

Niwot Historical Society

President's Letter

2014-2016 Annual Report

February 24, 2015

The following current members of the Board of Directors were elected at the Niwot Historical Society (NHS) February 2015 Annual Meeting and the Board voted them into the following positions.

President:	Meri Gibb
Secretary:	Mary Claire Collins
Treasurer:	Darwyn Herbst
Archives:	Anne Dyni
Membership Chair:	Kathy Koehler
Members-at-Large:	Joe Betts, Rob Gordon, Bonnie Gallagher
Program Chair:	Donlyn Arbuthnot

After last February's Annual Meeting, the 2014-2015 lecture series continued with , "Early Habitation in Estes Park: Tools, Structures, Landscapes and People" by Derek Fortini of the Estes Park Museum, and our April 29th lecture about world-renowned Gunbarrel artist, Howard Fogg, "Fogg in the Cockpit: Howard Fogg, Master Railroad Artist, World War II Fighter Pilot," presented by Richard and Janet Fogg.

The current 2015-2016 "Niwot ~ Now & Then" lecture season opened in September with "The Boulder Oil Field in Our Back Yard Since 1901" presented by Matt Silverman and Karl Anuta. The series continued in November with "Niwot, 1935: A Snapshot," presented by Donlyn Arbuthnot. February's presentation was " A Photographic Railroad Journey Through Boulder County," by Larry Dorsey.

Upcoming lectures in this series are "Preserving Your Family History," on Sunday, March 20th, from 2-4:30, presented by Mona Lambrecht, Phil Smith and Joan Few, all specialists in preservation, and "Quilts that Settled the West," presented by Jeananne Wright, quilt historian.

NHS membership continues to hold steady with 31 individual memberships, 37 family memberships and 7 sponsoring memberships. Membership Chair Kathy Koehler tracks the member renewals, sends out reminders and updates member rosters for the society. Treasurer Darwyn Herbst tallies member dues and income, and reports that our annual income continues to cover our expenses; his full report is available upon request for more details

Offering programmatic member benefits, in the form of free lectures and programs, the NHS Board feels the current membership model remains sound; the Lecture Series continues to enlarge the NHS membership base and provides a welcome community event.

The following are some of the other NHS activities of the past year:

- The full NHS Board met five times and effectively conducted ongoing business electronically and through various special committee meetings. Secretary Mary Claire Collins recorded and archived the minutes of each full Board meeting.
- Four issues of the Niwot Gazette Newsletter and several topical updates were distributed by mail and/or email and posted on our website. Kathy Koehler writes, compiles and publishes the newsletter.
- Anne Dyni continued to supervise our collection of donated artifacts and held a workshop to train others in the art of archiving. Joan Grunzweig has taken over as chair of the Archiving Committee.

We received donations of an album of photos of the dismantling, moving and rebuilding of the Firehouse from across the street, a Martha Washington 1.5 cent stamp with a Niwot cancellation, and an accordion played in local bands by a Niwot native in the early 1900s.

- During the summer, generous donors gave over \$500 to the society through the Tip Jar at Rock N' Rails. This outstanding gift from our community helps to fund the Now & Then lecture series.
- NHS opened the Old Firehouse Museum on Fourth of July, Left Handers' Day, and the Holiday Parade Day, and occasionally on Niwot's First Friday nights. The Museum will be open on First Fridays when there is enough natural daylight and when the weather is comfortable, as the museum has no indoor electrical lighting or heat.
- The NHS website, www.niwothistoricalsociety.org is regularly updated by Board member, Joe Betts. Note that PayPal remains available as a vehicle for joining or paying annual renewal dues online from the NHS website.
- NHS advertised the "Niwot ~ Now & Then" lecture series in the Left Hand Valley Courier. Promotional flyers and posters were routinely posted on paper and online throughout the community. Several regional media outlets post NHS lectures on their calendars.
- The Left Hand Grange continues to provide secure storage for NHS artifacts; in appreciation, the NHS Board volunteers at all Grange Book Sales and makes an annual donation to the Grange.
- In 2015, Anne Dyni was asked by Arcadia publishing, a company that has published over 7000 local and regional histories, to write a history of Niwot. The Board gave permission for Anne to use our digital photo collection, as the history will be told through pictures and commentary. The book was published in June, 2015 and we held a reception and booksigning. We continue to sell her books and they are available locally as well. Many thanks to Anne Dyni for all of her extraordinary work on this publication.
- Throughout the year we answered questions about Niwot history, gave tours of our historical district, advised individuals and organizations on historical matters, provided digital photos upon request, and loaned framed copies of photos from our collection to businesses for display.

In the months to come we will be collaborating on projects with several community organizations and continuing

With warmest thanks to the amazing and tireless all-volunteer NHS Board for their cheerful hard work and to each NHS member for your ongoing support.

Meri Gibb, NHS President

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