

Niwot Historical Society

2012 - 2013 Annual Report

February 27, 2013

The following members of the Board of Directors were elected at the Niwot Historical Society (NHS) 2012 Annual Meeting; the Board then voted on the following leadership positions:

President:	Laura Skaggs
Vice President:	Meri Gibb
Secretary:	Connie Herbst
Treasurer:	Darwyn Herbst
Membership Chair:	Donna Sinor
Members-at-Large:	Donlyn Arbuthnot, Anne Dyni, Rob Gordon

The memory and lasting influence of Chief Niwot was the Niwot Historical Society's (NHS) touchstone over the last year. NHS began the year in partnership with One Action/One Boulder in celebrating the legacy of Chief Niwot and announcing the book Chief Left Hand as the 2012 countywide "One Book/One Boulder" community reading project. NHS was prominently listed on the OA/OB website, in national press releases and on promotional materials as a co-sponsor of OA/OB efforts.

To step up to its role in this project, NHS successfully recruited Margaret Coel, author of Chief Left Hand to launch the second season of "Niwot ~ Now & Then" lecture series. NHS purchased 120 copies of Chief Left Hand from Oklahoma Press to sell to Niwot residents. Sale of the books was organized through the Niwot Market and the Hitching Post; we deeply thank those local businesses for their participation. Sales were brisk, selling out the entire supply of 120 copies. NHS also offered two informal Book Group Discussions on Chief Left Hand at a local coffee shop in advance of the lecture. Margaret Coel's presentation was a highlight for the community. To handle the volume of advance requests from the public, an advance seating plan was required; only NHS members were eligible to secure advance seating. The standing-room-only crowd was well satisfied.

In further support of the Chief Niwot theme, NHS brought a Boulder History Museum presentation to the Left Hand Grange Hall on Nostalgia Day. The Boulder Museum hosted a 9-month special exhibit on Chief Niwot, and their staff brought highlights from that exhibit to Niwot for the day. At NHS invitation, Boulder History Museum staff also provided historically themed children's activities on Nostalgia Day, 2012.

After last year's NHS Annual Meeting, the 2011-2012 lecture season rounded out with Board member Donlyn Arbuthnot lecturing on Haystack Mountain and Ava Hamilton offering perspective on life as an Arapaho woman. Margaret Coel's launched the 2012-2013 lecture series, followed by Elizabeth Black's presentation of "Bringing the Water Down –

History of Local Irrigation Ditches”. Black’s lecture marked another NHS “first”, as Longmont’s cable Channel 8 filmed Elizabeth’s live lecture performance for airing as part of its community broadcasting. Two more lectures remain on the 2012-2013 lecture calendar: tonight features Diane Brotemarkle on “Forts, Furs & Trade on the South Platte, 1830s-1850s” and Anne Dyni speaks on “Pioneer Voices of the St.Vrain Valley” on April 24th. NHS proudly reports that the Boulder Daily Camera recognized the “Niwot ~ Now & Then” lecture series among its 2012 Top Five Events in local history.

Upcoming on April 27th, the NHS Board presents another Niwot “first” with “Family History Day”. The Saturday morning program will feature speakers and an expert panel on the basics of genealogy research. Materials and useful resources will be provided to get participants started on researching their family trees. Admission is free to members.

NHS membership now counts 140 individuals (95 households), and our annual income covers our expenses. Offering concrete membership benefits, in the form of free lectures and programs, the NHS Board feels it has found its new model. Offering programmatic benefit has enlarged NHS membership. The following are some of the other activities NHS conducted during the past year:

- The NHS Board met four times to conduct historical society business.
- Four issues of the Niwot Gazette Newsletter and several topical updates were distributed by mail or email and posted on our website.
- NHS participated in Rotary Club’s Fourth of July parade, the Niwot Community Association’s Nostalgia Day, and the Rock N’ Rails Tip Jar program
- The Old Firehouse Museum was decorated and open for the Niwot Business Association’s Enchanted Evening and Holiday Parade. Hot cider was served.
- The NHS website, www.niwothistoricalsociety.org was updated, and Paypal remains available as a vehicle for joining or paying annual renewal dues.
- Seventeen images from the NHS photo collection were provided for authorized use in Niwot retail locations. One image was purchased for personal use
- A graduation program from Batchelder School , dated 1900, and two cartons of miscellaneous paper ephemera were donated during 2012-2013 and have been archived.
- NHS advertises each “Niwot ~ Now & Then” lecture in the Left Hand Valley Courier. Promotional flyers and posters are routinely posted in local businesses.
- The Left Hand Grange continues to provide secure storage for NHS artifacts; in appreciation, the NHS Board volunteers at each Grange Book Sale.
- **Volunteers are always needed and welcome!**
Please consider helping NHS in person!
Contact: info@niwothistoricalsociety.org