

# THE BROADSHEET

*The newsletter of New Mexico Press Women*



*More great reads  
inside this issue:*

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## A Message from the President

**BY SHERRI BURR**

Dear New Mexico Press Women Members,

Please save March 20-21, 2020, on your calendars to attend the next NMPW Conference. The theme is "Finding the Story: From Investigative Journalism to Mystery Writing." The conference registration opens in December. The conference features a silent auction to raise money for our NMPW Scholarships. Renowned author Doug Preston has once again donated "Coffee with Doug." On Oct. 8, Loretta Hall and I met Doug at Downtown Subscription in Santa Fe.

Preston shared how he and his writing partner, Lincoln Child, built their email list by creating a newsletter to support their writing. Preston and Child work with a bookseller in Arizona to permit the public to pre-order signed copies of their books.

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# NMPW Communications Contest Opens

BY CAROLYN CARLSON

The annual New Mexico Press Women's Communications Contest recognizes excellence across a broad range of media. Contest winners are announced at the NMPW Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 21, 2020, and first-place winners will advance to the National Federation of Press Women's Communications Contest.

The contest opened Oct. 1, 2019. Book entries are accepted until midnight Feb. 4, 2020. All other entries are accepted until midnight Feb. 11, 2020. All entries received after the early-bird deadline of Jan. 28, 2020, will be charged a one-time \$25 late fee by the national organization.

The Communications Contest is open to anyone over the age of 18, regardless of gender, professional status or location. Collegiate entrants do not have to be over 18 years of age.

There are 61 categories encompassing all types of writing, broadcasting, radio, video, podcasting, editing, photography, graphics and design, web and social media, advertising, communications programs and campaigns, public relations materials, information for the media, speeches, and collegiate/education.

Entry fees for the contest are as follows:

**For members of New Mexico Press Women:**

\$25 for the first entry and \$15 for each additional entry.

**Non-members:**

\$30 for the first entry and \$20 for each additional entry.

**Collegiate entries: \$10 per entry**

To enter the contest, visit

[www.NewMexicoPressWomen.org](http://www.NewMexicoPressWomen.org), or the National Federation of Press Women website at <https://nfpw.org> and follow the directions for entry.

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*“Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.”*  
— Napoleon Bonaparte





# President

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Child signs 3,000 copies of their latest in New York before Preston flies to Phoenix to spend five hours so that the pre-orders have both of their signatures. All 3,000 copies count toward the tabulation of their first week's sales, guaranteeing that their work ends up on all the bestsellers' lists.

You, too, can have the opportunity to have coffee with Doug next year by bidding on this important item at the March 21 silent auction. Meanwhile, the 2020 Contest is now open and waiting for your submissions. Many thanks to Janet Saiers for working last year silent auction and donating her winning bid on "Coffee with Doug" to Loretta after she could not attend. Please feel welcome to join Doug Preston and me at the Albuquerque Museum from 2:30 to 3:15 on Friday, Nov. 8, when we will be part of a panel on "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Publication."



NMPW President Sherri Burr, Author Doug Preston, and NMPW Treasurer Loretta Hall pose for a photo at a recent gathering. [Photo: Sherri Burr]

## A Neighborly Gathering

**By Loretta Hall**

Three members of NMPW participated in a weekend get-together organized by Colorado Press Women in Trinidad on Oct. 4-6. Sharon Niederman and Loretta Hall attended the entire weekend, and Sherri Burr was able to join the group for the Sunday brunch.

Friday evening's dinner event included an overview of Trinidad's history presented by Mayor Phil Rico and a talk about the viability of the Trinidad Chronicle News by its editor, Eric Monson. NFPW President Gwen Larson spoke about NFPW and, in particular, the Communications Contest that just opened. Gwen and the president of Wichita Professional Communicators came from Kansas for the weekend.

On Saturday, the group had a trolley tour of Trinidad's historic district, narrated by Mayor Rico, a tour of the Trinidad History Museum, and a tour of Temple Aaron, the oldest synagogue in Colorado. Participants had their choice of two local restaurants to gather for small group dinners.

The Sunday brunch was at the home of CPW Board Member Lee Anne Peck at her home in Weston.

We had a wonderful time renewing friendships that began at previous NFPW conferences.



(L-R) NMPW President Sherri Burr, NFPW President Gwen Larson, Colorado Press Women President Sandy Nance, and Wichita Professional Communicators President Amy Geiszler-Jones.



“The only security of all is in a free press.”

— Thomas Jefferson

# Member News

**NMPW President Sherri Burr** has been busy promoting her new book, "Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865," which was published in August. Sherri **was featured in a [Washington Post article](#)** about her ancestor, John Pierre Burr.

She was also featured in a CNN News story, "**[Aaron Burr, the Vice President best known for shooting Alexander Hamilton, had a secret biracial family.](#)**"



Also, Sherri's story was shared in a front-page profile in the *Albuquerque Journal*, "**[Puzzle solved: UNM professor traces roots back to Aaron Burr.](#)**"

"Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865" is available for purchase **[HERE](#)**.

After stints as Public Information Officer for the Third Judicial District Attorney's Office and Director of Communication for Las Cruces Public Schools, **NMPW Vice President Damien Willis** has returned to the **[Las Cruces Sun-News](#)** as a Lead Reporter and Coach.

"Writing and reporting is where my passion lies, and it feels good to be back at the Sun-News," Willis said. His duties will include business and general assignment reporting, as well as talent development for the paper.



Damien Willis

**Rose Marie Kern** offered a class over two Saturdays in October on how to use KDP Amazon to self-publish your books. The class was offered through SouthWest Writers and took place on Oct 12 and 19. Rose Marie is the current President of SouthWestWriters. Her latest book, "**[Stress is Relative](#)**," is a finalist in the New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards, and is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

Author **Janet K. Brennan** will soon have her latest book, entitled "Desert Candles," released by Cyberwit Publishing. The cover is designed by Jasmine Tritten. "This is a spiritual compilation on life and its glorious journey toward transition," Janet says.

**Kathleen McCleery** had two stories broadcast this summer on the PBS NewsHour, a national nightly news program on Public Broadcasting. **[The first centered on the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe](#)** and Kewa Pueblo jewelry-maker Mary Louise Tafoya.

The second focused on **[a retrospective of the work of mid-20th century designer Alexander Girard](#)** whose folk art collection is on permanent display at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe. Both stories can be seen on the PBS NewsHour's website and YouTube channel.



Anne Hillerman

**Anne Hillerman** was a featured speaker at the Southwest Festival of the Written Word in Silver City and at Women Writing the West, a writers conference in San Antonio, Texas.

She will speak on a panel with well-known mystery authors Elizabeth George and Peter Lovesay at Bouchercon, an international convention for mystery authors and fans in Dallas at the end of October.

**Leona Stucky** was invited to participate in the **[Kansas Book Festival](#)**, which took place on Sept. 14.

**NMPW Treasurer Loretta Hall's** book "Space Pioneers: In Their Own Words" received a Gold Medal from the Military Writers Society of America at the organization's conference banquet. See the accompanying book review **[HERE](#)**.



Loretta Hall



## Member News

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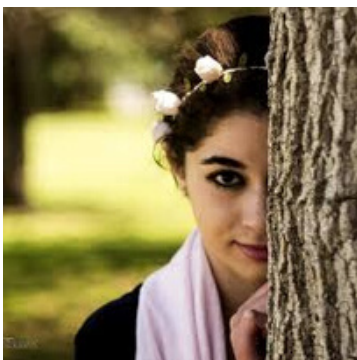
Former NMPW board member **Bud Russo** gave a brief talk about writing his non-fiction work, "**Heroes and Villains of New Mexico**," at Steve Brewer's Organic Books, on Carlisle Blvd. in Albuquerque, on Aug. 3.



Bud Russo

NMPW Member **Kira Sadler, MSc**, was recently nominated for the Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award for her work with Voices for Biodiversity, bringing cultural diversity to biodiversity conservation. She will be attending the awards ceremony in November in Los Angeles to connect with other nominees.

Would you like to help others speak out to save biodiversity? Voices for Biodiversity is currently seeking advisory board members who are interested in fundraising. Also, if there are individuals in your community who have important stories to share, Voices for Biodiversity is seeking story-gatherers. These individuals work to share their community's biodiversity stories and build local community around biodiversity loss. Email [info@VoicesforBiodiversity.org](mailto:info@VoicesforBiodiversity.org) for more information.



Ludella Awad

**NMPW Social Media Chair and Acting Website Chair Ludella Awad** wrote an op-ed for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, entitled "**UNM Journalism students deserve better.**"

At the conclusion of the conference of the Military Writers Society of America/SouthWest Writers, **Elaine Montague** received a second-place medal for an article titled "*Stepping Up to Rehab.*" Montague says it is an honor to have received the award.

"More excitement came to my husband and me a couple of weeks after the conference when we learned our book is a finalist for the NM/AZ Book Award in Biography," Montague said. "The full title is 'Victory from the Shadows: Growing Up in a New Mexico School for the Blind and Beyond,' by Gary Ted and Elaine Carson Montague. It is my husband's story, beginning in the days of WWII and extending through 32 years at Sandia National Labs with a 2019 guide about living with low vision. We did book talks and signings in September and have two planned for November. We are available to meet with groups wanting to learn about visual impairment or the writing process."

## Chapter News

The **Northern New Mexico Press**

**Women** held a networking luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, at Joe's Dining in Santa Fe. The guest speaker was Tripp Stelnicki, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's director of communications, chief speechwriter and advisor. Before that, he was the City Hall and Santa Fe County reporter at the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. Stelnicki is originally from Chicago.

In other chapter news, members and guests of Northern New Mexico Press Women will gather in Santa Fe at the home of **Anne Hillerman**, NNMPW President, and **Don Strel** for the Annual Holiday Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 15. Special guest, renowned folklorist, author and poet Nasario Garcia, will share his childhood memories of Christmas in the Rio Puerco Valley in the late 1930s-to-'40s.

# Chapter News

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Edward Harness [Courtesy photo]

is working. He will also discuss issues of current concern.

Harness is a graduate of Marquette University Law School. Prior to law school, as a City of Milwaukee Police Officer, he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Management of Criminal Justice Operations from Concordia University. He is a native Californian, served in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman, and a City of Milwaukee Police Officer. Mr. Harness also served seven years as a volunteer Police Commissioner in Wisconsin.

During his 15 years in private practice of law, he was recognized as one of Milwaukee's Top Rated Attorneys. His practice areas were Consumer Rights, Foreclosure Defense, Mortgage Modifications, and bankruptcy. For a time he served on the US Postal Service's Mediation Panel, and was the Director of the Better Business Bureau's Dispute Resolution Center.



Eddie S. Hughes [Courtesy photo]

Edward Harness, Executive Director of Albuquerque's Civilian Police Oversight Agency spoke to Albuquerque Press Women and Friends on Monday, Oct. 14, at at Mimi's Cafe about the agency and the way it

In September 2015 the Civilian Police Oversight Agency Board selected him to be the first Executive Director of the CPOA. Albuquerque Press Women and Friends meet monthly on the second Monday. Anyone is welcome at meetings, but non-members will be charged an additional \$5. Attendees order individual meals directly from the menu. APWF focuses on a wide variety of communication opportunities. At the Nov. 11 meeting, APWF will host Eddie S. Hughes, a long time writer and reporter for the Dallas Morning News. He will talk about the "JFK Assassination, A Reporter Reminisces." Hughes covered the assassination of President Kennedy, and the burial of Lee Harvey Oswald. Hughes spent a long life as a reporter and public relations executive in Texas and New Mexico.

After a couple of initial meetings of the **Las Cruces Press Women** board and members, it was decided to reconstitute LCPW and direct the current focus to emphasize interests of freelancers — although not at the exclusion of other areas of interest to the board and members.

Current board members are:

- **Elaine Stachera**, president
- **Cheryl Fallstead**, vice-president/secretary
- **Bud Russo**, treasurer
- **Jessica Savage**, board member
- **Tracy Roy**, board member
- **Damien Willis**, board member
- **Cassie McClure**, board member

The first event as the reconstituted LCPW will be a Nov. 22-23 book-signing/talk/reception/fundraiser featuring **Anne Hillerman**.

Details are currently being hashed out, but at this point, a book sale and signing will take place at 6 p.m. on Nov. 22 at Barnes and Noble in the Mesilla Valley Mall, followed by a Nov. 23 LCPW talk and reception/fundraiser for an NMSU scholarship for student veterans. Stachera, who works at the NMSU Foundation, is working on the logistics of



# Chapter News

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this with the director of the NMSU Military and Veterans Program. Anne's father, author Tony Hillerman, was a veteran of WWII, so the cause is close to her heart. A holiday party and book exchange is planned to help recruit new and returning members on Dec. 13 at a location to be determined.

# Events


On Saturday, Nov. 9, from 2:30–3:15, **Sherri Burr** will be a panelist at the Albuquerque Museum's "The Celebration of Writing" event when she speaks about "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Publication." The Albuquerque Museum is located at 2000 Mountain Rd. SW.

The **Santa Fe Council on International Relations** is thrilled to announce that **Journalism Under Fire** will return for a second year, November 14–15. This time, the organization will ask, "How does technology shape the truth?" and explore artificial intelligence, digital forensics, social media, fake news, and the weaponized narrative. As last year, the organization will actively connect the global to the national and the local.

- How might "deep" or "shallow" fakes – where a person's voice or image is deliberately and often maliciously manipulated – influence an electoral process or work to silence journalists?
- How do social media platforms assist the "weaponized narrative" by disseminating nonfactual or hate-driven messages? Particularly in developing countries, how has this misinformation contributed to persecution and even undermined democratic institutions?
- How are journalists using digital forensics and big data – from crowd-sourced videos and photos, and data from cell phones and satellites – to assist their pursuit of the truth?



For information on the Journalism Under Fire Conference, including sponsorship opportunities, please contact CIR's Executive Director Sandy Campbell at [sandy@sfcir.org](mailto:sandy@sfcir.org), or by phone at 505-316-1361. Or visit [www.sfcir.org/journalism-under-fire](http://www.sfcir.org/journalism-under-fire)



**ANNE HILLERMAN**  
BOOK TALK, SIGNING & RECEPTION

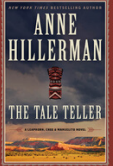
**Saturday, November 23, 3 p.m.**  
Good Samaritan – Las Cruces Village  
3011 Buena Vida Circle

- Talk will be held in Social Center auditorium downstairs
- Signing, sales, and reception in the Creative Arts Room

Meet New York Times best-selling author Anne Hillerman as she discusses her popular series of books and her father, Tony. Hosted by Las Cruces Press Women and Good Samaritan – Las Cruces Village. Book sales provided by Barnes & Noble.

Donations will be accepted for the Josh Dunne Memorial Scholarship, part of the Military and Veterans Program at New Mexico State University, in honor of Tony Hillerman's service in World War II. Donations not required to attend.

Anne will also sign books Friday, November 22, at 6 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in the Mesilla Valley Mall.




Sherri Burr

**Sherri Burr** will speak at Southwest Writers on "Synchronicity and Perseverance – Two Elements to Finishing a Project," from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living, 2801 Louisiana NE.

**Sherri Burr** will read from "Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619–1865" at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, at Organic Books, 111 Carlisle Blvd. SE in Nob Hill, Albuquerque. Friday,

**Burr** will also read from "Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619–1865" at Collected Works, located at 202 Gallisteo St. in Santa Fe at 6 p.m. on Dec. 6.



## Events

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**SouthWest Writers** will host a Holiday Hootenanny from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Labyrinth Room of the Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living. All members of New Mexico Press Women are invited to attend.

The event will feature awards, door prizes, cake, grab bags, writing games and music by the Jammy Time Band.

# In Memoriam

**Arsenio Cordova**, the husband of Kathy Cordova (a former state president and long-time NMPW member), died after a long battle with brain cancer. Arsenio, a lifelong El Prado resident spent years working in human services before retiring to pursue interests in preserving some of Taos' history and traditions. He also founded Taos Walking Tours. He performed at NMPW's Taos conference and helped with various NMPW activities.

Read Staci Matlock's story from the Taos News, "[Historian, musician, activist Arsenio Cordova has died.](#)" Kathy is a member of the Northern New Mexico Chapter. She can be reached at Kathy Cordova, P.O. Box 8, El Prado, NM 87529.

# The NMPW Board

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**Zia Book Awards Chair Carolyn Carlson:**

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**Vice President/Broadsheet Editor Damien Willis:**

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**Public Relations Chair Cheryl Burbank:**

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**Secretary Kathy Wagoner:** justwritesww@gmail.com

**Scholarship Chair Jessica Savage:**

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**Treasurer Loretta Hall:**

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**Social Media Chair & Acting Website Chair Ludella**

**Awad:** socialmedia@newmexicopresswomen.org

**Communications Contest Chair Carolyn Carlson:**

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