

# The Broadsheet

New Mexico Press Women November 2006 Vol. 29 No. 6

## Jan. 15 is contest deadline

Contest rules and forms have been mailed. If you didn't receive one, contact Contest Czar **Connie Gotsch** at 505-566-3377 or go to the NMPW Web site at [www.newmexicopresswomen.org](http://www.newmexicopresswomen.org). Entry deadline is January 15.

Applause for NMPW Past President **Chris Burroughs**, who redesigned the contest brochure and overhauled the mailing list.

## NMPW NEWS

A message from President **Emily Drabanski**: "I want to begin my term as the new president by thanking **Chris Burroughs** for all the hard work, enthusiasm and energy she brought to the state organization as president."

Stepping into Emily's former role as vice president and membership chair is **Carol Clark**, who has led the rebirth of the Northern New Mexico chapter and chaired last year's state conference. **Susanne Burkes** continues as secretary, and **Sandy Schauer** continues as treasurer.

New to the state board are **Carolyn Gonzales**, public relations chairperson; **Sharon Niederman**, mentorship chairperson; and **Jessica Savage**, who chairs the Zia Award. **Chris Burroughs** has agreed to chair the high school contest.

A new effort is our Mentorship Program, now chaired by **Sharon Niederman**. Still evolving, the program will include outreach to younger members and support for members seeking to change or refine career paths. The first event on Oct. 11 was a presentation by Emily and Sharon to UNM's chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, at the invitation of NMPW student member **Julie Medina**. Please send any ideas you have in this area to Sharon at [sherites@swcp.com](mailto:sherites@swcp.com).

NMPW Bean Counter **Sandy Schauer** reports that the 2006 state conference had a \$2,400 profit. Thanks to our sponsors: **Los**

**Alamos National Bank**, \$2,000; **Sandia National Laboratories**, \$1,000; **Albuquerque Journal**, \$250.

**Sara Ford** and **Emily Drabanski** will co-chair the state conference in Santa Fe next year. Sara has been involved with previous conference organizing. And **Anne Hillerman** will help find suitable conference space and accommodations. **Carol Clark** will solicit sponsors.

NFPW is leaning on state affiliates to stop trading contest entries and having members serve as judges. The state board will work with Colorado Press Women to find qualified judges in that state who are not members of Press Women. We need your recommendations of judges in New Mexico who can be recommended to Colorado. Send your ideas to Connie Gotch at [gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us](mailto:gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us).

**Laurie Mellas Ramirez** said that the NMPW scholarship awarded to **Myrna Villa** bolstered her confidence so much that she successfully applied to another organization for a scholarship. "We had a direct impact on her life," Laurie says. Myrna is a student at NMSU.

## **NFPW News**

Nineteen NMPW members took advantage of the reduced registration made possible by the state organization to attend the **National Federation of Press Women** convention in Denver. And they're still raving about it.

Conference attendees were Chris Burroughs, Denise Tessier, Jessica Savage, Carol Kreis, Carol Clark, Carolyn Gonzales, Jean Kepler Ross, Connie Gotsch, Emily Drabanski, Sherry Robinson, Kathy Córdova, Sandy Schauer, Anne Hillerman, Diana Sandoval, Julie Medina, Julie Grimm, Jane Phillips and Sharon Niederman.

**Julie Medina**, a UNM student, received a full first-time conference grant from NFPW. **Julie Grimm** stood up in the session with Tad Bartimus, former AP correspondent, and asked how she could find mentors, which led to strong dialog among the state and national members. Thanks to **Denise Tessier**, who proposed the idea to "invest in our members" and **Sandy Schauer** for coming up with a workable plan. Many of our participating members said the reduced registration fee made it possible for them to attend. **Jean Kepler Ross** sent an

enthusiastic e-mail thanking the board and expressing how meaningful the conference was to her. They all came home energized and inspired.

In other NFPW news, it did our hearts good to see **Kathy Córdova** sitting up at the head table. Kathy is second vice president and in line to become president.

NFPW is one of the country's foremost leaders in the protection of First Amendment rights. One of the highlights of the conference was the announcement that New Mexican **Paul Salopek** had been released. NFPW was the first media organization to write a letter seeking his release.

**Emily Drabanski** was our **Communicator of Achievement** this year. She says: "It was a tremendous honor to represent New Mexico as the state's Communicator of Achievement. I thank Chris Burroughs for preparing my nomination. It's an honor I'll never forget and I will continue to work in the upcoming years for this organization, which has given so much to me."

## **NMPW Continues to Grow**

Membership in the state organization is up to 90, up from 67 members last spring. All three chapters are healthy and active.

A big welcome to our latest new member: **Jacqueline Armendariz**, of Las Cruces.

## **Chapter News**

In September **Albuquerque Press Women** elected new officers: president, **Dan Mayfield**, arts assistant editor at the Albuquerque Journal; vice president, **Liz Staley**, public advocacy attorney; secretary, **Denise Tessier**, freelance writer and editor; treasurer, **Doug Swift**, freelance technical communicator. **Diana Sandoval**, technical writer with the state Workers' Compensation Administration, will continue serve on the board as immediate past president.

Other board members are **Susanne Burks**, membership chair; **Janet Ford**, meetings & reservations and Web site chair; **Laurie Mellas Ramirez**, UNM liaison; **Susan Walton**, publicity chair; and **Chris Burroughs**, at large.

**APW** nominated a previous luncheon speaker, **Laura Berg**, to receive the Albuquerque Community Foundation's Giraffe Award. Berg, a VA nurse investigated for sedition after she wrote a letter to the Weekly Alibi criticizing the Bush administration's handling of Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq war, received the Linda Estes Giraffe Award, which honors people who stick their necks out for issues they believe in.

**Brian Sanderoff**, president of Research and Polling, Inc. and **Lonna Atkeson**, UNM professor of political science, will talk about the mid-term election during the Nov. 13 meeting of APW. The luncheon will be at 11:45 a.m. at the Sheraton Uptown. For reservations, call Janet Ford at 720-7821.

During the well attended October luncheon attendees heard about Albuquerque's proposed Quality of Life initiative. Panelists were **David Campbell**, **Pamela Chavez**, **Terri Cole** and **Sherman McCorkle**. And **Steve Ranieri** of Channel 27 gave a report about public access in Albuquerque as it turns 25 years old.

In September, **Diane Velasco**, executive director of The Citizen Media Group, and a former Albuquerque Journal business reporter, told about founding a non-profit Web-based news source.

On Dec. 11 the subject will be "**Nuts & Bolts About Blogs.**"

**Las Cruces Press Women** re-elected **Jeanne Resendez** as president and **Nena Singleton** as treasurer and elected **Rita Popp** vice president.

LCPW got an election preview during their meeting Oct. 26. NMSU government professor Nancy Baker, who spent the first 10 years of her career as a journalist and PR practitioner, was the speaker. Her most recent book examines the tenure of former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

In September the Las Cruces Chapter heard from Ann McCullough, resource development director for La Casa, a shelter program for battered women and families.

*Our sympathies to **Ann Palormo** on the loss of her husband **Brian** on Sept. 24. The **Las Cruces Chapter** honored them with a gift to the Doña Ana County Humane Society. Ann wrote: "Pets have*

*been part of our lives for all 42-plus years we were together and several were rescued in one way or another. It is important to us that the Human Society remain vital.”*

**Jean Kepler Ross**, editor of Guest Life magazine, was elected as the president of **the Northern New Mexico Chapter**. Other officers are **Bonnie Gordon**, secretary, and **Jane Longmire**, treasurer.

The northern chapter met Oct. 7 at Rancho De Chimayo. Guest speaker was award-winning author and psychologist Chellis Glendinning. Her latest book, “Chive: A Village Takes on the Global Heroin Trade,” is the story of how the people of Chimayo have confronted the heroin problem in their community.

Other recent speakers were chapter member Tom Berner, who in June presented a talk with photos of his experiences while teaching journalism in China, and Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron, who spoke in August.

## People News

Congratulations to **Pat Graff**, journalism teacher at La Cueva High School in Albuquerque who received the William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government. State Sen. **Dede Feldman**, a former NMPW member, was also a recipient.

And congratulations to **Barb Awalt** and **Paul Rhetts** who received Mother Teresa Awards from the Saint Bernadette Institute of Sacred Art in Albuquerque to recognize those who bring beauty to the world. Barb and Paul created the New Mexico Book Co-op to promote New Mexico books.

**Laurie Mellas Ramirez**, in addition to her duties in UNM communications is now Parent Relations Director. Laurie will help parents become informed as their high school kids transition to college and help parents of college students.

**Cathy Robbins** was in Albuquerque for the October luncheon. She’s writing for the “best Web newspaper in San Diego,” [www.voiceofsandiego.org](http://www.voiceofsandiego.org). One of her stories was “The Military and the Town,” comparing Albuquerque and San Diego.

**Carol Clark** and **Jane Longmire** of the Los Alamos Monitor produced a three-part series from information presented during the avian flu panel at the state conference. AP picked the stories up. Carol also broke the story on the meth bust in which lab documents were found.

**Sharon Niederman** received the Frank Riley Award from the Society of American Travel Writers for a piece she wrote and photographed on West Yellowstone, Montana during a winter trip. (It was published in the Los Alamos Monitor.) The Riley Award is given to the travel piece that best communicates "sense of place." Sharon's novel, "Return to Abo," was a finalist for the Willa Literary Award from Women Writing the West.

**Pari Noskin Taichert** has finished "The Socorro Blast." It could be in bookstores by fall 2007. Next up is "The Las Cruces Heat." Pari also has a short essay in "Mystery Muses: 100 Classics That Inspire Today's Mystery Writers," edited by Jim Huang and Austin Lugar. See <http://www.crumcreekpress.com/titles/muses.htm>.

**Yvonne Lanelli** announces her new and improved Web site: [www.zianet.com/lanelli](http://www.zianet.com/lanelli) with new and easier to download pix and articles, updated bio and awards page.

**Hollis Walker** has a book out by New Mexico Magazine on Taos artist Melissa Zink, "Zink, The Language of Enchantment."

UNM Press will publish **Cary Herz's** photography book "Culture and Memory: Descendants of the Crypto-Jews." It's a b/w photo book with portraits of people, family objects, and the cemetery sites. Cary reports she's doing well four months after her last chemo treatment and three years after the first surgery.

**Lynne Yapple** has been elected president of the New Mexico Internet Professionals Association.

**Scott Alley** had knee replacement surgery and is now knitting up. You can reach her at 243-0775.

## Coming Events

The **New Mexico Book Co-op** is coordinating holiday book signings of 34 authors at the Borders Cottonwood in Albuquerque. Nov. 26 will feature children's books; Dec. 3 will be New Mexico Stories; Dec. 10, food and fun; Dec. 17, mystery and romance; and

Dec. 23, last minute gifts. All events are from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information contact <http://nmbookcoop.com>

The Book Co-op's November 17 lunch meeting will feature **Daria Labinsky**, Adult Services Librarian/Local History Librarian for the Rio Rancho Library, who will talk about book acquisition at the library. The meeting begins at noon at the Home Town Buffet at 9261 Coors Blvd in Albuquerque.

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