

Museum Matters

October-November-December 2020

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Douglas County Historical Society

1477 US Highway 395 N. Suite B
Gardnerville, NV 89410-5214

Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 3:00
p.m.

Closed Saturday & Sunday

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Linda Lechien, President
Janice Beerwinkle, Vice-President

Linda Avance, Secretary
Guy Proto, Treasurer

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Curator: Gail Allen

*Museum Matters is the official
newsletter of the
Douglas County Historical
Society
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Welcoming DCHS Incoming President Linda Lechien



Linda Lechien with her charming dog, Trixie.

DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Trustee meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center at 3:00 p.m. Members and friends are always welcome to attend. October 15, November 19, and December 17, 2020

*"The Douglas County Historical Society seeks to
enrich lives by preserving local history and
making it accessible to our communities and visitors."*

Linda Lechien takes over the reins of the Douglas County Historical Society

by Marlena N. Hellwinkel



It is my pleasure, as a DCHS Trustee and past president, to introduce you to our newly elected President of the Douglas County Historical Society, Linda Lechien. She comes with great leadership qualifications to spearhead this organization into a continual and successful Society that it is now and for future generations to come. DCHS is in good hands!

As a single mother of three boys, Linda moved to Lake Tahoe in 1978, seeking and getting a job when Harrah's was hiring. In 1980 she received a degree in Restaurant and Hotel Management from LTCC while raising her boys and holding down a job. Her last stop before coming to Gardnerville was in 2001 from Temecula, California where she lived for 26 years with her husband who retired from his duties in the law enforcement field. Linda then worked here for a local attorney as a receptionist, while going back to UNR, obtaining a Paralegal degree.

Besides loving her three sons, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, Linda likes to travel. She collects anything pertaining to pigs and her other passion is NASCAR. During colder weather she can be seen wearing her Kyle

Busch number 18 NASCAR jacket. The car she drives displays NASCAR decals and I'd venture to say that her pet dog, Trixie, has a NASCAR themed blanket and collar.

Linda always wished she had been born during the "cowboy" years, hence her interest in western history. That interest led her to becoming a volunteer for the Douglas County Historical Society in 2011. Her first experience was volunteering at the Genoa Courthouse Museum and her favorite and most fascinating event was the Historical Society Barn Tour.

In due time, Linda spent her volunteer days at both of our museums, serving at fund raising events, on the collections committee, and as Chairperson for Human Resources, just to name a few. Before becoming elected as a Trustee for the Historical Society, she coordinated the volunteer calendar by contacting other volunteers to open and close both museums and covering daily hours of operation. She has passed that job on to another capable volunteer.

Stop by the Society office and introduce yourself to this dedicated lady, you'll enjoy meeting her. I know that the other Trustees, volunteers and staff are looking forward to working with her during her term of office.

Linda would like you to know: "My focus and main goals for my term as President and leader of all the dedicated members of DCHS is to protect and increase the value of our two museums for the enjoyment of generations that will follow. It's amazing to me of what we can accomplish with what little income we gain and the faithful volunteers who graciously give of their time and energy to maintain our Mission Statement."

YOU GO GIRL!

Happenings at the Museums

We are Finding Creative Solutions for Funding during Turbulent Times



2019 and 2020 were great years for grants! The Douglas County Historical Society completed the repair of the front entry steps at the old Douglas High School. We received \$35,400 of the total cost of \$37,470 from the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers & Historic Preservation. The final part of the project is to install a new railing at the top step.

We also completed the *Edwin L. Wiegand Ranching and Agricultural Heritage Exhibit*. Their grant of \$229,500 required a match of \$100,000. Generous contributions from the community exceeded that by \$60,000. The installation of the artifacts is an ongoing project, and we are in the process of purchasing a fiberglass horse for the Heitman courting buggy. The exhibit still lacks heated gutter tape that must be installed before winter.

Donations for this and other ancillary items would be greatly appreciated. This March, lawmakers approved a new tax break. In 2020 people who

don't itemize may still claim up to \$300 as a charitable deduction given to tax-exempt nonprofits like the Douglas County Historical Society. It is a great time to be generous!

Finally, the entrance to the Courthouse Museum in Genoa will get a facelift with a \$53,000 grant from the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers & Historic Preservation. This project will begin after the first of the year.

Come Smile with Us!

There has been a significant impact on our normal fundraising activities, but there are ways you can still help. We are asking all Amazon shoppers to keep us in mind when making online purchases.



It's simple! Go to smile.amazon.com and find the drop-down box. Choose Douglas County Historical Society in Gardnerville, Nevada. Be sure it is us. Remarkably, there are many other Douglas County Historical Societies, so double check the location. Bookmark it so it is always where you enter Amazon.

On eligible purchases 0.5% of your order comes in as a donation. The best part? It costs you nothing and helps keep the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center and the Genoa Courthouse Museum going during uncertain financial challenges. Then all of us really have something to smile about.

Please Support Our Friends and Sponsors:

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Carson Valley Inn
Carson Valley Lion's Club
Carson Valley Literary Club
Carson Valley Small Business Services
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C.O.D. Casino, Minden
Douglas County Elks Lodge #2670
Douglas County, Nevada
Douglas County High School Class of 62

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Friends of Snowshoe Thompson
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Harrah's/Harvey's Resort Casino, Lake Tahoe
J. T. Basque Bar & Dining Room
Jacobs Family Berry Farm
Main Street Gardnerville
The Record Courier
Sierra Chef, Genoa
Starbucks
Three Castle Engineering
Town of Gardnerville
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Minden
Western History ALIVE
Woodett's Diner

Contact the DCHS at 775-782-2555 to advertise in our newsletter or for other sponsorship opportunities.

DCHS Volunteers

Linda Schaan makes a big difference at CCM&CC



She found her true home in Gardnerville after being raised in North Dakota. Linda Schaan and her husband ran a dairy farm along with raising their three children. She had never done anything like taking care of chickens and cows or growing grains before. But like every challenge in her life, she just jumped in and did it.

There were blizzards and storms that often kept the family snowed in for up to a week at a time. They all had tractors though, and once the worst had passed, each family would head out to dig a path through the slick, treacherous roads, pulling out any cars that slid into the ditches.

The day the front axle broke on her husband's tractor and it rolled down the side of a hill their lives were changed forever. Linda took a job driving a school bus but they still eventually had to sell the farm.

When her daughter and her son-in-law went to college, Linda joined them. They all graduated with teaching credentials: her daughter and son-in-law finding jobs together right here in Douglas County. Linda continued with her education, receiving her Master's Degree in Speech Pathology. Hired right out of school, she worked at Zephyr Cove along with Gardnerville and Minden for 30 years. The entire family is here, including grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She met our current DCHS president at a Widow's Group luncheon, and began volunteering at CVM&CC three years ago. Her mother taught in a one room school house, and it was through her that she developed a love of history at a very young age. As a volunteer she has immersed herself in the details of the history of our beautiful Carson Valley. Linda has herself become a very important part of that history!

Call us at 775-782-2555 for more information about joining our dedicated and fun-loving group of volunteers!

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The Douglas County Historical Society seeks to enrich lives by preserving local history and making it accessible to our communities and visitors.

**Help keep your history alive!
Join the Douglas County Historical Society**

Membership Benefits:

- Free admission to both museums
- 10% discount at Museum Bookstores
- Bimonthly DCHS Newsletter & member updates
- Invitations to special events
- Discounts on special programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Free admission to our DCHS Lecture Series

Annual Membership Dues:

- ____ \$ 20 Student
- ____ \$ 30 Individual
- ____ \$ 40 Couple
- ____ \$ 40 Family - Parents & Children under 17
- ____ \$ 20 Senior Individual (60+)
- ____ \$ 30 Senior Couple (60+)
- ____ \$500 Lifetime Individual
- ____ \$750 Lifetime Couple

Name(s):

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Return this page along with your dues to:

Douglas County Historical Society
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I am interested in volunteering at the museums.
Please call me.

To All Members:

Please make sure that the Museum has your correct address, phone number, and email. Thank you!

The Membership Committee

Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of

**Knox Johnson
Adele Indiana Kidman**

The Douglas County Historical Society accepts monetary gifts and memorials in honor of loved ones. Please earmark your donation for a specific purpose, General Fund, or for our Endowment Fund. To make or discuss a donation please visit our front office.

Donations may also be mailed to:

Douglas County Historical Society
1477 US Highway 395 North, Suite B
Gardnerville, NV 89410

V&T Exhibit Funding Campaign

DCHS is seeking Virginia & Truckee Railroad related artifacts, ephemera and paraphernalia in addition to cash donations for our new exhibit. If you have an item or donation to contribute, please contact our front desk. You can reach us at 775 782-2555.

DCHS Wish List – Can You Help?

- White Printer Paper
- Forever Postage Stamps
- Good Paper Cutter
- Metal 5-Bike Rack



Address Update



The United States Post Office has advised us we need to use our full street address for all correspondence. Mail not having the correct, full address, will be returned to sender. Please be sure you are using:

**Douglas County Historical Society
1477 US Highway 395 N, Suite B
Gardnerville, Nevada 89410**

From the Bookstore



By Judy Conrad

Put on your mask and come visit our bookstores in Gardnerville or Genoa to see two newly published titles. David and Gayle Woodruff recently delivered *Tales Along El Camino Sierra Book Three*! Whether you're a fan from books One and Two or new to the series, you'll enjoy the fascinating tales of Eastern Sierra History along the 395 Eastern Highway corridor, while appreciating the wonderful photographs.

Odyssey of a Ghost Town Explorer is a beautifully written book by Eric Cachinero, and produced by Nevada Magazine. It is the 12,000-mile tale of the Silver State's ghost towns, complete with many wonderful old and present-day pictures. Pair it with *Nevada Ghost Towns Historic Sites Map* and you'll have fun whether visiting the locations in person, or enjoying through armchair travel. For the children we have a series of books at only \$6.95 about baby animals like Baby Bears and Baby Chipmunks. They are delightful books with great pictures and fun facts.

DCHS Members receive 10% off their purchases from our bookstores.

Author Karen Dustman Chronicles Carson Valley History



If you've hung around DCHS much in the past few years, you've probably heard Karen Dustman speak about local history, or seen one of her books in the museum bookshops. We caught up with Karen to ask how she got started writing, and learn a bit more about her! Though our lecture series is currently on hold due to the pandemic, we hope to present Karen's talk via Zoom.

A native of Connecticut, Karen hated history in school. "That was always just the boring stuff," she smiles. "Names, dates, wars: things that were easy to test on, but none of the fascinating people-stories."

It's the people-stories that she loves most. Karen says "That's what gives history a heart. The struggles. The losses. Finding a rich gold strike and losing everything in a poker game. It's not bare facts and figures: it's the people who lived an incredible life and how they managed to survive that's intriguing."

After moving to the area in 2001, Karen and her husband began exploring local history. Since then, she's published eight books on local history, many of which you can find in the DCHS Bookstore. She's also helped compile over two dozen individual oral histories because she feels it is so important to capture these stories while she can. She is just finishing a third book about the fascinating folks buried at Genoa Cemetery.

Karen launched a free history email newsletter in 2016 to share "fun finds" and local history stories. It has grown through word of mouth to nearly 700 subscribers. To sign up, go to www.Clairitage.com and add your email in the box at the bottom.

TREASURES FROM THE VAULT

Our Web Page

Douglas County Historical Society is always seeking ways to reach out to the community to share the history of Douglas County, Nevada. In addition to the newsletter received by our members, we also use Facebook and our website page, Treasures from the Vault, to showcase images of our collection artifacts. This allows access to our extensive artifact collections which are often times not on exhibit in either of our two museums.

If you have not yet discovered the page on our website, "Treasures from the Vault", you might want to take a look. Visit www.HistoricNV.org and click on the 'Treasures from the Vault' page and see what we have posted recently. As you scroll down, you will see entries we have made over the past year or so. Here are a few examples of previous postings:



The artifacts in our collection are donations from individuals and families just like you. These donations permit us to continue our commitment to our organizational Mission Statement, which reads, "*The Douglas County Historical Society seeks to enrich lives by preserving local history and making it accessible to our communities and visitors.*"

If you have items of historical interest that you would like to donate to DCHS, please contact the Curator, Gail Allen, at 775-782-2555 or Curator@HistoricNV.org.

Sarah Winnemucca Exhibit Dedication at the Courthouse Museum, Genoa



The Douglas County Historical Society is set to host a formal dedication of our permanent Sarah Winnemucca Exhibit at the Courthouse Museum in Genoa.

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins (1844 - 1891) was a Northern Paiute author, activist, and educator and a prominent personage in the history of Douglas County. We encourage our friends and members to read her autobiography, *Life Among the Paiutes* which is available in our museum bookstores.

Due to the pandemic, invitations are only being extended to our DCHS membership, sponsors and friends. We hope you will join us on Friday, October 16, to help share our thanks for the people and donors who helped make this exhibit a reality. Museum doors open at 11:00 a.m. and the dedication ceremony will be held at noon.

Dianna Maria De Borges of Borges Sleigh and Carriage Rides wearing her recreation of the dress of Sarah Winnemucca along with her granddaughter Madeline.

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*The Douglas County Historical Society
seeks to enrich lives by preserving
local history and making it accessible
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Advertise in This Newsletter

Advertising space is available to the community for promoting businesses, services and special events. Not only will you be helping support the Historical Society, but your business will benefit as well. Funds received from this effort help defray costs of printing and postage for this newsletter.

AD SIZE Issues)	ISSUE	YEAR (6
Business Card	\$15	\$50
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To purchase an ad please contact us at:

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Monday thru Friday 11a.m. to 3 p.m.
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*Please give us a call if you wish to
sponsor or host a DCHS event or activity.*

DCHS Highlights

Don't miss a moment of fun

Main Street Gardnerville Wine & Beer Walk

Third Thursday
October 15, 2020
from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Shop Local

Saturday November 28

Receive 10% off at the Museum Bookstore
Members Receive 20% Off!

Holiday Gala

Saturday December 5

Gallery of Trees
Gingerbread Houses
Letters to Santa
Santa's Cookie Shop
Selfies with Santa

Call the Museum between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday to find out how to enter your own Gingerbread House Creation! 775 782-2555