THE BROADSHEET

75TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Left to Right: Rep. Pamelya Herndon, Incoming President Regina Griego, and immediate Past President Sherri Burr at the Roundhouse

A Message from the Immediate Past President

BY SHERRI BURR

It has been a privilege to serve as the President of New Mexico Press Women for six years and to be accompanied by Treasurer Loretta Hall on this leadership journey. I was first elected in 2018 to serve one two-year term, but a global pandemic intervened, forcing the sudden cancellation of our 2020 Annual Meeting and the need to pivot online to our first Zoom meeting in 2021.

I was pleased to conclude my term with the smashing success of the 2024 Conference at the Isleta Resort. Even before the 2024 Conference commenced, New Mexico Press Women was recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives by Representative Pameyla Herndon,who presented incoming president Regina Griego and me with a proclamation honoring NMPW's 75 th Anniversary.

On the opening night of the March 15 th Conference, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller read a proclamation proclaiming New Mexico Press Women Day in Albuquerque. He was preceded by Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury who read a proclamation honoring New Mexico Press Women from the National House of Representatives. They were followed by Leandro Vazquez-Diaz, a senior at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, reading his "Courageous Woman Communicator" paper and a discussion of NMPW history with Denise Tessier and Melanie Majors. The night closed with a toast by Julie Campbell, the President of the National Federation of Press Women.

Saturday's lineup of events began with the Annual Meeting that elected Regina Griego as President, Léonie Rosenstiel as Vice President, Linda Lockett as Treasurer, and Lynne Hinton as Secretary. The morning sessions included our own Anne Hillerman accompanied by James Morris McGrath, discussing the legacy of Tony Hillerman's work with Loretta Hall. I then interviewed author Hampton Sides, whose books narrate nonfiction in a thrilling manner. The final panel was led by Linda Lockett, discussing with Rose Kern, David Steinberg, Lorene Mills, and Sherry Robinson how they support other communicators with their work.

(Continued on next page)

A Message from the Immediate Past President (Cont'd)

The Zia Award luncheon highlighted two talented writers, Dede Feldman and Elizabeth Rose. Eric Draper, the White House Photographer to President George W. Bush, gave a superb workshop that left participants in awe.

That feeling continued as attendees listened to author George RR Martin's Courageous Communicator banquet speech. Martin surveyed freedom of speech issues covering nearly four centuries of controversy. His speech was apropos for our time. Bravo George.

And Brava New Mexico Press Women. May our organization continue to grow and serve New Mexico Communicators of all genders, ethnicities, and across the political spectrum under the able leadership of our new team.

Sherri Burr Immediate Past President New Mexico Press Women

A Message from the Incoming President

Immediate Past President Sherri Burr and Incoming President Regina Griego at the conference.

I am honored to have been selected as the next president of New Mexico Press Women (NMPW). I have big shoes (metaphorically speaking) to fill. My sincerest thanks and appreciation for Sherri Burr's leadership, culminating in a spectacular action-packed, star-studded conference celebrating the 75th anniversary of NMPW.

Over the years, I've held various volunteer leadership positions, primarily in my systems engineering professional society, but this will be a new adventure for me. I am impressed by the longevity of both NMPW and the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW), their original mission, and how they have adjusted over time. These organizations are powered by the grass roots passion for recognizing achievers in all aspects of communications.

As I look forward to my time as president, I will rely on Sherri to guide me, but more importantly I hope the membership will communicate their vision and desires for NMPW.

We plan to revisit and update the procedures manual, we are considering modernizing the Broadsheet and the way we communicate to the membership, and we remain committed to creating memorable conferences that honor communicators.

My goal is to learn, listen deeply to the membership, represent our unique state, and guide us into the future, aware of the challenges we have as communicators.

Regina Griego, Ph.D, President New Mexico Press Women

Biographies of Incoming Officers



Regina Griego, incoming President, speaking on a panel at the 75th NMPW Annual Conference

President: Regina M. Griego, PhD

Regina Griego--coach, author and speaker--retired from a distinguished career as an engineer. Born and raised in New Mexico, her Hispanic roots go back 400 years; she also has Native American roots. She has mentored many as a professor, senior engineer, and leadership coach, and is an activist for gun safety and juvenile justice.

Griego wrote Sins of the System: Trauma, Guns, Tragedy, and the Betrayal of Our Children, which won NMPW and NFPW 1st Place awards for Memoir/Autobiography and which was the 2023 International Book Award Winner for Social Change.

She is a Georgetown-trained coach and a Fellow of INCOSE, the largest International Systems Engineering Professional Organization. She remains active in INCOSE, primarily mentoring and working with young people. She holds PhD, MS, and BS degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering and an MS in Computer Science. Regina is married with six children in a blended family and has seven grandchildren.

Vice President: Léonie Rosenstiel

Léonie Rosenstiel, who has written, edited, or contributed to some 28 books, has won many awards for her fiction and non-fiction. She also serves NMPW as both PR Chair and Editor of *The Broadsheet*, which received a 1st Place in this year's NMPW Communications Contest. Rosenstiel has held grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies.

After careers in music, publishing, East Asian Medicine and interfaith ministry, she turned her attention to preserving and restoring the civil rights of those affected by the adult guardianship system, through counseling, coaching and teaching, and through her Amazon bestselling book *Protecting Mama: Surviving the Legal Guardianship Swamp.* It won 1st Place in the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards in 2023.

Her latest book, another Amazon bestseler, is *Legal Protection: Affordable Options for Individuals, Families, and Small Businesses.* She also serves on the board of SouthWest Writers.

Rosenstiel has a Ph.D. from Columbia University and six master's level degrees in subjects ranging from pastoral counseling, to acupuncture, to public health.



Léonie Rosenstiel, participating in a panel discussion at the NMPW 75th Anniversary Conference

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Incoming Officers (Cont'd)

Secretary: Lynne Hinton

Lynne Hinton is the author of more than 20 books, including the New York Times Bestseller, *Friendship Cake* and *Pie Town*, the 2011 New Mexico Book of the Year. In 2012, she was named Favorite Local Writer by Albuquerque, The Magazine.

Her latest book, published in November 2020, was *The Beekeeper's* Wife. That novel won the NMPW Zia Award for fiction in 2022.

Lynne serves as the Conference Director of the New Mexico Conference of Churches and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She has served as a hospice chaplain and as a senior pastor in Guilford County and Asheboro, N.C. and in Rio Rancho, N.M., and as the interim pastor in northeastern Washington.



Lynne Hinton giving the Secretary's annual report at the NMPW 75th Anniversary Conference



Above: Linda Lockett, participating in a panel at the NMPW 75th Anniversary Conference

Treasurer: Linda Lockett

Linda Lockett has provided communications counsel and services to for-profit and non-profit clients in New Mexico since moving to the Albuquerque area from San Antonio in 2007, including a term as Rick Johnson & Company's vice president and PR director.

She serves on the boards of both New Mexico and Albuquerque Press Women and is a past board member of the New Mexico Symphonic Chorus and the New Mexico chapter of PRSA. She also has served as president of Jardineros de Placitas, a philanthropic, social and educational group for women and men living in the Placitas area.

A native of El Paso, Lockett previously worked in a broad range of regional, national and international PR and advertising positions for Southwestern Bell/SBC/AT&T. She's also a former high school journalism/English teacher and reporter with a degree in journalism and English from West Texas State University, where she was edited the newspaper and co-edited the yearbook. She also holds three master's degrees.

Proclamations Honoring NMPW's 75th Anniversary



Left to Right: Felecia Pohl, staff worker for Rep. Melanie Stansbury, holding proclamation, and Rep. Stansbury.





On the left is the Proclamation of the New Mexico House of Representatives, presented to Sherri Burr and current NMPW President Regina Griego, as described in the Immediate Past President's statement (see page 1).

Proclamations Honoring NMPW's 75th Anniversary (Cont'd)



Mayor Tim Keller (left) addressing the assembled guests as President Sherri Burr holds his proclamation honoring NMPW's 75th Anniversary. A copy of the document is below.



A Visual Review of NMPW's 75th Anniversary Conference

Friday

By Léonie Rosenstiel



Books by members, available for purchase, on display at the NMPW 75th Anniversary Conference



NMPW 75th Anniversary Poster at the Entrance

When Denise Chavez was unable to attend, Regina Griego stepped in to discuss Chavez' work with Sherri Burr



Decades of NMPW memorabilia on display in the meeting room



Courageous Fiction and Non-Fiction Panel (l to r): Léonie Rosenstiel, Sherri Burr, Margaret Cheasbro (Moderator Lynn Hinton is beind the podium.)



Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller at the reception



Julie Campbell, President of the National Association of Press Women, toasts NMPW at the opening reception.



Melanie Majors, Denise Tessier and Sherri Burr open the Friday night reception.



Rep. Melanie Stansbury at the reception.

A Visual Review of NMPW's 75th Anniversary Conference (Cont'd)



Vivian Arviso offers a memorial for Colleen Keane

Saturday



Damian Willis observes a moment of silence in memory of Jessica Savage



Lynne Hinton takes the minutes of the annual meeting



Retiring NMPW Historian Robert Flinkman reads his report at the annual meeting



Retiring treasurer Loretta Hall reads her treasurer's report, as Sherri Burr listens.



Loretta Hall discusses Tony Hillerman's legacy with James McGrath Morris and Anne Hillerman

A Visual Review of NMPW's 75th Anniversary Conference (Cont'd)

Saturday



Hampton Sides with Sherri Burr



Covering and Supporting Journalists Panel: (l to r): Linda Lockett, Rose Marie Kern, David Steinberg, Sherry Robinson and Lorraine Mills.



Jennifer Hull announces Zia Award finalists at the Awards Luncheon



Dede Feldman, winner of the Zia Award, reads from her book *Ten More Doors*.



Elizabeth Rose reads from her Zia finalist book, When Cows Wore Shoes.



Larry Larrañaga (r.) presents the undergraduate journalism scholarship to Frederick C. York. The graduate scholarship recipient, Fisher Easley Smith, was absent.



Eric Draper (left), chief White House photographer under President George W. Bush, gives an afternooon workshop on the uses of photography in journalism and how photographs can both tell their own stories and reveal character.

A Visual Review of NMPW's 75th Anniversary Conference (Cont'd)

Saturday



Mahi Mahi main course



Courageous Communicator Banquet table setting.



Dessert



George R.R. Martin, the keynote speaker, addresses the banquet guests.



Members of the board of NMPW with George R.R. Martin--L to R: Robert Flinkman, Loretta Hall, Léonie Rosenstiel, Regina Griego, Sherri Burr, George R.R. Martin, Lynne Hinton, Linda Lockett, Margaret Cheasbro and Larry Larrañaga.



Above: outgoing President Sherri Burr (Center) administers the Oath of Office to Léonie Rosenstiel (extreme left) Regina Griego, Lynne Hinton and Linda Lockett



George R.R. Martin with winners of various awards at the end of the banquet. The names of the First Place winners in the Communications Contest and the winners of the Courageous Communicator Awards are the subects of separate articles in this issue.

"A Time of Dire Need for Courageous Communicators"

By Denise Tessier



Banquet attendees listen to George R.R. Martin, urging everyone present to support free speech.

George R.R. Martin has received and been nominated for numerous awards – the Nebula, the Locus, the Bram Stoker, the Hugo and more; film versions of his novels have won Emmys. But the author who has sold more than 100 million books says the award he received last month from New Mexico Press Women – the "Courageous Communicator" – really made him pause and reflect.

"We are in a time of dire need for Courageous Communicators," he told those at NMPW's 75th anniversary conference on March 16. And he wondered aloud, was he truly among the courageous?

During a generously long and thoughtful keynote speech at the NMPW awards banquet, he pondered this question after grimly assessing the pulse of free speech: "We used to have it here in the United States. I think we may be living in one of those dark periods." And he warned his audience at the outset: "This is not a safe space. This is not a safe speech. I don't like being told what words to use."

He took listeners on a historical tour of banned speech, of truth and lies, quoting along the way some of his "heroes," like George Orwell, Kurt Vonnegut, Oscar Wilde, and Voltaire. He read a verse from William Butler Yeats' "The Second Coming":

The falcon cannot hear the falconer; Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.

In 1644, John Milton urged England's Parliament to let truth and falsehood "grapple in a free and open encounter," believing that "truth will surely prevail." "He was a godly man," Martin said of Milton, one who felt that "to be truly moral, we must be free to grapple with immorality." In 1667, Milton's *Paradise Lost* was "promptly banned." Literature, art, journalism and democracy itself are in peril, Martin warned. He noted that 41 states have or are considering banning books, with so-called morality groups turning in lists of dozens of deemed offenders, including To Kill a Mockingbird, the Harper Lee novel that consistently tops the list of educators, librarians and regular citizens as one of America's best.

Martin said he has come to expect book banning and censorship from the right, but to have it come now from the "woke" left, he said, "appalls me."

Joe McCarthy's "red scare" inquisitions in the early 1940s, he noted, ended many careers, including that of the highest-paid writer in Hollywood, Dalton Trumbo. Trumbo, whose credits include *Spartacus*, *Roman* Holiday and Johnny Got His Gun, summarized that period in what is considered a treatise on free speech and thought, *Time of the Toad*. Censorship became a part of the process in both film and TV with the advent of "sensitivity readers" (censors), Martin said.

"People are afraid now, including me," Martin said. "Being named a Courageous Communicator makes me wonder if I've done enough." Martin then recognized that Meow Wolf, the wildly popular immersive art experience in which he invested millions, had recently canceled the sold-out appearance of Jewish-American singer Matisyahu after the venue was inundated with threats of protest from pro-Palestinian groups the day of the show. (That cancellation, and subsequent cancellation in Santa Fe of a talk by the Israeli general counsul have since sparked a series of letters, columns and a pro-freedom of speech editorial in the Santa Fe New Mexican.)

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Dire Need for Courageous Communicators (Cont'd)

Unfamiliar with this entertainer, Martin said he looked to the internet and still wasn't sure what to make of Matisyahu's art – based on the Chicago Tribune's performance description of a "soul-shaking brand of <u>dancehall reggae</u> . . .that captures both the <u>jam band</u> vibe of Phish and the <u>ska-punk</u> of Sublime." Martin was certain, however, of how he felt about the cancellation.

"Those people who take credit (for the cancellation) and are proud are wrong," he said simply.

He noted that another of his investments, the Jean Cocteau theater in Santa Fe, was among the few brave enough to screen *The Interview* after threats from its satirical target, Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. At the NMPW banquet, Martin's Beastly Books had a table that sold not only his own works, but also banned books, including *The Handmaid*'s *Tale* and two James Bond books by Ian Fleming.

Martin lauded the bravery of Alexei Navalny and quoted British writer Beatrice Hall, who in her 1906 biography *The Friends of Voltaire*, wrote: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" as an illustration of Voltaire's beliefs.

Who gets to decide what is hate speech? Martin asked. And "the Steal," he noted, "is a lie that refuses to die."

We have to "grit our teeth and learn to live with hate and falsehoods," Martin concluded. As for being a Courageous Communicator, he told the assembled guests, "I will try to do better in the future. I promise.

"All of us need to do better."

Right: Two more views of George R.R. Martin delivering his speech to the banquest guests.





Winners of the Courageous Communicator Awards

On the Occasion of its 75th Anniversary New Mexico Press Women Bestows its *Courageous Communicator Award*

on:



Award-winners (l-r) George R.R. Martin, Eric Draper and Sherri Burr



Sherri Burr with award-winner Anne Hillerman



Award-winner Hampton Sides and Sherri Burr



Award-winner Léonie Rosenstiel



Sherri Burr with awardwinner Loretta Halll



Award winners (l to r): Rose Marie Kern, Lorene Mills, David Steinberg and Sherry Robinson

Winners of the Courageous Communicator Awards (Cont'd)

Alphabetical listing of all winners of the Courageous Communicator Awards:

| Sherri Burr | For her prolific authorship of 32 books and outstanding leadership of NMPW for six years through a global pandemic |
|------------------------|--|
| Denise Chávez | For her authorship which showcases the breadth and depth of Hispanic literature |
| Margaret Cheasebro | For outstanding nonfiction writing as a journalist and author covering people, places, and the cultures of the Four Corners area |
| Eric Draper | For Outstanding Photojournalism as President George W. Bush's White House Photographer |
| Loretta Hall | For outstanding authorship of books related to underground buildings and outer space and for serving six years as NMPW treasurer |
| Anne Hillerman | For outstanding journalism, NMPW Leadership, fiction writing, and the generous endowment of NMPW's Hillerman Scholarship |
| Lynne Hinton | For outstanding authorship of 22 books on an array of diverse topics |
| Rose Marie Kern | For her outstanding book authorship and leadership of Southwest Writers |
| George RR Martin | As an outstanding builder of new worlds and creator of strong, yet nuanced, women characters in his fiction writing |
| Melanie Majors | For outstanding leadership of NMPW and the Foundation for Open Government |
| Lorene Carpenter Mills | For outstanding production of a legislative newsletter, three daily radio broadcasts, a weekly television show, and a documentary film |

Winners of the Courageous Communicator Awards (Cont'd)

| Sherry Robinson | For outstanding journalism, authorship, and creation of New Mexico News Services LLC to provide opinion columns to New Mexico newspapers |
|-------------------|---|
| Léonie Rosenstiel | For outstanding authorship of fiction and nonfiction books, and the generous endowment of NMPW's Rosenstiel Scholarship |
| Hampton Sides | For Intrepid Research and Writing Gripping Narrative Non-fiction Adventure Stories set in war, assassinations, or epic expeditions of exploration |
| David Steinberg | For outstanding journalism as the Albuquerque Journal's book editor |
| Denise Tessier | For outstanding journalism and leadership of NMPW |

Communications Contest Sweepstakes Winners

Sweepstakes winners have the highest total points for all their entries, where each first place entry is worth 4 points, each second place is 3 points, each third place entry is 2 points, and each honorable mention is 1 point.

Individual Winners

First Place: Sherri Burr Second Place: Sherry Robinson Third Place (tie): Mark Tiarks, Jim Tritten

Organizational Winners

KRWG Public Media Santa Fe Reporter SouthWest Writers



NMPW 2024 New Mexico First Place Communications Contest Winners

The list is alphabetical, by winner's name(s):

Faculty Adviser of Student Publication, Station or Site Glenda Balas "UNT Dallas Arts Journal"

> Internal Communications Glenda Balas "Communication Day"

Corporate or For-Profit Jennifer Black "Into the Weave"

Video for non-profit or Government Organization Jennifer Black "How Food Banks Work"

> Novels (more than 40,000 words) Gency Brown A Right Fine Life

> > Speech

Sherri Burr "The Underground Railroad: A Journey from Slavery to Freedom"

Profile (750 Words or Fewer)

Sherri Burr "The Writing Life: Diana Gabaldon"

Humorous

Sherri Burr "The Writing Life: Grace"

General

Sherri Burr "The Writing Life: Spare"

Radio (27A)

Mia Casas "Actors' union takes its ongoing strike to Netflix North America's Studios in Albuquerque"

Social Issues

Evan Chandler "A Light in the Desert"

In-Depth Reporting

Mo Charnot "Attacked on Campus"

Web News (Single News or Feature Story)

Jonny Coker "Local and federal agencies respond to humanitarian crisis at U.S.-Mexico border"

Radio (29A)

Mary Lou Cooper "UNM Voices weigh in on anti-semitism and Islamophobia"

Informational (How to, Q&A, Advice)

Stan Cooper Newsleter: Ask Stan Medicare Questions

(Continued on next page)

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Communications Contest Winners (Cont'd)

Radio (32A)

KC Counts KRWG News for Wednesday, November 8 at 6:45 a.m.

Personal Merilee Dannemann "Resorting to the unthinkable"

Radio (28A)

Jeanette DeDios "Federal commissioners come to Albuquerque to hear from families of missing and murdered Indigenous people"

Collection of short stories written by multiple authors

Sonja Dewing *ThrillHers*

Online Publication Susan Dunlap_ "A look back at what last year has wrought"

Book Designed by Entrant

Sara Frances Unplugged Voices: 125 Tales of Art and Life from Northern New Mexico, the Four Corners and the West

> Science or techmology Jill Gibson "Harnessing the Power of the Sun"

Magazine or magapaper (newsletter format with magazine-style writing and design)

Jill Gibson National Security Science Magazine: The Oppenheimer Issue, Summer 2023

Corporate or for-profit (40B)

Julia Goldberg "Morning Word"

Print-Based Newspaper

Julia Goldberg "AG Torrez Argues State Supreme Court Should Nullify Anti-Abortion Ordinances"

Continuing Coverage or Unfolding News Julia Goldberg "New Mexico Downwinders"

Government or politics Julia Goldberg "AG Torrez Says He Won't Defend Governor on Gun Cases"

> **Green/environmental** Julia Goldberg "Electric Futures"

Physical health (fitness, diet, clean lifestyle) Julia Goldberg "Santa Fe Hospitals Report Increase in COVID-19 Patients"

> **Podcast** Regina Griego "Dr. Regina Griego - Transcending Futures"

> > Profile (more than 750 words)

Regina Griego "An Interview with Author Regina Griego"

(Continued on next page)

Communications Contest Winners (Cont'd)

Single Story

Katy Hammel "Where the Wild Things Still Are"

Online publication (01C)

Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola "New archive of Santa Fe clergy abuse documents hailed as unprecedented"

Religion

Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola "Navajo Catholics upset after Franciscans transfer historic mission to local diocese"

Magazine/Magapaper (newspaper format with magazine-style writing and design) 19B Natalie Hegert "New Mexico Field Guide 2023"

> Nonprofit, government, or educational (40A) Susan Hering "Bethlehem"

> > Personal Essay Kathleen Hessler "Precious Penny"

Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book Patricia Hodapp "Aah, Paris"

Patricia nouapp Aari, Paris

Editorial/Opinion

Iris Keltz "How roses grow from blood"

Nonprofit, government or educational (34A)

Tara Lumpkin "Voices for Biodiversity"

Nonprofit, government or educational (38A)

Angelina Malone KRWG Public Media Social Media pages

Fiction (13A) Vicki Mayhew "How the Unicorn Said Goodbye"

Corporate or for-profit (39B)

Arin McKenna Facebook Manager for Anne Hillerman

News or Feature Release - Single Release

Arin McKenna "NNMC Board of Regents Vice President Erica Rita Velarde Celebrates her daughter's graduation from her Alma Mater"

Nonprofit, government or educational (37A)

Elaine Montague "MUSINGS OF A LOCKED-OUT WIFE"

Television (31B)

Anthony Moreno Fronteras 1323 - Conversation with Denise Chávez

Radio (31A) Kaveh Mowahed Let's talk curtailing crime (Continued on next page)

Communications Contest Winners (Cont'd)

Chapbook of Poetry

Karen Petersen Trembling

Televisison (59B)

Noah Raess "Border trade fueling Santa Teresa's growth in southern New Mexico"

Personal opinion (bylined, not editorial)

Sherry Robinson "Fema not helping disaster victims for 20 years"

HIstory (071) Sherry Robinson "Georgia Volunteers in the Mexican-American War, 1846-1848"

Newsletter/other publication - non-profit, government, or educational (19C) Sherry Robinson *La Cronica*

Newsletter/other publication, nonprofit, government or educational (10B) Léonie Rosenstiel *The Broadsheet*

> **Single poem** Janet Ruth "A Fine Kettle of Poem-Fish"

Graphics Anson Stevens-Bollen Life With Less Water

Reviews (any subject, must express a personal opinion) Mark Tiarks "Ailyn Pérez a force of nature in Santa Fe Opera's 'Rusalka'"

Arts and entertainment

Mark Tlarks "Get a Taste of Old Granddad No. 4"

Book edited by entrant Jim Tritten *Holes in Our Hearts*

Travel Jim Tritten "Papal Blessings"

Television (29B) Christian Valle "Clara Belle Williams: New Mexico Pioneer in Education"

> **Fiction (14A)** Kadijah VanBrackle *Fatima Tate Takes the Cake*

Autobiography or Memoir Patricia Walkow Life Lessons From the Color Yellow

Sports

Betty Williamson "Secretariat made me a fan back in 1973"

Radio (30A)

Leora Zeitlin "Chess and music: A two-part interview with national chess master Lior Lapid"

NMPW High School Communications Contest



Leandro Vasquez-Diaz, a senior at Atrisco Heritage Academy, reads his prizewinning essay at the opening night reception. The text is a reproduction of the essay, as submitted.

The Life of Shireen Abu Akleh By Leandro Vazquez-Diaz

Fifty-one years, one month, and nine days, this is how long the life of Shireen Abu Akleh lasted before she was brutally shot in the head by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Shireen Abu Akleh was a Palestinian-American journalist who primarily covered the conflict between Israel and Palestine. She was a courageous journalist, giving a voice to the Palestinian people, and becoming very well known within the Arab community around the world for her fearless, courageous, and fair reporting of serious topics.

Abu Akleh was born in Jerusalem in 1971, later moving to Jordan after being accepted to the Jordan University of Science and Technology, where she chose to study architecture. While she was doing her studies, the first rebellion/uprising against the Israeli government occurred when people grew increasingly frustrated with the Israeli policies at that time. She realized she wanted to share the story of what was happening to the world, so she transferred over to Yarmouk University to study Journalism.

Following her graduation from Yarmouk University, Abu Akleh joined many different organizations and radio gigs such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Voice of Palestine. Abu Akleh joined Al Jazeera in 1999 which was a major milestone in her career, however, she would ultimately skyrocket in popularity following the second Intifada in 2000, with Arabs from around the world having the ability to tune into the conflict that was happening. One of the most significant parts about her, and the reason she became a very prominent figure in the Arab community, was the fact that she

often reported from very tense and dangerous situations. She always maintained her composure, giving a clear description of the events that were playing out. Her role in journalism helped the people of Palestine gain a voice for themselves, sparking international support from Arab communities around the world. All this would change, however, following the Israeli raid on Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

On May 11th, 2022, Abu Akleh was covering the events that were unfolding as per usual when she was shot in the head by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Following this incident, the IDF initially blamed Abu Akleh for her own demise, later changing their stance to her death being an "accidental killing." Although it was labeled as an "accidental" killing, the actions committed by the IDF in the months following the incident suggest that it was an execution. The year following her death, 78 Palestinian journalists were killed, people who were like her, people who were attempting to shed light on the conflict in Palestine. Shireen Abu Akleh will forever be remembered as one of the most courageous journalists ever, allowing for the Palestinian people to have a voice against their oppressors.

This year NMPW collaborated with English Expo New Mexico to host a competition for middle and high school students on the anniversary theme of "Profiles in Courageous Communication". English Expo has held an annual competition of English Language Arts skills for New Mexico's young people since 1990.

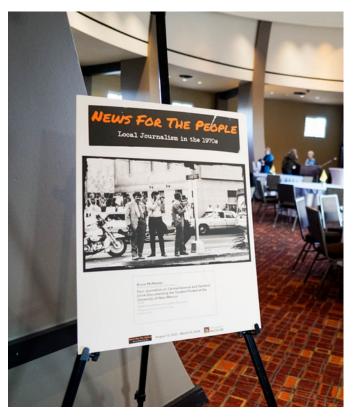
The high school contest produced two finalists, Leandro Vazquez-Diaz from Atrisco Heritage Academy High School in Albuquerque, and Oschyn Henry from Farmington High School.

Leandro was selected as the honoree who received a \$100 prize from NMPW. He was invited to read his winning essay at the conference reception on Friday evening and attend the banquet on Saturday.

Highlights from the Historian's Report

By Robert Flinkman

A copy of the complete report is posted on the NMPW website.



Above: The poster for the Albuquerque Museum exhibit of the same name that included memorabilia from the NFPW archives as well as from member Denise Tessier.

The 2023 NMPW COA winner was Léonie Rosenstiel, a multi-award winning author. She is the author of *Protecting Mama* : *Surviving the Legal Guardianship Swamp*, which won 1st Place in the 2022 NM-AZ Book Awards.

Rosenstiel is a member of the board of SouthWest Writers and Vice-President of NMPW. She wrote, translated, edited and contributed chapters to more than a dozen books, and wrote numerous articles and short stories, many which won awards.

She has a Ph.D from Columbia University and six Master's Degrees in subjects ranging from pastoral counseling, public health and East Asian medicine. NMPW members won 37 awards from NFPW. The awards were for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place, and two Honorable Mentions. The list of winners was published in the July 2023 issue of the Broadsheet.

In 2023 Pres. Sherri Burr and Treas. Loretta Hall created an endowed scholarship fund. Both NMPW members Anne Hillerman and Léonie Rosenstiel expressed interest in endowing the scholarships.

Léonie Rosenstiel provided funds to endow a graduate scholarship, the NMPW Rosenstiel Scholarship, and Anne Hillerman provided funds for an undergraduate scholarship, the NMPW Anne and Tony Hillerman Scholarship.

Pres. Sherri Burr suggested the organization raise an additional \$25,000 for the 75th year anniversary and all board members agreed to participate in the fund raising endeavor.

On March 3rd, 2024, Denise Tessier participated in a discussion at the Albuquerque Museum, "Closing Discussion: Women In Journalism," moderated by Sherri Burr. Topics included what story worked on had the most impact, impact of being a woman has had on journalism career and current projects. The date was also the last day of the exhibit : *News For The People : Local Journalism In The 1970s.*

Chapter News

Albuquerque Press Women and Friends First Quarter Report 2024

Albuquerque Press Women and Friends are enjoying a wide variety of speakers this year. In January we began learning about the quest to do open primary elections in New Mexico. This group is lobbying the state legislature to allow independent voters to participate in either the Democratic, Republican or Libertarian primaries.

In February we heard from Franz Joachim, the general manager of KNME public television. He spoke about the technical problems all stations are dealing with as more content moves to the internet. He told us about the discussion of maintaining actual television towers and the expense of maintaining those towers. We also discussed the way KNME has been able to expand the number of channels they broadcast to five, using the same amount of radio spectrum. There was also a terrific discussion about the competition for the radio spectrum now set aside for public television.

March brought Judge Linda Vanzi, a former judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals who spoke about the significance of a new civil rights law passed by the New Mexico Legislature in 2021.

In 2021, in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade, New Mexico enacted the nation's broadest-ever civil rights statute. Prior to that time, New Mexicans could only seek damages for violations of their civil rights under Section 1983, a federal statute which allows a person to sue government officials for violations of rights protected by the Federal Constitution. Based on recommendations made by the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission, the New Mexico Civil Rights Act created a wholly new cause of action that allows New Mexicans to bring claims for damages in state court against police officers and other public officials who violate the rights guaranteed to them in the New Mexico Constitution's Bill of Rights.

Importantly, the Act explicitly bars the defense of qualified immunity, a federal judicial doctrine that makes it all but impossible to sue public officials under Section 1983. There is also no risk of personal liability for government employees: Individuals may only sue the public body, not the public employees themselves, who are fully indemnified.

We look forward to a wide spectrum of speakers this year.

Karen Wentworth President Albuquerque Press Women and Friends



Member News

On March 3, **Outgoing NMPW President Sherri Burr** moderated the closing panel for the exhibition: The "News of the People: Local Journalism in the 1970s" <u>News For The</u> <u>People: Local Journalism in the 1970s – City of</u> <u>Albuquerque (cabq.gov)</u>

She spoke at Yale Law School on March 8, 2024, at the 50th Anniversary of the Yale Journal of International Law. <u>Agenda - The Yale Journal of International Law's 50th</u> <u>Anniversary Conference: Celebrating the Work of W.</u> <u>Michael Reisman (cvent.com)</u>

Burr has received a 2024-2025 Mount Vernon Fellowship where she will begin her next history project: <u>Class of</u> <u>2024-25 · George Washington's Mount Vernon</u>

Member Anna I. Sochocky, VP of the New Mexico Book Association says, "We welcome members of the New Mexico Press Women to join us at our March and April workshops." See details on our website and register at:

https://www.nmbookassociation.org/workshops.htm

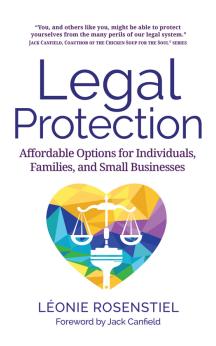
Member Anne Hillerman announces that new book, Lost Birds, to be released on April 23, is now available for pre-order, online and in bookstores. Events will be held at Collected Works (Santa Fe), Treasure House (Albuquerque) and elsewhere.

Anne spoke at the Literary Society of the Desert in Palm Springs and the Tucson Festival of the Book.

She is also happy to announce that Dark Winds, the AMC TV series based on the Hillerman characters, has been nominated by Mystery Writers of America for an Edgar Award in the screenplay category. The winners will be announced May 1.

You can find our more about Anne's events at her website, <u>https://www.annehillerman.com</u>

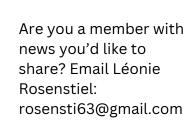
Member Margaret Cheasebro, will publish "Reiki, Trees, and Healing Emotional Pain," in the Spring 2024 issue of *Reiki News Magazine* (www.reiki.org).



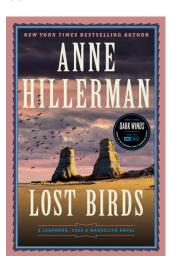
Léonie Rosenstiel, NMPW vice president, reports that she will be contributing a chapter about the gag order imposed on her mother's guardianship records and the eventual lifting of it to an anthology on activism.

Her latest book, *Legal Protection* (pictured above), with a foreword by Jack Canfield, co-author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul® series, launched on January 22 as Number One in the Amazon category "New Releases in Legal Services."

In August, Léonie will speak for SouthWest Writers about Jack Canfield's decision to endorse her work, and in November about AI (based on series of articles she wrote for SWW's bulletin *The Sage*),







Officers and Board Members

NMPW Officers

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Chapter Representatives:

Albuquerque Press Women Steering Committee Representative: Linda Lockett Northern Chapter Representative: Patricia Hodapp



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TO CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER OR OFFICER, FEEL FREE TO EMAIL: NEWMEXICOPRESSWOMEN@GMAIL.COM WITH THE PERSON'S NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

