

Home Means Nevada



Organized by the Nevada Arts Council, Home Means Nevada is part of the Nevada Touring Initiative (NTI) – Traveling Exhibition Program.

Home Means Nevada Introduction and Photo Descriptions by Lynn Davis, former Nevada Senior Manager, National Parks Conservation Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXHIBITION ARTISTS

Kurt Kuznicki, Reno NV	..... page 1 and 6
Robert Park, Las Vegas NV	..... page 2
Sharon K. Schafer, Henderson NV	..... page 4
Peter Goin, Reno NV	..... page 5 and 12
Olin Feuerbacher, Pahrump NV	..... page 7
Kimberly Reinhart, Henderson NV	..... page 8
Bruce Loeffler, Las Vegas NV	..... page 9
Kelly Carroll, Hagatna, GU	..... page 10
Will Roger Petersen, Gerlach NV	..... page 13
Julian Kilker, Las Vegas NV	..... page 14
Sam Davis, Cedar City UT	..... page 16
Alan O'Neill, Henderson NV	..... page 17
Mike Hill, Las Vegas NV	..... page 18
Deon Reynolds, Eureka NV	..... page 20
Cristian Torres, Las Vegas NV	..... page 21

ARTIST BIOS

... page 22 and 23

LOCATION MAP

..... page 24

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

inside back cover



Home Means Nevada

*There is the land that I love best,
Fairer than all I can see,
Right in the heart of the Golden West,
Home means Nevada to me.*

From the chorus of Nevada's state song.



TABLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS. *Wild Aspens* by Kurt Kuznicki.



RED ROCK NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Southern Nevada

Untitled
Robert Park

Nevada is mostly the Great Basin, a vast geographic wonder where rain falls and sinks, never finding outlet to the Gulf of Mexico or Pacific Ocean. Nevada is also deserts of Joshua trees, conspicuous in their silhouettes, and forests of high-range aspens, shimmering in the afternoon sunlight.

Nevada claims the largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states, the darkest skies, and some of the oldest trees on earth. Moreover, with 314 mountain ranges, it is considered the most mountainous state in the contiguous United States.

It is a state of spectacular landscapes, unique natural features and poignant history. It is a state defined by its public lands – national parks and conservation areas, wilderness and wildlife refuges, forests, rangelands, monuments and watersheds – all of which provide diverse benefits to Nevadans and the travelers who visit.

It is a place of inspiration for a number of photographers who tap into their love of Nevada's landscapes, who find beauty in its rugged geology and starry skies. Photographers who translate what they see from doorsteps and mountaintops, who convey what it means to be home.



*Canyons Now Memories:
Desert Bighorn Sheep*
Sharon K. Schafer

DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Southern and Central Nevada

Desert bighorn sheep are observed in stately silhouette on rocky crags and, with perseverance, sometimes sighted under rock escarpments escaping the blazing sun. Once plentiful in Nevada, today numbers of desert bighorn have been dramatically reduced due to drought, disease and loss of habitat. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge – the largest wildlife refuge in the country, outside of Alaska – was set aside in 1936 to protect desert bighorn. The wildlife refuge offers sanctuary to this majestic and iconic species. It is a complete ecosystem with mule deer, bobcat, mountain lion, kit fox, several bat species, a variety of reptiles and 500 different types of plants.

*Children floating,
Soldier Meadows Hot Springs
Peter Goin*



WATER IN THE DESERT
Throughout Nevada

With a statewide average of less than ten inches of rainfall – surely not enough to fill a bathtub – water in Nevada is precious, life-sustaining and the perfect find on a hot summer day. Most of Nevada is within the hydrographic Great Basin, a region where water sinks into underground aquifers or flows into salty lakes or evaporates, never finding its way to the sea.



Star Trails
Kurt Kuznicki

ALTA TOQUIMA WILDERNESS
East Central Nevada

Rugged. The Alta Toquima Wilderness rises sharply from sagebrush to pinyon-juniper to limber pine to sparse and striking stands of aspens. A collection of three steep and jagged summits along a prominent ridgeline is a hiking achievement. On a clear day, from the ridge, you can see mountains in Utah and in California.

Devils Hole Pupfish
Olin Feuerbacher



ASH MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Southwestern Nevada

The multiple mysteries of Ash Meadows begin with an oasis of geothermal springs in the middle of a searing hot desert, within sight of Death Valley National Park. How has the rarest fish in the world, a tiny fish known as the Devils Hole Pupfish, survived in the hottest, driest place on earth? And why, now, do fewer than 200 remain? How does their unique environment, a seemingly bottomless hole in the desert, contribute to their endurance? Or will earthquakes as far away as Japan, Chile and Indonesia – earthquakes which dramatically and bafflingly slosh the waters of Devils Hole – be their demise?



SUMMIT, WALKER and PYRAMID LAKES
Northwest Nevada

Three desert lakes – Walker, Summit and Pyramid lakes – are each as beautiful as the other and essential to sustaining the viability of several native nation tribes. All three are considered desert terminus lakes, meaning they are enclosed watersheds at great risk of drying up during periods of drought. Legislation, over time, has developed partnerships and purchased groundwater from willing sellers. All of which has greatly assisted tribal communities. The surfaces of each lake – mirroring the way colors shift in the sky – cannot possibly reveal the complexities of maintaining these important waters.

Walker Lake 15
Kimberly Reinhart

Las Vegas Strike 1
Bruce Loeffler



TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Southern Nevada

What lies beneath the surface of Tule Springs' fossil beds is intrigue. On the urban edges of the Las Vegas Valley, under the chalky dust of calcium carbonate and in the mazes of odd mounds, paleontologists believe this is the only known site in the world to preserve nearly 200,000 continuous years of Ice Age fossils. The kid in all of us ponders the excavation of a ten-foot mammoth tusk or the femur of a dire wolf with awe.





*Standing Stately:
The Ancient Bristlecone Pine*
Kelly Carroll

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
Eastern Central Nevada

Great Basin National Park is a study in contrasts, harsh with rock glaciers and inviting with alpine meadows. Established a mere 30 years ago, it is home to the world's oldest living tree species – twisted, knotted and gnarly bristlecone pine. Great Basin beckons underground exploration through the park's famed Lehman Caves and lures the hearty to Wheeler Peak, an impressive 13,063 summit. Bestowed with the prestigious recognition of an International Dark Sky Park, Great Basin's new observatory shares remarkable views of millions of stars.



Moonrise over Black Rock
Peter Goin

BLACK ROCK DESERT
Northwest Nevada

The lack of water in the desert means that there are often no trees behind which to hide, and none in the midground – that space in the landscape between what we see at our feet in the foreground and those mountains in the background. Without such predictable vertical marks in view, we have trouble understanding our scale in the landscape. We don't know how far away things are – how long it will take us to reach the other side of what is visible, or where it is safe.

Nevada poet and author William L. Fox, from an essay in the book *Desert Water*

Black Rock City 2016
Will Roger Petersen



BLACK ROCK DESERT
Northwest Nevada

As many as 70,000 people converge for days of intense activity on the playa of the Black Rock Desert. Burning Man – an annual convergence of artistic expression – establishes a temporary city with a grid-street structure, perimeter fencing and an edict to participants to leave no trace. Within a few weeks of closing down, the playa is returned.



CAMPING
Anywhere Nevada

At any location on earth, as the rock record goes down into time and out into earlier geographies, it touches upon tens of thousands of stories, wherein the earth often changed, changed utterly, and changed again, like the face of a crackling fire.

American writer John McPhee from his book *Basin and Range*

Among millions of years of geology and uncountable light years in the skies overhead, a family sets up their tent, unrolls their sleeping bags, and toasts marshmallows. Finding connection.

Camping at Shaman Knob, Dusk
Julian Kilker



Pahrnagat Man
Sam Davis

AREA 51 Where? Who Really Knows?

We do, in fact, know where Area 51 is – it's in south central Nevada off Route 375, better known as the *Extraterrestrial Highway*. What we can tell you about Area 51 is that it is part of Nevada's military testing and training grounds, vital to our country's security. Experimental aircraft – including U2 reconnaissance planes used during the Cold War – were launched there, most with fake aerial identification. Few know Area 51's purpose, only that the perimeter is surrounded by security cameras and serious warnings. What about those rumors of aliens and spaceships? Perhaps best left to imagination.



The Many Layers of Lake Mead
Alan O'Neill

LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA Southern Nevada

Three little known facts about Lake Mead National Recreation Area: It is the fifth most visited national park site in the entire system. It has two lakes – Lake Mead, the largest manmade lake in the country, and Lake Mohave below Hoover Dam. Only 13 percent of the recreation area is water. The 1.5 million-acre national park site is a geologic masterpiece with countless mountain ranges and remarkable rock formations.



GOLD BUTTE
Southeast Nevada

Indigenous tribes knew the landscape, now called Gold Butte, as a wonderland. It was a route of springs and seeps, shelter and shade, among massive crazily shaped red rock formations. It was also a place for communicating with others who traveled through. Thousands of petroglyphs – significant images incised, etched and scraped into stone – remain in Gold Butte’s niches and recesses, treasured galleries of native art in the desert.

Petroglyph Panel, Gold Butte
Mike Hill



PONY EXPRESS TRAIL Through Nevada

Legendary for their stamina and identifiable by their red shirts, Pony Express riders crisscrossed the country between Missouri and California, carrying precious correspondence in padlocked pouches called mochila. Intrepid riders braved their roughest and toughest terrain in Nevada as they navigated 404 miles of an east-west route mile of daunting and steep mountain ranges with valleys of sagebrush and greasewood in between. Eighty percent of the Pony Express route in Nevada remains accessible today through public lands.

Pony Express
Deon Reynolds

*August moon setting during
Perseids meteor shower*
Cristian Torres



NIGHT SKIES
Rural Nevada

How often at night when the heavens are bright with the light from the glittering stars,
Have I stood there amazed and asked as I gazed if their glory exceeds that of ours.

From the little-known second verse of *Home on the Range*

While eight out of ten Americans can no longer see the Milky Way from their backyards, the skies over the central and eastern Nevada deserts remain as dark today as they were thousands of years ago. Billions of stars and the Milky Way, in illuminated detail, are remarkably visible, sparkly and effervescent.

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kelly CARROLL is a national park ranger who worked for seven years in Great Basin National Park managing the park's popular astronomy programs and designing and building support for the first-ever research astronomical observatory in a national park. Kelly recently accepted a position at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam, where he spends his weekends photographing tropical beaches and spectacular sunsets.

Sam DAVIS merges obscure technology, a novelty 3D viewer called a *sculptoscope*, with his father's participation in one of Nevada's atomic tests in the 1950s to create his cryptozoological image in this exhibit. Sam holds a BFA from the University of Florida and a MFA in Photography from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Photography at Southern Utah University.

Olin FEUERBACHER is an *aquaculturist* at the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Olin is one of very few fish biologists allowed to work in Devils Hole to monitor – and photograph, in exceptional detail – a tiny colony of the rarest fish in the world, the Devils Hole Pupfish. Olin holds a Bachelor's in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a Master's in Applied Biosciences, both from the University of Arizona.

Peter GOIN, a *Foundation Professor of Art* in photography and videography at the University of Nevada, Reno, is the author or coauthor of numerous books about the landscape of the American West including the seminal *Black Rock*,

which examines the desert region in northern Nevada. Peter's photographs have been exhibited in more than 50 museums nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships.

Mike HILL is a Las Vegas-based photographer who shoots worldwide. Mike grew up in Las Vegas documenting people and cultures, and inspiring him. His work has been awarded by *Paris Prix de la Photographie*, *National Geographic*, *World In Focus*, *The International Photography Awards* and *American Photo*.

Julian KILKER bridges humanities and science as an Associate Professor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas' School of Journalism and Media Studies and in the UNLV Honors College. Julian earned his doctorate from Cornell University, taught science courses as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya and has published in several academic journals. He has presented solo photography exhibits in Switzerland, California and Nevada with emphasis on nighttime portraits of the American Southwest.

Kurt KUZNICKI chronicles Nevada's remote landscapes from the trail, as he leads restoration crews into Nevada's backcountry for Friends of Nevada Wilderness. His photos have been published in the *Wild Nevada Calendar*, *Nevada Magazine*, and *Wilderness Press* books as well as used by four federal lands agencies.

Bruce LOEFFLER captures images from what he calls *Abstract Macro* to *The Forces of Nature*. His photography uses a slow shutter to capture moments that may be missed. His recent emphasis is Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.

Alan O'NEILL worked for more than three decades for the Department of Interior and National Park Service, retiring as superintendent of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. He founded the Outside Las Vegas Foundation, a non-profit organization with a mission to get people outdoors, and served as executive director for ten years. Alan currently serves on several conservation-related boards and spends his free time hiking and photographing public lands.

Robert PARK, a former industrial designer in New York City, moved near Zion National Park and then to southern Nevada to capture the unparalleled light and drama of the Colorado Plateau and Mojave Desert. Regarded as one of the foremost large-format print masters, Robert has worked with photographers from around the world, including well-known wildlife photographer Art Wolfe. Robert's expressive landscapes and dynamic cityscapes are photographed with a 1904 Seneca wood camera.

Will Roger PETERSON is the co-founder of Burning Man in Nevada's Black Rock Desert, long ago recognizing the beauty and inspiration of the expansive playa. Will holds a MFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology. His photography represents his commitment to conservation. He has served as Chair of the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Advisory Council, which provides informed advice on a broad array of public land issues.

Kimberly REINHART is a professional environmental planner who has spent the last 17 years traveling through Nevada capturing images of Nevada's diverse geography along the state's well-traveled roads and in remote backcountry.

Deon REYNOLDS documents the wide-open spaces of the American West finding the quirky and ironic in the middle of nowhere. He is a governor-appointed member of the Nevada Arts Council, recognized by the *International Photography Awards*, *Blur Magazine* and *Lenscratch*. He is a *B&W Spider Awards Fellow* and has been honored with dozens of exhibits and publications.

Sharon K. SCHAFER's education as a wildlife biologist is the foundation of her art as a photographer and painter. She is a member of both the *International Society of Animal Artists and Artists for Conservation*, and is a sought-after speaker about the beauty and diversity of life on our planet. Her image in this exhibit will also be displayed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center.

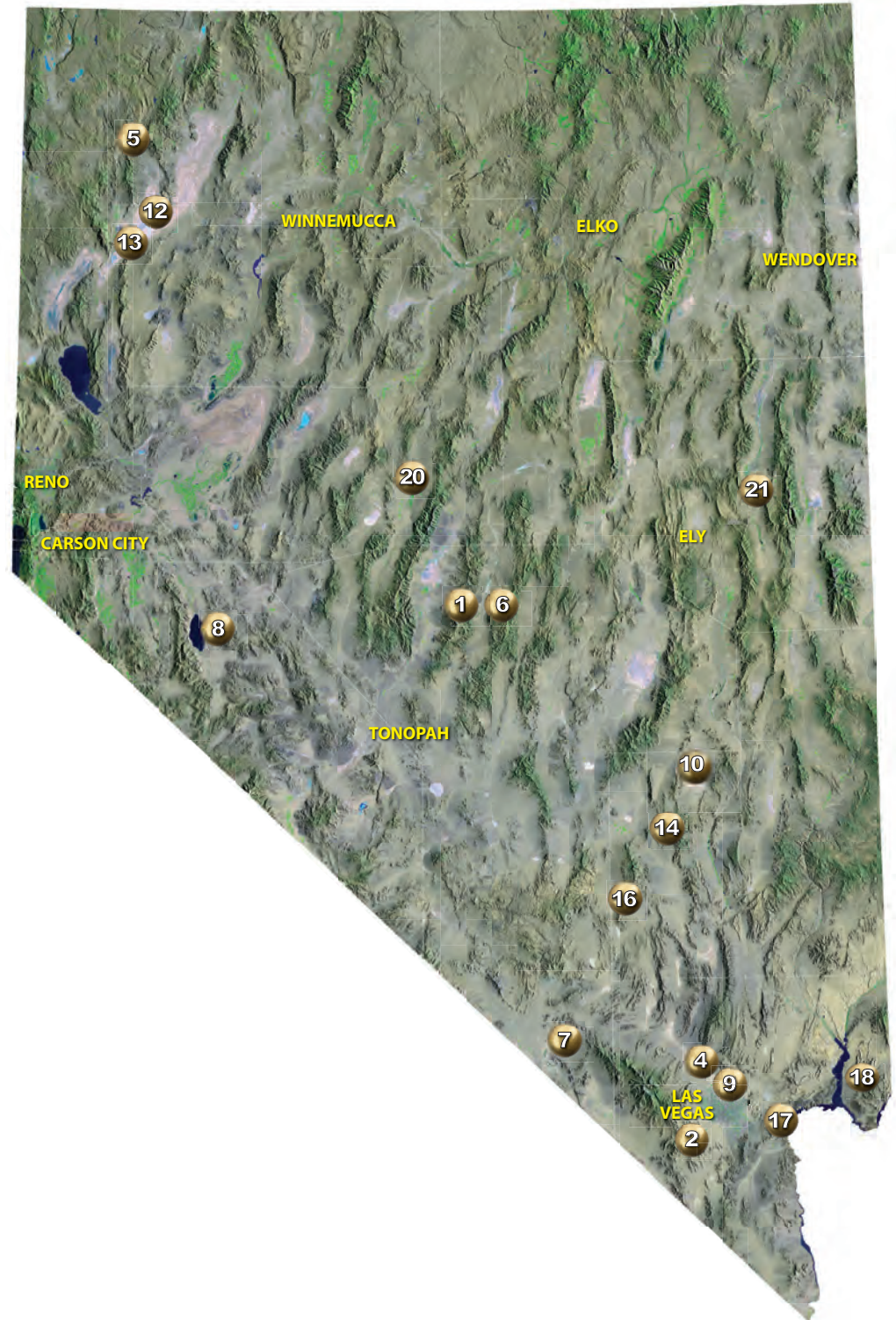
Cristian TORRES has been behind the camera for over 15 years, though his interest in astrophotography began as recently as 2014. At least once a month, Cristian travels into Nevada's deserts to document Nevada's dark skies. His image in this exhibit was taken 40 miles from Lund, Nevada during the 2016 Perseids Meteor Showers.

Home Means Nevada

PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS IN GALLERY NOTES

Page

- 1 Table Mountain Wilderness
- 2 Red Rock Canyon national Conservation Area
- 4 Desert National Wildlife Refuge
- 5 Soldier Meadows Hot Springs
- 6 Alta Toquima Wilderness
- 7 Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
- 8 Walker Lake
- 9 Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument
- 10 Basin and Range National Monument
- 12 Black Rock Desert
- 13 Black Rock City
- 14 Shaman Knob
- 16 Area 51
- 17 Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- 18 Gold Butte National Monument
- 20 Pony Express Trail
- 21 White Pine County



NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

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The Nevada Arts Council is a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs and is funded by the State of Nevada and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Kippy S. Spilker
GALLERY NOTES DESIGN
ART DIRECTOR, *NEVADA MAGAZINE*

Dynagraphics, Reno, NV
GALLERY NOTES PRINTING

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NTI-Traveling Exhibition, Home Means Nevada is based on an exhibition installed on September 26, 2016 in the rotunda of the Senate Russell Building in Washington D.C. The exhibit was organized by the National Parks Conservation Association and curated by UNLV professor Sergio "Checko" Salgado with help from wildlife biologist Paula Jacoby-Garrett. The graphic designer of the exhibition publication was Paula Jacoby-Garrett, Las Vegas, and the Image Mastering/Printing was done by Robert Park at Nevada Art Printers, Las Vegas. Funding for this exhibition was generously provided by MGM Resorts and Barrick.





LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

Skywalkers by Robert Park.