U.S. State Department.

Other nonprofit management experience included the Nevada Humane Society, The Reno Family YMCA and the Galilee Foundation. Joy spent many years in the private sector in industries as diverse as banking, public utilities, youth and adult education and the gaming industry. In the government sector, Joy was the Ombudsman for the City of Reno, and did consulting work for Washoe County and the State of Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau.



Joy Orlich, HRPS’ 10th President
Photo by Amy Burton

“I was hoping Joy would volunteer to be president,” said former president Cindy Ainsworth. “She has been right there when HRPS needed help with projects and with other positions. With her long-time non-profit experience, she was the perfect choice for HRPS. HRPS has been fortunate to have had excellent presidents and I know Joy will continue that tradition.”

Over her varied career, Joy has been actively engaged in the community, serving on the boards of more than a dozen business and professional organizations and volunteering her time at many fundraising events. Throw in early jobs waiting tables, selling magazine subscriptions, painting apartments, and some retail

sales, and you realize she is something of a Joy-of-all-trades.

Joy was first introduced to HRPS through longtime friend, Debbie Hinman, who enticed her into attending her walking tours, then in volunteering as a home tour docent. In 2020, in need of a HRPS Treasurer, Deb asked Joy if she would consider taking the job. After a phone call from Carol, Joy agreed. Before officially starting as treasurer, Joy worked with Carol on several projects: updating bylaws, starting an online monthly newsletter and implementing a membership management software system.

“HRPS is an exceptionally strong organization,” Joy said. “We have close to 600 memberships and are growing. We are healthy financially, we have a knowledgeable board that actively participates in our programs, a solid base of dedicated volunteers and an established reputation in the community with our monthly speaker programs, walking tours and home tour. Very few volunteer organizations have all this!”

Joy’s first project as president is to organize an anniversary party on April 26, celebrating 25 years since receiving our nonprofit designation from the IRS. “We want the whole community to come out and see how we’ve grown from a handful of neighborhood walks to an organization that is a leading voice for preservation,” said Joy. Details will follow on the website and in the newsletter. Past presidents will join Joy

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HRPS
Historic Walking
Tour Issue

Oh What "Joy"

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and committee members in creating the retrospective program. Carol will be recognized for her years of service.

Founding HRPS president Pat Klos spoke highly of the new president, "Joy comes to HRPS with a rich background of leadership skills, fresh enthusiasm and a delightful manner."

Deb Hinman agreed, "Joy and I have been friends for 30 years. Prior to twisting her arm to host with me some years ago at the HRPS' home tour, I knew her in the role of Dale Carnegie leader and a fellow music lover and concert buddy. Although she had many other commitments, Joy came onto the board as treasurer and has proven to be a true asset to HRPS. I have every confidence that she will be as competent as our President as she has been in every other role she has undertaken."

New Vice President Derek Partridge added, "Joy has such an incredible working knowledge of how HRPS operates. Her previous role as

treasurer creates the perfect opportunity for the organization to bounce back from the pandemic years with a focus on financial sustainability so that we can continue to provide valuable education and empowerment to those who have an interest in preserving Reno's colorful history well into the future."

Former president Sharon Honig-Bear said, "I've known Joy for years. If I had to use one term to describe her it would be a 'happy juggler'. I have always admired her ability to handle multiple things at once, and never drop the ball. She is insightful, smart and uber organized, and I couldn't imagine a better person to follow Carol's excellent leadership."

Carol agreed, "Joy is just the kind of person you want to step into the president's job. She is so dependable. Where I have to go off and think about it, she's able to do it immediately."

Amy Burton is the HRPS administrator, a walking tour guide, and a retired educator and journalist.



HRPS new president Joy Orlich smiles up from the registration table at Upper Ralston walking tour guide Jim Smith. Guide Bradley Carlson and walk participants are in the background. Photo by Amy Burton

HRPS Presidents



1997

Pat Ferraro Klos

1998



Cindy Ainsworth



2001

Kathryn Wishart

2003



Patty Cafferata



2004

Joan Dyer

2007



Felvia Belaustegui



2010

Sharon Honig-Bear

2013



Byllie Andrews



2016

Carol Coleman

2024



Joy Orlich

Carol Coleman:

HRPS' Longest Reigning President In Retrospect

By Amy Burton

While a reluctant president initially, Carol Coleman made HRPS history by serving longer than any of her eight predecessors. Most HRPS presidential terms are three years or less. Yet, eight years after assuming office, Carol was still piloting HRPS through all that 2016-2023 threw at her and the maturing organization.

Founding president, Pat Ferrero Klos said, "For eight busy HRPS years, Carol multi-tasked at the helm. She encouraged members to see the big picture, everything from home tours to programming. Her energy was inspirational."

Carol was not expecting to be president. Her love was and is HRPS' signature publication *FootPrints*. However, she said, "Everywhere I have volunteered I ended up serving as newsletter editor and president. The two seem to fall together for me." She joined the *FootPrints* staff in 2002 working with founding editor Sharon Walbridge and soon found herself in the role of managing editor by 2004.

As *FootPrints* editor Carol was familiar with the workings of HRPS. When the Board was struggling to find a replacement for President Byllie Andrews Carol mentioned to her *FootPrints* colleague Deb Hinman that she "might put her hat in the ring." Deb and the board encouraged her. "So, I came in to fill a hole," Carol said.

Byllie recalled, "I was not able to be president anymore, and no one was stepping up. Carol fell out of Heaven. I was so thankful for her."

Another former president Sharon Honig-Bear recalls, "I remember distinctly my reaction, even years later.



Carol Coleman, HRPS ninth president resigned in November 2023 after serving eight years.
Photo from HRPS Archives

Without any hesitation, without a second thought, I said I thought the idea was brilliant. I was so happy that she said yes and even happier that these years later, we were proved right!"

Communication was the first challenge Carol tackled in her new position. "The organization depended on the *Reno Gazette Journal* (RGJ) to announce walking tours, speaker programs and the home tour," she said. "Yes, we sent *FootPrints* to members four times a year, but when the RGJ ceased to be a neighborhood newspaper in 2014, HRPS lost its main communication venue." One answer was the monthly email newsletter to supplement *FootPrints* along with walking and home tour brochures distributed in public places around town.

Another area of focus was sustainability. HRPS was outgrowing its all-volunteer organizational model. Cindy Ainsworth, HRPS' second

president, had served in the role of administrator since 2008 for nominal pay. However, Cindy gave notice after Byllie's presidency. Carol took on Cindy's duties in addition to being president plus treasurer work during change-over periods. Securing a paid administrator was a priority. Lauren Culleton served as executive director in 2020 followed by Jessica Johnson as administrator in 2022 until Amy Burton took the position in May 2023.

When Carol accepted the presidency, many of those who had created and lead HRPS for the first decade were aging out and/or simply tired. Carol explained how she dealt with the situation, "I'm just a doer. You find a way. If there's a problem, I'll find a way to fix it. When I said I would be president, in that window, the walking tour chairs resigned, and by June the speaker programs chair resigned. Then the home tour chair resigned the next year. Everyone went away. You have to figure it out and do it, then find leadership. My fondest memories of my presidency are seeing things work."

Derek Partridge, current HRPS vice president, agreed. "Carol always worked so hard behind the scenes to coordinate and orchestrate many of HRPS programs and volunteers. Her leadership qualities have really brought HRPS to the next level!"

To help with administrative duties Lauren suggested HRPS secure a membership management tool. "Up until 2020, HRPS' financials and membership information were kept separately in Excel files. We were an accident waiting to happen," said Carol. During 2020, "a group of us tried out and evaluated several

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Carol Coleman

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products. Wild Apricot (WA) seemed the best. In October 2020 I moved all our members to WA. I sent out letters explaining what was happening and members received their 2021 renewal notices via their email in December 2020” (rather than by U.S. mail.)

WA is an integrated system that keeps track of members, automates the annual billing process, provides a platform for sending group emails (including the monthly online newsletter), tracks donations, can generate special event invitations, register people online, track attendance and take credit card payments. It also has an online store component.

At the end of Carol’s first three-year term, the COVID pandemic hit. Carol shepherded HRPS through the health crisis. She said the challenge was, “How do you keep HRPS afloat when we couldn’t meet people, raise money, etc.”

Deb described Carol’s leadership, “I have had a first-row seat to her contributions, having worked closely with her on *FootPrints* for nearly two decades. She has headed up monthly board meetings, annual planning meetings and is present at every event and program. When Sharon Honig-Bear stepped down after six years of leading the Harvest of Homes tour and no volunteers appeared, in addition to her numerous other duties, Carol stepped up and took it on herself. When COVID prevented us from leading walking tours and having monthly programs, Carol conceived the idea of creating video presentations for our members. HRPS could not have had a more dedicated and focused leader throughout this time.”

In addition, board meetings switched from in-person to Zoom. The Harvest of Homes tour had to be cancelled. However, Carol was still at the helm when it was reinstated in 2023. The returning tour was a success, earning

HRPS \$20,000 in profits—a fundraising record.

Former president Cindy Ainsworth agreed, “Nothing was more daunting than leading a non-profit through the COVID pandemic. Carol adjusted HRPS’ operations accordingly, and as a result, HRPS is stronger than ever.”

Carol accomplished all this while also serving other nonprofits such as Newcomers, the Nevada Historical Society and the Sparks Heritage Museum.


Former board member Jack Hursh said, “It is perhaps already 20-25 years that I have known and assisted Carol with HRPS, Newcomers, Historical Society, and OLLI activities. Carol’s unwavering devotion and unselfish energies and contributions to our community are exemplary. First and foremost, Carol is a very nice, easy-going teammate, which allows the rest of us to spread our wings and



Left to right: Carol stays shaded at the Harvest of Homes tour 2016; Carol shared HRPS news at the monthly 2023 Speaker Programs; Carol presents Deb Hinman the Pat Klos Volunteer award in 2017.

Photos from HRPS archive and Amy Burton (top right photo)

contribute to our community the best that we can. I thank Carol with great admiration for her leadership through all of these years.”

While retiring from the presidency, Carol plans to continue on the *FootPrints* editorial board. She will be honored for her years of service at the HRPS 25th Anniversary Gala in April. 

Amy Burton is the HRPS administrator, a walking tour guide, and a retired educator and journalist.



Tracing *FootPrints*' Steps: 27 YEARS OF HRPS PUBLICATION HISTORY

By Deb Hinman

From the genesis of HRPS, Pat Klos' brilliant idea, and that first meeting at My Favorite Muffin with a collection of enthusiastic locals in the spring of 1997, came an organization that is still thriving today. As every organization needs a publication, Pat, in collaboration with Frank Ozaki of Double Click Design, created an 8 ½ by 11 inch sheet titled *Historic Reno Preservation Society Newsletter*, which Pat had run off at Kinko's and distributed to the budding membership and everyone else she knew. This was HRPS' first publication. We've come a long way, baby!

A four-pager, Vol. 1, No. 1 was created in January 1998. While it was still titled *Newsletter*, there was one significant upgrade—it now sported a logo. The 1905 Virginia Street Bridge, an iconic symbol of Reno, was selected and combined the work of Double Click Design and artist/illustrator Loren



Sharon Walbridge accepts the Reno Historic Resources Commission (HRC) Advocate Award from City Councilwoman Sharon Zadra for her work as *FootPrints* Editor. The publication also won the HRC's Significant Historic Resource Award. Photo by Bill Wallbridge

Jahn. Though the bridge is gone, the logo remains to this day, symbolizing that though a piece of our local history may be lost, it is not forgotten. The front page included a list of needed positions, including "A Newsletter Editor."

The very next issue announced the new editor, Sharon Walbridge. Sharon grew up in Reno, attended local schools through high school, then left Reno in 1960. She returned with her husband Bill in 1996. Sharon was an excellent editor: capable, well-informed and a strong writer. In her first *Letter from the Editor*, Sharon shared her preservation perspective: "What they (speaking of visitors to Reno) didn't expect was the sense of place and the small, hometown feeling. That's why I feel it's important to blend tradition with progress so that humans feel a part of the built environment, not apart from it."

Over the years, there were changes in personnel on the editorial staff. In the Fall 2002 issue, three editors were listed: Sharon, Carol Coleman and Gary Meyer. In 2004, Carol was named Managing Editor, a position she would hold until the end of 2023, though my name would replace hers in 2017. Regardless of what the banner said, Carol was still very much managing *FootPrints*. She was dedicated to producing an attractive, informative, well-organized publication on deadline. Though we collaborated on each issue's content, Carol had the final word. She had an innate sense of what would interest our readers and what was important to highlight.

But let's back up a bit and take note of the changes that led to the *FootPrints* you see four times a year in the present day. As HRPS' membership and activities grew, so did our issues. As the new century arrived, the newsletter was an awkward 10 pages—awkward because this type of publication works best with pages in multiples of four. With ten pages, you had eight pages, then one double-sided sheet that was just sort of stuck in the middle. The sheet required manual insertion that was costly and time consuming. By 2002, there was enough copy to produce a 12-pager which worked much better. And the final issue of 2001 sported a new banner reading *FootPrints*. Sharon introduced the new name as follows: "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."

In 2004, *FootPrints* was doubly honored receiving two awards from the city's Historical Resources Commission. The first for Advocate, presented to *FootPrints* Founding Editor Sharon Walbridge, the second for *FootPrints*, accepted by President Patty Cafferata and *FootPrints* Managing Editor Carol Coleman.

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Tracing FootPrints

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Presenting the awards was Councilwoman Sharon Zadra who commented on the publication's growth and reach: "In January 1998, in support of its mission, HRPS printed and distributed 250 copies of a 4-page newsletter. The current version is 12 pages with a run of 1500 copies, of which more than 500 are mailed to HRPS members and public decision makers. The remaining issues are distributed free as a public service."

Many people contributed stories to *FootPrints* in those days. There was general organizational news but also stories of preservation and losses, beloved buildings and significant early leaders of Reno. Joan Collins was an early frequent contributor as were Mella Harmon, Jack Hursh, Linda Sievers, Patty Cafferata, Cindy Ainsworth, Carol Coleman, Sharon Walbridge, Leanne Stone, Sharon Honig-Bear and Kim Henrick, just to name a few.

Sharon Walbridge gave me my first assignment in 2004. I was very doubtful about it—what did I know about the history of the Baptist Church in Reno? Nothing, of course. But I greatly admired Sharon and didn't want to let her down. This was my first lesson in how to do historical research. After that, I was hooked. Although it was 20 years ago, I still remember how thrilled I was to see my first story in print.

It was Kim Henrick who suggested that we were no longer a newsletter—she proposed we refer to our publication as a quarterly. This occurred in an editorial staff meeting at Sharon's home, and I remember how much more significant and scholarly that sounded. We all agreed.

Our "quarterly" stabilized at 12 pages for many years. The shade of our paper



FootPrints layout through the decades: 1998, 2015 and 2023. All *FootPrints* issues are archived at the HRPS website: historicreno.org.
From *FootPrints* archives.

started out tan and the text was brown. I think it was chosen because it looked rather vintage, like yellowed stationery with sepia-toned photos. However, the photos never copied well, no matter how impressive the originals were. It stayed that way for over a decade despite HRPS' graphic designer Frank Ozaki's gentle suggestions to modernize the publication by using white paper and adding color.

Carol said the change to color finally happened because HRPS was the only publication in town still using the brown paper and ink. So, that made it more expensive. In addition, the cost of color printing had gone down. Therefore, modernizing *FootPrints'* look would not involve additional cost. The board approved the change.

Our first color issue was Volume 18, No. 3, Summer of 2015. Carol's front-page story was on the loss of the Virginia Street Bridge. It featured two black-and-white historic photos so the color was not at first obvious, but the slick white paper was certainly eye-catching. The masthead was the same, but the chocolate brown stood out nicely against the stark white page. The stories were printed in black type, but photo captions were in brown italics.

Turning to the second page, the reader was no doubt struck by copies of three full-color historic postcards. Probably the best advantage of the new paper and color photos was with the Harvest of Home Tour issues which featured the beautiful photography of Steve Ellison. The homes were so much more appealing in color and likely brought in more attendees to the Tour. And even the black-and-white photos were more impressive on the white paper. Now we even looked like a quarterly instead of something a high school journalism class might produce.

The Winter 2016 issue made a sudden jump from 12 to 16 pages. Not only did this provide space for more articles, but they could be more in depth and allow for additional and larger photos.

Carol mentioned that as *FootPrints* shifted to color, she and Frank collaborated on a lay-out refresh. One example was the change in masthead. The new design deleted the heavy top



Sharon Walbridge, Founding Editor.
Photo courtesy of Cindy Ainsworth

border. (Did you ever notice that the spacers between the bold dots read HRPS?) In 2018, color was added to the masthead, logo and lead story title. All of this contributed to making issues more attractive and better able to catch the eye of those passing by distribution points.

SHARON WALBRIDGE, FOUNDING EDITOR OF FOOTPRINTS

As time went on, Sharon stepped back from her creation, *FootPrints*, confident that it was in excellent hands with Carol at the helm supported by a dedicated staff of writers. In 2004, her title changed to Editor Emeritus. She still attended HRPS events, however, and was active in the organization. Sharon lost her husband of 47 years, Bill, in 2007. Bill had been HRPS' dedicated treasurer. The large Walbridge home became too much for her, and she moved into Classic

Residence, into a small apartment which she declared suited her perfectly. She enjoyed the companionship of the other residents, and I joined her several times for a cocktail in the elegant lounge followed by dinner in the restaurant. She still maintained her *FootPrints* subscription and would call me each time she received an issue with a story I'd written and tell me how much she enjoyed it. I think she viewed me as her protege, and I was ever grateful for the introduction to the *FootPrints* staff (even if it began with church histories).

Sharon passed away in July 2022. There was no public service or obituary, but Sharon lives on through her HRPS legacy and in the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to have worked with her.

CAROL COLEMAN, SECOND EDITOR IN FOOTPRINTS HISTORY

I got to know Carol back in the days when *FootPrints* required us to prepare the newsletters for mailing. I remember sitting at her sunny kitchen table pasting on labels and stacking them in mailing trays to deliver to the post office. We got to know each other better, chatting while engaged in this mindless task. Today we just send the issue off to Frank of Double Click Design and he and our printer, Dave Torres of Thrive Reno Print and Mail, take care of the rest. Carol is and was very easy to work for. She would occasionally request topics for stories or ask me to cover events, but for the most



FootPrints has only had two editors in its long history. Sharon Walbridge was the first and Carol Coleman, above, is the second.
Photo from *FootPrints* archives

part, I had the freedom to select my own subjects—a writer's dream. Whenever I was running late, Carol would email or call me with one of her, as she put it, "gentle reminders" to let me know the deadline was approaching. Though Carol has taken her name off the list of *FootPrints* staff on the back page of the issues, I know she will remain involved. Today's polished publication is very much Carol's creation.

With Carol, Amy Burton, our talented new administrator, and our group of willing contributors, I expect that *FootPrints* will continue to march on indefinitely. Who knows, we might even expand our pace to 20 pages someday! 📖



The first walking tour, Bricks and Stones, as led by Susan Mullen in 2023. Founding president and original tour guide, Pat Klos (in pink shirt), listens in.
Photo from *FootPrints* archives

Deb Hinman is a HRPS walking tour guide, board secretary, City of Reno Historic Resource Commissioner and serves on the FootPrints editorial board. Deb started writing for FootPrints in 2004, and she is still a prolific contributing writer two decades later. Her favorite story was about the Freedom sector of Reno that threatened to secede from the city (Winter 2013). Another favorite was about the hidden mural in the historic downtown post office (Spring 2008). "My passion," she said, "is discovering heretofore unknown local history."



Historic Reno Preservation Society 2024 May-June Historic Walking Tours

The Historic Walking Tours are HRPS' longest running educational service. Come celebrate our 27th anniversary with this mix of oldies but goodies, revised and resurrected tours. **Reservations required. Space is limited.** If the tour is full, you will be waitlisted and emailed if space opens. Please cancel if you make a reservation and cannot attend. Visit the HRPS website, www.historicreno.org, for reservations.

Tours are free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. **Consider membership to save money.** For example, three tours are \$30, whereas a membership is only \$25 and earns free access to all the tours. Visit the website to become a member. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in and sign the required liability waiver. Walks generally last 1.5 to 2 hours. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat, sunglasses and bring a water bottle. **No dogs or baby strollers allowed due to space and safety reasons.** Some neighborhoods have uneven surfaces and sidewalk barriers which may make walking difficult for those with mobility issues. Bathrooms are not always available along the routes.

Saturday
May 11
9 AM

NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD – Enjoy an architectural walk through one of Reno's oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Newlands Heights Historic District was named to the national Register of Historic Places in 2017. Meet outside Brewers' Cabinet, at the northwest corner of Arlington and California. **Guides: Matt Magaletti and Derek Partridge.**



Tuesday
May 14
6 PM

HILLSIDE and GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CEMETERIES – Tour Reno's oldest cemetery, Hillside Cemetery, officially established in 1875 and visit the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, the only Civil War cemetery in Nevada. Wear closed shoes suitable for rocky, uneven ground. Meet at the west side gates of Hillside Cemetery south of the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street. **Guides: Brett Banks and Frances Tryon.**



Saturday
May 18
9 AM

DOWNTOWN SPARKS – Learn about the history of the Rail City with a tour of Victorian Square. The tour includes sites that have played a role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Meet at the Sparks Heritage Museum, 814 Victorian Avenue. **Guide: Scott Carey** in collaboration with the **Sparks Heritage Museum**. Make reservations through HRPS.



Tuesday
May 21
6 PM

UPPER RALSTON/LITTLE ITALY – Enjoy a walk in a residential neighborhood with a mix of architectural styles. Proximity to the University has traditionally determined the mix of residents: professors, students and families alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington, The Strand and College. **Guides: Bradley Carlson, Jim and Sue Smith.**



Saturday
May 25
9 AM

EAST FOURTH STREET – From country road to railroad hub, Lincoln Highway, then U.S. 40, explore the roots of this historic corridor where century-old brick hotels, warehouses, railways and manufacturing buildings are preserved and revitalized. Meet on the Evans St. side of Louis' Basque Corner, 301 E. Fourth Street. **Guide: Brett Banks.**



Tuesday
May 28
6 PM

WELLS AVENUE – Stroll through a working-class neighborhood along the path of the Wells Avenue streetcar, across the V & T tracks past the homes of the "Thoma Street Gang." Wells Avenue is the City of Reno's second Conservation District. Meet at the Sinclair side of the historic Southside School Annex, 190 E. Liberty Street. **Guide: Mark Taxer.**



Saturday
June 1
9 AM

BRICKS and STONES – A walk through the Humboldt and Lander Streets neighborhood. Discover the architectural treasures of this area, a mix of bungalows, Tudor, Mission Revivals and Cottage styles. Meet at Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue.
Guide: Sue Mullen.



Tuesday
June 4
6 PM

POWNING ADDITION – Discover one of Reno’s earliest and most delightful vernacular neighborhoods, predominantly settled by Northern Italian immigrants. This neighborhood is the first City of Reno Conservation District. Meet in front of the McKinley Arts & Culture Center, 925 Riverside Drive. **Guides: Amy Burton and Stasia Mata.**



Saturday
June 8
9 AM

LAKE ADDITION – Meander past divorce-trade dwellings, Victorian and ultra-modern architecture in one of Reno’s earliest additions. Includes a visit to the Historic Lake Mansion. Meet in front of the Nevada Museum of Art, 160 W. Liberty Street. **Guide: Meredith Ohm.**



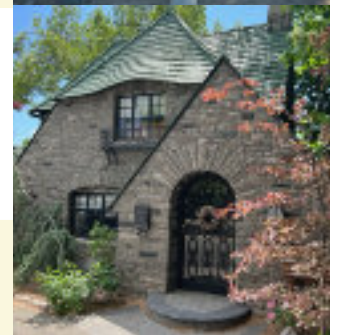
Tuesday
June 11
6 PM

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS and HEBREW CEMETERIES – Visit two of Reno’s historic cemeteries and become “acquainted” with some of their most notable residents. Wear closed shoes suitable for rocky, uneven ground. Meet at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street.
Guides: Bill Mardon and Steve Matles.



Saturday
June 15
9 AM

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF/COURT STREET 1 – Many of Reno’s prominent families built generous homes on this once treeless bluff overlooking the Truckee River with panoramic views of Peavine Mountain and the Sierra. Take in the beauty and charm of this neighborhood. Meet on the sidewalk at the McCarran Mansion, 401 Court Street.
Guide: Pat Cantwell.



Sunday
June 16
9 AM

MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF/COURT STREET 2 – This walk is so popular; **Pat Cantwell** is offering it twice. See description above.

Tuesday
June 18
6 PM

EL RENO APARTMENTS – Visit the original site of these unique homes and view seven at their new locations. See other Sierra Vista Addition architecture such as the August Hill brick houses and the impressive stone home of eccentric millionaire LaVere Redfield. Meet in the Northwest corner of the Statewide Lighting parking lot, 1311 S. Virginia Street.
Guide: Deb Hinman.



Saturday
June 22
9 AM

PARSON/MILLS ARCHITECTURE – View some of the designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills who were known to collaborate on designs in this unique neighborhood. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh and LaRue Avenues. **Guide: Madeline Van der Voort.**



Tuesday
June 25
6 PM

CIRCLE DRIVE/SOUTHRIDGE – Learn about Southridge Estates, one of Reno’s most outstanding residential areas in the early 1950s. This neighborhood features large yards, big trees and the beautiful ranch style homes of many prominent Renoites. Meet outside 1615 Circle Drive. **Guide: Caroline Asikainen.**



Saturday
June 29
9 AM

MOVIE FOOTPRINTS – Walk in the footsteps of Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, Helen Mirren and more. Explore downtown’s film history inspired by divorce, gambling and the city’s distinct look in such movies as The Misfits, Sister Act and Love Ranch. Meet by the Northeast lobby entrance of the National Automobile Museum, 10 South Lake Street.
Guide: Robin Holabird.



A Tale of Three More Presidents: A Continuation

By Amy Burton

In celebration of HRPS' 10th anniversary, Deb Hinman wrote A Tale of Five Presidents published in the Fall 2007 *FootPrints*. In celebration of HRPS' 25th anniversary, we add three more presidents: Felvia Belaustegui, Sharon Honig-Bear and Byllie Andrews as a continuation of Deb's original article.

Felvia Belaustegui (2007-2010)

A former HRPS vice president and City of Reno Historical Resources Commissioner (HRC), Felvia took the president's office as HRPS was celebrating 10 years of preservation success. Her passions were the Powning Conservation District and fourth-grade historic preservation education.

As a UNR master's student studying preservation she wrote her thesis in 2000 on *The Evolution of an Ethnic Community: Immigration of Italians to Reno*. During her studies and prior to her presidency, Felvia worked with HRPS members to research and map the Powning Addition. During her presidency in 2008 the City of Reno's Preservation Plan, along with the Powning Conservation District, were approved by the City Council and the HRC. HRPS then collaborated with the HRC to provide Powning Conservation District street-sign toppers in 2009.

After her presidency, in 2012, HRPS was instrumental in creating the Powning Pillar which marked the start of the neighborhood along Riverside Drive. In tribute, Felvia was asked to cut the dedication ribbon as shown in this Fall 2013 *FootPrints* photograph.



A History of Reno class and field trip for fourth graders debuted in 2009. HRPS sponsored the buses for the tours. The class included a classroom presentation with historic photographs designed by Jerry Fenwick and a bus tour of historical downtown sites focused on history, architecture and preservation. Also, that year, Felvia oversaw the introduction of the HRPS website.

In an interview for the HRPS newsletter Felvia shared her preservation views, "My early years were spent in New England where history is a way of life. Some of the homes I lived in as a youth were built before Nevada became a state. It is my opinion that Reno residents need a wake-up call before all our historic resources are destroyed."

Sharon Honig-Bear (2010-2013)

Sharon described her presidency as follows: "I was fortunate to become president as HRPS was reaching its 'maturity,' building on a solid foundation of 13 years. Our educational components (walking tours, *FootPrints*, speaker programs) were on firm and respected ground, and I was looking to move in some new directions. Advocacy and preservation became focal points. The Board created the Advocacy Advisory Committee (AAC) in 2011, and HRPS entered a new stage of taking positions on key issues like the Virginia St. Bridge design, revitalization of older Washoe County schools, Gateway District development and downtown motel removal. Advocacy is always tricky and there was a general reluctance to be too vocal when I came on the Board. The AAC was a step forward, but no amount of advocacy could overcome the development craze



that descended on Reno in the past 10 or more years.

“Secondly, I was interested in responding to members and the community who asked: ‘*What does HRPS actually do to preserve anything?*’ I realized we could offer improvement grants to home and business owners to renovate their historic properties. HRPS could act as an agent for improvement and preservation. The *Neighborhood Preservation Fund* was born! On a different note, strengthening HRPS’s accounting system, our website and online presence was a priority, and we were able to make progress.

The Reno Harvest of Homes Tour will probably be my most lasting accomplishment. It was a big project, but it was amazing to see the response: the community loved it, we developed an enviable group of volunteers and we raised money for preservation and community projects.” Sharon described the return of the Home Tour in 2023 after COVID “like a giant hug,” a warm reunion with many of her HRPS colleagues. “Tour day was filled with embraces, renewals and conversations,” she said. “It made me realize that I have gotten more from HRPS than I ever contributed. I’m also pleased that we took first steps in funding and supporting what we now know as *Reno Historical*.”

Sharon’s advice, “Keep telling the good stories! Encourage people to volunteer to make the organization grow and change. Look for collaborations with other organizations. Have fun! William Murtagh once said, ‘...at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.’ It should be a source of pride that HRPS keeps this dialog flowing.”

Byllie Andrews
(2013-2016)

Byllie became president in the spring of 2013 after being on the board for two years. HRPS was campaigning to raise \$10,000 to restore the Newlands Manor Pillars, and Nevada was gearing

up for its Sesquicentennial. Her first focus was to ensure HRPS had enough volunteers to meet the increased demand for its 2014 walking tours.

Next, the AAC faced a big challenge. Its purpose was to identify historic buildings and structures in danger of being significantly altered or destroyed. Byllie described the scene, “The University was proposing to tear down Lincoln and Manzanita Halls, the two oldest residence halls on campus. The buildings were saved, not by us alone, but by the many Nevada VIPs, former Governors and Senators, who had lived in Lincoln Hall while attending UNR.” The *Endangered Building Watch List* was also an important focus. “I and other board members went to numerous City Council and Planning Commission meetings to speak in support of saving buildings instead of allowing developers to demolish them. I am sad to report that I checked the list from the 2016 Winter *FootPrints* and several structures on that list are now gone: the First Masonic Building (Reno Mercantile), University Gateway District homes, the Flick Ranch House and several Mid-century motels.

Byllie said her most significant accomplishment was getting a partnership established with the Washoe County Library System. “During the Sesquicentennial, the *Reno Gazette Journal* gave our monthly



A promotional graphic for Reno Historical. At the top, the word "RENO" is in a large, white, sans-serif font inside a blue speech bubble, and "HISTORICAL" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font inside a blue speech bubble. Below this, the website "renohistorical.org" is written in a blue, sans-serif font, with "Free Mobile App and Website" underneath. To the right is a circular graphic showing a map of Reno with blue location pins, a photo of a historic building, and a photo of a street scene. On the left, there is a QR code and text: "Visit renohistorical.org or download the app for iOS and Android". Below the QR code, it says "Follow Reno Historical on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @RenoHistorical". At the bottom, it says "Managed by the Historic Reno Preservation Society renohistorical.org".

programs excellent coverage, and we had to turn people away with a promise we would repeat the program,” she said. “At that time, we were meeting in the theater in the Nelson building on West Second Street. We met with library staff to work on a partnership and started repeating our monthly Wednesday evening programs on Sunday afternoons in the downtown library auditorium.” The programs are still held in collaboration with the library system today.

Her fondest memories are of meeting and speaking with the people who attended the walking tours, the monthly programs and the fall home tour. “They attended because they wanted to learn more about the history of Reno, and they appreciated the HRPS volunteers who made the events possible. So, my advice to current members is to volunteer for the walking tour and/or the Harvest of Homes. You will meet new people and learn more about Reno’s history.” 📷

Amy Burton is the HRPS administrator, a walking tour guide, and a retired educator and journalist.

Felvia was unavailable for interview, so her information is researched from *FootPrints* articles, president’s letters and member interviews. Sharon and Byllie describe their presidency in their own words.

Reno Heritage Fund Grant Recipients

By Cindy Ainsworth

HRPS awarded three Reno Heritage Fund (RHF) grants in 2023. The awards totaled \$10,000. The recipients were as follows:

59 Winter Street Owner Susan Puryear

The grant was awarded to paint the exterior of the house, cottage, and garage trim. The owner took great pride in making sure the correct historical colors were used. The home is a nice example of a 1905 Queen Anne Revival located in the Powning Addition and was featured on our 2011 home tour.

480 West Arroyo Street Owner Bob Frank

Grant money was used to manufacture and install 2 custom window awnings. The awnings are a nice touch to this attractive 1940s vintage brick home.

804 Whitaker Drive Owner Dana Magee

Money was used to prep, paint and stain the exterior of the house. This 1940s home is an excellent example of the Cape Code style in the Old University Neighborhood. The home includes shingle cladding.

The RHF fund helps property owners rehabilitate their buildings through small matching grants. Priority is given to those who maintain their historical homes in a manner authentic with the original architectural style.


The Reno Heritage Fund is a redesign of the Neighborhood Preservation Fund, which was founded in 2010 under the leadership of former president Sharon Honig-Bear. The new fund broadens the community reach of its charitable arm.

The Fund now has two goals:

1. Home Improvement Projects such as those featured here.
2. Special Heritage Projects—this funding allows the HRPS Board to initiate history-related projects of importance to the Reno community.

For those interested in applying, a letter of intent with basic information is first required. If approved, the application can then be completed. A rolling grant deadline is now used for the RHF.

Applications are reviewed by a jury of HRPS members. Priority is given to owner occupied projects that enhance original historical neighborhood character and the original architectural style of the structure. Typical grants are under \$5,000.

More information about the letter of intent, guidelines and application can be found at the HRPS website, www.historicreno.org, under *Resources*. 

Cindy Ainsworth serves as the RHF chair, is a founding HRPS member and a former president and administrator.



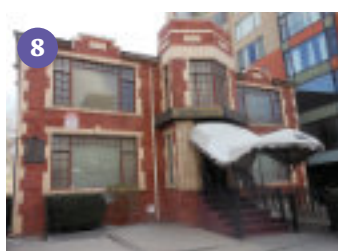
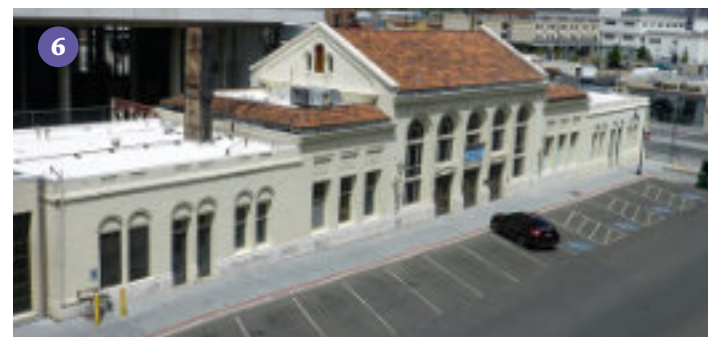
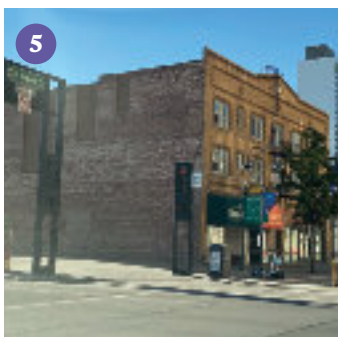
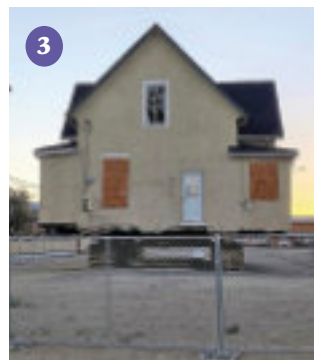
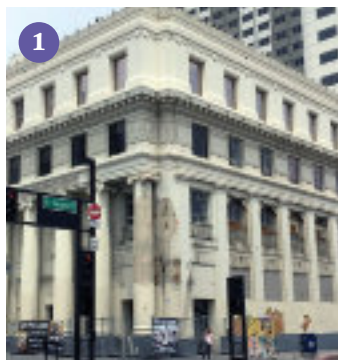
These before and after photographs of the painting project at 59 Winter Street are an example of a home improvement project that maintains a historically correct exterior facade. The new paint colors are appropriate for a 1905 Queen Anne Revival in the Powning Addition. Photos courtesy of Reno Heritage Fund Grant Committee



HRPS presents this list of historic properties not to point fingers or to raise alarms, but to generate awareness and appreciation. We want their owners, whether public or private, to know that we care about these places and that we consider them highly significant to Reno's history and worthy of preservation. Lastly, we want to offer our support to help ensure that they can remain safe and protected for years to come. You can find full entries for each property listed below on Reno Historical at <https://renohistorical.org/>.

1. **Reno National Bank (1915)**, 206 N. Virginia Street
2. **I.O.O.F. Lodge/Reno Savings Bank (1877)**, 195 N. Virginia Street
3. **Nystrom Guest House (1875)**, Formerly in 300-block on Ralston Street, now up on blocks off 4th Street, between Washington and Vine Streets

4. **Benham-Beltz House (likely 1868/1869)**, 347 West Street , now available for purchase from Jacobs Entertainment for \$1 upon condition of moving and preserving the home. Contact Chris Manzanec: christopher@jacobsinvestmentsinc.com
5. **Piazzo Building (1925)**, 354 N. Virginia Street
6. **Southern Pacific Railroad Depot (1926)**, 135 E. Commercial Row
7. **Freight House (1931)**, North side of Greater Nevada Field on Evans Avenue
8. **Regina Apartments (1941)**, 260 Island Avenue
9. **First Church of Christ, Scientist/Lear Theater (1939)**, 501 Riverside Drive
10. **Solari Building (1938)**, 1052 S. Virginia Street
11. **El Reno Apartment Homes (1937)**, 1461 Lander Street



A Message From Your New HRPS President: Joy Orlich Shares Her Reno Background and HRPS Experience

Hello HRPS Members
and Friends,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joy Orlich, and I am taking the reins as the tenth president of HRPS. Though not a native, my family moved to Reno when I was 2 years old, following in the footsteps of my uncle, Dan Orlich, who came here to finish college in 1946. Old Renoites may remember him as a Harold's Club executive and a trapshooting legend.

I attended Peavine Elementary School through second grade before moving to Missouri where I finished high school and a year of college, coming back to Reno many summers to visit my father, including a summer working in the old Harold's Club Rose Room coffee shop. (Do any of you remember their fabulous bakery and those specialty cakes?) In 1976, I made the move back to Reno permanently, going to work at another gaming establishment and completing a degree in Business Administration at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).

At different times I lived in historic Reno homes: a small duplex on Walker Avenue, a little house on Humbolt Alley, a cute brick bungalow on Nixon Avenue, a stylish ranch house on Westwood Drive, an apartment complex on Malone Lane, and a Frank



Lloyd Wright designed home on Rancho Manor Drive, among others. My current home is in a 70-year-old neighborhood of post-WWII tract homes east of Wells Avenue.

In addition, I worked for many years in one of the Gateway homes at 821 N. Center Street (now University Way), a lovely Queen Anne style home built in the late 1800s, that was saved from the wrecking ball by artist and HRPS member, Loren Jahn, and lovingly relocated to W. Taylor Street where it is in the process of being restored.

I credit my longtime friendship with Debbie Hinman and her involvement with HRPS for awakening an awareness of Reno's history and its historic homes and buildings. Debbie started doing research on interesting people and places and would occasionally send me an article to read. Then she started developing walking tours and invited me to go along. Pretty soon, there was a Home Tour that needed volunteer docents, and the next thing you know, HRPS desperately needed a treasurer. You see where this goes.

Carol Coleman furthered my education in all facets of HRPS operations, and we developed a close working relationship.

I am eager to continue Carol's work and extend HRPS' outreach to a wider audience. I'll have more ideas to share with you in future editions.

Lifetime Memberships

Two longtime HRPS members upgraded to a Lifetime Membership since our last *FootPrints* issue. Loretta Wright, whose Wheeler Street home has been featured on two Harvest of Homes tours, joined in December, and past-president Carol Coleman and her husband, Sam, join the Lifetime Member ranks in January. As you can see from the list on the next page, they are in good company. Thank you Loretta, Carol, and Sam!

Two Generous Donations

Reno attorney and Lifetime Member Peter Chase Neumann made a \$10,000 donation to HRPS in memory of his wife, Renate Neumann, this past December. Renate was a talented artist who deployed her considerable skills in many facets of our community. We are fortunate the Neumanns counted historic preservation as one of their many passions and are grateful for this generous gift.

Christy Fockler, daughter of longtime HRPS member, Ellen Fockler, passed away in early January. Christy was born in Reno, educated in Colorado and Oregon and made historic preservation her lifelong personal and professional passion. Her family asked for donations to be made to HRPS in lieu of flowers, and to date we have received \$3,320 which will be put towards our Reno Heritage Fund grant program. We are touched by the outpouring of love and generosity.

Joy Orlich
joyorlich@sbcglobal.net
775-544-0686

25
YEARS

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IN YOUR GIVING

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 Sharon Honig-Bear
 Sandi Bitler
 Jacqueline Black (*)
 Lynn Bremer
 Holly Walton-Buchanan
 Florence Ann Burgess
 George Burke
 Linda Burke
 Tom & Phyllis Cates
 Jan & Phil Chik
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 Charlotte Voitoff
 Sharon Walbridge (*)
 Betty J. Watts
 Kathy Williams
 Reg & Shelley Willison
 Loretta Wright
 Catherine Coscarelli Zugar
 (*) deceased

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

By joining **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, you are a member of a community group that celebrates Reno's history by sharing information and advocating for our endangered properties.

HRPS offers Walking Tours during the summer, Speaker Programs during the winter, and a Home Tour in fall as a fund-raiser to support our Reno Heritage Fund grants. As a member, you receive our monthly email newsletter and our quarterly publication, FootPrints, to keep you informed about HRPS events, places of historical interest as well as items of concern. HRPS information is on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

New Member Renewing

Membership Levels:

- \$15.00 Student
 \$25.00 Individual
 \$45.00 Family
 \$100.00 Supporting
 \$200.00 Business
 \$250.00 Preservation Patron
 \$500.00 Benefactor
 \$1,000.00 Lifetime Member

My Additional Donation:

\$_____ Pat Klos Annual
 Volunteer Award Fund
 \$_____ Reno Heritage Grant &
 Marker Fund
 \$_____ Overall Program Support

HRPS Quarterly *FootPrints*

Preference (Please check one):

Hard Copy Email Only

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

HRPS respects your right to privacy. We will **NOT** share your email address.

PD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON:

- Home Tours Walking Tours Board Research
 Other _____

Ways to become a member or renew your membership in HRPS:

- 1) Join or renew on HRPS website historicreno.org using credit or debit card
- 2) Fill out the above form and mail with a check to address below
- 3) Fill out the above form and credit/debit info below and mail to address below

Visa/MasterCard Credit or Debit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____ Name on Card _____

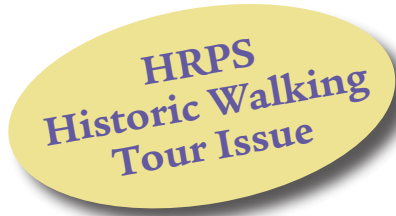
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_____ Phone Number _____

Historic Reno Preservations Society, P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507
<https://historicreno.org>

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