

# The Broadsheet

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## Save the date: April 27-28

NMPW's Northern Chapter is well along in its planning for the April 27-28 conference, "Telling Truths Boldly: Harnessing the Narrative Drive," to be held at The Lodge in Santa Fe.

Speakers and/or panelists will include Sara Solovitch, editor of Seachlight New Mexico; DACA Dreamer Cindy Nava, who writes for the Huffington Post; playwright Karen Jones Meadows, whose play about Harriet Tubman has been performed throughout the country; filmmaker Ben Daitz, who produced the documentary about the Rio Grande Sun.

Lauren Camp will lead a workshop on memoir writing, and Sherri Burr will interview author Hampton Sides.

The banquet speaker is Caroline Fraser, author of *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, named one of the top ten 2017 books by the New York Times.

Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from the Santa Fe New Mexican and \$1,000 from New Mexico Bank & Trust, the committee will keep conference costs relatively low. The full-conference registration is expected to be \$125; the room rate offered by The Lodge is \$89 per night.

## Friends of NM Books and Authors Award

**President Loretta Hall** has some exciting news: The selection committee of the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards has decided to present NMPW with its Friends of New Mexico Books and Authors in recognition of our contests and speaking opportunities. The award will be presented at the organization's awards banquet in November.

## iGens and freedom of speech

By Sherri Burr, First Amendment Chair

On Dec. 30, I participated on a panel entitled "Truth Decay & the Stories We Fall For" at Renaissance Weekend in Charleston, S. C.

Moderator Luiza Savage, Politico's editorial director of cross-platform content, asked me to address First Amendment challenges on university campuses. I mentioned the First Amendment guarantee of the right to free speech is not absolute because no one has a right to send obscene material through the mail or incite violence.



After reading the book *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood* by Jean Twenge during

the past week, I might have responded differently.

Twenge analyzes the university environment as having been upended by the arrival of iGens, or those born between 1995-2012. Twenge points out that this is the first generation to come of age after the iPhone introduction in 2007 and have become so attached to their smart phones that they actually sleep with them. According to her research, iGens believe that free speech should be restricted. Insults sent through social media platforms and hateful email, by illustration, lingers. Thirty-six percent of teenagers in 2016 were cyber-bullied, and the rate of suicide among teenagers has increased dramatically. Words harm.

Not only were Christine Lagarde (managing director of the International Monetary Fund) and Condoleeza Rice (former U.S. Secretary of State) disinvited from college campus, but even comedians are coming under fire for their humor. Chris Rock says he will no longer perform on college campuses because today's students are too easily offended. According to Twenge, campus representatives attend a convention to audition comedians for college campuses, and they avoid those whose words spark of barbs and aggression.

Twenge connects iGens' desire for safe spaces with their slower maturity to adulthood. They have been brought up in homes where parents protected them and have been relaxed about obtaining drivers licenses and jobs. University officials are now expected to provide on campus an extension of the safe spaces created in students' homes.

The challenge for iGens may be that as they seek to restrict speech deemed harmful, the flow of ideas may be less likely to advance society. No doubt, many Caucasians did not initially appreciate Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, yet his words eventually led the country on a First Amendment guarantee way toward a more egalitarian society.

## **NMPW News**

**Communications Contest Chair Carolyn Carlson** said the contest is in full swing. **Deadline is Feb. 6.** So far, we have received 144 entries from about 40 entrants. Carolyn put out a nationwide call for judges and got an enthusiastic response. She says we're at or near the top of the pack for entries nationwide.



**Bill Diven**, chair of the **Zia Book Awards** contest reports that he received 27 entries as of Jan. 25. Entrants included at least six renewing their NMPW memberships or joining for the first time. The contest selection committee consists of four published authors, and Bill is looking for one more judge.

**Peter St. Cyr** agreed to chair the **High School Contest**, which is ramping up. NMPW is waiving the entry fee and will use sponsors to help offset costs. Peter will soon begin recruiting judges. The deadline is Feb. 20, although it may be extended.

Know any journalism students? Encourage them to apply for an NMPW scholarship. NMPW annually awards two \$750 **Doris Gregory Memorial Journalism Scholarships**. Recipients must be pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree or minor in print journalism, broadcast, photojournalism, public relations, communications or advertising at a New Mexico college or university the following fall 2018 semester.

**Scholarship Chair Kacey Schurr** has sent information to colleges. Applications must be postmarked by March 19. Judges are **Sherri Burr**, **Damien Willis**, and Kendra Jacobs. Winners will be informed by April 14.

## NM/AZ Book Award and NMPA Winners

Congratulations to NMPW members who won 2017 New Mexico/Arizona Book

### Awards:

- **Joanne Bodin**, *Orchid of the Night*, gay-lesbian category;
- **Sherri Burr**, *Entertainment Law in a Nutshell*, business category;
- **Loretta Hall**, *Miguel & Michelle Visit Spaceport America*, young readers category;
- **Lenton Malry**, *Let's Roll This Train*, Father Thomas Steele History Award;
- **Roberta Parry** for *Killing Time* in the book cover design, fiction category;
- **Paul Rhetts**, *The Basic Genealogy Checklist*, reference book category.



Joanne also won the New York City Big Book Award 2017 as Distinguished

Favorite LGBT fiction.

NMPW members who received awards in the **New Mexico Press Association's 2017**

**Better Newspaper Contest** were:

- **Leota Harriman**, editor and publisher of *The Independent*, two first place and four second place awards in the weekly division;
- The Las Cruces Bulletin's **Tracy Roy**, first place for general news photo in the weekly division;
- **Damien Willis**, *Las Cruces Sun-News*, first place for feature writing in the daily division;
- **Sherry Robinson**, second place for series or continuing coverage in the daily division for work published in the Gallup Independent.



## NMPW Chapters

**Albuquerque Press Women & Friends** meets on the second Monday of every month at the Golden Corral. In January, Chief Public Defender for the Second Judicial District Richard Pugh spoke about problems the public defenders face in handling increases in the number of criminal cases. In February, Tara Gatewood, host for NPR's Native America Calling will speak. In November Jim O'Neill, former assistant secretary and director of tax policy for the state Taxation and Revenue Department, was the speaker.

**Julie Anne Grimm**, editor of the Santa Fe Reporter, spoke to the **Northern Chapter** in October. She talked about the newspaper's lawsuit seeking access to the governor's office for

stories and information. The chapter's holiday party was at **Anne Hillerman** and Don Strel's house.

### Member Notes



You can't keep a good woman down. **Past President Cheryl Fallstead** had shoulder surgery and still competed in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day walk.

The **New Mexico Foundation for Open Government** received a \$500 grant from the **Best of the West Foundation** in October to help underwrite the costs of its information and assistance hotline. FOG's free hotline is staffed by Executive Director **Peter St. Cyr**, who is also NMPW treasurer, with help from volunteer attorneys. If you have questions about open meetings, public records and First Amendment issues, call 505-764-3750 or email [info@nmfog.org](mailto:info@nmfog.org).



**Chris Burroughs** has retired from CNM. "I will never quit completely, however. I hope to do some freelance work," she said. "My boss asked me today, what was my favorite job over the years. I honestly liked all of them."

**Diane Joy Schmidt** won a first place for personal essay in New Mexico Jewish Link from the **American Jewish Press Association**.

The Tierra Grande Improvement Association gave **Sandy Schauer** this cool jacket, made by a resident of Tierra Grande, to thank Sandy for the 25 years she has written their newsletter. She expects to continue, although maybe not for another 25 years.



**Anne Hillerman's** third book, *Song of the Lion*, made the New York Times Bestseller list this summer.

Former state Sen. **Dede Feldman** was elected to the board of **NM FOG**.

**Damien Willis** is now public information officer at the Doña Ana District Attorney's Office.

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