

THE BROADSHEET

The newsletter of New Mexico Press Women



*More great reads
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A Message from the President

BY SHERRI BURR

At a time when newspapers are adjusting to a combination of economic forces caused by the rise of the Internet and the purchase of newspapers by big conglomerates, Karen Moses, the Editor of the Albuquerque Journal, spoke to the Albuquerque Bar Association. On Feb. 13, Moses noted that the Denver Post, purchased by a conglomerate a few years ago, was down to 50 employees, while the Albuquerque Journal, which remains locally owned, still has 80 individuals in its newsroom.

Asked directly whether the Albuquerque Journal would ever consider abandoning its print edition, Moses responded that the Journal does face economic challenges, even though it is being read more today than ever before — with a million visitors to its free website each month. The cost of newsprint has risen, for example. She also said the Journal endeavors to

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Journalism Under Fire Conference Offered Provocative Concerns

BY KAREN WENTWORTH

The 2019 Journalism Under Fire conference put together by the Santa Fe Council on International Relations in December offered a very dark glimpse into a future where even the evidence before your eyes can't be completely trusted. It hinges on how we get information.

The conference's opening speakers were Dana Priest and Ivan Kolpakov who held a fascinating, yet depressing, conversation about the state of the media in Russia. Kolpakov and his associates publish their Russian Free Press from Lativa exposing the lies, fake news and misinformation in the Russian government-controlled media.

Another interesting speaker was Braden Allenby who talked with Trip Jennings about the social-media-fueled weaponized narrative.

Another group of journalists, Suzanne Kelly, Emile Nakhleh, Hannah Allam talked with Dave Marash about distortions in the fake news and state-run media that have changed the political dynamics across the world.

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"Journalism makes you think fast. You have to speak to people in all walks of life. Especially local journalism."
— Terry Pratchett

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Malachy Browne, a senior producer with the New York Times specializes in visual investigations. He led a panel through the intricacies of digital forensics and how he goes about the process of determining whether the information he is receiving is accurate.

For example, on April 6 and 7, 2018 there was a bombing of streets in a city in Syria. There was great confusion about who was responsible for the attack and why it occurred. Over the next few hours, his team at the New York Times got satellite photos of a hospital and streets around it. They worked with a former architect of the hospital to understand that there were tunnels beneath the hospital and that the attack was effective in flushing people hiding in the tunnels out into the open where they were hit by a second wave of bombs that contained chemical weapons.

Some members of the Russian media were allowed on the roof of the hospital, where they took photos of the casualties on the ground. The Times got copies of their photographs. Some of the shots showed pieces of the bomb casings. They verified the types of weapons with an expert. They pieced together a timeline using various video camera feeds from around the site. The Times got access to real time radio traffic in the area and pinpointed Russian pilots discussing the mission and their success.

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The Journalism Under Fire Conference took place Nov. 14-15, 2019, in Santa Fe.

President

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limit its personnel to 40 hours per week to save overtime costs, but that can be difficult in a 24/7 news cycle. Some of her journalists are night owls who sleep near a police scanner. They sometimes jump out of the bed in the middle of the night to cover breaking news.

When she asked the lawyers in the room how many subscribe to the Albuquerque Journal, a little more than half of the attendees raised their hands. Moses applauded the subscribers and said we were keeping the presses running. The days of advertising paying completely for a news operation are over. Wherever you live throughout New Mexico, please consider subscribing to a newspaper. The New Mexican, printed in Santa Fe, is also locally owned.

Journalism Under Fire

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Then they were able to go to print with an incomplete reconstruction of events, which you can read [here](#).

Browne used that as an example of the kind of forensic reporting using databases and satellite feeds the Times weave together to try to get the story right. His presentation was followed by Alexa Koenig, the Executive Director of the Human Rights Center and a lecturer at the UC Berkeley School of Law. She spoke about the need to protect investigative reporters, especially reporters working on stories about human rights abuses.

Then a panel discussed the problem of understanding and unraveling the truth when anything can be faked. Objects can be removed from photos; the weather can be changed. Facial expressions can be altered, along with the words people say in video recordings. So how do you ever believe anything you see?

Koenig says her university is beginning to consider the need for information repositories – someplace where the “truth” about events can be stored as a safeguard against the distortions that will come. It was a brief mind-bending look at the multi-layered problems facing journalists in the future.

Carolyn Carlson also contributed to this report.

NMPW News

New Mexico Press Women proudly co-hosted the New Mexico Book Association’s Winter Fiesta, which took place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Bourbon Grill restaurant in Santa Fe.

The menu included “heavy hors d’oeuvres” with gluten-free and vegetarian choices, dessert, coffee, and iced tea. The NMBA’s annual Richard Harris Award was presented to *Ladies of the Canyons* by Lesley Poling-Kempes.

The **NMPW Nominating Committee** would like to present the following slate to be considered for election at the upcoming 2020 NMPW conference (on March 21, 2020):

Sherri Burr, president
Damien Willis, vice president
Loretta Hall, treasurer

A Breath of Fresh News

In today’s world of both inadvertent and deliberate sharing of “fake news” and “alternative facts,” our country needs news-literate citizens who can make informed decisions. Not only when voting, but when discussing issues or sharing posts on social media.

That’s why National News Literacy Week is important. This year’s dates were January 27-31. Visit <https://newslit.org/news-literacy-week> to learn more about the event and how you can help— any time.

It may be too late to plan an event for this year’s observance, but start thinking ahead to National News Literacy Week 2021!



“There can be no higher law in journalism than to tell the truth and to shame the devil.”

— Walter Lippmann

Member News

Gary Ted and **Elaine Carson Montague** received the silver James McGrath Morris Award for Published Non-Fiction in A Celebration of Writing by the Albuquerque Museum Foundation. They also were finalists in Biography in the NM/AZ Book Awards, conducted by the NM Book Co-op.

Their book is "Victory from the Shadows: Growing up in a New Mexico School for the Blind and Beyond." Gary was a residential student at the Alamogordo school from 1944-55 and retired from Sandia Labs. Both authors are educators and graduates of UNM. They want their book to raise expectations about the capabilities of those with vision loss and erase misconceptions. **Anne Hillerman** says Gary's is a story of strength, resilience, and optimism.

The Las Cruces Railroad Museum hosted a free Brown Bag Lecture Jan. 14 which featured Las Cruces author and NMPW member **Bud Russo**. Russo presented "Six Degrees of Separation, New Mexico Style."

Six degrees of separation is a theory set forth in 1929 that everyone on



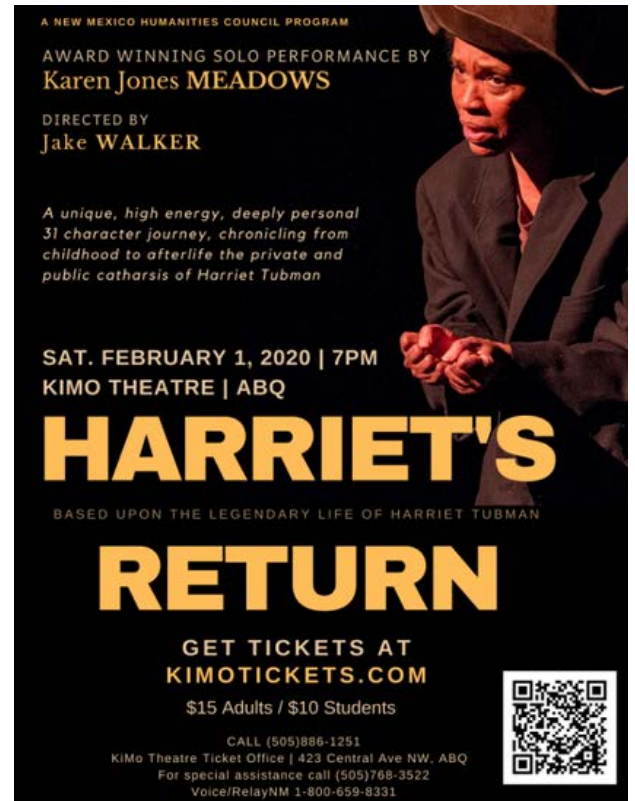
Gary Ted and Elaine Carson Montague

Earth is acquainted with everyone else within six relationships. In the early days of New Mexico's statehood, this seemed to be true. Many of the then 120,000 inhabitants of the New Mexico Territory knew each other, despite the vast geographic distances.

Carolyn Mullenax Edwards has requested that we share her new mailing address in Amarillo with our members, adding that she would like to keep in touch with all of her NMPW friends.

Carolyn Mullenax Edwards
The Clairmont, Apt. One
4707 Bell Street
Amarillo, Texas 79109

Karen Jones Meadows performed her award-winning solo show, "Harriet Returns," Feb. 1 at Albuquerque's historic Kimo Theater. This 31-character journey chronicles the life and afterlife of Harriet Tubman.



NMPW Vice-President **Damien Willis** earned the USA TODAY Network's third-quarter journalism award, which is given out among Gannett's 100+ properties. The Las Cruces Sun-News competes in Division III, and the Las Cruces Sun-News team won in the "Wild Card" category for their coverage of the Trump rally in Rio Rancho. Damien's "[Five Takeaways](#)" story was singled out by the judges ("clear focus on the needs of the audience").

Willis also earned a fourth-quarter journalism award, First Place for Best Digital Reporting. This was for [a series of charts breaking down the process and results of the city's mayoral race](#), which used a ranked-choice voting system for the first time.

Member News

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New Mexico Press Women congratulates its members on their recent successes. The following NMPW members won New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards:

Sharon Niederman, Best in the Show and Best Travel Book, for "Explorer's Guide New Mexico"; **Nasario Garcia**, Fiction Other/NM, for "No More Bingo, Comadre!"; **Nasario Garcia**, Cover Design-Fiction, for "Grandma Lale's Magical Adobe Oven;" **Mary Oertel-Kirschner**, Fiction-Cozy Mystery, for "Death of the Head"; and **Jasmine Tritten & Jim Tritten**, Young Readers, for "Kato's Grand Adventure."

Additionally, in the Albuquerque Museum Celebration of Writers Contests, the Anne Hillerman Bronze Award for Unpublished Non-Fiction went to "Linked With the Devil," by **Diane Joy Schmidt**.

Chapter News

Las Cruces Press Women hosted a reading by Anne Hillerman on Nov. 23, 2019, in Las Cruces. Attendees said Hillerman did not disappoint. Hillerman shared fun facts about her new book, "The Tale Teller," and beautiful photos of where the action took place. The event was free, though Hillerman requested that audience members consider a gift to a scholarship in the New Mexico State University Military and Veterans Program to honor her father's service in WWII. Hillerman chose the Josh Dunne Memorial Scholarship in honor of Tony Hillerman's service, and in honor of all service members, especially those who suffer from PTSD.

On the evening of Dec. 13, LCPW gathered at D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro for a no-host holiday gathering. About 15 past, current and future members showed up to share a nice dinner and holiday book exchange. A good time was had by all, and everyone went home with something new to read over the holiday.

Las Cruces Press Women would like to congratulate their 2019 Ruth Sneed Scholarship winner, Ch'Ree Essary, who will graduate this year from NMSU -- and already has a great job lined up!

"Ended 2019 on a major high note," Essary posted on LinkedIn. "I am so excited to announce I have accepted a job offer with the Georgia Cattlemen's Association as a communications specialist. I have a huge passion for agriculture and the beef cattle industry and am so blessed to be starting a job where I can use my talents as a communicator to serve the cattle ranchers of Georgia! I will be working part-time, remotely for the GCA until I graduate in May."



Ch'ree Essary, 2019 recipient of the LCPW Doris Gregory Scholarship Award.

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"A free press can be good or bad, but, most certainly, without freedom a press will never be anything but bad."

Albert Camus

Chapter News

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Retired Journalist Steve Terrell spoke to APWF Jan. 13, 2020.

Albuquerque Press Women and Friends hosted journalist **Steve Terrell**, who spoke Jan. 13 at Mimi's Restaurant. Terrell has just retired from forty years of reporting in Santa Fe, most of it at the Santa Fe New Mexican. He now is proud to call himself "a full-fledged Rock 'n' Roll retiree."

During his long career, Terrell covered Santa Fe City Hall and the New Mexico Legislature, along with the local music scene. In a farewell interview with the New Mexican, he said, "I loved getting involved in the stories. I loved covering City Hall, the crime beat, the political beat. I like seeing the sausage get made."

Though retired, he still handles his Sunday night radio show on KSFR "Terrell's Sound World," and hosts a monthly podcast called "The Big Enchilada."

Folklorist and native New Mexican **Nasario García** shared wonderful stories about his childhood Christmases in Ojo del Padre, New Mexico, at the Northern New Mexico Press Women's annual Holiday Brunch Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Santa Fe home of **Don Strel** and **Anne Hillerman**.



Nasario García shares stories at the home of Don Strel and Anne Hillerman on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019.

Events & Contests

The **Women's International Study Center** is inviting writers, artists, scholars, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply for fellowships-in-residence. WISC seeks proposals aligned with its focus areas, broadly defined, as the arts, sciences, cultural preservation, business and philanthropy. Everyone is welcome at WISC to pursue work relevant to the interests and experiences of women.

WISC's spring review period begins March 1, 2020. Any applications submitted after 12:00 a.m. MST on this date will be reviewed during the next review period, beginning Nov. 1, 2020.

If selected, fellows will be housed in shared space in a private residence in historic Santa Fe. Housing includes a private bedroom with a desk, private bathrooms, common space for meeting and access to a wireless network and printer.



The living area in the historic fellows residence. WISC is accepting applications for its fellowship program through Feb. 29, 2020.

Those interested in applying are encouraged to visit [the WISC website](#) for more information about the organization and our fellowships and [proceed to the application](#).

Events & Contests

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And, of course, preparations are now underway for the 2020 NMPW Conference, to take place March 20-21 at The Canyon Club in Albuquerque's Four Hills area. This year's theme is "Finding the Story: From Investigative Journalism to Mystery Writing."

This year's conference will feature many authors and journalists, including:

- **Susan Holloway Scott**, *Secret Wife of Aaron Burr*
- **Anne Hillerman**, *The Tale Teller*
- **Loretta Hall**, *Out of This World*
- **Mike Gallagher** of the *Albuquerque Journal*

There will also be panel discussions on:

- Finding Stories Across Multiple Genres
- Investigative Journalism
- Mystery Writing
- Finding the Story Within the Story

And, of course, we'll be handing out our annual Zia Book Awards, and recognizing this year's Communicator of Achievement and Communications Contest winners.

Discounted rooms are available at the Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40) for March 20 & 21. Email Stella Helms at stella.helms@marriottsales.com with your reservation request for \$119 per night.

Register today by clicking [HERE](#).



Entries are currently being accepted for the **Women Writing the West Downing Journalism Award**.

The award was created to recognize journalism and articles first published in the year prior to the entry period. The inaugural year of 2018 brought substantial submissions, and WWW looks forward to honoring future recipients of this significant award.

The entry period for The Downing Journalism Award is Jan. 1-March 31, 2020. Final placings and awards will be announced at the 26th Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, Oct. 15-18, 2020.

Read the application guidelines and enter your work [HERE](#).



The Society of Professional Journalists launched the **Black Hole Award** to highlight the most heinous violations of the public's right to know.

By exposing such abuses, SPJ's Freedom of Information Committee seeks to educate the public about their rights and call attention to those who would interfere with openness and transparency.

In 2017, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, under the administration of Gov. Susana Martinez, was nominated by New Mexico journalist Laura Paskus, who won the national award.

Entries for this year's contest are open through Sunday, Feb. 16. To read more about the criteria or nominate an agency you cover, visit the SPJ's website [HERE](#).

Events

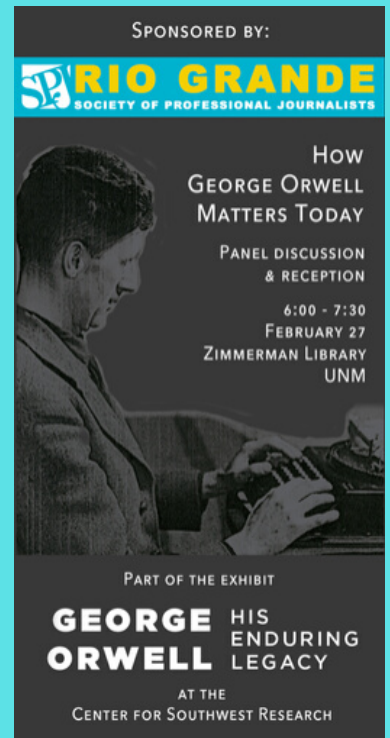
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The **Society of Professional Journalists - Rio Grande Chapter** will sponsor **Doublespeak and Fake News: How George Orwell Matters Today** – a free public reception and panel discussion sponsored by SPJ Rio Grande.

The event will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, at Zimmerman Library on the campus of the University of New Mexico.

George Orwell tackled concerns over totalitarianism in his works "1984," "Animal Farm," and "Homage to Catalonia." Were those works warnings or prophecies? Today one can spot elements of Orwell-coined concepts like doublespeak and newspeak in media. Join the Society of Professional Journalists for a discussion about why Orwell still matters in a divided nation and amid media upheaval.

The event is in conjunction with the ongoing UNM exhibit, "George Orwell: His Enduring Legacy," at the Center for Southwest Research in Zimmerman Library.



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