

# **Niwot Historical Society**

## **President's Letter**

### **2015-2016 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, Joan Grunsweig
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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 geologist Matt Silverman and Karl Anuta, preservationist. The series continued in November with "Niwot, 1935: A Snapshot," presented by historian, Donlyn Arbuthnot. February's presentation was "A Photographic Railroad Journey Through Boulder County," by Larry Dorsey railroad historian.

Upcoming lectures in this series are "Preserving Your Family History," on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 individual memberships, family memberships and sponsoring memberships. Former Membership Chair Kathy Koehler tracked the member renewals, sent out reminders and updated the member rosters for the society. Member Dianne Zimmermann has recently taken over membership duties. All members were sent Holiday Greetings with original paintings by Donlyn Arbuthnot.

Treasurer Darwyn Herbst tallies member dues, expenditures 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. Among others, 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 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.niwohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.niwohistoricalsociety.org) is regularly updated by Board member, Joe Betts. Note that PayPal remains available as a vehicle for joining or paying annual membership dues online from the NHS website.
- 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 2014, 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 book signing. We continue to sell "Around Niwot" and books 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 the lecture series into our sixth season.

Special thanks go to Anne Dyni for her dedicated, long-term Board participation as historian, president, writer, archivist, creator of displays and walking tours, and many other tasks, small and large. Anne has cared for our Historical Society and preserved the history of Niwot for over twenty years. She is going off the Board and leaves behind a legacy that won't soon be forgotten. In the Spring we nominated Anne for a Boulder County Preserving History Award and we were thrilled to see her receive the award at a ceremony in May.

I, too, am leaving the Board after two years as president and eight non-consecutive years as Board member. This is the best Board anyone could ask for and the best community to work in. It has been a pleasure bringing the unique history of our small town to life.

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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