

THE BROADSHEET

The newsletter of New Mexico Press Women



[Photo: Unsplash]

*More great reads
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A Message from the President

BY SHERRI BURR

New Mexico Press Women lost connections to a legendary communicator when Max Evans, the author of 30 books, died in August 2020. Two years ago, NMPW voted to honor Max with our newly-instituted Legends Award — but we were unable to do so because he was too ill to journey to Bookworks, our cooperating partner. The best way to honor Max is to continue our communication journeys and produce the best work we can.

New Mexico Press Women is currently accepting entries for our annual Communications Contest and Zia Awards. Please consider submitting your work for consideration. There's nothing like a deadline! The 2021 Annual Conference honoring our winners will be online so that NMPW can celebrate your achievements without venturing out of your home. I wish we could have done that for Max. Godspeed, Max, into that Great Mystery in the Sky!

New Mexico Press Women Offers Scholarships in Journalism

New Mexico Press Women is now accepting applications for the Doris Gregory Scholarship for university and college Journalism students for the 2021 - 2022 academic year.

The First Place winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a second-place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship. The 2021-2022 award honors the memory of Roslyn K. "Roz" Pulitzer, a friend of NMPW who passed away earlier this year, and Anne Hillerman's husband, Don Strel, who pitched in to help NMPW several times.

Details on entering and the application are at <http://newmexicopresswomen.org/scholarships-3/>.

Applications are due by Friday, Jan. 15, 2021.

Contact Scholarship Chair Jessica Savage at Scholarship@newmexicopresswomen.org.

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*“We called them wrecks...
And the great mystery in
the sky does not allow you
to have all that fun unless
you have some wrecks.”*

— Max Evans

Communications Contest Open

The 2021 National Federation of Press Women and New Mexico Press Women Communications Contest is now accepting entries. [Click here for more information and to enter](#) or log on to the NFPW website at www.NFPW.org.

The communications contest is a two-tiered contest open to anyone over the age of 18 regardless of age, gender, professional status or location.

Book entries are accepted until Feb. 3, 2021, at midnight our time zone. All other entries are accepted until Feb. 10, 2021, until midnight our time zone. All entries received after Jan. 27, 2021, will be charged a one-time \$25 late fee.

The first tier of the contest is at the state level. Winners at the state level earn the chance to compete at the national level. To be able to compete at the national level, the winning entrant must be a member in good standing with the NFPW by March 15, 2021. Entrants can join once they are notified of their winning entry. Entrants with wins across multiple categories are entered into the state sweepstakes category, which uses a weighted point value for each placing entry. Based on those totals, sweepstakes awards are given to the three top-scoring entrants.

Entry fees for the New Mexico contest are \$25 for the first entry \$15 for each additional for NMPW members; entry fees for non-members are \$30 for the first and \$20 for each additional.

For more information contact contest chair Carolyn Carlson at contest@newmexicopresswomen.org.



Max Evans

NMPW Discusses 'Forgotten Figures'

New Mexico Press Women on Oct. 5 hosted an off-the-record Zoom discussion on "Forgotten Figures in New Mexico's History — Those Left Off Monuments & Statues." State Historian Rob Martinez provided his thoughts on noteworthy people from all cultural and ethnic segments of New Mexico's history. Dr. Sylvia Ramos Cruz, renowned PBS contributor, discussed prominent New Mexico women, especially those involved with the women's suffrage movement. NMPW Treasurer Loretta Hall hosted the meeting, which was a tremendous success.

High School Communications Contest

The 2021 NFPW High School Communications Contest is now underway. Though NMPW is not hosting a contest, we are encouraging high school students to enter the NFPW's At-Large High School Communications Contest. First-place winning entries in the at-large contest are eligible to advance to Level 2, which is the NFPW National High School Communications Contest. First-place winners at Level 2 receive an award certificate, an invitation to the National High School Luncheon at NFPW's national conference, and a check for \$100 per entry.

The contest entry deadline is Feb. 10, 2021. National judging begins March 5 and ends March 31, 2021. Margaret Cheasebro is NMPW's high school outreach coordinator, which includes the high school communications contest. She has diligently been working to gather contact information from the high schools in all of New Mexico's 89 school districts and 96 charter schools, and letting them know about the contest. She has worked to get information to home schools and private schools, as well.

Zia Book Awards

Women writers living in New Mexico are invited to submit books for consideration for the Zia Book Award, given each year by NMPW at the annual spring conference. Each year the award rotates to one of three categories: children's literature, nonfiction, and fiction. To accommodate this schedule, a book published in the last three years is eligible. The 2021 award is open to nonfiction books published in 2018, 2019, or 2020.

Finalists will be invited to attend a virtual awards ceremony on Mar. 13, 2021, and speak about their books. Finalists will receive either the Award or an Honorable Mention. To be eligible for the Award, the author must attend the ceremony.

The entry fee is as follows:

If sent by Dec. 31, 2020:

- \$25 for NMPW members
- \$30 for nonmembers

If sent after Dec. 31, 2020:

- \$35 for NMPW members
- \$50 for nonmembers

Entries must be postmarked no later than Jan. 11, 2021. An acknowledgment letter will be emailed upon receipt of the entry. Submissions can be made by the author or by someone else on behalf of the author, such as a publisher. Membership in New Mexico Press Women is not required, but the writer must be a woman who lives in or has a strong connection to New Mexico. The book may be published anywhere.

To submit for consideration for the Zia Book Award, send two copies of the book along with a brief cover letter including complete contact information, the author's biography (including her connection to New Mexico), and a description of the book to:

Patricia Conoway
Zia Book Award Chair
P.O. Box 54
Cerrillos, NM 87010

The entry fee may be paid by including a check payable to NMPW with the submission or [paid online](#). Optional dues may be also paid on the same page.

Book entries are considered a donation to the organization and are not returned. The books will be part of the silent auction held at the spring conference to raise scholarship funds.

For more information on the contest, send correspondence to the address listed above or e-mail Patricia Conoway at ZiaBookAward@gmail.com.



“For me, the code of the West is simple. You never let a friend down... ever.”

— Max Evans

Giving Tuesday

Scholarship Fundraiser

New Mexico Press Women exceeded its goal to raise \$1,500 for the Doris Gregory Scholarship during this year's #GivingTuesday on Dec. 1. With donations and pledges ranging from \$10 to \$1,000 (one of each), NMPW raised \$2,000 – 25 percent more than its stated goal.

All funds will be added to the Doris Gregory Scholarship to benefit journalism students in New Mexico. NMPW thanks these NMPW members and friends who donated to the Doris Gregory Scholarship for their generosity:

- Anthony Albidrez
- Anne Hillerman
- Carol Kreis
- Damien Willis
- Denise Tessier
- Kathleen McCleery
- Linda Lockett
- Loretta Hall
- Mike Gallagher
- Marilyn Ward
- Patricia Hodapp
- Robert Flinkman
- Robert Kidera
- Sharon Niederman
- Sherri Burr
- Vicky Ramakka

"New Mexico Press Women's first participation in #GivingTuesday was an outstanding success. Many thanks to our donors and Happy Holidays to all," said NMPW President Sherri Burr, expressing her gratitude.

Save the Date! NMPW Online Conference

Please save March 12–13, 2021, for the New Mexico Press Women Online Conference. We have expanded the plan from the 2020 conference to include New York Times best-selling author Doug Preston on the evening of March 12.

In January, we plan to remind those who have already paid their 2020–21 fees and to set up a payment system for those who would like to participate in the 2021 conference. Additionally, 2021 dues of \$20 can be paid either through the NFPW website when you sign up for the Communications Contest or through the NMPW website. By renewing your NMPW membership, you receive discounts on entering the various contests and on conference fees. Additionally, if you win first place in the NMPW contest, NMPW pays for your first entrance into the national NFPW contest, a \$23 value.



Douglas Preston [Courtesy Photo]

This year's conference will feature Douglas Preston. Preston has published 36 books, both nonfiction and fiction, of which 29 have been *New York Times* bestsellers. He is the co-author, with Lincoln Child, of the *Pendergast* series of thrillers. Their novel, *Relic*, was made into a feature film by Paramount Pictures, and his nonfiction book, *The Monster of Florence*, is currently in film production. Preston's most recent nonfiction book, *The Lost City of the Monkey God*, tells the true story of the discovery of an ancient, Pre-Columbian city in an unexplored valley in the Honduran rainforest. It was a #1 *New York Times* best-seller and was named by the *Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *National Geographic* and the American Association for the Advancement of Science as one of the best books of the year. Preston writes about archaeology and anthropology for *The New Yorker* magazine. He worked as an editor at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and taught nonfiction writing at Princeton University. He currently serves as president of the Authors Guild, the nation's oldest and largest association of authors and journalists.

NMPW Elects Officers

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced NMPW into a few firsts. On Nov. 14, the organization held its first virtual annual meeting, which was well-attended.

NMPW also held its first-ever online election of officers, which ordinarily takes place in even-numbered years at the annual meeting.

The results of the election are as follows:

President: Sherri Burr
Vice-President: Damien Willis
Treasurer: Loretta Hall
Secretary: Sharon Niederman

The board would like to thank all members who voted in this year's election.

Chapter News

Albuquerque Press Women and Friends

Albuquerque Press Women and Friends took the summer off to socially distance, but in September the chapter heard from Bernalillo County Clerk Linda Stover, Deputy Clerk Jaime Diaz and Election Supervisor Nathan Jaramillo about this most unusual election year. The clerk's office went to huge lengths to allow people who worry about slow postal service to drop off their ballots in person.

Members report being "dazzled by the logistics of getting and counting the ballots in the state's largest county."

On October 12, Indigenous People's Day, APWF held a Zoom meeting featuring Gloria Grant. She is a Native American writer who spoke about problems Native Americans have in towns that border reservations.

Northern New Mexico Press Women

Also ahead of November's General Election, Northern New Mexico Press Women's attention turned to providing members with important voting information.

Kate McCleery conducted a terrific interview with Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver. The video can be viewed on YouTube [HERE](#).

Las Cruces Press Women

On Oct. 15, Las Cruces Press Women hosted author Paul Pedroza for a conversation titled "Give it a Name: Mental Health and the Writing Life."

The writing life is one of solitude and struggle, and for some writers who deal with mental illness, it can seem insurmountable. Pedroza discussed how identifying and naming mental health concerns informs authors' work and opens avenues to successfully navigating the challenging paths towards publication and participating in literary culture. From cultivating a consistent writing practice through marketing and publicity, Paul shared his experiences with coping while working.

Then, on Nov. 10, the organization hosted a webinar featuring children's author J.C. Cervantes. Cervantes is the author of the New York Times best-selling *Storm Runner* novels for children. *The Storm Runner* trilogy is a Rick Riordan Presents Aztec and Mayan-based mythology published by Disney Hyperion. Cervantes is also a former NMPW Zia Book Award winner for the children's book *Tortilla Sun*.

Both events were free and open to the public.

Member News

Sherri Burr's book, *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019), was recently recognized in the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. It tied for winner in the category of Best Cover Design, 6x9, and was a finalist in the category of History, Other.

Teresa Civello's 9/11 eyewitness account of the attack on the Twin Towers, titled "Home of the Brave," was chosen for inclusion in the recently-published anthology *New Mexico Remembers 9/11*.

"My story is the story of my experience that day as events unfolded: Witnessing the planes hitting the towers, smelling the fire and smoke, and wiping away the grit being carried in the air for miles in every direction from burning Downtown Manhattan," writes Civello.

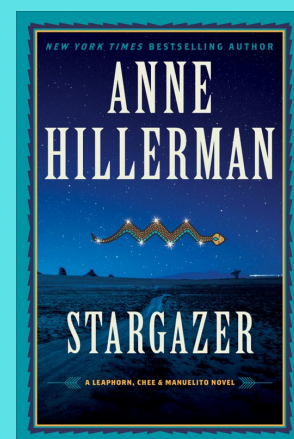
Victory from the Shadows: Growing Up in a New Mexico School for the Blind and Beyond, by **Gary and Elaine Montague**, is available free for eligible individuals with vision or print impairment from the regional library in Santa Fe or the nationwide BARD system. The Montagues have formed their own publishing company, GEM Publications, and [sell the paperback on their website](#). The book, which has won four awards, is also available on Kindle/KDP.

Tierna Unruh-Enos shares that Albuquerque's new alternative weekly newspaper, *the paper*, began publishing Oct. 7. *the paper* is owned by Good Trouble LLP, which is owned by Albuquerque City Councilor Pat Davis. Unruh-Enos is the publication's associate publisher and managing editor. It replaces *The Weekly Alibi*, which served the city for 28 years.

the paper "will have a strong focus on news and investigative journalism, while also keeping the alt-weekly tradition of covering arts/music/culture and cannabis," Unruh-Enos said.

Anne Hillerman shares that the next novel in her mystery series, *Stargazer*, is now in production at HarperCollins. The release date is April 13, 2021.

She was the speaker for the Taos County Historical Society's September Zoom meeting, and joined Leslie Polling Kempes and Kari Bovee to discuss Women Writing the West for a Zoom program for the Corrales Arts Center Salon.



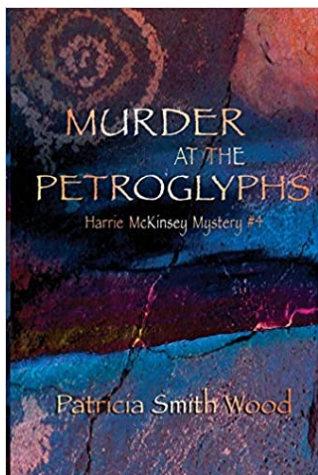
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Member News

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Hillerman also joined author Craig Johnson to represent the world of mystery writing in a Zoom benefit for Santa Fe's Collected Works bookstore.

Patricia Smith Wood's latest Harrie McKinsey Mystery, *Murder at the Petroglyphs*, was reviewed by David Steinberg in the Sunday, Sept. 6, issue of the *Albuquerque Journal*.



"In this time of isolation, and the inability to do book signings and speak at events, it was the best thing I've experienced in the past couple of months," she writes.

Dianne R. Layden published a chapter in the 2020 anthology *New Mexico Remembers 9/11*, edited by Patricia Walkow. She wrote about her experiences that day in 2001, what took place at the World Trade Center and in its aftermath, and the rise of domestic terrorism after 9/11.

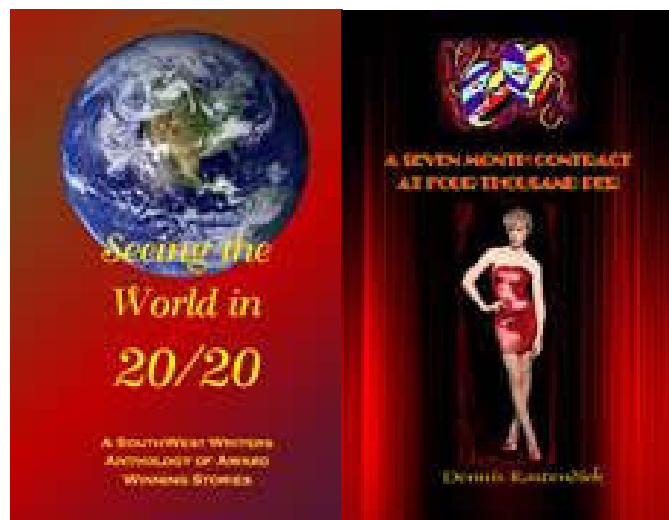
On Sept. 26, based on her 2013 award-winning article, Layden spoke in Albuquerque about the UNM protests in May 1970 that followed the killing of four students at Kent State University by the Ohio National Guard. UNM students went on strike, some 130 students were arrested, and 11 people were bayoneted by the New Mexico National Guard.

Then, on Nov. 12, she gave a lecture in Albuquerque at Oasis Lifelong Adventure about acclaimed author Rudolfo Anaya, who passed away in June 2020, and the Bless Me, Ultima Landscape Park in Santa Rosa. "This beautiful monument features bronze sculptures by Reynaldo Rivera, a natural stone fountain, and a reflecting pool with Japanese tile," Layden shares.

RJ Mirabal's *Trixie Finds Her People* was a finalist this year in the 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the world's largest book awards program for independent publishers and self-published authors. The winners and finalists were honored June 26 in an online event streamed live on Facebook.

The book was also awarded a Third Place Children's Books — Fiction in the 2020 NMPW Communications Contest earlier this year.

Rose Marie Kern finished formatting and publishing two books in September. *Seeing the World in 20/20* is an anthology of winning stories and poetry from the 2020 SouthWest Writers Writing contest. The other book, *A Seven Month Contract at Four Thousand Per* by Dennis Kastendiek, is an amusing story following a young man who accidentally injures his sister, and then goes undercover as a woman in her stead to earn money for the family while she recovers. Both books are available on Amazon.



Marguerite Kearns is under contract with SUNY Press (State University of New York) for a book that will be released in June 2021.

The book, *An Unfinished Revolution: Edna Buckman Kearns and the Struggle for Women's Rights*, is a memoir and family history featuring Kearns' suffrage activist grandparents and how they influenced four generations in her family. Kearns serves as the narrator — taking her from age ten, all the way to New Mexico in 2019. More information is available on Kearns' website, <https://unfinished-revolution.com/>.

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“Journalism is what
maintains democracy.
It's the force for
progressive social
change.”

— Andrew Vachss

Member News

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The 2020 SouthWest Writers Parris Award winner is author and scriptwriter **Jacqueline Murray Loring**. Loring is an award-winning poet, writer, play and screenwriter and filmmaker. Among Loring's published works are: *Summer Home Volume I and II*, *The History of Bearing Children*, a poetry collection published in Galway, Ireland, and *Vietnam Veterans Unbroken: Conversations on Trauma and Resiliency*.



Jacqueline Murray Loring

Established in 1987, this award is named for **Parris Afton Bonds**, its first recipient. Bonds is the nationally-recognized author of nearly fifty published novels. She is the co-founder of Romance Writers of America, as well as the co-founder of SouthWest Writers.

Damien Willis was recently elected to serve as an at-large board member for the Society of Professional Journalists - Rio Grande Chapter's Board of Directors. His term will begin in 2021.

He was also recognized as Runner-Up in the Las Cruces Bulletin's "Bulletin's Best" contest in three categories: Best Local Newspaper Reporter, Best Local Newspaper Columnist, and Best Local Twitter Feed.

The NMPW Board

President Sherri Burr:
president@newmexicopresswomen.org

Vice President/Broadsheet Editor Damien Willis:
damienwillis@gmail.com

Secretary Sharon Niederman: sherites@swcp.com

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First Amendment Chair: Vacant

Historian Robert Flinkman: Robf56@gmail.com

