

The Broadsheet

New Mexico Press Women Dec. 2007-Jan. 2008 Vol. 30 No. 4

You Go, Girl!

Julie Grimm made us proud, winning first place in the individual sweeps in NFPW. Julie, of the **Santa Fe New Mexican**, racked up the most points from winning entries in the annual communications contest.

And **NMPW**, as an affiliate, won third place for its winners.

President **Emily Drabanski** said the highlight of the Virginia convention was seeing Julie win: "The whole New Mexico delegation was beaming with pride. It was truly a highlight of my time in Press Women. And also I'm very proud of all of our New Mexico winners. The competition was tough with more than 900 entries in the national contest this year."

Each NFPW award winner qualified for the competition by winning first-place awards in the state contest. NFPW winners are:

- News Reporting, Non-daily: Christie Chisholm, Weekly Alibi, third;
- News Reporting, Daily: Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe New Mexican, first;
- Investigative Reporting: Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe New Mexican, third;
- Enterprise Reporting: Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe New Mexican, first;
- Special Series: Phaedra Haywood, Santa Fe New Mexican, second;
- Personality Profile: Tom Treweek, Rio Rancho Observer, third;
- Special Articles, Arts: Dan Mayfield, Albuquerque Journal, third;
- Special Articles, Government: Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe New Mexican, first;
- Special Articles, Reviews: Emily Drabanski, New Mexico Magazine, second.
- Special Articles, Sports: Dan Mayfield, Albuquerque Journal, second.
- Continuing Coverage: Julie Ann Grimm, Santa Fe New Mexican, third.
- Personal Column, Specialized: Phaedra Haywood, Santa Fe New Mexican, first;
- Single Page, regularly edited, non-daily: Laura Marrich, Weekly Alibi, third;
- Section, regularly edited, non-daily: Laura Marrich, Weekly Alibi, first;
- Publication, regularly edited, non-daily: Steven Robert Allen, Weekly Alibi, second;
- Page Layout, Daily: Melissa Martinez, Santa Fe New Mexican, first;
- Headlines: Andrea Shapiro, Santa Fe New Mexican Pasa Tiempo, first;
- Photography, daily, news: Jane Phillips, Santa Fe New Mexican, third;
- Photo, non-newspaper, feature: Jean Kepler Ross, Santa Fe Visitors Guide, third;
- Special programming, radio: Constance M. Gotsch, KSJE-FM, second;
- Interview, radio: Emily Drabanski, KSFR/ New Mexico Magazine, third;
- Writing for the Web, not-for-profit, Sherry Robinson, Albuquerque Tricentennial, first;
- Newsletter, four-color: Carolyn Gonzales, Laurie Mellas, Jana Fothergill and Sari Krosinski, University of New Mexico, first;
- Manuals and handbooks: Jean Llorente, NMSU Recreational Sports Calendar, first;
- Speeches: Sherri L. Burr, U. S. Post Office, third;

General Non-Fiction Book: Hollis Walker and Bette Brodsky, "Zink: The Language of Enchantment," first;
Non-fiction book, chapter: Sherri L. Burr, "Screening Justice: The Cinema Law," second;
Non-fiction book, instructional: Sherri L. Burr, University of New Mexico, "International Law Quick Review," second;
Fiction, novel: R. Thomas Berner, "Extra, Extra, Read All About It," third.

Call for Entries

You should by now have received rules for the **NMPW Communications Contest** by snail mail. If not, download them at the NMPW Web site at www.newmexicopresswomen.org. **All entries must be postmarked by Jan. 11, 2008.** Questions? Contact Contest Czar **Connie Gotsch** at cgotsch@gobrainstorm.net.

NMPW is now accepting entries for the 2008 **Zia Award**. This year's category is children or young adult. Each year the award rotates among three categories: children's literature, non-fiction and fiction. To accommodate this schedule, a book published in the last three years is eligible.

Submissions may be made by the author or by someone else on behalf of the author, such as a publisher. Membership in the association is not required, but the writer must be a woman. Authors must also live in the state or have a strong connection to New Mexico; however the book can be published anywhere. A \$10 submission fee is required. **Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 12, 2008.**

The entry should have a publication date in 2005, 2006 or 2007 and have a female author. For more information see the NMPW Web site or contact Zia Award Contest Chair **Jessica Savage** at jsavage@cybermesa.com.

Save the Date: April 11-12

Next year's **NMPW** conference is set for April 11-12 in Albuquerque, and **Albuquerque Press Women** will host. They're now brainstorming speaker and workshop ideas and have not yet chosen a place. If you're willing to help or have an idea, contact chapter president **Dan Mayfield** at dmayfield@abqjournal.com.

NMPW News

NMPW President **Emily Drabanski** reports that membership is up to 103, from 63 in March.

At the suggestion of Scholarship Chair **Laurie Mellas**, the **NMPW** board raised the scholarship award to \$750, given to two students majoring in journalism, broadcast, photography, graphic arts, writing, communications, public relations or advertising. Scholarships are awarded at the state convention.

Laurie has sent packets to New Mexico's two- and four-year colleges, along with the UNM Daily Lobo staff, Daily Lobo advisor, and professional writing division within the UNM English Department.

Completed applications must be postmarked by March 7. A scholarship committee will judge applicants.

The scholarship award is higher this year, thanks to a challenge from **Sharon Niederman**, who put up \$250 for a match from members. "I benefited from a full-ride scholarship given to me by the Women's Center at the University of Colorado, and now it's time to give back," Sharon said.

Board members **Sandy Schauer**, **Emily Drabanski**, **Carol Clark**, **Sherry Robinson** and **Chris Burroughs** responded with \$50 each. In addition, Emily and Carol collected \$68 in cash plus a \$100 anonymous donation at the November APW meeting.

"All of our members are truly generous," Emily said.

Treasurer **Sandy Schauer** reports that **NMPW** will have a small net loss for the year but was able to cover half the conference fees for members attending the NFPW convention, as well as \$806 in printing and mailing for the communications brochure without touching its investments. Vice President **Carol Clark** raised \$5,000 for the last convention.

High School Contest Chair **Chris Burroughs** received an updated list of New Mexico high schools and will send 2008 contest rules in January. The national organization is changing contest rules and will add a new section on Web development and writing. The deadline will probably be Feb. 15.

Preparations have been underway for the annual communications contest. Emily and contest chair **Connie Gotsch** are lining up out-of-state judges. Thanks to **Chris Burroughs** for designing, printing and mailing out our contest brochures.

A big welcome to **Gail Rubin**, who has joined the **NMPW** board as public relations chair. Gail has more than 20 years' experience in PR for a variety of national and New Mexico clients in the areas of education, entertainment, health care and economic development. As principal of **Gail Rubin Public Relations** in Albuquerque, she provides media relations, event coordination, conference management, community relations, and writing services.

And in the past year, she wrote "Matchings, Hatchings, and Dispatchings" in the **Albuquerque Tribune**, along with articles appearing in other publications. And let's not forget her award-winning book, "A Girl's Pocket Guide to Trouser Trout." Gail is also the E-lert Mistress for **SouthWest Writers**.

Emily writes: "I'd like to extend my thanks to **Sherry Robinson**, who has been juggling PR duties along with the newsletter this past year."

Zia Contest Chair **Jessica Savage** sent news releases in November to New Mexico book organizations and major media outlets. It's also posted on the **NMPW** Web site. This year, for the first time, there will be a contest fee of \$10.

Historian **Denise Tessier** sent NFPW brief bios of five milestone members who reached membership milestones: **Mildred Latini** of Albuquerque, 35 years; **Luise Putcamp Jr.** of Albuquerque, 30 years; and **Rita Popp** of Las Cruces, **Anne Morgan Behl** of Hobbs and **Lynne Yaple** of Albuquerque, 25 years each.

Mildred was a teacher, executive director of the Dairy Council of New Mexico, and a member of the USDA's Cooperative Extension Service. She was NMPW's third Woman of Achievement, honored in 1965. Luise Putcamp Jr. has kept her maiden name as a byline through 63 years of marriage and five children. She has been a writer and editor and is author of three books.

Rita, a former reporter and PR professional, is a fiction writer, workshop presenter, and adjunct writing and college success instructor at Doña Ana Community College in Las Cruces. Lynne has worked in marketing, strategic planning, and business development. Anne, a former reporter for the **Hobbs News-Sun**, now works in county HR and is finishing a novel.

Denise also asks members to send her clippings about NMPW or the chapters for the archives.

Former NMPW President **Kathy Córdova** will serve as at-large member of the state board.

National Convention Highlights

Connie Gotch and other **Communicators of Achievement** were honored in September at the NFPW convention in Richmond, Va. The national winner was **Peggyann Hutchinson**, of Oregon. Peg's hometown is Cloudcroft, where she edited her high school newspaper. A UNM alum, she lived in Albuquerque in the 1950s and worked at **KGGM** when it was on the second floor of the KiMo Theatre. She's also one of **NMPW's** charter members.

NMPW members attending the conference included: **Chris Burroughs**, **Connie Gotsch**, **Julie Ann Grimm**, **Sherri Burr**, **Denise Tessier**, **Kathy Córdova** and **Tina Ely**. NMPW paid for half their registration fees.

Tina's mother, **Betty Ely**, was remembered in the candle lighting ceremony for members who died this past year.

NFPW was celebrating its 70th anniversary, and the convention featured some presentations. **Kathy Córdova** was one of the models in a history fashion show.

Historian **Denise Tessier** set up an **NMPW** history table with four science-fair-type panels featuring NMPW conference programs, clippings, photos and other memorabilia. On the table was an NMPW mug, a 50th anniversary wine glass, a copy of **Sandy Schauer's** 40th anniversary history, canvas bags from five of our conferences, and a Southwestern gardening book I happen to have that was edited by **Harriet Teidebohl**, recognized as our state group founder.

“If there was an award to be given for the best history display, I would have given it to Denise Tessier, who had a wonderful display that garnered many good comments,” Emily says. “I was so touched by how many of the Press Women recognized **Jean Jordan** in the display. She attended many national conventions.” Jean also performed as Nelly Bly during at least one national convention.

We were disappointed that **Kathy Córdova** dropped out of the NFPW election. Kathy needs to spend time taking care of her ill parents. Instead, she will serve the national organization as student membership committee director.

FOIA Bill Passes

NFPW President **Marsha Schuler** thanked members of the **NFPW First Amendment Network**, which includes **Connie Gotsch**, for four years of work on strengthening the federal **Freedom of Information Act**. The House of Representatives recently approved S 2488, and it’s ready for the President's signature.

“There are many good features to this open government law,” Marsha writes. “One interesting bit is that when you request a record, you should get a tracking number, like you would when you ship a package. That should put an end to the frustration of sending in a letter and hearing nothing for weeks and months on end. It also keeps the government from charging search fees if they do not comply with their time limits, and it widens the fee waivers to include new Internet media.

“Beyond the real and practical help this bill will bring to researchers and writers, it will help reverse an overall trend to more secrecy that we've seen for much of the past six years.”

NMPW and CPW Meet in Taos

NMPW hosted the first joint meeting, “Retreat and Recharge,” with **Colorado Press Women** on July 27-28 in Taos.

“For a first time effort, this was a successful retreat,” Emily reports. “We had 25 full registrants. There were 14 members from Colorado, 9 from New Mexico and 1 free-lance writer from California, who was a friend of a Colorado member.” A few more NMPW members attended individual events.

The weekend kicked off with a barbecue reception at artist **Thom Wheeler**’s fabulous studio. Speakers included **Rick Romancito**, of the Taos News and member of Taos Pueblo, who spoke about covering Native American communities; **Martha Egan**, author of “Clearing Customs,” who shared the chilling story of being hounded by U.S. Customs because of an allegation that she was bringing illegal artifacts into the country; and **Sherry Robinson**, of **New Mexico News Services**, who shared the ins and outs of writing and distributing a personal column. New member **Kay Grant** helped us out by sharing her portable speaker system.

The weekend also included a tour of Taos Pueblo and brunch at the Apple Tree Restaurant.

The group brainstormed on recruitment and retention of new members, with **Cheryl Fallstead** of Las Cruces serving as recorder. Here are the nuggets of that session:

Membership-Recruiting Ideas

- Have a speaker who attracts people.
- Use more than email to publicize activities -- postcards, follow-up calls.
- Promote the contest to nonmembers.
- Send mailings to former contest entrants.
- Send brochures to editors and ask them to send staff to conferences.
- Have programs on new media, such as blogging. Recruit editors from on-line publications.
- Alternate meeting times (morning, lunch, evenings, weekends).
- Provide reduced meeting fees to members who bring a guest.
- Invite college writers and editors. Have fliers and blurbs at colleges, work with professors, have a lower membership rate for students, offer scholarships.
- Join other groups and use their mailing list to publicize events.
- ASK people to join.
- Add value with a job bank, newsletter, etc.
- Get a message phone so that people can get updates on programs and leave a message to be contacted
- Promote membership benefits, such as libel insurance.
- Offer a discount for joining for several years at a time.
- Pay for a good Web site that is continually updated.
- Engage new people quickly.
- Write notes to thank people – not just e-mails.
- Invite everyone on a newspaper or magazine masthead.
- Offer programs on copyright law or tax tips for freelancers.

Retaining Members:

- Hold conferences at an appealing resort or location.
- Make personal contact with new members. Send a note or call.
- Pool people by zip code for easy communication.
- Stress the value of long-term membership, such as leadership roles and networking.
- Have smaller events to get together such as socials and happy hour

Programs with best attendance

- Holiday party
- Interesting or unusual location
- Joint meetings with other groups
- Recognition dinner (separate from awards banquet)
- TGIF events
- Resume-review workshops
- Receptions at members' homes
- Retreats
- Behind-the-scenes or special tours

Reasons people drop out:

- Retire
- Career change
- Not getting the support they need

- Not-engaged – need to be involved right away
- Interpersonal problems with other members

Fundraising:

- Target solicitations with a purpose, such as scholarships or grants for members
- Allow credit card gifts or payments
- Hold used book, video, DVD, jewelry, art sales
- Silent auction
- Book auctions at regular meetings

Publicity:

- List meetings in newspaper and online community calendars
- Forge agreements with other organizations to publicize each other's events in newsletters.
- Seed new chapters in other towns by holding meetings there and then help them form a chapter.
- Develop subgroups – blogging, writing critiques, etc.

CHAPTER NEWS

Las Cruces Press Women, which had considered disbanding, is newly constituted. **Cheryl Fallstead** is the new president, **Elaine Kaufmann** is vice president, and past-president **Jeanne Resendez** is treasurer.

Emily Drabanski writes, “Kudos to Jeanne Resendez and the gang in Las Cruces for keeping the chapter together. She has graciously offered to serve as the treasurer for the next year so there can be a smooth transition.” And kudos to Emily for working behind the scenes to help it all come together.

Emily adds, “To their credit, **Jeanne Resendez**, **Nena Singleton** and **Rita Popp** have done an outstanding job running the chapter for a number of years, but they all felt the need to take a well-deserved break. I am particularly thankful to president Jeanne Resendez, who has done much to keep the chapter interesting and lively. Cheryl had a strong impression of Press Women from the contact she had with the Las Cruces chapter at the end of the year. Her participation in the Taos Retreat increased her interest in our state organization. I am pleased that Cheryl is willing to serve as president of the Las Cruces chapter.”

Cheryl is a freelancer with years of experience in education. She edits **Southwest Senior** and also serves as president of the Foundation for Las Cruces Museums. Elaine is also a freelancer, as well as a part-time paralegal, an adjunct English instructor at Doña Ana Community College and part-time graduate student. Jeanne is the underwriting coordinator at **KRWG-FM**, public radio for southern New Mexico and far west Texas.

Northern NM Press Women featured a talk and book signing by historian **Hampton Sides** during its December meeting, which coincided with the NMPW board meeting at the Mission Café and Sweet Shop in Santa Fe. Sides is editor-at-large for **Outside Magazine** and author of “Ghost Soldiers” and “Blood and Thunder.”

October's speaker was **Laurie Frantz**, program manager of New Mexico Scenic Byways.

In August the chapter heard from **Sarah Noss**, executive director of the Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, who discussed the market's history, programs and plans.

Gene Grant, co-host of KNME's "New Mexico in Focus," is the speaker at **Albuquerque Press Women's** monthly luncheon on Jan. 14.

In December APW members heard from **Danny Lopez**, marketing director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, and chapter president **Dan Mayfield**, who talked about getting coverage for arts events.

In November **Steve Terrell**, political reporter for the **Santa Fe New Mexican**, was the speaker for APW. Steve discussed the ramifications of Pete Domenici's decision not to seek reelection.

October's speaker was **Phill Casaus**, editor of **The Albuquerque Tribune**, who discussed the sale of the Tribune by Scripps Howard and the end of Joint Operating Agreement with the Albuquerque Publishing Company.

In September attorney **Martin Esquivel**, a member of the Albuquerque Public School Board, talked about current issues at APS.

In Memoriam

Bob Johnson, who had a 46-year career with AP, was probably better known as the face and voice of the **Foundation for Open Government**. He wrote the first AP bulletin on the assassination of President Kennedy and was four times a bureau chief. Bob retired in 1988 and became executive director of FOG, which represented more than 200 media members (including NMPW), lawyers and others in upholding First Amendment rights and public access to government information. He died at 84 in August. Bob joined **NMPW** this year. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, **Luise Putcamp Jr.**, who is also an NMPW member.

The Albuquerque chapter lost loyal member **Bea Miller**, who died in May at 91.

Denise Tessier attended her memorial service and wrote: "Beatrice Roehm Miller led an 'unconventional and vivid life,' and her small social gatherings 'were like Paris salons,' according to family and friends. APW members remember her rising during our pre-lunch networking to find a link between a current event and some foreign crisis she had covered as a UN correspondent many years before."

Displayed mementos included her name tags from two of our state conferences, in 1990 and 1999; a copy of **Sandy Schauer's** 1990 NMPW History; and her badge as "NBC News Election Reporter."

"Her son Barry told me she worked as a full-time reporter for the **Indianapolis Star** before she married, then moved to St. Louis, where she was a strong advocate of women in the press, working as she was during a time when it was very difficult for women to get serious assignments. (She admired Eleanore

Roosevelt for holding press conferences for women.) She then moved to Stamford, Conn., where she worked at the **Stamford Advocate** and was a freelance correspondent, credentialed to cover the UN...

“She ended up in New Mexico after visiting a friend here. Her son says she just up and left Stamford and moved here. He said she loved New Mexico and loved Press Women.”

Condolences to **Ana Pacheco**, who lost her father **Jesus Pacheco** on Nov. 24. Ana is publisher of **La Herencia** magazine. Our sympathies also to **Inez Russell**, whose father **Tom Ansley** died Dec. 20. Inez is special sections editor at the **Santa Fe New Mexican**.

Words to Live By

One of the most moving speeches we heard at the **NFPW** convention in Denver last year was “What I Know for Sure” by syndicated columnist **Tad Bartimus**, a former AP bureau chief. Here are the high points:

“Being a journalist for 45 years has taught me a few things. I know that writers never retire; I’ve learned to never skimp on presents, that driving a Porsche is more fun than driving a Ford, and that when the cat knocks the Thanksgiving turkey on the floor, it’s better to laugh than to cry.

“I’ve learned that never being satisfied that the story is good enough, the floor is clean enough, or the dress size is small enough is a curse as well as a blessing....

“The great thing about being 14, and 18, and 22, -- and perhaps 59 -- is that you don’t know what you can’t do, so you just go out and do it. I did everything I wanted to do. I got into the country’s best journalism school at the University of Missouri. I reported to work at The Associated Press two days after graduation in January, 1969. Four years later, I got my dream of being sent to Vietnam to as a full-fledged foreign correspondent – the second AP woman to be assigned fulltime to the war in Indochina.

“What I learned covering my first war holds true for me today: I trust my instincts, I fight for my stories, I cherish my professional colleagues, I stand my ground, and I don’t take anything at face value.

“I also know that some life choices have permanent consequences. My decision to go to Vietnam exposed me to Agent Orange’s poison, which left me childless and still coping with a chronic auto immune condition.

“It was also in Vietnam, and while reporting in Northern Ireland, Guatemala, and Peru, that I discovered the power of my words to ease people’s suffering and influence public policy. My mother, following Thomas Jefferson’s credo to ‘comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable,’ did the same thing when she gathered nine friends to buy the Star-Herald the year I went to college in order to keep it out of chain ownership.

“With no previous experience, my mother became a newspaper reporter and editor who sold all the display ads, reported on the city council, school board

and cop shop, wrote all obituaries and birth announcements, and interviewed everybody who ever came to town.

“While I was off in foreign countries tilting at windmills my mom was back home in Belton, epitomizing what a great community journalist ought to be. A disapproving neighbor once said to my father, ‘Your wife and daughter seem to think they can save the world,’ to which my dad replied, ‘Yes, and they’re doing a damned fine job of it, too.’

“As anyone in the news business knows, these are uncertain times and we all must be nimble... Exhausted and burned out, I decided a year ago to live on less money in order to have more time...“The scariest, most exhilarating move I’ve ever made was to the middle of the Pacific (Hawaii), where I reinvented myself. As you can see, I survived. I have no regrets.

“What I know for sure is that my life has never been, and is not now, dull. I have remained true to my roots as a street reporter in search of the best truth I can find. I have done some good work, I have made a difference in some people’s lives, I have been lucky and I am privileged to be in our business.

“I know for sure that the best way for me to tell the big picture is to keep the focus small, and that living and writing in an ethnically diverse community that has embraced me even though I am a newcomer, I’m white, and I don’t appear to be working has allowed me to see fundamental truths.

“Because I worry about women in general, and women journalists in particular, I will also share with you my belief, arrived at first-hand, that we don’t honor, value, or take good enough care of ourselves...

Among other things I know for sure is that women journalists still don’t value themselves or each other enough. We need to help one another more. We need to hire one another, promote one another, recommend one another. And we need to view our job as just that – a job. We need emotional and physical balance in our lives if we are to be effective communicators for the long haul. We need to pursue personal happiness as we would a Pulitzer-worthy story.

“Above all, we must take control of our own destiny. I tell young women entering our profession that if they find themselves working for somebody dumber and more frightened than they are, they need to find another job – preferably, invent their own...

“I leave you with my gratitude for inviting me, and with the certain knowledge that eating a dark-chocolate Dove bar is better than eating a granola bar, that success is possible anywhere, that whales really do sing, and that this room overflows with power, energy and talent.

“Go home and use it. As you do, remember to be kinder and gentler to yourself. Value your real life as much, or more, than your work. And make your own list of things you know for sure. You’ll be amazed at how smart you are!”

People News

Jeanne Resendez has been working on a master’s degree in family and child science at NMSU and was expecting to finish in December 2007.

Congratulations to **Kay Grant**, who won three awards in the **North American Travel Journalists Association's** 15th annual awards contest: a first place, a runner up and an honorable mention for stories that appeared in the **Valley Life Quarterly** (San Jose Business Journal) and **New Mexico Magazine**.

Now available through Amazon.com is **Sandy Schauer's** novel "The Silk Scarf," the tale of the Hoffmans, a German-American family, during World War I and the 1920s. Being German-American during the War to End All Wars was not easy. The Hoffman siblings, Fritz and Wilhelmina, marry and live through the tumultuous 1920s. The book concludes in 1929 with the stock market crash and the closure of the silk mill that supported the Hoffmans.

Photographer **Cary Herz** recently had a book signing for her "New Mexico's Crypto-Jews: Image and Memory" at Garcia Street Books in Santa Fe. Cary will also be signing copies of her book at 2 p.m. Jan. 13 at Art is OK Gallery at 3301 Menaul NE in Albuquerque; the gallery is also exhibiting her photos from Jan. 11 to Feb. 11. And she will sign books at 2 p.m. Jan. 12 at the National Hispanic Cultrual Center in Albuquerque.

While photographing the Congregation Montefiore Cemetery in Las Vegas, New Mexico in 1985, Cary first heard whispers about "the other people." So began a 20-year search for descendants of crypto-Jews, the Sephardic Jews forced to convert to Catholicism during the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions centuries ago. Many openly professed Catholicism, but continued to practice the Jewish faith privately. Cary's photos and essays honor these people.

The third edition of **Sherri Burr's** "Wills & Trusts in a Nutshell" is out, and Sherri has given talks on "Why Individuals Should Write Wills."

Get well wishes to NMPW Secretary **Susanne Burks**, who recently suffered a compression fracture in her back, and to **Scott Alley**, who fractured her tibia.

John Córdoba, of **Córdoba Public Relations**, was elected to the governing board of the Lovelace Medical Center in Albuquerque.

Yvonne Lanelli's feature and photos made the cover of Wilderness Medical Society magazine's spring. And she had a spectacular trip to Africa. Among other events there was an elephant-back safari in Zimbabwe and rafting the Zambezi.

Sharon Niederman was a bread judge during the recent State Fair. Yum!

Connie Gotsch interviewed **Sherry Robinson** for her authors' show on **KSJE-FM**. And Sherry visited **D'Lyn Ford**, who is flourishing in her home town of Portales, with daughter **Danielle**, future Press Woman and world's cutest kid. Sherry is writing an online newsletter, **TechKnow New Mexico**, sponsored by

DW Turner, that follows economic development and technology industries in the state. For a free subscription, just ask!

Web sites to check out

Authors hope for good reviews, but they expect fair reviews. Unfortunately, more than a few are written by people who have no understanding of the book (or genre) they're reviewing. One response is **Writers are Readers.com**, an online publisher of book reviews written exclusively by published authors. If you want to join this community of authors, see www.WritersareReaders.com. You'll find a Web-based community of writers recognizing the hard work and talent of their peers.

Pari Noskin passes along these two sites: <http://www.titlez.com/> is Amazon's site where you learn how your books are doing and www.google.com/alerts is where you can track your clippings.

Coming Events

On Jan. 25, the **New Mexico Book Co-op** will feature **Ruthie Francis, Sabra Steinsiek, Paul Rhetts** and **Barbe Awalt** discussing what they learned from the 2007 New Mexico Book Awards. Paul and Barbe are publishers and co-founders of the Book Co-op. The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. at the HomeTown Buffet at 9261 Coors Blvd. in Albuquerque. Cost is \$8.29 plus tax and tip. Email info@nmbookcoop.com to RSVP.

The **New Mexico Book Co-op**, in cooperation with Holy Ghost School in Albuquerque, are organizing a **Meet the Author Book Fair** on March 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Authors and publishers can sell books and have book signings, and there are opportunities for book talks and readings. Organizers are also looking for book covers and jackets to display. Mail them to the co-op at 925 Salamanca NW, Los Ranchos, NM 87107 by Jan. 15. The cost is \$15 per table. See <http://nmbookcoop.com/Holy%20Ghost%20Meet%20the%20Authors.pdf>.

Suzan Hall started a new writing group in Santa Fe and invited **NMPW** members to join. "We'll meet every two weeks to share ideas and discuss work in progress," Suzan writes. "Each meeting will include a warm-up writing exercise, a discussion or brief presentation and handouts tailored to group interests, time to share and respond to members' work.

The group will be facilitated by an experienced group leader who is also a working editor and published writer. Contact Suzan Hall, 505-954-9931.

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