

THE BROADSHEET

The newsletter of New Mexico Press Women

L to R: Bridget Grumet of the Austin-American Statesman; Treas. Loretta Hall; Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury; Pres. Sherri Burr.



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A Message from the President

BY SHERRI BURR

After nearly a year of planning, the 2023 Conference at the Isleta Resort opened to outstanding reviews.

At the Friday opening reception, Navajo President, Dr. Buu Nygren revealed himself to be a visionary leader with extraordinary empathy as he discussed his plans to improve life for his people. He informed our audience of over 50 registered reception guests that there was only one skilled nursing home on the entire reservation, which, if it were a state, would be the thirteenth largest one after West Virginia. He revealed his plans to create senior centers and combine them with day care centers in order to create opportunities for Navajo children to learn their language and culture. Among the interesting personal details was that he galloped a horse over 13 miles to attend his wedding and that he gave speeches lasting over one hour in Navajo to convince elders that he could speak the language and understood the culture. President Nygren is clearly a leader for the future.

Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury served as our inspirational banquet speaker. She took our conference theme of "Telling the Untold Story" and ran away with it to create and deliver the best banquet speech I have ever heard. She discussed the importance of telling stories that touch hearts and inspire people to act.

Continued from Page 1

President

I introduced her as a woman of grit and she demonstrated this when she, with dogged determination, pursued obtaining \$90 million to build a To'Hajiilee community school that had been originally built as an Indian Boarding School on a flood plain. She and her team pestered the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate to guarantee that the funding appeared for the school. She showed off her extraordinary speaking ability.

I conclude this message by thanking our board members who participated in making the conference a success. Treasurer Loretta Hall oversaw all the financial matters with a creative flair, served on the planning committee, and put together an informative and emotional panel on missing and murdered indigenous women. Vice President Léonie Rosenstiel organized a panel on guardianship that brought experts from across the country into a Zoom session. Member at Large Colleen Keene interfaced with the Navajo President's scheduler to guarantee he would appear. Karen Wentworth served on the planning committee and planned the field trip to the Maxwell Museum as well as a session on voter intimidation. The conference also benefited from the input of Zia Award Chair Pat Hodapp, Scholarship Chair Brandon Larranaga, COA Chair Adam Biederwolf, Communications Contest Chair Carolyn Carlson, Historian Robert Flinkman, and High School Outreach Coordinator Margaret Cheasebro.

The board brainstormed a theme for our 2024 conference. Be sure to keep your membership up to date so that you will receive early information on "Profiling Courageous Communicators: Celebrating 75 Years of New Mexico Press Women."

Sherri Burr, President
New Mexico Press Women

New Mexico Press Women thanks this years Conference Sponsors and Donors to our scholarship fund, which enabled 16 students to attend the conference free of charge.

YOUNG ATTENDEES STAND WITH
CONG. STANSBURY (CENTER) AFTER
THE BANQUET.



FORMER SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE BRIAN EGOLF, NAVAJO
NATION PRES. BUU NYGREN,
AND PRES. SHERI BURR



PRES. BURR LISTENS TO CONG.
STANSBURY'S SPEECH



Getting Personal– the 2023 New Mexico Press Women’s Conference

By Colleen Keane

Special to The Broadsheet

Isleta Pueblo - At the 2023 New Mexico Press Women conference held March 10 and 11, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury encouraged her audience of journalists, authors and poets to tell personal stories of themselves and people and places close to them. “I hope that you will be inspired to tell your own stories” she stressed adding that’s how change comes about. “Untold stories not only move the public and move your audiences but move the hearts and minds of politicians as we are on the front lines fighting for our communities.”

Getting Closer and Digging Deeper

Stansbury spoke for almost an hour at the Saturday night banquet at the Isleta Resort and Casino, offering several examples of untold stories from her own life. Some had been told to her by Navajo elders from To’Hajiilee, a small community West of Albuquerque in dire need of a new school. The elders were forced to go there when it served as a boarding school. Now the nearly 100-year-old building is crumbling and severely weather damaged from being built on a floodplain.

She carried their stories back to Congress, where she and her staff relentlessly urged federal offices and members of Congress to act. Legislators eventually listened and included \$90.2 million in the federal Omnibus budget for a new school at To’hajiilee.

Stansbury was over the moon when she got the message. “I got a phone call at 7 a.m. and was told that there was only one Bureau of Indian Education school funded in the entire US budget. It was the To’Hajiilee community!” she exclaimed.

“I loved hearing Melanie Stansbury’s talk. She was so inspiring,” said board member Margaret Cheesebro.

Graduate student Pamela Ofori-Boateng summed up her message, “One thing I took with me from her speech is that everyone has a story whether small or big to share, to uplift and help others find themselves.

Board member Robert Flinkman agreed. “Stansbury’s talk was just wonderful,” he said. She spoke with vigor, determination, sincerity, and the need to do the right thing for the people here in New Mexico.”

Saturday's Agenda

The Saturday agenda featured panels on stories that need ongoing coverage.

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives panel reminded participants that the crisis continues and the impact is best told by voices like that of Vangie Randall-Shorty, whose 23-year-old son Zachariah was shot to death in 2020 by an unknown assailant. His body was found in a field in Nenahnezad, New Mexico.

Zachariah’s mom, Vangie, is working with the FBI. She said that somebody knows something and until she finds out, she won’t stop seeking justice for Zachariah. The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of his murderer. For more information call the FBI at (505) 889-1300

Rosalee Lucero from the Isleta Pueblo spoke about her boarding school experience and an exhibit she’s working on with the Albuquerque Museum called the Indian Boarding School Project. It is slated to open in 2026. Of the children who were taken from their homes, she said, “They were robbed. When they became adults, they wanted to know their heritage.” Her exhibit will help piece that together for many of them. Rosalee Lucero can be reached at rosalee.ann.lucero@gmail.com.

Additionally, in a U.S. Department of the Interior report released in May, 2022, Secretary Deb Haaland addresses the policies that led to the intergenerational trauma of thousands of Native children torn away from their families and culture. It is the first investigative report of its kind that Haaland says justifies more funding for Native language revitalization.

Judith Avila, co-author of *Code Talker* with Chester Nez, also attended. “I want to thank Judith for bringing Chester’s important story to the world. It is so good to see you,” said Sherri Burr, NMPW president, who moderated the conference. Along with other Code Talkers, Nez used the Navajo language to help win WWII.

Another memorable story

Attendees came from across New Mexico. Twice as many signed up as last year. The conference opened on Friday night with a reception and an in-depth look into the personal and professional life of the newly-elected president of the Navajo Nation, Dr. Buu Nygren.

Getting Personal– the 2023 New Mexico Press Women’s Conference (Continued)

With Burr expertly asking questions, Nygren shared his own personal story, telling her and their audience that he never met his Vietnamese father; how he got the name Nygren; and how he was raised by his mother and grandmother, speaking Navajo fluently. He also talked about how he reached out to elders, promising that his administration would focus on meeting the basic needs of Navajo people getting water, power, roads and broadband to their homes.

“I keep telling my team, 'Let's just focus on 48 months and do the best possible work we can. If Navajo people want us to do it again, we will,” said Nygren.

“I enjoyed listening to the Navajo Nation President, Buu Nygren, and his forward vision for the Navajo Nation and its people,” said Cheesebro. “Sherri Burr interviewed him so effectively. I loved hearing him talk about his campaign experience of giving a one-hour speech in Navajo to older Navajo people, to convince them that he knew the Navajo language and to win their vote...I think the Navajo Nation is in good hands. I would never have had the opportunity to meet President Nygren or hear him talk if it hadn't been for the state conference,” continued Cheesebro.

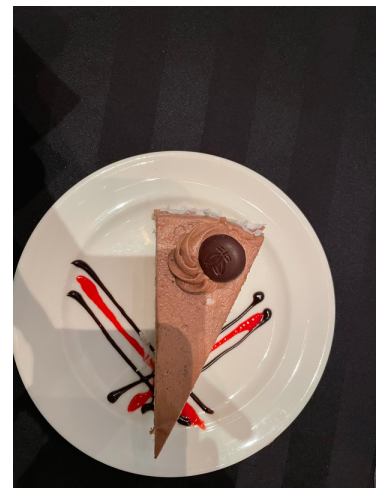
Cheesebro also attended Bridget Grumet’s session on finding untold stories. Grumet is a columnist for the Austin American-Staesman. Cheesebro said that Grumet spoke eloquently on how she found people to interview for her columns that covered homelessness, voting access, and many other important subjects.

Flinkman added, “I enjoyed Grumet’s workshop. Her focus was on writing stories concerning people facing obstacles, or whose story hasn't been told completely, or giving voice to someone whose voice has not been part of the discussion.”

“There were so many other wonderful things about the conference, including the food,” Cheesebro said.

“I enjoyed the tour of the Maxwell Museum through their pottery storage area, the guides explaining the different types of Native American pottery, the styles and techniques used to create the pottery. I thought the state conference was a great success. The Isleta Resort and Casino was a good host,” Flinkman concluded.

For Ofori-Boateng, the conference had special meaning, “(It) served a much-needed opportunity, meeting industry experts and veteran media personalities to learn from their experiences and achievements to shape my career trajectory and encourage me to pursue my dream of becoming a professor and a writer,” she said.



SALAD (TOP), FISH ENTREE (MIDDLE), AND DESERT (ABOVE) AT THE ISLETA RESORT BANQUET.

The Zoom Guardianship Panel

By Léonie Rosenstiel, Vice President

Zoom technology permitted a group of experts on and survivors of the adult guardianship to gather from offices and living rooms across the country to tell untold stories about guardianship experiences.

As a family member/survivor of the process myself, it was my privilege to organize and participate in a lively exchange of views, moderated by NMPW President, Sherri Burr. She described her own direct experience of being the guardian of her brother in Arizona. Dimond, Darken, Hamilton and myself have been asked to provide testimony to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, describing our experiences within the current legal guardianship structure and our advocacy for change in this onerous and often treacherous system.

New-York-based Investigative Journalist Diane Dimond, who wrote a prizewinning series on guardianship for her syndicated column, described her experiences examining cases nationwide since 2015. Later this year, she will be releasing a book, *We're Here to Help*, discussing her findings.

Brett Darken joined us from Virginia. He offered his perspective, drawn from his years of forensic analysis of guardianship financial records. Brett expressed his deep concern about the prevalence of fraud, possible racketeering, and the predators' excessive spending of wards' assets (or in the case of the indigent, their government entitlement payments).

Rio Hamilton, speaking from Las Cruces, described his own and his mother's three-year ordeal. He was shocked that the judge did not allow his mother to speak during hearings. After three years of expensive legal battles, became one of the more fortunate family members of people under guardianship. His efforts at last convinced a judge to allow him to care for his mother.

I spoke about the nine years of pain my mother and I endured during her guardianship. It took five additional years of legal action for me to regain my freedom of speech and to get my mother's records released. These events are further detailed in my book *Protecting Mama* and in information posted on my website at: <https://dayspringresources.com/>

Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee person Merilee Dannemann came up to me at the banquet. "I was at the panel," she said. "What can I do to help?"



TOP TO BOTTOM: DIANE DIMOND, BRETT DARKEN, RIO HAMILTON, AND LEONIE ROSENSTIEL

Images from the Conference



WEBSITE COORDINATOR
PAMELA OFORI BOATENG
(L.) WITH AMANDA GYESI
AND INUSAH MOHAMMED,
BOTH STUDENT GUESTS
FROM GHANA



MERRILEE DANNEMANN,
LINDA LOCKETT, SHERRY
ROBINSON AND OTHER
MEMBERS AT THE BANQUET

TIERNA UNRUH-ENOS OF
THE PAPER AND THE
CORRALES COMMENT
READS FIRST-PLACE
WINNERS IN
COMMUNICATIONS
CONTEST CATEGORIES AT
THE BANQUET
(COMMUNICATIONS
CONTEST CHAIR, CAROLYN
CARLSON, WAS UNABLE TO
ATTEND)



LEFT: RAUL BUJANDA, FBI
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
OF THE ALBUQUERQUE
FIELD OFFICE



List of First Place Winners in the Communications Contest

Category	Winner's Name
Specialty Articles -Travel	Jasmine Tritten
Blog - Nonprofit, government or educational	Jim Tritten
Book Designed by Entrant	Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome
Specialty Articles - Green/environmental	Diane Schmidt
Columns - General	Diane Schmidt
Children's Book - Non-fiction	Loretta Hall
Specialty Articles - Agriculture	Diane Schmidt
Publications Regularly Written by Entrant - Newsletter/other publication, corporate or for-profit	Joseph Badal
Special Programming - Radio	Mary Lou Cooper
Short Stories- Single story	Katy Hammel
Young Adult Book - Fiction	Katy Hammel
Web and Social Media > 34 - Website Edited or Managed by Entrant > 34A - Nonprofit, government or educational	Tara Lumpkin
Creative Verse - Single Poem	Janet Ruth
Book Edited by Entrant	Elizabeth Rose
Book of Poetry	Donald Levering
Photography - Photo Essay	Kitty Leaken
Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Biography or History	Patricia Wood
Prepared Report - Television	Kathleen McCleery
Special Programming - Television	Kathleen McCleery
Fiction for Adult Readers - Novels (More than 40,000 words)	Charlene Bell Dietz
Specialty Articles - Reviews	Mark Tiarks
Specialty Articles - Arts and entertainment	Mark Tiarks
Personality Profile - More than 750 words	Leonie Rosenstiel
Web and Social Media - Web Copy	Leonie Rosenstiel
Specialty Articles - Religion	Colleen Keane
Specialty Articles - Social issues	Colleen Keane
Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Autobiography or Memoir	Regina Griego
Feature Story - Online publication	Emily Drabanski
Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book	Brenda Cole
Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - General Nonfiction	Cornelia Gamlem
Specialty Articles - Business	Cornelia Gamlem

Continued on Next Page

First Place Winners (Cont'd)

Category	Winner's Name
Specialty Articles - Government or politics	Jen Schroer
Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant - Magazine/Magapaper	Jen Schroer
Page Design - Magazine or magapaper	Jen Schroer
Specialty Articles - History	James Frost
Feature Story - Magazine, newsletter/other publication	Deborah Busemeyer
Graphics and Design - Graphics	James Frost
Specialty Articles - Personal essay	Iris Keltz
Prepared Report for Radio/Television Student Media - Television	Anthony Moreno
Video for Web - Video for nonprofit or government organization	Anthony Moreno
Columns - Informational	Sherri Burr
Columns - Humorous	Sherri Burr
Columns - Personal opinion	Sherry Robinson
Speech	Sherry Robinson
Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant - Newsletter/other publication - non-profit, government, or educational	Sherry Robinson
Blog - Personal	Merilee Dannemann
Prepared Report - Radio	Megan Kamerick
Prepared Report - Radio	Megan Kamerick
Personal Website	Jessica Maggie Brophy
Podcast	Stuart Kelter
Information for the Media - News or Feature Release	Arin McKenna
Communications Programs and Campaigns - Audiovisuals	Arin McKenna
Social Media Presence - Corporate or for-profit	Arin McKenna
News Story - Print-based newspaper	Tierna Unruh-Enos
In-depth Reporting	Tierna Unruh-Enos
Continuing Coverage or Unfolding News	Tierna Unruh-Enos

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

For the Rest of the Winners, see: <https://newmexicopresswomen.org/new-mexico-communication-contest/>

Member News

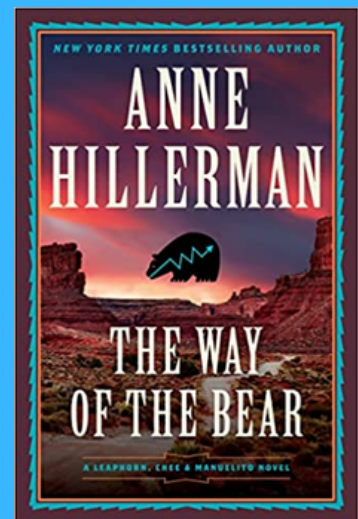
Sherri Burr, President of New Mexico Press Women, was the guest of Robert Kidera on his January 19, 2023 Black Range Pub podcast. It can be found at:
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1735855/>

She also gave talks during Black History Month, under the auspices of the New Mexico Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, to Eastern New Mexico University and the Taos Public Library.

Leonie Rosenstiel, NMPW Vice President, has been asked to give testimony about problems and solutions to problems with the guardianship of seniors to the Senate Special Committee on Aging. She would be happy to provide a copy to anyone who would like one, through her website [DayspringResources.com](https://www.dayspringresources.com). Some of the testimony is based on her book *Protecting Mama*, available at:
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1959770292>



Santa Fe author and member Anne Hillerman is pleased to announce the release of her eighth published mystery, *The Way of the Bear*. The novel continues the legacy of Navajo crime solvers Joe Leaphorn, Jim Chee and Bernadette Manuelito and was set for release April 25. Among her many events, Anne will be speaking at the international mystery authors and fan conference, Bouchercon, in San Diego in early September. Her books and the novels of her father Tony Hillerman which inaugurated the series, are published by HarperCollins.



Member Dianne Layden will be performing her Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Notorious R.B.G.," in Albuquerque on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the Jewish Community Center, sponsored by the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society.

Zia Book Award Finalists

New Mexico Press Women announced the winners of the 2023 Zia Awards at the annual New Mexico Press Women's Conference at the Isleta Resort on March 12.

The New Mexico Press Women's Zia Award Chair, Patricia Hodapp, noted, "The judges found the entries to be on a wide range of topics, and all displayed excellence in storytelling, creativity and created memorable characters. The entries were a credit to the talents of New Mexico women authors."

Alexandra Diaz, Santa Fe, was named First Place winner in the Teen Category for her book *Santiago's Road Home*, the story of a young immigrant seeking refuge in the United States.

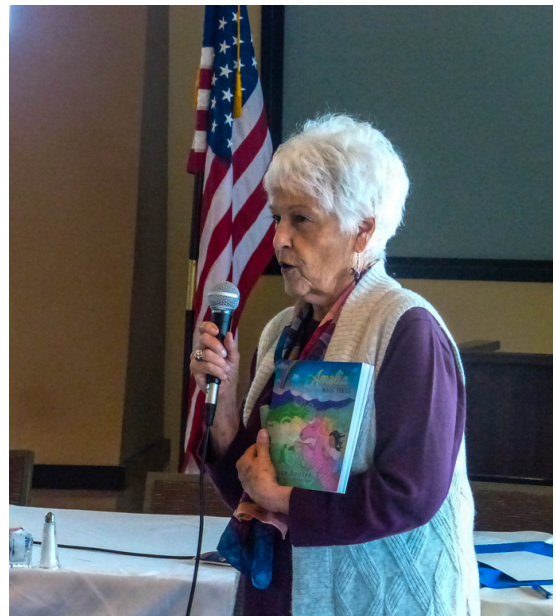


Alexandra Diaz, First Place Winner, Teen Category

Second place in the Teen Category was awarded to *Where Duty Calls*, an historical novel of the Civil War in New Mexico by Jennifer Bohnhoff of Sandia Park, NM.

Sue Houser, author of *Amelia and the Magic Ponies*, was awarded First place in the Children's Category. Houser lives in the Sandia Mountains foothills.

An Alphabet Pet Parade in Topsy-Turvy Town, Population 26 by Judith Torres was awarded the Second place award in the Children's Category. Torres currently lives in California.



Sue Houser, First Place Winner, Children's Category

2023-24 Dolores Gregory Scholarship Winners

New Mexico Press Women announced the winners of two 2023 Scholarship Winners at the annual New Mexico Press Women's Conference at the Isleta Resort on March 12.

Doris Gregory was an award-winning member of NMPW and the National Federation of Press Women in the 1950s and '60s. She was a correspondent for the El Paso Times for 12 years and was also a public relations professional, a magazine editor, and an association executive. The Doris Gregory Memorial Scholarship, established after her death from cancer in 1969, is awarded every year to at least one and often two New Mexico college or university students studying some aspect of communications.

Undergraduate Recipient: Riley Robertson

Riley Robertson is a sophomore at New Mexico State University, studying Journalism and Media Studies and English, with a concentration in Creative Writing. She works as a staff writer at The Round Up and as a production assistant at KRWG News 22. Riley was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM.

Graduate Recipient: Inusah Mohammed

Inusah Mohammed is a second-year master's student at the University of New Mexico pursuing Communication and Journalism from Nima in Accra, Ghana. He worked with CFAO Ghana Limited as a Service Advisor. He's worked with the biggest media house in Ghana, Grapthic Communications Group Limited as an Adverts Officer.



Riley Robertson, Undergraduate Scholarship Winner



Brandon Larrañaga (L.) with Inusah Mohammed, Graduate Scholarship Winner

2023 Communicator of Achievement

New Mexico Press Women announced the 2023 Communicator of Achievement at the annual New Mexico Press Women's Conference at the Isleta Resort on March 12. This is the highest award given by the organization.

Léonie Rosenstiel survived being born into an abusive family. Starting out as an award-winning classical musician, she graduated from Barnard College, then from the Ph.D. program at Columbia University's Graduate Faculties. She later also earned degrees in counselling ministry (The New Seminary), Oriental medicine (Tri-State College), and public health (Walden University).

She received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies and produced a TV show for six years.

Rosenstiel wrote, translated, edited, and contributed chapters to more than a dozen books, in addition to writing numerous articles and short stories, many of which won awards.

She was appointed to the NMPW Board in 2019, as its PR Chair. In 2022, she was unanimously elected vice-president and served as the NMPW Zia Award Chair. She also assumed editorship of its newsletter, *The Broadsheet*.

Her book, *Protecting Mama*, won First Place in the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards (2022).



Léonie Rosenstiel, 2023 Communicator of Achievement



Léonie Rosenstiel (L.), receiving the Communicator of Achievement award from Margaret Cheasboro

"This year's New Mexico Press Women Communicator of Achievement, Léonie Rosenstiel, is multi-talented and very accomplished. A successful writer, editor and musician, she has also produced a TV show. She is a truly gifted communicator and plays many important roles in NMPW."
Margaret Cheasboro

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

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Zia Book Award Chair: Patricia Hodapp

Communicator of Achievement Chair: Adam Biederwolf

Scholarship Chair: Brandon Larrañaga

High School Contest Coordinator:

Margaret Cheasebro

Social Media Chair: Ludella Awad

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

Member at Large: Colleen Keane

NMPW Nominating Committee

At the Annual Meeting, Members unanimously elected these three individuals to the Nominating Committee: Denise Tessier, Carolyn Carlson, and Karen Wentworth. They will propose a slate off officers by January 2024 to be voted into office at the 2024 Annual Meeting to serve terms from 2024 to 2026. More information as to how to contact them will be forthcoming in the Fall when they begin their work in earnest.

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,
FEEL FREE TO EMAIL:
NEWMEXICOPRESSWOMEN@GMAIL.COM WITH
THE PERSON'S NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

