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Left to Right: Randy Royster, President and CEO of the Albuquerque Foundation, Sherri Burr, Loretta Hall, and Dominic Garcia who runs the scholarship program.

A Message from the President

BY SHERRI BURR

On behalf of the New Mexico Press Women Board of Directors, I am thrilled to invite our members and friends to attend our 75th Anniversary conference with the theme, “Profiling Courageous Communicators: Celebrating 75 Years of New Mexico Press Women.” The conference schedule is now on our website, and is included in this issue as well.

Not only will we be joined by luminaries such as George RR Martin, Anne Hillerman, Hampton Sides, and James McGrath Morris, but we will also celebrate NMPW in a special way at our Friday evening reception.

During the weekend of March 15-16, 2024, we will meet at the Isleta Resort and Hotel. Those wishing to get a jump on reservations can contact Isleta Resort and Hotel at 877-747-5382 or (505)848-1999 and give the following reservation code to secure our outstanding rate of \$149 per night: NMP0324. I have already reserved my rooms and paid for the conference at the discounted rate for members and friends until December 31, 2023. Come the first of the year, the rates will increase.

(Continued on next page)

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President

Finally, in honor of our 75th Anniversary, NMPW has endowed two scholarships, the Anne and Tony Hillerman Scholarship for Undergraduates and the Rosenstiel Scholarship for Graduate Students. I am most grateful to NMPW members Anne Hillerman and Leonie Rosenstiel for their generosity.

Sherri Burr, President
New Mexico Press Women



News from the December Board Meeting

Resignation

Ludella Awad, Social Media Chair (We need a new one.)

Current Zia Award Chair

Jennifer Hull

Endowed Scholarship

NMPW has established a graduate and an undergraduate scholarship, administered by the Albuquerque Community Foundation. Contributions will be tax-exempt.

Communications Contest and Zia Contest

Both contests began on October 1, 2023.

2024 Conference

Next year's NMPW Conference will be held at Isleta Resort on March 15-16, 2024.

Finances

Treasurer Loretta Hall announced a \$300 surplus; \$250 will go to the creation of the endowed scholarship fund.

NMPW 2024 Conference Schedule

Friday, March 15, 2024

12:00 – 1:30 – Board Meeting Luncheon (Isleta Resort Boardroom)

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Interview

Dr. Regina Griego will interview Author Denise Chavez

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. –Panel

Courageous Fiction and Narrative Non-Fiction Writing with Lynne Hinton (moderator), Sherri Burr, Margaret Cheasebro, and Léonie Rosenstiel (panelists)

5:00 – 6:30 P.M. Reception

Celebrating NMPW by looking back to the NFPW Annual Conference in New Mexico with Sherri Burr (moderator), Denise Tessier, Melanie Majors and NMPW COAs

Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. – Annual Meeting

9:00 – 9:50 a.m. –Panel

The Creative Contributions of Anne and Tony Hillerman
Loretta Hall (moderator), James McGrath Morris and Anne Hillerman (Panelists)

10:00 – 10:50 a.m. -Interview

Sherri Burr will interview Hampton Sides

11:00 – 11:50 a.m.-Panel

Covering and Supporting Journalists and Communicators through their work: Linda Lockett (moderator), Rose Marie Kern, Lorene Mills, David Steinberg, and Sherry Robinson (panelists)

12:00 -1:15 –Zia Award and Scholarship Lunch

Jen Hull and Brandon Larrañaga will present the awards

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Workshop

Photo Journalism Workshop with Eric Draper, White House Photographer for President George W. Bush

5:30 – 8:30 Communications Banquet

Courageous Communicator Award to George RR Martin (banquet speaker)
Presentation of Communications Contest Awards (Carolyn Carlson)
Presentation of Communicator of Achievement (Adam Biederman)
Presentation of Courageous NMPW Leadership Award (Loretta Hall)
Installation of New Officers (Sherri Burr)

New Endowed Scholarships Established for Journalism Students

Beginning in the summer of 2024, journalism students will be able to apply for two new, endowed scholarships. The Anne and Tony Hillerman Scholarship and the Rosenstiel Scholarship will be awarded annually by a panel created by the New Mexico Community Foundation. The Hillerman Scholarship will be given to an undergraduate student. The Rosenstiel Scholarship is designated for a graduate student with an interest in the First Amendment and other Bill of Rights issues.

Anne Hillerman and her late father, Tony Hillerman, have had a longstanding relationship with both New Mexico and New Mexico writers, frequently contributing their time and assets to the writing community. Anne, an award-winning journalist and novelist, is a longtime NMPW member and past president.

Léonie Rosenstiel, current NMPW vice president, created the Rosenstiel Scholarship in recognition of the part played by journalists—and particularly by those at the *Albuquerque Journal*—in helping her to lift a gag order that curtailed her private freedom of speech and prevented her from writing, publishing, or speaking in public over a period of years.

The Foundation's panel will determine the award winners, with the advice of a representative from NMPW.

Each of the new scholarships will pay the winners \$1,000 the first year, and then vary with the size of the endowment fund after that. Contributions to both the undergraduate and graduate scholarship funds are always welcome, and can be made at: <https://go.abqcf.org/nmpw>



SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NMPW 2024 New Mexico Communications Contest

Now is the time to start to review your work during the 2023 media year and enter the New Mexico Press Women's state level tier of the National Federation of Press Women's prestigious communications contest. The state contest is the first tier in the national contest. All entries are submitted through the National Federation of Press Women website.

First place winners in the state level contest are eligible to move to the national level of judging. To be eligible to move to the national contest, the entrant must be a member in good standing with the National Federation of Press Women. The contest is open to media people over the age of 18 regardless of gender, professional status or location.

There are more than 60 categories covering writing, editing, photography, graphic design, radio and television, web and social media, advertising, communication programs and campaigns, public relations materials, information for the media, speeches and collegiate/education.

All work must have been published or broadcast between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023 to be eligible for entry. Entry fees for New Mexico Press Women are \$25 for the first entry and \$15 for each additional entry. Nonmember fees are \$30 for the first entry and \$20 for each additional entry. Student fees are \$10 for the first and \$10 for each additional entry.

Deadlines

Early Bird Deadline, January 17, 2024 (noon in your time zone)

A one-time \$25 fee will be assessed to all entrants after this date.

Book Final Deadline, January 31, 2024 (noon in your time zone)

Due to the extended time it takes to judge book categories, all book entries must be entered by this date.

Final Deadline, February 7, 2024 (noon in your time zone)

All remaining entries must be entered by this date.

(Continued on next page)



Communications Contest (Cont'd)

New Mexico Press Women will pay the additional national entry fee for one qualified entry by an NMPW member (who was a paid member by January 31, 2024); \$25 national fees for additional entries by NMPW members and all entries for nonmembers must be paid by the entrant (entrants will be notified by email). State level contest winners will be announced at the annual NMPW conference planned for March 15-16, 2024 at Isleta Hotel and Resort. For more information go to newmexicopresswomen.org.

Finalists and winners of the New Mexico Communications contests for books may order attractive foil stickers. The stickers do not have a date, so previous finalists and winners can use them. The cost is \$25.00 for 100 stickers. Order stickers at our [online store](#).



Zia Book Award Contest

The Zia Book Award started in 1953 to honor an outstanding woman in New Mexico media. Each year the award rotates to one of three categories: non-fiction, fiction, and children's literature. To accommodate this schedule, a book published in the last three years is eligible. See the [Zia Book Award](#) page for information about this year's contest, which is now open for submissions.

Finalists and winners of the Zia Book Award may order attractive foil stickers. The stickers do not have a date, so previous finalists and winners can use them. The cost is \$25.00 for 100 stickers. Order stickers at our [online store](#).



NMPW High School Communications Contest

The National Federation of Press Women High School Communications Contest is now open.

This is one of only a few nationwide communications competitions for high school students. It inspires students to do outstanding work in their quest for excellence. Because NFPW's state affiliate, New Mexico Press Women, is not hosting a contest, students may enter the NFPW At-Large High School Communications Contest. First-place winners of the at-large contest will receive an award certificate, an invitation to the National High School Luncheon at the NFPW National Conference, and a check for \$100 per first-place entry.

All first-place entries from the national contest will move to the NFPW National High School Communications Award of Excellence where they will be judged against one another. The student or team whose national first-place entry is judged best among all national first-place entries will receive an NFPW High School Communications Award of Excellence and an additional \$250 per entry. Another \$250 is be awarded to the school or program the student attends.

All contest entries must have been published, e-published, broadcast, or issued between Feb. 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024. For more detailed information at the NFPW High School Contest web page. Final deadline for entry is February 7, 2023, at noon in the entrant's time zone.



Communicator of Achievement Contest

The Communicator of Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed by New Mexico Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women upon those members who have distinguished themselves within and beyond their profession. See this year's details on the [2024 COA page](#).

The recipient, chosen from nominations by NMPW members, is recognized for exceptional achievement in the communications field, service to NMPW/NFPW and to the community.

All nominees must be living members, in good standing for at least two years in NMPW and NFPW.

A previous nominee can be named by an affiliate again, as long as he or she has not been honored as NFPW's national COA winner. Specifics on building a nomination packet, rules for entry, nomination form and more will be posted here when they are announced by NFPW later this year. Also, there is nothing barring self-nomination. For more information, contact NMPW COA Chair [Adam Biederwolf](#).

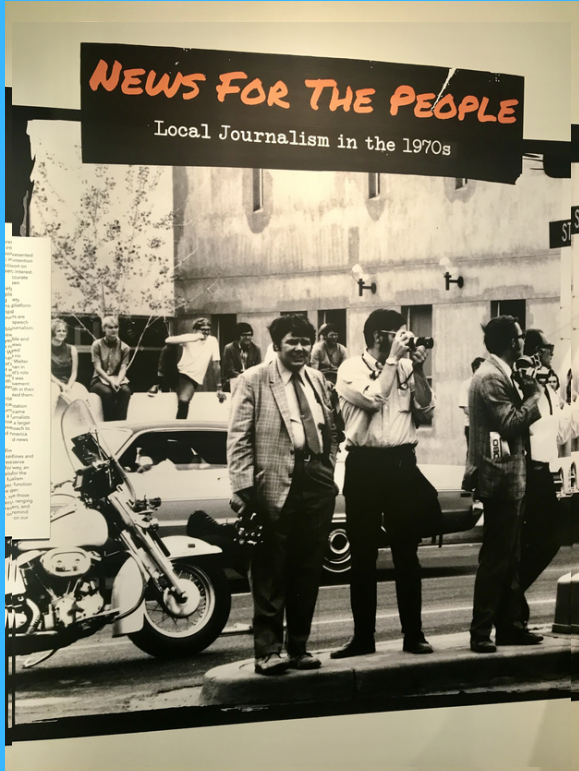
The COA Award winner will be announced at the NMPW annual conference. The winner represents our state in the national competition with the national COA and the runner-up announced at the Communicator of Achievement Award Banquet at NFPW's annual conference in the fall. Each nominee is featured in NFPW's AGENDA newsletter prior to the conference and spotlighted at the awards banquet.



CREDIT: FREEPIX.COM

Journalism Exhibit at The Albuquerque Museum

By Robert Flinkman
Photos by Linda Lockett

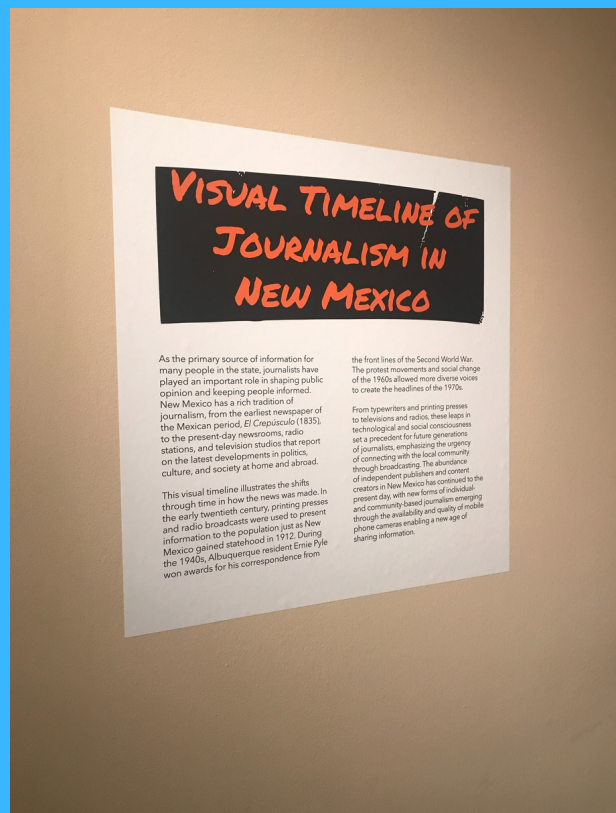


Poster for the exhibit.

In late November, Linda Lockett, Member at Large, and Robert Flinkman, Historian, met at the Albuquerque Museum with Jonathan Wright, history curatorial assistant and organizer of the exhibit, News For The People : Local Journalism in the 1970s. Linda had the idea to use graphics using the texts in the exhibit to show examples of the history of journalism in New Mexico, which would be shown during the NMPW Conference celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Each text would be mounted on an easel. Some of the texts chosen were : Ethics, Pioneers in Journalism, Journalism in New Mexico. Several texts also included photos. Jonathan Wright would provide a link to these texts, and members of the Board would get together and select which ones to use and have them mounted to be displayed at the conference. It's a great opportunity to share some areas of journalism in New Mexico with the participants at the conference.

NMPW has certainly gotten great publicity with its participation in this exhibit at the museum. New Mexico in Focus featured the exhibit in a segment from Nov.10th and 12th, interviewing both Denise Tessier, former historian and journalist, and Jonathan Wright. Denise spoke about her experience as a journalist in the 1970s.

The exhibit ends on March 3rd, 2024.



Above: Visual Timeline of Journalism in New Mexico. A page from the exhibit.

Writing to Heal: Free Memoir Workshop for Veterans (a Reminder)

By Jim Tritten

SouthWest Writers (SWW) is pleased to announce that it has received a 2024 New Mexico Arts (NMA) grant in support of using creative writing to heal. It is inviting eligible NMPW members to participate.

New Mexico veterans or active-duty military can apply to take a free four-week online memoir writing course taught by Latayne Scott, author of some 30 published books.

Selected enrollees will pace themselves through online modules and post their writing assignments on a private page where other students and the instructor will record comments. Computer competence is required. The modules are not taught using Zoom but are online, just as courses are taught today in schools and colleges.

This cycle, the program funded by NMA is only for New Mexico veterans and active-duty military. A New Mexico participant must be either a current resident of the state or, if on active-duty, still a legal resident. The applicant's official Home of Record is New Mexico, votes, has a car registered, and the driver's license is from New Mexico.

The course is expected to start in February 2024, and admittance is limited. Priority will be given to applicants from remote areas of the state (such as Silver City, Clovis, Farmington, or Clayton) and to those who have not yet written a memoir.

Please share this opportunity with veterans and active-duty military you know. Click on the following link to the SWW website to obtain more information and apply.

<https://www.southwestwriters.com/online-memoir-writing-course-for-nm-veterans/>



Left: Latayne C. Scott

Member News

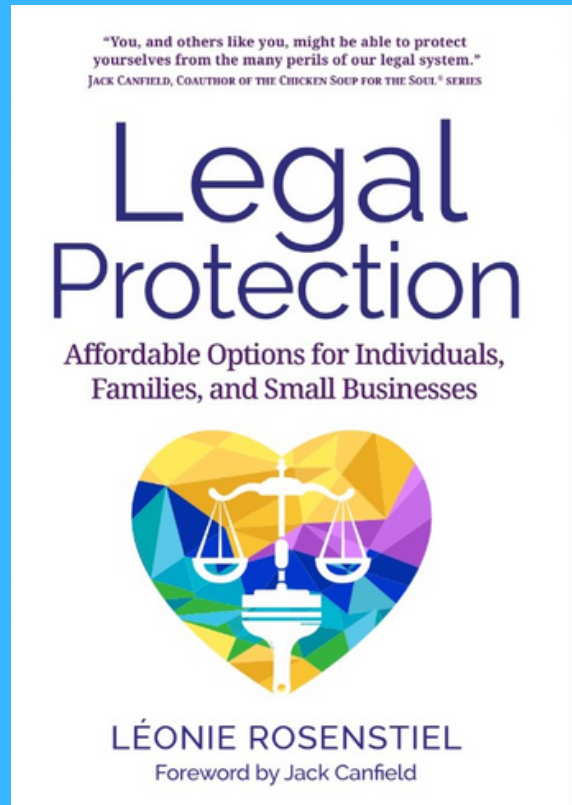
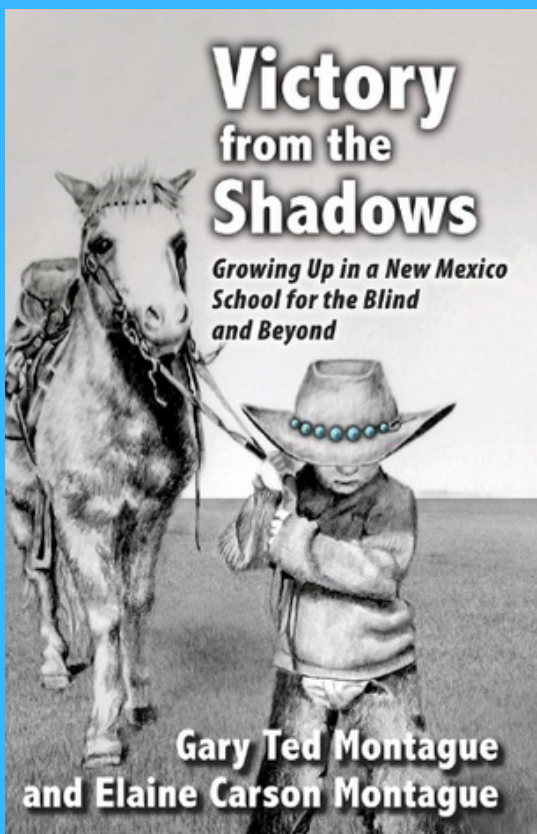
NMPW President Sherri Burr represented Princeton University in September at the inauguration of Mount Holyoke College's 20th President, Danielle R. Holley. At the annual meeting of the Aaron Burr Association in Charlottesville in October, Sherri was elected Executive Vice President of the Organization. Sherri had served as the Third Vice President since 2018. In her new role, she will help the Association's President to organize the next annual meeting at Princeton in 2024.

Sherri has also been elected Vice Chairman of the Albuquerque Museum Board of Trustees and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of Authors Guild Foundation.

Member Diane Layden reports that on November 16, she spoke about Juan de Oñate to The Neighborhood, a senior living facility in Rio Rancho.

On November 17, she appeared on "New Mexico in Focus" on KNME, NMPBS, Channel 5. Jeff Proctor interviewed her about the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Advisory and Review Board.

Member Elaine Montague spoke on October 20, at Mad Coffee and Bagels in Alamogordo, about her prizewinning book *Victory from the Shadows*.

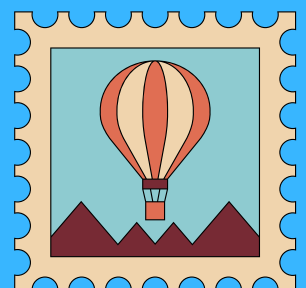


On November 4, **Léonie Rosenstiel**, NMPW vice president, presented a Zoom lecture "Protecting Mama," for the Front Porch Community Foundation (California), discussing ways to keep families together despite the difficulties often facing their elders. She was invited to give another lecture for the group in 2024, this one on end-of-life planning.

Legal Protection (pictured above) is scheduled for a Zoom book launch on January 22, 2024. All NMPW members are invited. Please email Leonie for a link at: leonie@dayspringresources.com.

On January 24, Léonie will speak for SouthWest Writers about Jack Canfield's part in her latest book, *Legal Protection*, due out in January. She was delighted when Canfield, co-author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul® series, offered to write the Foreword.

Are you a member with news you'd like to share? Email Léonie Rosenstiel: rosensti63@gmail.com



Chapter News

Albuquerque Chapter Report – December 2023

Karen Wentworth reports that Albuquerque Press Women and Friends have had a wide variety of speakers in the last quarter.

In September, Albuquerque Press Women and Friends heard from two current Albuquerque Public School Board Members about the problems the school board is facing in dealing with a public school district that has rapidly declining enrollment.

October brought a serious discussion of guns in Albuquerque, with Gilbert Gallegos, a former journalist and now spokesperson for the Albuquerque Police Department discussing the problems of juveniles who break into cars and trucks looking for guns to steal. Gilbert also talked about the growing problem of ghost guns in Albuquerque.

In November, Barbara Webber from Health Action New Mexico spoke to us about the changing health insurance environment in the state and the new problems with Medicaid recipients who have had to reapply under federal regulations. Only a fraction of the eligible people have actually done the paperwork to reapply, leaving thousands of people in New Mexico without any kind of health insurance.

Sunnier times are coming up in December when we will discuss the growing solar panel industry. APWF is picking up new members, many of them retired politicians who are simply interested in some intelligent conversation.



Northern New Mexico Chapter Report – December 2023

The November meeting featured Senator Peter Wirth. He discussed the upcoming 30 Day session and the budget considerations with approximately \$5m in new funds to budget. Joining Senator Wirth was his wife Santa Fe City Councilor Carol Romero Wirth, discussing legislation and the Santa Fe City Council's issues.

Members Tom Johnson and his wife Dorothy Bracey were the gracious hosts of the Summer networking gathering at their home.

Plans for a February 2024 meeting include a former legislator to recap the 30 day session and offer her/his analysis bills and of the budgeting plans.

Pat Hodapp
President
Northern NM Press Women

Job Announcements



The job postings below come to you courtesy of member Carolyn Carlson.

Have a passion for local media? CTRL+P is looking for journalists, reporters, editors, and other staff who are interested in being part of local community journalism.

Join the team in keeping this central New Mexico local news alive and kicking. CTRL+P is the *Corrales Comment*, *Sandoval Signpost*, *Edgewood Independent*, *The Paper* and more. *Below are the links to the reporting and editing opportunities:*

<https://newmexico.news/2023/11/22/now-hiring-full-time-local-newspaper-editor/>
<https://newmexico.news/2023/11/22/now-hiring-full-time-local-news-reporter-multiple->

2024 Conference Costs

Full registration* for NMPW members: \$175 (*increases to \$200 on January 1*)

Full registration* for nonmembers: \$200 (*increases to \$225 on January 1*)

Friday full day only: \$100

Saturday full day only: \$160

Saturday lunch** only (*NMPW member rate*): \$50

Saturday lunch** only (*Nonmember rate*): \$55

Saturday banquet*** only (*NMPW member rate*): \$85

Saturday banquet*** only (*Nonmember rate*): \$95

Banquet table for 10: \$1,000

Banquet half-table for 5: \$500



NOTES:

*Full registration includes all conference sessions including meals

**Zia Book Awards and Scholarships will be awarded at the lunch.

***Communications Contest results and the 2024 Communicator of Achievement will be announced at the banquet.

Conference attendees can reserve a room at the Isleta Resort Hotel for the discounted rate of \$149 per night by calling 877-475-3827 and giving the code NMP0324.

A Tribute to Colleen Keane — A Life Well Lived



Colleen Ann Keane

Colleen Ann Keane, 74, died on October 26, 2023. Her life's work gave voice to others as she advocated on social and economic issues throughout Arizona, New Mexico and Native nations. Using her talent and skills in radio, television, photography and print, Native American victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and health inequities were heard. She called out state, federal and tribal governments when indigenous rights were lost within their bureaucratic webs of social services.

After earning a Master's in Social Work at Arizona State University, Colleen found work in the Arizona child welfare system. The experience exposed her to the blanket disregard for indigenous parental rights prior to the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978. On the Arizona Governor's Task Force to investigate abuse in foster care institutions, she saw the "warehousing" of thousands of Native children as they were separated from their families. It was a sad period in which she "gave up" social work.

At the Navajo Community College in 1979, she helped to develop Navajo regulations to return children to their families under the newly passed Indian Child Welfare Act. Relying on her Arizona experiences, she and Nancy Evans, the first Navajo social worker, wrote the Navajo Nation standards for Foster Care services. Their non-bureaucratic approach involved consultation with Navajo elders, Hatalthi (healers) and families. These regulations continue to guide today's social workers. Her efforts within the tribal community gave Colleen lifelong skills of respect and the ability to listen carefully for cultural values and traditions that guided Navajo (Diné) daily life.

She earned a second Master's in Broadcast Journalism at the University of Southern California (USC). In her first semester, she wrote a television script about the 1979 United Nuclear Corporation uranium tailings spill that affected the health and livelihood of many Navajo people living along the Rio Puerco. USC chose it as a student production, and she directed its filming, showing the impact of low-level radioactivity and ground water contamination on livestock and humans. When USC claimed the copyright, she prevailed in her appeal for intellectual property rights. This documentary, *The River That Harms* (45 min.), won local, national and international awards, and continues to be shown, both within the United States and internationally.

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A Tribute to Colleen Keane--A Life Well Lived(Cont'd)



Colleen interviewing
Navajo Council Delegate
Martha Garcia

Returning to Alamo and Ramah, chapters on the Navajo Nation, Colleen taught radio broadcasting to high school students who manned local radio stations. She wrote and photographed a children's book, *American Indian Radio Voices*, published by Zaner-Bloser, that introduces American Indian radio stations on reservations throughout the United States. She highlighted their unique broadcasting, speaking English and also their own Native language. It is still available as an audiobook through Barnes and Noble.

Colleen produced many television programs for the Navajo Nation. She coined the title *Modern Day Monsters* for a film on child abuse. Another, *To Be The Best*, focused on tribal justice in domestic violence. These films continue to train Navajo staff today. *Strong Voices for the Pollen Path*, about the Navajo Nation Women's Commission describes their work and needs of the Navajo people. Her photographs recorded the Miss Navajo Council's Hero Twins Workshop for Navajo boys and the Navajo Nation Hall of Fame, as well as numerous other activities within the Navajo Nation.

Entering a wider market, in 2012 Colleen wrote and filmed a series of live forums about racism, *Erase the Hate*, at KNME-TV in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She won a New Mexico Broadcasting Association Award, that year, for a public radio segment that brought attention to health disparities among Native American elders. She was elated to be a Tribal Justice Fellow at John Jay College's Center on Media, Crime and Justice as well as a Fellow for New America Media's partnership with the Gerontological Society of America

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Challenging a wider market, Colleen wrote and filmed a series, in 2012, of live forums about racism, *Erase the Hate*, at KNME-TV in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She won a New Mexico Broadcasting Association Award, in 2012, for a public radio segment that brought attention to health disparities among Native American elders. She was elated to be a Tribal Justice Fellow at John Jay College's Center on Media, Crime and Justice and a Fellow for New America Media's partnership with the Gerontological Society of America.



Colleen speaking about the
display at the 2023 conference
with Representative Melanie
Stansbury

Photo: Margaret Cheasbro

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A Tribute to Colleen Keane--A Life Well Lived(Cont'd)

During the last ten years, Colleen worked as a reporter for the Navajo Times, the newspaper covering the Navajo Nation. Weekly articles informed the public about issues and events within the nation and nearby towns.

Always an advocate, her stories on adults who had been adopted as children gave a poignant view of the loss of cultural identity and the grief of separation from families. She pointed out the need for better care and accessible facilities for the disabled, mentally ill and blind. Other stories dealt with water pipelines, improvements for schools, and violence against Navajos in urban cities. No topic deterred her interest in making life better for others.

A deep interest in her Irish heritage led her to Ireland, to research family history and write the 2022 book, *Crashing the American Wake*, about her Irish father leaving his homeland for America, where he married the daughter of a Montana rancher.

Colleen saw the history of the Irish people as similar to Native Americans through loss of their lands and suppression of their culture. She held dual Irish and U. S. citizenship.

An active member of the Board for the New Mexico Press Women's Association, Colleen was Chair of the Doris Gregory Memorial Journalism Scholarship and received numerous state and national awards for her writings in areas of Religion, Social Issues, Education, History, Arts and Entertainment.

Colleen is survived by her daughter, Joanna Keane Lopez. In honoring Colleen and her love of dancing, an Irish celebration of her life was held with her favorite local band. Colleen's life was filled with adventure, goodwill, and hope for the future, she will be dearly missed.

Crashing an American Wake

An Irishman's tale of loss, struggle, war, the American dream and a promise fulfilled

By Colleen Ann Keane



The Keane Brothers in Dublin around 1928

Right: Colleen's last book

In Memoriam: Jessica Jean Savage, 1957 – 2023

Compiled by Elaine Simon from:
Jessica's LinkedIn page, Getz Funeral Home obituary
(<https://www.getzfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Jessica-Jean-Savage?obId=30048601>), and New
Mexico Press Women (<https://newmexicopresswomen.org/jessica-savage-is-new-mexico-press-women-2018-communicator-of-achievement/>)
Photos from Facebook and NMPW



New Mexico Press Women and Las Cruces Press Women are sad to share that Jessica Savage died on December 3, 2023. She passed peacefully, surrounded by loved ones.

Jessica was an active member of the New Mexico Press Women, serving on the board for seven years, as public relations chair for almost two years, as chair of the Scholarship Committee for two years, as Zia Book Award Committee chair for six years, and as state conference co-chair in 2017. In 2018, she received the Communicator of Achievement award, New Mexico Press Women's highest honor. Jessica also served on the board of Las Cruces Press Women.

Born in Italy while her father served in the United States Navy, Jessica spent most of her childhood and adult life in Las Cruces. She graduated from Las Cruces High School and, as a single mother, earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and her master's degree in rhetoric and professional communication from New Mexico State University.

For the last 11 years, Jessica served the students of NMSU as the senior scholarship advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences, helping countless students achieve their goals of attending college by overseeing more than \$500,000 in scholarship funds for 300 scholarships across 26 departments.

Jessica previously worked at the *Deming Headlight* and had been published in several different venues, including *New Mexico Magazine*, *Las Cruces Magazine*, and *Desert Exposure*. Many articles Jessica wrote as a reporter for the *Deming Headlight* were picked up by Associated Press and major southwestern newspapers

such as the *Dallas Morning News*, the *El Paso Times*, the *Denver Post*, the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, and the *Albuquerque Journal*.

As media and communications director for the National Public Observatory for almost 20 years, she publicized astronomy outreach programs through press releases, feature stories, and newsletter articles. She had also been a data management technician for Caelum-Unitec and the National Park Service, Chihuahuan Desert Network.Member

Jessica is survived by her four children, Felicia Rivas, Angela Rivas, David Rivas, and Joseph Rivas, and two grandchildren Alden Rivas and Natalie Rivas. Viewing and the funeral service took place on Thursday December 7, 2023, at Getz Funeral Home in Las Cruces.



Jessica receiving her COA award from Loretta Hall in 2018

Officers and Board Members

NMPW Officers

President: Sherri Burr

Vice President: Léonie Rosenstiel

Secretary: Lynne Hinton

Treasurer: Loretta Hall

NMPW Board

Broadsheet Editor: Léonie Rosenstiel

Communications Contests Chair: Carolyn Carlson

Zia Book Award Chair: Jennifer Hull

Communicator of Achievement Chair: Adam Biederwolf

Scholarship Chair: Brandon Larrañaga

High School Contest Coordinator:

Margaret Cheasebro

Social Media Chair: (Currently Vacant)

Website Coordinator:

Pamela Ofori-Boateng

Public Relations Chair: Léonie Rosenstiel

Historian: Robert Flinkman

Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee: Karen Wentworth

Northern Chapter Representative: Patricia Hodapp

Las Cruces Chapter Representative: Tamara Fetzer

Members at Large:

Arianna Andreatta

Regina Griego

Linda Lockett

NMPW Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Members Denise Tessier, Carolyn Carlson, and Karen Wentworth will propose a new slate of NMPW officers by January 2024. They will be voted into office at the 2024 Annual Meeting, to serve terms from 2024 to 2026. They are now beginning their work. Please feel free to contact them at:

NewMexicoPressWomen@gmail.com.

Place the person's name in the subject line.

Northern New Mexico Board Press Women Officers

Pat Hodapp, *President*

James McGrath Morris, *Vice President*

Ree Sheck, *Secretary*

Kay Lockridge, *Treasurer*

Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee

Merilee Dannemann

Loretta Hall

Linda Lockett, *Treasurer*

Sherry Robinson

Karen Wentworth

TO CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER OR OFFICER,
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THE PERSON'S NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

