

# The Broadsheet

New Mexico Press Women September 2019 Vol. 42 No. 3

## Message from President Sherri Burr

Great News: In the 70<sup>th</sup> year of our existence, New Mexico Press Women has been nominated for a Bravos Award. Many thanks to Susan Walton for her additional letter of recommendation. We will hear in the fall if the nomination was successful. Additional good news is that our membership is growing. In the process of preparing documents for the archives, I noticed that in the last seven years, our membership has increased by 20%.



Since our annual meeting, several appointed board members have continued in their present roles, and many new communicators have joined. I write to thank **Maryam Ahranjani** for continuing as the **First Amendment Chair**, and **Kathleen Hessler** as **Parliamentarian**. **Carolyn Carlson** remains on the board as **Communications Contest Chair** and is taking on the roles of **Zia Book Awards Chair** and **High School Outreach Chair**.

**Jessica Savage** has switched from **Public Relations Chair** to **Scholarship Chair**, and **Ludella Awad** has switched from **Historian** to **Social Media Chair**. She has done an outstanding job of creating the NMPW Twitter Account with thousands of mentions. Please send information about your events and successes to [ludellaawadwritings@gmail.com](mailto:ludellaawadwritings@gmail.com) and to [newmexicopresswomen@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicopresswomen@gmail.com). Additionally, **Cheryl Burbank** stepped into the role of **Public Relations Chair** and immediately secured NMPW publicity for the **Hillerman Legends Event** at Bookworks. **Robert Flinkman**, an art historian and renowned painter, is our new **Historian**. Finally, the incomparable **Diana Sandoval** has returned to the board as **Communicator of Achievement Chair**. With such a stellar group in place, I am confident that NMPW will have an outstanding year, and I hope you will join our Colorado sisters in Trinidad.

## Weekend event planned in historic Trinidad

Colorado Press Women will host a weekend getaway in Trinidad on Oct. 4 to 6 and



invite NMPW members attend. Historic Trinidad is just 21 miles north of Raton. **CPW Program Chair Gay Porter DeNileon** says, "The official program is pretty loose, as it's more of a fun gathering of friends and colleagues. We would love to see any and all of you!"

Trinidad, founded in 1862, is undergoing redevelopment and historical preservation under the name of La Puerta de Colorado (The Gateway to Colorado). Dana

Crawford, known for creating Larimer Square in Denver, has purchased a handful of buildings downtown and is working as a consultant on the redevelopment.

Activities for the weekend may include a visit to the city's newspaper office, tours of the A.J. Mitchell Museum of Western Art and the Trinidad History Museum, and a trolley or walking tour through the city's historic district. Meals will be at area restaurants, including Rino's with its singing waiters. CPW member **Lee Anne Peck** will entertain the group at her home in Weston for Sunday brunch.

Email **Sharon Almirall** at [salmirall@yahoo.com](mailto:salmirall@yahoo.com) to indicate interest in attending the CPW weekend so that the organizing committee can gauge numbers. Registration costs will be minimal. Spouses and guests are welcome. For questions, contact Gay at 303-619-6178.

## LCPW springs back to life with new officers



**Las Cruces Press Women** has reorganized to bring communicators together for networking, professional development, and camaraderie. New officers are: **Elaine Stachera Simon**, president; former **NMPW President Cheryl Fallstead**, vice president/secretary; and **Bud Russo**, treasurer. They thanked outgoing president **Cassie McClure**.

"We had much discussion about how over the years our membership has changed. Consequently, the wants and needs of our membership have changed. LCPW needs to change to reflect this," wrote Elaine. "The primary difference you will see will be our focus, which is turning to the needs of freelancers, both full-timers and side-hustlers. Our emphasis will be less on formal meetings and more on member interaction in different venues."

In other chapter news, on July 13, **Northern New Mexico Press Women** heard Elizabeth Flock, a Peabody and Emmy-nominated journalist, author, and documentary filmmaker who focuses on social issues.

UNM Regent Rob Schwartz spoke to **Albuquerque Press Women and Friends** on June 10. Schwartz, who taught health law and policy for more than 40 years, is a new regent.

## NMPW News

Save the dates of March 20-21 for **NMPW's** spring conference. The previously announced dates of March 6-7 were moved because **NFPW** changed its deadlines for the national Communications Contest. The theme is "Finding the Story: From Investigative Journalism to Mystery Writing," and will feature a panel on investigative reporting, as well as a panel on mystery writing. The conference will take place at the Canyon Club in Albuquerque, the site of this year's conference, which received rave reviews from this year's participants.

**NFPW** has made some changes to the **Communications Contest**. The deadlines differ from this year: Jan. 15, 2020 for books and Jan. 22, 2020 for all other entries, with the winners announced by the end of January. Additionally, because **NFPW** experienced increased costs by 250 percent, they raised **NMPW's** participation fees. The **NMPW** Board thus decided to restore **NMPW** contest fees to the level they were seven years ago.

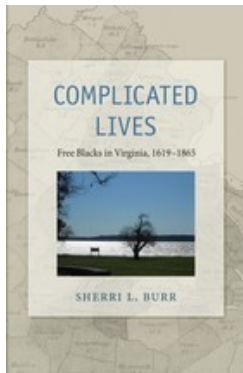
**NMPW's** 2020 contest fees have been changed to \$25 for the first entry and \$15 for subsequent entries for members, and \$30 first entry, \$20 subsequent entries for non-members.

NMPW will pay for ALL first-place entries sent on to national. The fee increase was necessitated by the contest server increasing its fees.



NMPW kicked off the first of its “Legends” events with an event May 25 at Bookworks in Albuquerque with a salute to author Tony Hillerman. **Anne Hillerman** talked about her father, and **James McGrath Morris** talked about discoveries from the Hillerman biography he’s doing.

## Member News



Congratulations to **NMPW President Sherri Burr** whose book was published in August. The launch of "[Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865](#)" included an exhibition she created, "400 Years of Freedom, Restrictions, and Survival" at the African American Performing Arts Center in Albuquerque. **Anne Hillerman** helped fund a book giveaway at the launch, and **NMPW Public Relations Chair Cheryl Burbank** read drafts and acted as a sounding board. **NMPW Historian Robert Flinkman** helped with the hanging of the 2,700 square-foot exhibition.

Sherri was also featured in a [Washington Post](#) article about her ancestor John Pierre Burr.

Doing her part to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first human landing on the Moon, **Loretta Hall** taught three classes in July at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Each class focused on one of the three stages of NASA's first manned space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo.

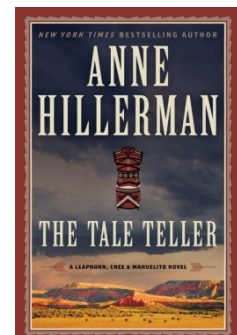


**Diane Schmidt**'s short story, "[The Encounter, Budapest](#)", and photos were recently published in *Geometry Literary Journal* in New Zealand.

**Anne Hillerman**, president of the **NMPW Northern Chapter**, has been on the road. Her fifth novel in the Leaphorn, Chee and Manuelito series, *The Tale Teller*, was released in April.

Aug. 23 and 24, Anne will be keynote speaker at The Quills Conference, a professional writer's weekend set in the beautiful mountains of Utah. On Aug. 31, Anne discusses her newest title at the National Book Festival in Washington D.C.

Finally, Anne is a keynote speaker at the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Colorado Gold Writers Conference in Denver, Sept. 6 through 8.





**Sharon Niederman** spent the summer healing from a cracked femur and said she's feeling much, much better. "Pride cometh after the fall," she said.

Sharon tripped while cleaning windows and now has three silver pins in her hip. "Moral of the story: Don't clean your windows."

Despite nearly a week in Lovelace Hospital in Albuquerque, she met her deadlines and her next travel book, *Backroads & Byways of New Mexico* is due out in April, 2020 from The Countryman Press. Next project: Do whatever it takes to complete unfinished novel.

**Cheryl Fallstead** is the newish editor of Neighbors magazine, a Las Cruces publication that comes out six times a year. Cheryl had already been writing for the magazine. "I get to work with wonderful writers and photographers I already know and meet new ones while expanding my own skill and knowledge base," she said.

**Arin McKenna** has been editor of the Valley Daily Post, an online publication, in Española for a year. **Margaret Cheasebro** is celebrating 11 years at Words and Wellness, LLC. A freelancer, Margaret writes about people, places and issues of the Four Corners area and provides alternative healthcare.



**Norine Dresser**, of Las Cruces, was recognized in an NFPW blog after she won a first place for special programming, radio, in the national contest.

"Since I am on the cusp of my 88th birthday, I wanted to demonstrate to other elderly people that one can still participate fully in life," Norine said. "This is not the time to give up. This is the time to be as fully engaged as one's body allows."

She is a folklorist; retired university professor; author of numerous books and articles; and a former columnist for the Los Angeles Times. "My main passion is showing how cultural differences can distort communication leading to anger, embarrassment, or laughter," she said.

See <https://norinedresser.org/> or read her [Norine's New Life at 80](#).

**Melody Groves'** article on Butterfield's Grand Adventure is out in the September issue of True West Magazine, and her article on chuckwagons was the cover article for September's Enchantment Magazine. She just returned from a press trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming, "where we were wined, dined, escorted around the area, given a real cowboy hat, and watched the first day of the Cheyenne Frontier Days parade and Rodeo."

## Events

**Sept. 9:** Join Albuquerque Press Women and Friends on Monday, September 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Mimi's Cafe (4315 The 25 Way) to hear Sammy Lopez, the executive director of the New Mexico Press Association.

**Sept. 13-14:** SouthWest Writers is co-hosting a [conference](#) with the Military Writers Society of America at the Hotel Albuquerque. Registration is closed. Author and publisher **Janet Brennan** presents at 8 a.m. on character development in writing historical fiction.

**Sept. 14:** SWW will announce award winners at a banquet at the Hotel Albuquerque. See the list of finalists [here](#).

**Sept. 21:** The **NMPW** board meeting

**Sept. 27:** New Mexico Book Co-op will announce award finalists at its lunch meeting

**Sept. 28:** Northern New Mexico Press Women will meet from Noon to 2 PM, at Joe's Dining, 2801 Rodeo Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87507. The guest speaker will be Tripp Stelnicki, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's director of communications, chief speechwriter and advisor. Prior to that, he was the City Hall and Santa Fe County reporter at the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

**Oct. 4-6:** [Colorado Press Women](#) meeting in Trinidad.

## In Memoriam

Former **NMPW President Ellie Syvertson** died on August 25. Ellie was president in 1982-1983, vice president in 1980-1981, and served as high school communications contest and public relations chair



Ellie was a reporter and editor at the Valencia County News-Bulletin in the 1970s and was also editor of New Mexico Business Journal. She had a master's degree in journalism from UNM. In the 1980s she started the Valencia County Flyer and expanded it to become the Valencia County Flyer Press and became one of few Press Women who actually knew how to operate a press. In 1993-1994, she was president of the Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce.

Ellie was memorable for her sense of humor. Harold Morgan recalls that after driving to Silver City over the Black Range, alone at night during a blizzard, she observed that anyone traveling to Silver City should have their personal affairs in order. She said she knew her second marriage was over when her husband threw her typewriter out the front door.

**Deb Farson**, long-time board member of **Northern New Mexico Press Women**, died on June 10 from brain cancer. She served as chapter treasurer for seven years and was one of the leading organizers for the 2017 state conference held in Santa Fe. Deb also worked tirelessly as the leader of the chapter's highly successful workshop, "Media Literacy in a Fake News World" in 2017. The chapter unanimously voted to contribute \$250 to the state scholarship fund in her name.

A molecular biologist and writer, Deb's career included work at Lawrence Livermore and at Cell Genesis. She came to Santa Fe from California and in 2010 created her science editorial business, FarsonInk. She regularly took on projects that sounded dauntingly complex. Perhaps her proudest moment was when the book she edited, *Therapeutic Fc-Fusion Proteins*, was published by Wiley in 2013. According to the publisher, the book was "edited by three pioneers in the field...and a skilled scientific writer"; it was "the first book to cover every step in the development and production of immunoglobulin Fc-fusion proteins as therapeutics for human disease."





**Judi Buehrer** died at home in Littleton, Colo., in hospice care on July 12, after years of fighting cancer. She was an **NMPW** member from 1980-1985 and served as Albuquerque chapter secretary and treasurer. After moving to Colorado in 1985, she joined **Colorado Press Women** and represented CPW as **Communicator of Achievement** in 2008.

In 2018, she published “Two Years in Moscow: Russia’s Early Struggles to Form a Democracy,” detailing her work as a journalist there. It won a first place for nonfiction books for adults in NFPW’s 2019 contest.

Judi was a reporter for the Lincoln (Nebraska) Journal, the Northern Virginia Sun. While living in Saudi Arabia and Moscow, she freelanced and worked for such publications as the Denver Post, The Guardian, and The Moscow Times. In Thailand, she returned to freelancing.

**Barbe Awalt**, co-owner of Rio Grande Books and LPD Press and co-founder of the New Mexico Book Co-op, died on May 13. She had been diagnosed with Stage IV Pancreatic Cancer just two months earlier. Barbe had been in public relations and book publishing for almost 40 years.



She was a fearless champion of local authors, local books, and the buy-local movement. Barbe wrote more than two dozen books on subjects from Hispanic devotional art to the bucket-list series.

Rio Grande Books grew to be the largest independent book publisher in New Mexico, with almost 350 titles currently in print. Her books and the books she published received numerous awards from organizations, including NMPW and NFPW.

On July 8, **Jerry Hall**, husband of **NMPW Treasurer Loretta Hall**, passed away after a long illness. Jerry was a civil engineering professor and former department chair at UNM before retiring. Members may remember Jerry helping with the 2015 conference at Ghost Ranch.

**Dennis Edwards**, husband of long-time member **Carolyn Edwards**, died in Angel Fire on April 20. During the two years Dennis was Rotary District Governor (2006-2007), he and Carolyn traveled 27,000 miles throughout New Mexico and West Texas visiting 60 clubs. Rotary sent them to Denmark and Sweden for the 2007 International Conference. Dennis also attended a number of **NMPW** meetings with Carolyn.

**Denise Tessier**, a co-author of a book about New Mexico Press Women, lost both of her parents within a few months of each other in 2018. We send condolences to Denise and all the families who lost loved ones over the last year or so.

## **Board Members**

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Zia Book Awards Chair: Carolyn Carlson, [ctcarlson03@gmail.com](mailto:ctcarlson03@gmail.com)

Public Relations Chair: Cheryl Burbank, [clsburbank@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clsburbank@sbcglobal.net)

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Parliamentarian: Kathleen Hessler, [khesslerlaw@comcast.net](mailto:khesslerlaw@comcast.net)