



## 2009 Membership Milestones

### *55 Years*

#### ARIZONA PRESS WOMEN

An English/Journalism graduate of Arizona State University in 1952, **June P. Payne** was associate editor for 12 years on the Arizona Beverage Journal. Following a short time at the Arizona Republic, she returned to ASU as writer/editor/photographer in 1964, where she worked on academic, internal and public relations publications for the faculty, staff and administration. She continued free-lance writing/editing after retiring in 1992, and presently is working on video histories of ASU retirees.

#### MEDIA NETWORK IDAHO

**Elayne Bybee**, journalist and photographer, began her career in journalism at age 14 at a small weekly newspaper. After working for an Idaho Falls newspaper, she became one of the nation's first women radio and TV news director in Idaho and was the first reporter at the site of the Yellowstone-Hebgon Lake earthquake in 1959, covering the story on all TV networks. She worked for the CBS affiliate television station in Idaho Falls for many years and then at the Idaho National Laboratory, the Department of Energy nuclear facility west of Idaho Falls. Elayne retired after a 46 year career, and is still writing. She was Idaho's Woman of Achievement in 1981, and president of Idaho Press Women in 1985-86. She has been the parliamentarian for the past 20 years.

### *50 Years*

#### SOUTH DAKOTA PRESS WOMEN

**Pauline Neher Diede** is a native of North Dakota, a sod-house child, born on Oct. 10, 1911, the third of eight children of Ludwig and Christina Neher, homesteaders and immigrants from South Russia. She grew up in an undeveloped, stony-hills-country. She graduated from Elm Creek country school, Model High and from a secretarial course at Dickinson Normal School. She married Jake Diede and raised and educated three children. She was affiliated with newspaper features and columns for 25 years and

wrote a total of six books which were a compilation of interviews with sod-house pioneers. She presently resides in a Care Center in North Dakota and will be 98 years of age in October.

## **45 Years**

### ARIZONA PRESS WOMEN

**Elizabeth Bruening-Lewis, Ph.D.** was the Woman's Editor for the Evening American in Phoenix, Arizona. She received her M.A. from Arizona State University, Philosophy; and her Ph.D. from Georgetown University, Medieval History. She taught as a member of the Humanities Faculty at Arizona State University. Elizabeth has published five books, three fiction (To Live or Die in Arizona, Dry Death in Arizona, Deadly Deception in Arizona), and two non-fiction (The Power of Sacred Images: A Guide to the Treasures of Early Christian Art, Before the First Millennium: Light on the Dark Ages).

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

NFPW Life Member **Betty Bartley**, past president of California Press Women and membership chair for Southern California Media Professionals, has served NFPW in several appointed positions and the Educational Foundation. Retired as PR Director for a non-profit hospital, she had been PR Director for Chapman University's World Campus Afloat. When she joined NFPW she was City Editor for a local weekly, and had been a reporter and editor for other weeklies.

### COLORADO PRESS WOMEN

**Glennys McPhilimy** graduated from Kansas State University in 1963 and was hired by the Daily Camera in Boulder, Colo., as assistant women's editor. In subsequent years, she was editor of the women's and lifestyle sections, joined the Camera's editorial board and became associate editor of the editorial pages. She ended her newspaper career in 1996 as editor of the editorial section. She has served CPW in many capacities, including president, and was honored as Communicator of Achievement.

### NORTH DAKOTA PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS

Born in Minot, N.D., **Janet Waterman Gallagher** produced family books, An Ingredient Called Kate and Four Waterman Boys and a Girlie. She was a reporter for the Minot Daily News 16 years, and at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., 16 years in the Office of Communications. Her publications include Bridging the Gap: Tales of the Cormorant Lakes Area, West Central Minnesota, for which she was awarded the 2003 Family History Research 15th Annual G.K. Haukebo Heritage Resource Award, Genealogical Emphasis," Minnesota State University Moorhead.

## **40 Years**

### WOMAN'S PRESS CLUB OF INDIANA

**Ann Allen** lives in Akron, Indiana, where she serves as a correspondent for the Rochester (IN) Sentinel and Farm World, a weekly newspaper for farmers. The former editor and co-owner of the Akron News, later the Akron/Mentone News, she has written five books and currently is working on books 6, 7 and 8. She credits Woman's Press Club of Indiana's programs for helping her network with editors and publishers.

### MICHIGAN PRESS WOMEN

**Joyce Brown** began her journalism studies at Michigan State University. Her career began in 1963 as news editor at WTVB Radio Station in Coldwater, MI and two years later was hired as the society editor at The Daily Reporter in Coldwater. She remained at the newspaper until 1976 when her husband's job moved them away. Immediately she found a news reporter position at The Exponent in Brooklyn, MI. She remained there until her retirement in 1998, ending a 36 year career in the news world. She is recipient of state and national photo and writing awards, was MPW Communicator of the Year, and has served as secretary, vice president and president of MPW.

**Margaret "Peggy" Guthaus** has been writing since a short story of hers appeared in her grade school newspaper. She was co-editor of her high school paper and editor of the University of Missouri School of Journalism newspaper. Her career began as media clerk for an advertising agency. After a hiatus to raise children, she became a reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette for 26 years. She was section editor and food editor and published a community cookbook. She retired in 1992.

### PRESS WOMEN OF TEXAS

As a speech and drama major at Missouri University, **Charlotte Walker** never dreamed she'd end up a Press Woman. But in 1967, she was writing the Faculty Notes for Culver Military Academy newsletter when The Plymouth Pilot-News hired her as "Soc" editor. She even got to write about Pat Boone for her "People, Places, Things" page. She won a first in Indiana's state contest and placed second in NFPW's contest. She moved to Texas after ten years. In Dallas, she wrote, edited and photographed for the Hockaday Alumnae magazine. Now she's back in the newsletter business, doing bios of the members of her church.

### WYOMING MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

**Frances J. Hardy** has been retired for 14 years after working 44 years. The only writing she does now is an occasional letter to the editor. While a member of NFPW, Frances attended 11 conferences, two board meetings and one cruise. "I found the conferences very helpful and at one time or

other I was classified manager, circulation manager, secretary, bookkeeper, travel, music and book editor even an engraver when plastic plates were used," she notes.

### ***35 Years***

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

**Peggy Cotton** is a freelance writer who specialized both in restaurant reviews for five local newspaper and as a wine writer. She is a past president and treasurer of the Southern California chapter, and represented the affiliate as its COA. She was director of the 1992 conference and was national COA director. She successfully led the St. Jude Hospital Building campaign. She enjoys travel and has fond memories of the NFPW trips to Moscow and Spain.

#### COLORADO PRESS WOMEN

##### **Mary Esbaugh Hayes**

went to work as a reporter-photographer for the Aspen Times when her youngest child turned nine. She was editor, columnist, reporter and photographer before semi-retiring in 1992. In 1968, she published a cookbook that sold 12,000 copies in five editions. She also published a collection of her stories in *The Story of Aspen*.

#### WOMAN'S PRESS CLUB OF INDIANA

**Marion Garmel** retired in 2002 after a 41-year career in arts journalism, first with the National Observer and then with the Indianapolis News and Indianapolis Star. She has been a visual art critic, TV critic, TV book editor, arts and leisure section editor and theater critic. Her most memorable moment was being at Kennedy Airport when the Beatles landed. She joined Woman's Press Club of Indiana in 1974 and currently serves as corresponding secretary.

#### IOWA PRESS WOMEN

**Shirley Davis** spent 51 years with the Qaud-City Times. As women's editor for the first 25 years, she interviewed actress Liza Minnelli and designer Halston. She has won numerous awards for her writing. Shirley was later director of the paper's Plus 60 Club, a group of 16,000 seniors whose activities were planned by her and a board of directors. She also wrote news about the club and traveled six continents accompanying them. After leaving the Times she was hired by the DeWitt Observer and the North Scott Press to write weekly personal columns and stories. She represented Iowa as COA at NFPW's 2007 convention.

## KANSAS PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS

**Pat MacDonald** is the former spokes person and Director of Health Education for the Sedgwick County Health Department. She saw her role as emphasizing the importance of good public health to the community at large, managing this through a monthly newsletter, live presentations to community groups and schools, as well as extensive use of broadcast and print media. Pat functioned in a political environment, working for a dozen elected officials, but maintaining an even, measured public presence. She has been a resident of this area for 35 years, and holds a Masters of Arts in Communications from Wichita State University.

### AT-LARGE MEMBER

After the birth of her first child in 1963, **Lois B. Cooper**, of Decatur, MS, bought an enlarger from Sears. In addition to the enlarger, she bought a twin lens reflex camera and her life-long love affair with photography began. She loves reporting achievements of school children, the positive events of her community, and the achievements of citizens who live in her home town. Through her contributions in public relations, Lois has been a part of documenting history.

## MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS

Moving to a good retirement community at the edge of Kansas City 13 years ago was a good decision for **Olivia Pennington**. She is enjoying the great dining facilities and transportation department that provides rides to stores, theaters, etc. Olivia volunteers for writing in her community and at her church.

### NEW JERSEY PRESS WOMEN

**Daryl Rand**'s career has been marked by assignments in advertising, public relations and media management. A resident of Guttenburg, New Jersey, she is the Founder and President of Harrison Advertising Inc., a Women's Business Enterprise Corporation. In addition, she and her father before her have served New Jersey's oldest bank, The Provident, as advertising and public relations counsel for five decades. She has also been a consultant to CBS Outdoor for the past 25 years. Rand is a member of the International Advertising Association, the Public Relations Society of America, NFPW, the New Jersey Press Association and the New Jersey Advertising Club. Last year, NJ Biz designated Rand as one of New Jersey's Best 50 Women in Business. She was also inducted into the NJ Ad Club's distinguished Hall of Fame.

### NEW MEXICO PRESS WOMEN

**Ree Strange Sheck** has had the great good fortune to work in both the United States and Latin America with individuals, organizations and businesses that strive to make a difference for good in areas that she is passion-

ate about—nature, conservation, cross-cultural understanding, education. A career highlight was receiving the 2005 Communicator of Achievement Award from NFPW, a group that continues to bring professional and personal enrichment.

#### OHIO PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

**Mary Jane Skala** is the Senior Editor of the East Group of Sun Newspapers, overseeing seven papers in the Cleveland suburbs. She was NFPW's Sweepstakes Winner in 1996 and is NFPW's current second vice president. The Cleveland Press Club named her Ohio's best columnist in 2001. Two of her papers have repeatedly been named Ohio's best weeklies. A regular on media roundtables on Cleveland, she has done election night commentary for the city's NBC-TV affiliate. Her identical twin sister, her brother, and her late uncle are or were journalists. Her late father, Charles Day, was dean of Cleveland radio news a generation ago.

#### OREGON PRESS WOMEN, INC.

**Glennis McNeal** joined Oregon Press Women/NFPW while school page editor at The Valley Times, Beaverton. Her membership continued through a freelance career in medical writing and publications editing. She retired after ten years as Public Information Director for the National Psoriasis Foundation. Twice she served her affiliate as president and recently was president of NFPW's POPPS organization. Today she freelances on special projects for The Valley Times. She also belongs to Arizona Press Women.

#### WASHINGTON PRESS WOMEN

Having raised four boys during the 1960s, **Carole Bodey** edited the Heloise Household Hints column, then taught journalism and English for 20 years. Currently she owns Aabaal Literary Associates and enjoys helping writers of manuscripts and screenplays. During the 1970s, as president of the Los Angeles District of California Press women, Carole met famous people at wonderful events. Through the years, she has also covered press conferences.

#### PRESS WOMEN OF TEXAS

**Carol Hargrave Dobbs**, graduate of Sam Houston State University, Texas, received a BA degree in Journalism. Circumstances had her working in PR and "house organ" fields until 1979 when she joined The Leader, a weekly newspaper. She joined the Neighborhood News section of the Houston Chronicle in 1990, writing, editing and laying out neighborhood news sections, retired in 2007. She won several Texas state communications awards and two NFPW awards, one a first-place. A former Texas press women president.

**Marva Gay** joined NFPW in 1974 and holds the position of legal advisor on the NFPW Board. Marva is a past president and a past Communicator

of Achievement of Kentucky Press Women. Marva won various NFPW communications contest awards for articles that appeared in Kentucky Hospitals magazine in the 1980s and early 1990s. Since 1995, Marva Gay has been a lawyer in Houston, Texas, where she is deputy division chief of the general counsel division of the Office of the Harris County Attorney.

**Donna Hunt** began her newspaper career as a proofreader and teletype setter, she worked her way up to editor of a 26,000 circulation newspaper. Now retired, she is a free-lance history columnist for the same paper. She was the 1989 NFPW COA and a Woman of the Millennium in 2000. She's served Texas as president and on the national board for many years. She's secretary for the Education Foundation and a frequent contest winner.

**Dr. Judith Zaffirini** is an award-winning communication specialist and Texas state senator. A tireless champion of the very young, the very old, and persons with disabilities, she's won more than 600 awards for her professional and public service accomplishments, including more than 100 in communications. She holds BS, MA, and PhD degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. Judith and Carlos Zaffirini are the parents of Carlos Jr., an attorney and businessperson.

#### VIRGINIA PRESS WOMEN

**Mary Jane King** is a native Virginian. She has bachelor's (Eastern Mennonite University) and master's (Ohio University) degrees in English. She began her career as a reporter for The Daily News-Record in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and later served as director of communications at Eastern Mennonite University. Since 1988, she has worked at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, where she is currently director of institutional advancement and development, responsible for fundraising, marketing and public relations.

**Eileen Mead** attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks where she wrote for the school newspaper. She was appointed postmaster of the College, Alaska Post Office, and continued classes following her marriage to John Mead. John returned to the Marine Corps and whenever he was assigned to Washington, D.C. or Quantico, the family lived in Northern Virginia and she worked for the Potomac News in Dumfries. John died of complications to Agent Orange while they were living in Charlottesville and she was working for the Daily Progress. Eileen and her children returned to Northern Virginia and she worked for the Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg until retiring in 1997.

#### WYOMING MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

**Rosalind Routt Schliske** has taught journalism at Laramie County Community College since 1976. She has a bachelor's in English/journalism from Texas Christian University and a master's from the University of Wyoming. A Wyoming Eagle news editor, Schliske was also a Wyoming Army National Guard major and unit commander. President of Wyoming's

AP Managing Editors and Society of Professional Journalists, she was NFPW's 2000 Communicator of Achievement runner-up and Wyoming's 2003 top community college teacher.

### ***30 Years***

#### ALASKA PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS

**Ella V. Wright**, Alaska Professional Communicators, is a writer/editor for the USDI Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage. She served as NFPW's president, 2001-2003, and president of her state affiliate in 1990-91. She held many national and state offices, including NFPW's first vice president/2000 conference coordinator; second vice president/communications contest director, third vice president, recording secretary, and director of ethnic recruitment. She participated in NFPW's study tour of the USSR in 1989. She received AkProCom's Spark Plug award for service in 1991 and Communicator of Achievement award in 1992. She has a Masters of Liberal Arts in English from Alaska Pacific University and a Bachelor of Arts in English/Art from the University of Alaska Anchorage

#### ARIZONA PRESS WOMEN

A member of Western Writers of America, **Jane Eppinga's** awards include the C. Leland Sonnichsen 1995 award for best paper in *The Journal of Arizona History*. Her book *Henry Ossian Flipper: West Point's First Black Graduate* was a Western Writers of America Spur finalist. Jane presented a paper based on her book *They Made Their Mark: An Illustrated History of the Society of Woman Geographers* before the 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress of Women in Madrid, Spain, in July 2008.

#### ARKANSAS PRESS WOMEN

**Leeanna Walker** is a metro editor with *The Morning News* in Northwest Arkansas. She currently oversees the Rogers and Springdale zoned editions of the newspaper. Walker joined *The Morning News* staff in 1981 as a city beat reporter, covering government, schools, cops and courts. She was later given additional duties of city editor. She serves on the newspaper's editorial board. Her community involvement includes service on several boards and she is a member of Altrusa International of Rogers.

#### COLORADO PRESS WOMEN

**Lori Rapp** of Greeley was Colorado Press Women's Communicator of Achievement in 1999. She served CPW in roles ranging from public relations chair to program co-chair before becoming CPW president from 1996-1998. Rapp, who earned her journalism degree from Colorado State University, worked at the *Chadron Record* (Chadron, Neb.), *Loveland Reporter-Herald*, *Greeley Tribune*, and News and Publications Office at the University of Northern Colorado. She became a freelance writer and editor in 2000.

## AT-LARGE MEMBER

**Priscilla Daves** is the president of Daves Group Public Relations in the North Atlanta area. She is a charter member of the Georgia Press Women's Association and has served as state president two times, vice president and secretary. She has been a reporter and editor for two weekly newspapers and two dailies. She now works for clients on public events and newsletters and is in remission from Stage III breast cancer.

An award-winning columnist for 38 years at The Press-Sentinel, Jesup, GA, **Jamie Denty** also works as a writing consultant to schools. A National Writing Project teacher-consultant, she taught English and Journalism for 20 years. Named Georgia English Teacher of the Year, 2002, she was adviser when The Jacket was inducted into the NSPA's Yearbook Hall of Fame. She and her husband Bob celebrated their Golden Anniversary, 12/20/08. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

## MEDIA NETWORK IDAHO

**Margaret (Peggy) Parks** sold the weekly Challis Messenger newspaper and retired in 2004 after nearly 32 years as publisher, editor and owner. She still remains active in her community, taking leadership roles with the local historical society and museum and the Challis Senior Citizens Center. She is treasurer of Media Network Idaho and helped in planning 2008 NFPW conference in Idaho Falls. She was named MNI Communicator of Achievement in 2007 and was the NFPW runner-up.

## ILLINOIS WOMAN'S PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Phyllis Rohr** began her writing career at the Opinion Newspaper, Riverdale, IL in the mid seventies as general reporter. She later became the Cable Public Access coordinator for the Village of South Holland, IL where she also trained interns from Columbia College. She was president of IWPA from 1990-1992 after serving on the board as membership chairman, corresponding secretary and parliamentarian. Phyllis served on the boards of many community organizations in her hometown of South Holland volunteering her leadership skills.

## WOMAN'S PRESS CLUB OF INDIANA

**Margaret Nelson**, a widowed mother of five, joined Woman's Press Club of Indiana after winning its Kleinhenz scholarship to upgrade her journalism career. She went from typing ads and headlines for a neighborhood shopper to become senior editor of the Indianapolis archdiocesan newspaper, The Criterion—with hundreds of prize-winning photos and stories of people, schools and multicultural events. In retirement, she still wins awards for African Mass coverage and "Pew Mates" profiles for her parish newsletter.

## LOUISIANA PRESS WOMEN

**Martha Holoubek Fitzgerald**, an award-winning editor, columnist, and editorial writer for The (Shreveport) Times, logged 25 years in newspaper management. She now coaches writers and develops book projects through Martha Fitzgerald Consulting and Little Dove Press. Fitzgerald edited and published "Letters to Luke" by Joe Holoubek MD, which won the Writers Digest Award for Inspirational Literature and Independent Publisher Award for Religious Fiction. A former president of Louisiana Press Women, she was 1990 Communicator of Achievement.

**Gay Williams Gibson** of Shreveport, La., says she is honored to still be a NFPW member. Following the loss of her husband to lung cancer, she hopes the next five years will be happier and more productive. "All my best wishes to everyone," she says.

## MICHIGAN PRESS WOMEN

**Marvin R. Guthaus** was a medic in the United States Navy, graduated from Elmhurst College in 1948 and the Moody Bible Institute in 1953. He worked as a microbiologist for Armour and Co. from 1948 to 1953 and was pastor at Graymont Baptist Church from 1953 to 1956. He also worked as the detail man for Upjohn Company. He has been a ghost writer, medical correspondent and a department manager. He retired in 1992.

**Cheryl L. Higginson** began her career at her hometown newspaper, the Ludington Daily News, in 1977. Prior to that she freelanced for various Chicago area newspapers following graduation from Hillsdale College in 1976. As a staff writer, photographer, and editor at the Daily News, she covered every aspect of hard and soft news and won numerous awards from MPW, NFPW, the Michigan Press Association, Michigan Press Photographers Association and the Michigan Associated Press.

## NEBRASKA PRESS WOMEN

Standing beside Grandpa as he set type on the huge Ludlow piqued **Sue Fitzgerald's** interest in print. Her writing debut came as Girl Scout scribe. Sue became a high school reporter/intern for the Concordia ( Kansas ) Blade-Empire daily. That blossomed into summer jobs while majoring in journalism at Kansas State. Daily, weekly, college news/sports information bureau media experience was helpful when she switched to advertising sales and management mid-career. She retired in 1999 and resides in Americus, GA. "Advertising consulting has slowed and I have short stories and novels in my head. I think it's time to write again," she said. NFPW's

First Vice President **Lori Potter** joined Nebraska Press Women and NFPW as a rookie reporter with the Alliance Times-Herald, after earning a journalism degree at Kearney State College. After eight years as a York News-Times reporter, she joined the Kearney Hub staff in 1986. She's a

reporter-photographer specializing in agriculture and natural resources, and writes a weekly column, "Potter's wheel." Her NPW service includes two terms each as president and treasurer, and contest director.

**Rose Ann Swanson** worked thirty years for the Holdrege Daily Citizen in Holdrege, Neb., most of which were spent in the capacity of lifestyle editor, writing daily society news, weddings, style shows, feature stories and a weekly column, "Rosie's Ramblings" – humorous incidents in her daily family life. She started her employment fresh out of high school, and earned her journalism by hands-on-experiences and lots of help from NPW, eventually garnering many state and national awards.

#### NEW MEXICO PRESS WOMEN

**Carolyn Mullenax Edwards** says it's been incredibly interesting to reflect on the many titles she's held for performing the same duties. She's written for newspapers, TV and radio, and designed and produced all types of publications. Titles mean little to her, but Carolyn's learned "Director" means a little more money and many more duties. Her career, which began in 1967, has been fun, crazy, scary and exciting, but certainly something she would "choose to do again in my next life," she adds.

**Susan Walton's** communications experience includes one year as a daily newspaper reporter; one year as Albuquerque's PIO; five years as part-time freelance reporter/ photographer; and 15 years on the production team for internal/external PR and publications for Sandia Prep School, where she is Director of Parent Relations and middle school newspaper advisor. A committed community volunteer, she served on many boards including New Mexico Foundation for Open Government; and Albuquerque and NM Press Women.

#### OHIO PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

**Judy Ernest** has been a newspaper reporter, award-winning columnist, corporate communications director of the world's largest food company and foremost authority on baby boomer. She founded the Boomer Institute in Cleveland in 1991. Through her syndicated newspaper column, national television appearances, lectures, interviews, and consulting work, Ernest shared her expertise on boomers with more than a million people each month. From 1982 to 1991 she served as Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs for Nestle Enterprises, Inc. From 1991-2000, her column, "The Boomer File" appeared in the Sunday Plain Dealer and was syndicated to newspapers across the country. She currently edits Legacy Magazine in Cleveland.

**Sandi Latimer** has worked in radio, at a wire service, in medical communications, for a news service that covers state government, and currently writes for weekly newspapers, works as a sports clerk for a metropolitan daily newspaper and is volunteer coordinator for Ohio's second largest cemetery where she writes a quarterly newsletter. She volunteers at a 24-

hour information and referral center, and serves on the advisory council for RSVP and Foster Grandparents Program. She is also active IN the Ohio Volkssport Association.

Writer, editor and photographer **Jane Ann Turzillo** is a 30-year member of NFPW and recipient of many state chapter awards. She was a founding owner of the West Side Leader in Akron, Ohio, where police and fire were her forte. As a freelancer, she authored two Arcadia books, published articles, photographs and short stories in regional magazines, and newspapers and magazines across the United States and Canada. She has launched business newsletters, an alumni magazine and taught English. As part of the PR/marketing team at the Akron Art Museum, she helped to attract record crowds for exhibits. She has served on the state boards of NFPW and Society of Professional Journalist.

#### PRESS WOMEN OF TEXAS

**Heloise** is a nationally known NFPW member who communicates through her syndicated columns, magazines, radio, television, books, on the lecture circuit and in her charitable work. She lives in San Antonio, TX. Her column, “Hints from Heloise” runs in more than 500 newspapers and she is a contributing editor and monthly columnist for Good Housekeeping magazine. She’s has appeared frequently on national TV and on many local stations. She has published 11 books.

#### VIRGINIA PRESS WOMEN

Writer **Sally Harris** retired early from a career in teaching, journalism, and educational communications. She dabbled in freelance writing, but, contrary to economic good sense, returned to fiction writing. She is trying to market a really funny (she says) column, Galavantin’ Around, celebrating her travel misadventures—some with NFPW! (Interested editors welcome.) She has procrastinated 15 years on revising her two novels. She pampers cats Cara and Kola, whose names mean “friend” in Gaelic and Lakota.

**Martha W. Steger**, APR, is public relations director for the Virginia Tourism Corporation. She is past president of VPW and the Richmond Branch, National League of American Pen Women. She held offices in the Richmond Professional Chapter, SPJ, and the Society of American Travel Writers Foundation and served on the Travel Industry Association of America’s Communications Council, authoring a booklet measuring PR efforts in the travel industry. She is a member of the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame and received the Thomas Jefferson Award for Excellence in Public Relations in 2005 as well as numerous PR and state and national poetry awards.

## WASHINGTON PRESS WOMEN

**Peggy Watt** is an assistant professor of journalism at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. and a contributing editor for PC World magazine, where she was online editor for eight years after many years writing and editing magazines and newspapers. She has won numerous writing and photography awards from NFPW, California Press Women and Washington Press Association and is also active in SPJ. She enjoys working with student journalists and remains optimistic about the profession.

## WISCONSIN PRESS WOMEN

**Cheri Nordahl Harris**, Wisconsin, left the Door County Advocate in 1999, after 21 years of covering the education beat full-time. As a feature writer and copy editor, she won numerous awards in the Wisconsin Press Women communications contest and a few kudos in the NFPW contests. Cheri continues to freelance at the Advocate, specializing in the arts and entertainment. She is also box office manager for Peninsula Players, America's oldest professional resident summer theater.

### *25 Years*

## COLORADO PRESS WOMEN

**Becky Schol** is the Senior Manager of Aviation Marketing for Jeppesen, a leading provider of information and management tools that support navigation and operations in the air, on water and over land. Becky has more than 25 years of experience in corporate, government and nonprofit marketing, public relations and management. An active community and church volunteer, she lives in Longmont, Colorado, with her husband, Brad, and their son, Jackson. She also has two adult stepdaughters.

## DELAWARE PRESS ASSOCIATION

An artist who has exhibited her work statewide and nationally, a writer, inventor, civic leader and historian, **Kay Wood Bailey** was named Delaware Press Association's 2002 Communicator of Achievement and was chosen NFPW's national COA at the conference in Bismarck. Former president of Delaware Press Women (now DPA), Kay was administrator of the Delaware Department of Correction's Prison Arts Program and had been a radio anchor, weekly TV hostess and small-town newspaper publisher when she joined DPW/NFPW. She is currently president of A.B.C. Consulting Services.

## MEDIA NETWORK IDAHO

**Marilyn Jordan George** started writing for the Fisherman's News in the 1950's in Southeast Alaska. Marilyn and her husband, Wilhelm Skip Jordan, were Salmon trollers. When he died, she left Alaska with their four children and obtained a Masters in Journalism from the University

of Oregon. She worked for the University of Idaho Extension Service and then returned to Alaska, remarried, and went Salmon trolling again. Her self-published autobiography, "Following the Alaskan Dream," has sold close to 10,000 copies.

#### ILLINOIS WOMAN'S PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Lolita Ditzler** began her freelance writing career as a correspondent for the Rockford (IL) Morning Star daily newspaper in 1969. Through the years, her work has also appeared in magazines such as Successful Farming, Police, Lutheran Woman Today and others. Her articles have received several awards from the Illinois Woman's Press Association. Lolita is currently writing a memoir about the seven-year romance that led to her marriage fifty years ago.

**Dr. Margaret L. Young** is an associate professor in Communications at Bradley University. In addition to academia, she has worked in the communications field for more than 30 years as a deejay for radio, an actress, reporter, a designer /account rep in advertising and a director of PR for a large non-profit corporation.

An award-winning designer and writer, she has co-authored three books and has written for academic and popular journals across the US /Canada.

#### WOMAN'S PRESS CLUB OF INDIANA

**Lilian Hall Carmer** of Dupont, IN, is assistant editor at the North Vernon Plain Dealer and North Vernon Sun. She has worked at the newspaper since April 1, 1958. She previously was secretary, bookkeeper, office manger, sold advertising and worked the darkroom. A 1953 graduate of Dupont High School, she is the widow of William Carmer. She has no children. She lives on a farm. Her hobbies are fishing, bird watching, photography and genealogy.

#### MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS

**Clarice Coker** retired from the Bolivar (MO) Herald-Free Press in 1994 after an 18-year career beginning as a typist, progressing through copy editing and ending as People and Living Editor. As a section editor for an award-winning weekly newspaper, she was responsible for all aspects of the section including writing, photography, and layout. She garnered numerous awards from the Missouri Press Association, Missouri Press Women and NFPW for her work.

#### AT-LARGE

After graduating in 1975 from the University of Montana in Missoula with a bachelor's degree in political science, **Denise Hartse** returned to her hometown, Miles City, Montana, never realizing that all these years later she'd still be in a business she had decided not to pursue after taking one journalism class in high school. Denise wanted to work in international

relations, but took a type setting job and later became a staff writer. She's still in the news business 34 years later (the past almost 28 of which she has spent at the Miles City Star as community editor).

#### NEBRASKA PRESS WOMEN

**Joni Ransom** is the news bureau director for Central Community College in Grand Island, Neb., and its 25-county service area. Her duties include writing, editing, photography, and publication and Web design. After receiving a bachelor's degree in journalism from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Neb., she was a reporter and photographer at the Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal in Warrensburg, Mo. She also worked as the feature page editor at the Hastings Tribune in Hastings, Nebraska.

#### NORTH DAKOTA PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

**Jill Schramm** has been a staff writer for the Minot Daily News since 1986. She was North Dakota Professional Communicators' 2007 Communicator of Achievement, and served as NDPC president from 1992 to 1994 and has been a long-time board member. Jill joined NFPW for the professional training and networking when she was a novice reporter with a group of weekly newspapers in central North Dakota. Since then, she has received numerous writing awards from NDPC, NFPW and the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

#### OHIO PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

**Paige Palmer**, nationally recognized fitness and exercise guru, television pioneer, broadcast personality, author of over 50 books, art collector, radio host, world traveller and fashion expert, is a legend in Northeast Ohio. In 1948, she went to work for Ohio's first television station, WEWS, and created the first televised exercise and fitness program for women anywhere in the country. She used her New York connections to book some of the most famous fashion designers of the time and national celebrities for the show. Her long list of awards and honors include being named by Congress as "The First Lady of Fitness" because of her pioneer work in physical activity and exercise.

#### OREGON PRESS WOMEN, INC.

**Jan Bellis-Squires** has worked in corporate public relations for more than 30 years. Her responsibilities have spanned strategic and crisis communications, media relations, community relations, marketing and employee communications. Her work has garnered awards and recognition from several associations, including NFPW and PRSA. She has served on boards and been an active volunteer with various organizations. Married and the mother of an adult son, she enjoys theatre, reading, gardening, cooking, and learning new things.

**Susan Matheson Ferris** opened The Blue Parrot in 1986. The firm has specialized in communications strategies, media relations, and marketing plans and implementation, and has also created and executed advertising and public relations campaigns. Prior to building The Blue Parrot, she was employed at Georgia Pacific and Kidde Engineering. Upon completing graduate school, she taught English, speech, and journalism in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Matheson Ferris has served as chair of the International Society of Plastics Engineers' Environmental Division and has been a member of the executive board of Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV). She has received numerous awards in her career.

#### PRESS WOMEN OF TEXAS

**Judy Gharis** joined Texas Press Women as a student at Midwestern State. She has written newsletters, magazines, brochures and ads, plus award-winning photography. After 22 years in hospital PR and marketing, she currently writes for an educational conference company. Judy was president of the host chapter for TPW's centennial conference and, later, TPW Communicator of Achievement. She also designs sterling jewelry.

**Carole Fry Owen** graduated from Kansas State University with a Technical Journalism degree. Her career started as an ad copywriter for Macys. Carole freelanced for many years with special interest in veterinary topics. She has been a writer and columnist for the past 25 years for various dog publications. Carole is a member of Dog Writers Association of America. She is retired and living in Temple, Texas.

#### VIRGINIA PRESS WOMEN

**Sarah Bird Wright**, of Richmond, Virginia, is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College. She holds an M.A. in English from Duke University and a doctorate in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. Sarah has taught in the School of Continuing Studies, University of Richmond, for a number of years. She is the author of *Ferries of America: A Guide to Adventurous Travel*, *Edith Wharton's Travel Writing: The Making of a Connoisseur*, *Edith Wharton Abroad: Selected Travel Writings, 1888-1920*, *Thomas Hardy A to Z*, *Edith Wharton A to Z: The Essential Guide to the Life and Work*, *Bloomsbury and France: Art and Friends*; and *A Critical Companion to Nathaniel Hawthorne: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work*.

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