

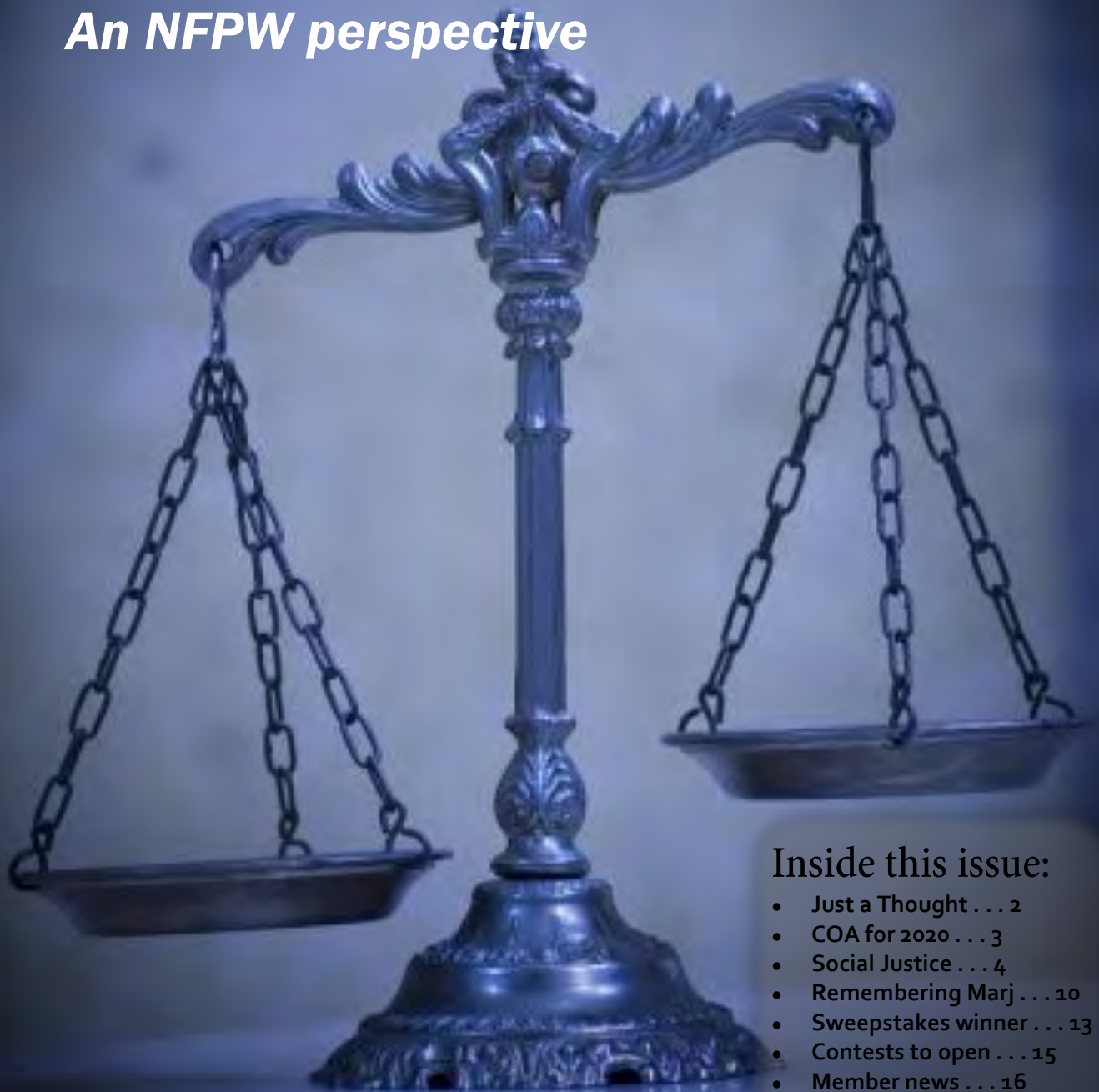
Fall 2020 Vol. 83, No.1

Agenda



Quarterly Newsletter of the
National Federation of Press Women

Social Justice: An NFPW perspective



Inside this issue:

- Just a Thought . . . 2
- COA for 2020 . . . 3
- Social Justice . . . 4
- Remembering Marj . . . 10
- Sweepstakes winner . . . 13
- Contests to open . . . 15
- Member news . . . 16
- We Remember . . . 20

Just a thought: An NFPW perspective on social justice

**By Cathy Koon, Media Network Idaho
Agenda Editor**

We're having a heat wave, tempers are flaring, and we are arguing about face masks of all things. From my point of view, just wear the mask and keep your neighbors safe. This is the land of the free as long as you don't infringe on the rights—or health—of those around you.

My view of social justice follows those same lines. It's a matter of respect and tolerance. It seems our country is short of both these days.

I'm glad my dad isn't here to see it. He fought in World War II and in Korea to protect our lives and our freedom. He didn't tolerate racist remarks in his house, although he had a hard time defending the Germans after seeing the concentration camps when U.S. Armed Forces liberated the prisoners.

As my son reminded me recently, Dad would have defended the right of anyone to kneel for the national anthem, no matter how mad it made him. He would have reminded me it's an expression of our First Amendment rights. The same with flag-burning.

And during his 25 years on the St. Anthony (Idaho) Police Department, 18 of those as chief, he taught me to obey the law, even if I didn't agree with it, to work within the system to get it changed.

But our system is broken. Evidence of that can be found across this country in the disrespect and intolerance demonstrated in the streets and the halls of our capitols.

It comes from the top down.

I've been out of the newspaper business for 20 years, and I have to wonder what kind of a reporter I would be if I was still on the front lines. Or if I was young and just starting out.

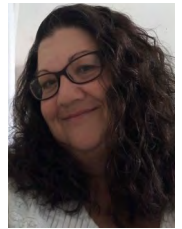
The first lesson I learned in journalism was that newspapers are the watchdogs of society, that without a free press there can be no democracy. The first thing Hitler did in Germany was to destroy the press.

I see that same thing happening here today. Journalists (not bloggers and Facebook extremists) are attacked for reporting "fake" news. The way I remember it, reporters are only as good as their sources. We have to be careful that our sources are reliable and truthful.

News has become entertainment, and everyone seems to be looking for her or his 15 seconds of fame. Fewer and fewer newspapers are surviving the electronic age. How many up-and-coming reporters understand what news really is?

For me, the whole Black Lives Matter thing goes back to respect, tolerance and a free press. The phrase is distasteful to me. All lives matter, the past is past and we cannot and should not try to rewrite history to make up for the atrocities of past centuries.

Buck up and face the future by learning from the past. Otherwise, we are destined to repeat our mistakes.



Cathy Koon

NFPW members respond to request for social justice stories

**By Cathy Koon
Agenda Editor**

NFPW President Gwen Larson's call for members' op-eds and reporting around the topic of social justice brought several contributions. Perhaps the most interesting aspects of the stories that were submitted are the variety and the unexpected.

One member wrote about her personal experience with civil rights leader James Farmer. We got a story from a member whose grandmother was a reporter and a

women's suffrage crusader, a COVID-19 reporter struggling to put a face on the pandemic, a food journalist explaining social justice through food's culture and ethnicity, and finally, a black reporter (not a member) about growing up in the Deep South.

Several members who were asked about writing stories from the police perspective declined.

All in all, this issue presents perspectives from an organization dedicated to the defense of the First Amendment. Read on, please.

On the Cover:

NFPW earlier joined 28 other journalism organizations to protest the treatment of journalists covering social justice protests. This issue of Agenda focuses on the experiences and perspective of NFPW members and others in light of recent violence and protests.



Coloradan named Communicator of Achievement

Award presented in virtual meeting

**By Karen Stensrud, North Dakota Press Women
COA National Chair**

Sandy Michel Nance, Colorado Press Women, has been named NFPW's 2020 Communicator of Achievement.

The award was presented June 21 during a virtual celebration in lieu of the annual COA banquet at the national conference, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The prestigious award has been given for 63 years, the highest honor bestowed by NFPW on those members who have distinguished themselves within and beyond their field. The recipient, chosen from nominees selected by state affiliates, is recognized for exceptional achievement in the communications field and service to NFPW, the affiliate organization and the community.

Nance is a retired journalist and public relations professional. She began her career in 1968 as one of the few female reporters for United Press International (UPI), working in the bureau's Cheyenne, Wyo., office. She spent three years as a reporter for the Casper (Wyo.) Star Tribune, where she was part of a team nominated by the publisher for a Pulitzer Prize.

She then began a career in public relations with Mountain Bell (later US WEST), where she co-founded an employee resource group dedicated to advancing women. Nance served for six years as managing editor for the American Water Works Association in Denver before retiring in 2011.

Nance has served several terms and is currently president of Colorado Press Women and was also named the affiliate's Communicator of Achievement in 2005. She has been NFPW's marketing director and protocol chair and helped plan the NFPW conference held in Denver in 2006. She has worked to promote news literacy education and freedom of information.

Nance has won numerous communications awards from CPW and NFPW, received Gold Pick Awards for outstanding work from the Colorado chapter of the Public Relations Society of America and is currently a member of the Society of Professional Journalists.

In addition, Nance has been named a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA, served on the board of directors of Recovery Foundation (the fundraising arm of Arapahoe House) and served as a member of the Wheat Ridge Cultural Commission.

Runner-up in the Communicator of Achievement competition was Teri Ehresman of Island Park, Idaho, an



Sandy Michel Nance

active member of Media Network Idaho and a past NFPW president. Ehresman worked as a regional editor at the Idaho Falls Post-Register, where she was part of a team nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and had a 25-year career in public affairs with the Idaho National Laboratory.

The other Communicator of Achievement nominees, each honored this year as their affiliate's COAs, were Ann Halpern, Alabama Media Professionals; Connie Cockrell, Arizona Professional Writers; Nikoleta Morales, Illinois Woman's Press Association; Tara Puckey, Woman's Press Club of Indiana; Priscilla Chansky, Kansas Professional Communicators; Damien Willis, New Mexico Press Women; Danielle Teigen, North Dakota Professional Communicators; and Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield, Virginia Professional Communicators.



Teri Ehresman



James Farmer (second from left) and other top civil rights movement leaders (Roy Wilkins, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Whitney Young) meet with President Lyndon Johnson (right) during the 1960s. *Photo credit: Library of Congress*

NFPW member learned from civil rights pioneer

**By Gwen Woolf, Virginia Professional Communicators
NFPW Publications Assistant**

Dr. James Farmer, a giant in the civil rights movement, serenaded his students with the songs he and other protesters sang in jail cells in the tumultuous 1960s. I was mesmerized.

It was 1985, and I was taking Farmer's history course on the movement at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies. As an adult student, I was probably more familiar than my younger classmates with Farmer's towering national reputation as an activist.

By then, the professor was in a wheelchair, wearing a black patch over one eye due to disease. (He eventually lost his legs and sight to diabetes.) But his warmth and first-person account of the history and personalities of the movement, punctuated with a booming laugh, made for a lively semester.

As founder of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), Farmer was one of the "Big Four" civil rights leaders of the 1960s, a group that included The Rev. Martin Luther

King Jr. (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), Roy Wilkins (NAACP) and Whitney Young (National Urban League). Farmer said John Lewis (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and Dorothy Height (National Council of Negro Women) were also in the top tier of activists.

While it seems incredible to us today that signs once designated "colored" or "white only" facilities, blacks had to fight for basic rights in the segregated past—even to sit at a lunch counter or in the front of the bus. There were separate waiting rooms, restrooms, water fountains and schools.

Farmer and CORE organized the nation's first civil rights sit-in in Chicago in 1942, followed by many others. The movement's protesters emphasized peaceful methods, including boycotts, marches and voting-registration drives, but often were met with violence.

Three CORE-affiliated workers, Mickey Schwerner, Andy Goodman and Jim Chaney, were murdered by the

**'His legacy lives on in the
Black Lives Matter
movement of today.'**

(Continued on page 5)

NFPW member learned . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Ku Klux Klan in 1964. Farmer himself once narrowly escaped death by being smuggled out of a town in a hearse.

Farmer perhaps was best known for organizing and leading the Freedom Rides in 1961 in the Deep South, testing the desegregation of interstate bus travel facilities. The riders bravely faced angry white mobs, billy clubs, arrests and the firebombing of their bus. One rider was beaten so badly he was paralyzed for life. (John Lewis was one of the original Freedom riders. Later a revered congressman, he died recently.)

At one point, Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy asked King if the controversial rides could be halted for a cooling-off period.

"Please tell the attorney general that we have been cooling off for 350 years," said Farmer. "If we cool off any more, we'll be in a deep freeze. The Freedom Ride will go on."

The rides resulted in new regulations from the Interstate Commerce Commission prohibiting segregation in interstate travel and inspired a new generation of activists.

Passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were other successes of the movement.

The fight goes on

In Farmer's class, I marveled to myself how he related

his experiences with humor and without apparent bitterness. I surmised that he was proud of what he had accomplished and was at peace with the past.

I recall he had a reputation as an easy grader, which some professor colleagues didn't like—but his students appreciated it!

Farmer's autobiography, "Lay Bare the Heart," was published that year. I treasure the copy he signed for me in large bold letters: "To Gwen—Very best wishes—James Farmer 4-2-85."

Farmer taught at what is now the University of Mary Washington from 1985 until shortly before his death in 1999 at the age of 79. He received the presidential medal of freedom in 1998 from Bill Clinton.

The university is proud of its association with Farmer, naming an academic building, multicultural center and scholars program for him and prominently displaying a bust of him on Campus Walk. Last year, UMW students retraced the Freedom Rides and this year celebrated what would have been Farmer's 100th birthday.

Despite his efforts in the 1960s, Farmer knew the battle for racial equality wasn't over and a new generation would need to continue the fight.

His legacy lives on in the Black Lives Matter movement of today.

World Day of Social Justice

The United Nations General Assembly in 2007 designated Feb. 20 annually as the World Day of Social Justice to recognize the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights and social protections.

The first World Day of Social Justice was officially observed in 2009. Many organizations, including the U.N., American Library Association and the International Labour Organization, now make statements on the importance of social justice for people. Many organizations also present plans for greater social justice by tackling poverty, social and economic exclusion and unemployment.

World Day of Social Justice is an awareness day that aims to bring back the approach of social justice to mind. One of its basic principles is the fair dispersal of goods.





Edna Buckman Kearns, reporter and columnist for New York metropolitan area newspapers, wrote about the grassroots of the early women's rights movement. Photo circa 1915, taken at the Kearns family residence in Rockville Centre, New York, courtesy of the family collection.

Granddaughter retraces women's suffrage footsteps

**By Marguerite Kearns
New Mexico Press Women**

Edna Buckman Kearns (1882-1934), my news reporter grandmother, died before I was born. She left behind her articles about the women's protests, for example, stored in an antique traveling trunk in my grandfather's garage. Edna no longer needed her suffrage parade dresses that I wrecked playing dress-up when I was 10.

Her horse-drawn suffrage campaign wagon called the "Spirit of 1776" is now in the collection of the New York State Museum in Albany, New York. It's one of the few large suffrage artifacts nationwide of museum-display quality representing the nation's early women's rights movement. My grandmother used the wagon as a speaker's platform and a form of performance art in New York City and on Long Island. Crowds loved seeing the women speaking in public.

Reporters gave the activists coverage when my grandmother and her voting rights friends dressed in colonial costumes and spread a message about the link between 1913 and the American Revolution.

"Taxation without representation," they bellowed. They opened doors to interviews from reporters, posed for photos standing in front of their freedom wagons and made friends with editors from the increasing number of urban and rural newspapers, large and small—daily, weekly, and special interest publications.

Later when I learned about the context of this difficult campaigning, I marveled at the sophisticated use of the news media representing a major

factor for spreading the word about a long, uphill struggle for women of three generations to win the right to vote. After the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920, my grandmother's generation couldn't have predicted their joys and sacrifices would fade into the background of memory until 100 years had passed.

I ended up as a newspaper and editor myself in the Hudson Valley of New York State, and finally, the author of a book about my grandmother to be published in June of 2021 by SUNY Press (State University of New York): "An Unfinished Revolution: Edna Buckman Kearns and the Struggle for Women's Rights."

If I hadn't been a reporter writing about my news hound grandmother, this book wouldn't have been written. A reporter's instincts, I suspect, are contained in my DNA. Edna covered suffrage news, wrote columns and feature articles, and served as suffrage news editor for the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

I stepped into her worn shoes. My grandfather Wilmer (1882-1972) told Edna in one letter: "Make history." Edna passed on the impulse, that manifested in my own life, to do the same.

(Marguerite Kearns is an award-winning member of New Mexico Press Women. She has been publishing her blog, SuffrageWagon.org since 2009.)

At right, Edna Buckman Kearns (left) and daughter Serena Buckman Kearns picketed the White House to protest U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's lack of action relative to women's voting rights. The protest in 1917 was organized by the National Woman's Party. Photo from the family collection.



COVID-19 reporter frustrated by secrecy

By Mary Jane Skala
Nebraska Press Women

The letter was handwritten with a black felt-tipped pen. It bore no signature and no return address, and its message was as stark as that black ink.

"On July 25, more than 500 people attended a wedding in Kearney. Subsequently, allegedly, 200-plus people have tested positive for COVID-19. Please write about this. People do not realize how stupid it is to have weddings and other events now," the letter writer said.

I wish I could write about that, but I'm imprisoned by the secrecy with which health care agencies and state health departments are handling COVID-19. They tiptoe around the critical details.

Every morning, the Two Rivers Public Health Department tells us how many cases have been confirmed in Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney and Phelps counties, but not the towns or cities where patients live. When questioned, they cite HIPAA, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Passed in 1996, it's supposed to protect patient privacy, but I'm not asking for names, addresses or occupations. It doesn't matter. Case closed.

Not long ago, when COVID-19 swept through Ravenna, only a few brave people there would talk to me. One business owner told me tersely that she wasn't talking and hung up. A few minutes later, she called me back, only because she wanted people to know her business was open.

Ditto in Minden, which recently was hit with cases, reportedly after a wedding. (Was it the wedding mentioned in that letter above? I'll never know.) I poked around Facebook for details, then called City Hall. I was told that an employee at the swimming pool "might" have COVID-19 and is being tested. Nothing more, he said. End of discussion.

COVID-19 has stormed around the world like Napoleon's forces, unstoppable, unlike anything since the Spanish flu of 1918, but on the local level, we're reluctant to talk about it.

Don't tell anyone who tested positive. Don't tell any-



Mary Jane Skala

one which nursing homes are affected. Our hospitals politely step to the other side of the street when asked how many COVID-19 patients are hospitalized. All I've sought is numbers. Not names, addresses, gender or occupation. Just numbers. It doesn't matter.

No wonder people are streaming out to bars and restaurants and wedding receptions. No wonder people are poooh-pooing masks. They think COVID-19 lurks somewhere else, but not here. They are wrong.

Acting on a tip, I called a man who told me he spent 55 days in a Lincoln hospital with COVID-19 and seemed willing to say a lot more, but his wife grabbed the phone, said they would not talk to the newspaper and hung up.

An employee in town learned that a co-worker had tested positive for COVID-19 five days earlier but came to work anyway. She hurried home and spent five days quarantined waiting for test results.

A furious mother called to say her teenage son couldn't get tested after his friend got COVID-19 because he wasn't in a high-risk category. I've gotten little response when I ask questions like this of the Two Rivers Public Health Department, the center of COVID-19 testing and information. I know Two Rivers is swamped, but the public needs to know.

I am grateful for the few brave souls who test positive and share their stories, like the administrative assistant and interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church.

Then there were the friends and coaches who talked with humor and affection about a young Cozad man who died from COVID-19 early this summer. I had to leap through wildfires to get his family's phone number, but when I finally reached them for comments at 9 p.m., his brother was genuinely appreciative.

I want to write about the human side of COVID-19. Not just numbers, charts and graphs or percentages, but faces, nicknames, hobbies and more.

Last year, when floods swirled through central Nebraska, twice, people told their stories. When tornadoes skipped into Kearney in 2008, people told their stories. Not now.

COVID-19 voices are silent, and that must change. It's time to rip the masks off, maintain distance and expose this pandemic's human side.

(Mary Jane Skala, NFPW's 2020 Communications Contest Sweepstakes winner, is the lifestyle editor, health writer and columnist for the Kearney Hub, a daily newspaper in Nebraska. maryjane.skala@kearneyhub.com)

From Neiman Reports online

James Geary

Editor, Nieman Reports

"Here's the cold, hard, uncomfortable truth: No one in the United States is immune to the influence of white supremacy, not even a Black Southerner like me," Issac J. Bailey writes in his searing essay about how we as journalists must change the way we cover racism and white supremacy. "Acknowledging that truth may be the only way for journalists to effectively navigate the complexities of race."

In that essay and in a separate op-ed, "Will This Racial Reckoning Finally Force Newsrooms to Listen to Every Staffer's Voice?", Bailey argues that the racial reckoning taking place in news outlets across the country is a long-overdue corrective, one that is "about ensuring voices that have been marginalized for far too long no longer will be."

The following is excerpted from Bailey's online article about social justice.

George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and one journalist's painfully honest self-examination about racism

'No one in the United States is immune to the influence of white supremacy, not even a black Southerner like me'

By Isaac J. Bailey
Neiman Reports

Last June, I traveled to Ghana for the first time. For most of my life, I wanted no connection to the *dark* continent. I had been convinced, by whom or what I don't know, that the *American* in my African-American was better than my *African*.

It didn't matter that I could trace my familial line directly to the race-based chattel slavery in the region of South Carolina where I was born and raised and still reside. My place of birth was more important than the place somewhere in Western Africa where some still-unknown ancestor took her first breath.

That ancestor was likely born free while my great-great-great grandmother on my mother's side lived a life shackled on the blood-soaked soil where I was later praised for catching touchdown passes and making the National Honor Society. Neither did it matter that I was spending much of my professional life writing and teaching about the importance of grappling with our country's brutal racial history and how it affects how we think and act in 21st-century America.

Those thoughts bled over into my other thinking, including a belief that black people everywhere really are more violent and less intelligent than white people. I allowed my ugly thoughts about black people to convince



Isaac J. Bailey

me to avoid dating dark-skinned black women, strike historically black colleges and universities from my list of potential places to study, and become afraid of strange black men.

My emotional struggles illustrate just how deeply such thinking has rooted itself into my brain. I fought back tears while watching video of Ahmaud Arbery being gunned down by two white men in Georgia who had tracked him down like a wild animal that needed to be stopped because it was terrorizing the village. He was killed for the sin of jogging while black.

As I watched the video, my 18-year-old black son had not yet come home from his own jog. Kyle was training for a college cross-country and track career that begins this fall. I knew he was jogging through areas similar to that in which Arbery was hunted down. We live in the Deep South like Arbery lived in the Deep South, where my last living aunt told me tales from her childhood, about how black people would occasionally be disappeared, never to be heard from again during an era of Jim Crow and lynchings and "sundown" customs.

To read the entire article, go to <https://niemanreports.org/articles/george-floyd-ahmaud-arbery-and-one-journalists-painfully-honest-self-examination-on-racism/>

(Issac Bailey, a 2014 Nieman Fellow, is a journalist, author and race relations seminar creator and facilitator. He is a former columnist and senior writer for The Sun News in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and he was a 2011 recipient of a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for stories about a child protection case. The state subsequently revamped the way it handles such cases.)

Today's food journalism

By Roberta L. Duyff
Missouri Professional Communicators

Food journalism . . . It's not only about cooking an artichoke, or the pros and cons of various gluten-free foods, or feeding tips for choosy toddlers. It's about life, culture, social justice and other cutting-edge issues, addressed through the lens of food. Whatever the issue, a food story likely lurks in its shadow.

Food journalism has gained new importance today, note prominent food journalists, giving opportunities to more voices, with diverse perspectives, for a multitude of conversations about food, on more platforms and from people and places that journalists in major media outlets in major cities may not have access to.

They call it democratized food journalism! With a greater diversity and inclusiveness of voices and plenty of news angles, today's food journalists write about nearly everything since food is central to culture. Many defining issues of the day can (and should) be addressed through the lens of food, nutrition and health: for example, economic and health inequity, environmental concerns, immigration and farm labor, cultural diversity, sustainability and resource management, changing parenting and lifestyle norms, food insecurity even among those of means, and so on.

Moreover, today's pandemic offers new, often poignant or remarkable stories to tell that make the "invisible" people in restaurants, the food supply chain and families "visible." The pandemic has also changed the public's relationship to food, putting food journalists in "uncharted territory."

Today's food journalism is powerful when it:

- *Gives voice to those who haven't been heard.* For example, rather than focus mostly on chefs or artisanal food producers, stories from those without publicists, such as line cooks, food safety inspectors, food warehouse workers, research chefs, fishmongers, food product scientists and milk truck drivers, should be told.
- *Focuses on what's real, relevant and doable,* rather than on food experiences that are aspirational and perhaps unachievable. In other words, rather than stories and recipes featuring hard-to-come-by ingredients, complicated culinary skills and delicious food

pictures, of greater value may be sharing what and how home cooks truly eat and their own local food access, ingredients and food skills.

- *Delves deeper.* Today's food stories need more granularity, or a deeper level of detail, meant to help consumers understand and better respect the economic, human, environmental, and food supply chain context, costs and challenges.
- *Starts local, becomes global.* Food news (flavors, cultures and supply chains) must share what happens in small towns and rural areas, and not only big cities. Important food and nutrition stories that spring from

localized angles must bridge to their broader, global context.

- *Tells stories, without being exploitive.* Food writing is all about and connects people. When journalists talk about their own food challenges, others may be more open to share theirs. To the writer: Step outside your comfort zone, cover food stories of those whose life circumstances

are quite different from your own, embrace your discomfort and balance challenges with positivity, when appropriate.

- *Reflects and honors diversity, inclusiveness and equity of people and their food.* And that requires interviewing and writing that reflect journalists' homework ahead and their heart.

(Roberta L. Duyff is the author of the award-winning *American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Complete Food and Nutrition Guide* and a contributing author in the newly released (August 2020) *Communicating Nutrition: The Authoritative Guide*. Roberta is a food and nutrition writer and a long-time member of the Missouri Professional Communicators.)

(This article reflects the James Beard Foundation webinar, "The State of Food Journalism," April 20, 2020, and Roberta's blogpost on May 15, 2020, blogpost on <https://www.nutritioncommunicator.com/blog>)



Roberta L. Duyff

'Food journalism is reveling in a golden era, but in the future it's more about the bigger themes, the bigger picture—everything that food is attached with will be on the plate.'

—Paulina Siniauer, food journalist

NFPW pays tribute to Marj Carpenter

Compiled by Cathy Koon

Agenda Editor, Media Network Idaho

Marj Carpenter, president of NFPW in 1991-92, died June 13, 2020, at the age of 93. The Texas native was a force to be reckoned with.

Marj was a staple of national conferences for many years. **Former NFPW President Lori Potter of Nebraska** said she missed seeing Marj Carpenter at conferences as health issues kept Marj from traveling. Potter last saw her in 2013 in Utah.

Two years earlier, Marj's family accompanied her so she wouldn't miss the conference.

"I know she was having mobility issues because the Hoffmans (Marsha and Julie) and I worked with Marj's family so they could get her on the airplane to Omaha," Potter recalled.

Another NFPW member said it was Marj's "determination to never let her lack of mobility slow her down" that most impressed her.

"As my own mobility becomes a challenge, I think of Marj a lot and use her as my inspiration to keep on keeping on," Eva Marie Pearson told Agenda. (Read more from Pearson on the following page.)

Potter said she remembers butting heads with Marj the first time they met back in the early 1990s.

"She was the national president proposing a dues increase, and I was Nebraska president who opposed it because we had a lot of farmer-rancher members just emerging from the 1980s farm crisis," Potter recalled.

Both Potter and **Katherine Ward of Delaware** spoke



Marj Carpenter, NFPW president 1990-91, shared words of wisdom during the national conference in Salt Lake City in 2013. Marj died June 13, 2020. Photo by Lori Potter.



Marj Carpenter is shown inside the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City with the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir in rehearsal in the background. Photo by Lori Potter.

of a touching moment from the 2013 conference in Salt Lake City. For a Thursday night event, members attended a rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

"Toward the end of the rehearsal, the choir and everyone else, too, sang 'Happy Birthday' to Marj," Ward said.

Potter continued her recollections, "Marj and I became friends over the years, and she was one of several people encouraging me to run for the board in 2007 and then move up the ranks."

Independent journalist Jane Primerano shared a remembrance and a photo "taken in Wilmington, Delaware, at our convention in, what was it, 2004? I know I was president of the late . . . New Jersey Press Women. Joe Biden was our breakfast speaker. If there was anyone worth getting up first thing in the morning for, it was Joe.

"Marj was sitting next to me. He started his talk, walking around, smiling at everyone. She leaned over to me and said, 'He works a room like Lyndon.'"

Primerano said other NFPW members may have "more extensive memories of Marj than I do, but that one has stayed with me. Especially now. I feel bad she's not here to vote for Biden, but I have a feeling she's up there

(Continued on page 11)

Marj Carpenter remembered . . .

(Continued from page 10)

somewhere pulling the strings so he'll be sure to win. I do wish I could have spent more time with her."

Meg Hunt, NFPW past president (2005-2007), talked about the impact Marj had on her, "with loving appreciation and in memory of a life well lived."

"When you attend your first NFPW conferences, there are always people who stand out; those who leave a lasting impression. Marj Carpenter was one of those for me.

"To say she had a presence about her would be an understatement. I don't think I've ever known anyone who

could be so direct, so inspirational and so passionate all at the same time and, yet, never leave anyone feeling like they had just been lectured to!

"Always supportive of women, journalism, NFPW and the First Amendment, Marj readily encouraged everyone to not take things for granted. Her integrity and unyielding commitment to the fundamental principles of NFPW's Code of Ethics in a world that continues to see adherence to those traits dwindle are part of Marj's legacy that will always give me the courage to stand strong for the people's right to know, freedom of the press and truth."

Carpenter brings First Amendment to life for students

**Katherine Ward, Executive Director
Delaware Press Association**

Marj Carpenter caused some anxiety when she struggled up the steps to the stage, cane in hand, to give the keynote address to high school journalism students and their advisers at Delaware Press Association's First Amendment Workshop, "The Power of the Student Press," in November 1994.

But when Marj began to speak in her deep voice touched with a soft Texas drawl, the magic happened as

she told stories about her childhood, her teen years and her career as a reporter that took her to 126 countries around the world.

The stories, by turn, were sweet, hilarious, riveting and disturbing. Sometimes she caused a problem. Sometimes she was threatened. Sometimes she witnessed an atrocity. Many times she made a difference.

Regardless, each ended with a powerful lesson she learned about First Amendment rights and responsibilities: A good man lost his job; a community leader was wrongfully disgraced; corruption was exposed; a man had to stand before a firing squad for half an hour when a national reporter (who shall remain nameless) asked that the execution be held up while he went to get a camera.

That day, many of those students began to truly understand the trouble that can be caused or the good that can be done by choosing wisely what to report—or what not to report—about what you see, what you think you know or what you overhear. Those young people, on the cusp of adulthood, knew they were in the presence of an extraordinary individual and rose as one to give her a thunderous ovation.

Interactive sessions followed, including "Ethics and Editorial Responsibility," and "Navigating the Information Superhighway."

After lunch and several other speakers, the students filled out a questionnaire. Overwhelmingly, they chose Marj's address as of greatest significance, and in the comments section, almost all of the students said in one way or another: "When I grow up, I want to be just like Marj Carpenter."



Past NFPW presidents posed for a traditional group photo at the 2011 conference with Marj Carpenter seated in the center. Front row, from left, Linn Rounds, Carpenter and Donna Penticuff; standing, Gwen White, Marsha Shuler, Lori Potter, Cynthia Price and Meg Hunt. Photo courtesy of Lori Potter.

Marj Carpenter will be missed

Eva Marie Pearson
Arkansas Press Women

Hers was always the first Christmas card I received. Somewhere around the week of Thanksgiving, it would arrive. Always a few words of greeting, never a Christmas letter, but enough sentiment to let me know that she was thinking of me then and on occasions throughout the year.

I first met Marj Carpenter when she attended a meeting of Arkansas Press Women at Queen Wilhelmina State Park at Mena. This was more than four decades ago, and she was already white-haired. My mother, who was with me, observed that that lady was not as old as she looked. And Mom was right.

You might not pick Marj out of a crowd as being a world traveler, but she was. She had been all around the world. She and I roomed together when we went with other NFPW members to the former Soviet Union. She somehow managed to always be first in line to get hotel room keys. This was her second trip to the former Soviet Union. She was there when Chernobyl blew. The reception for Americans was anything but cordial, she said.

Marj gave me my first national appointment as historian. I will always be grateful to her for that because it meant I became actively involved in an organization that far exceeded my expectations.

In recent years, when her mobility was hampered, she didn't let that stop her. I remember at the Nashville conference, we went to see the Grand Ole Opry. She was in a wheelchair at the time.

We put that chair in the back of my truck and went to the show with as much ease as if she had been walking on two good legs.

I was saddened to learn of her passing, and I know there will always be a part of me that looks for that distinctive handwriting on an envelope at Thanksgiving.



Marj Carpenter
1927-2020



NFPW members 'got kissed' during a tour of the Hershey chocolate factory in Hershey, Pennsylvania, at the 2018 conference. This issue of Agenda would have featured photos from the 2020 conference in Alabama if it hadn't been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Photo courtesy of Kay Stephens as a reminder of the fun to be had at conferences.*

Sweepstakes winner 'born into journalism'

By Lori Potter

Nebraska Press Women

Mary Jane Skala learned about journalism from watching her father, Charles Day, the dean of Cleveland radio broadcasters, cover important issues and famous people in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

"I was born into journalism," Skala said, noting that her dad reported on the Hungarian Revolution in Budapest in 1956, traveled to Russia with Vice President Richard Nixon for the "kitchen cabinet" debate and attended political conventions.

"In 1964, we [his children] went with him to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City. I sat in the press gallery as President Lyndon Johnson gave his acceptance speech," Skala recalled.

Day also interviewed entertainer Bob Hope and astronaut John Glenn, and took his kids to his radio station to meet cowboy singer Gene Autry.

Skala spent most of her long journalism career in Cleveland, before heading West 12 years ago.

Today, she is lifestyle editor, health writer and columnist for a small daily newspaper in Kearney, a south-central Nebraska city along I-80 that is a regional economic and medical center surrounded by farms and ranches.

She also is NFPW's 2020 Communications Contest Sweepstakes winner. Skala also won that award in 1996.

All of her 2020 entries were published in the Kearney Hub and earlier placed first in the Nebraska Press Women contest.

Her work focus the past six months has been COVID-19, which



Mary Jane Skala, NFPW's 2020 Communications Contest Sweepstakes winner, is the lifestyle editor, health writer and columnist for the Kearney Hub, a daily newspaper in Nebraska. Photo by Lori Potter.

certainly will be one of the top issues of the 21st century.

Skala's pandemic coverage has included updates on cases, testing and other issues in a seven-county region; news about how nonprofits and government agencies are meeting people's needs; personal stories about lives forever changed; and regular reports on how local and regional medical facilities are coping.

She continues to cover other lifestyle beat topics and oversee the weekly cover feature for a Saturday lifestyle section.

Her 2020 NFPW awards—all in writing categories—were for religion, science and technology, style, travel, crafts, personal opinion and humor

columns and continuing coverage.

"To win sweepstakes again was truly humbling," Skala said. "The competition was so strong, with so many deserving journalists. What a wealth of talent we have in NFPW."

Skala joined Ohio Press Women in 1973 as a recruit of the late Ruth Wirtz, a past NFPW president who was her first editor in Cleveland and practically forced female reporters to join.

"I would not be the journalist I am today without NFPW," said Skala, who served in many OPW roles and was NFPW secretary in 2007-09.

She also was a first vice president

(Continued on page 14)

NFPW sweepstakes winner . . .

(Continued from page 13)

of the Society of Professional Journalists in Cleveland and Ohio Newspaper Association committee member.

"By the time I was 15, I decided to become a sportswriter," Skala said, "even though women were only society editors at that time."

For years, her father had taken his daughters to Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Browns games. "He believed in equality for women long before Gloria Steinem. He didn't preach it; he simply practiced it," Skala said.

Most of her career was with the Sun News chain in suburban Cleveland.

"I didn't do wimpy stories about pancake breakfasts," Skala said about her young reporter years. "I uncovered corruption where the government was buying homes to clear land for more runways at Cleveland Hopkins Airport."

After two years off when her daughter was born—she also has a son—and then three years editing a

Chessie System Railroad (now CSX) employee publication, she returned to the Sun in 1989 as editor of four editions. Within a few years, she was senior editor of the chain's 22 newspapers.

"I loved it," Skala said. "but in 2008, as newspapers wobbled and declined, I finally took the lucrative buyout offered to all employees."

*The born journalist knew
she had more stories to write.*

She turned down two job offers, tossed her sleeping bag in the car and explored the West for 10 weeks while treasuring the freedom from deadlines. But the born journalist knew she had more stories to write.

That's when her NFPW ties kicked in. Because we were longtime friends through NFPW, she stopped to visit me in Kearney and applied for job openings with the Hub, where

I've worked for nearly 34 years.

Skala was a staff writer the first time from 2012-15. "I joined Nebraska Press Women as soon as I moved to the Cornhusker State," Skala said. "No quality journalist reaches the top without professional camaraderie."

In 2015, she accepted a job as volunteer coordinator at Ghost Ranch, a guest ranch at Abiquiu,

N.M., owned by the Presbyterian Church where she had volunteered during her earlier time out West.

"They had no TV and it was 20 minutes away from the nearest gas station and convenience store. I adored it," Skala said.

But she couldn't stay away from journalism. She returned to the Kearney Hub in 2017.

"I'm 71 years old. My work isn't work. It's great fun," Skala said. "I have no plans to retire. I love what I do. As a journalist in Nebraska I'm buried in combines, cows and corn, and other eye-popping events. I am so very fortunate."

Send submissions for Agenda

to

Editor Cathy Koon at
cakoon52@cablone.net

Dec. 10 is the deadline for the next issue of Agenda,
due out **Jan. 1, 2021**

2021 contest deadlines announced, plan now to enter

**By Teri Ehresman, Media Network Idaho
NFPW Contest Chair**

Plans are being finalized for the launch of the 2021 NFPW Communications Contest on Oct. 1, 2020.

Like last year, the contest will use the OpenWater software system to submit entries. Affiliates are in the process of finalizing their entry fees for those entering the contest.

We expect the Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia affiliates to again sponsor a professional contest in 2021. Members in affiliates without a contest are encouraged to enter the at-large contest.

We have added one new category in the specialty story category. The additional category is for obituary writing for a news or feature-like obituary, instead of a typical obituary in the obituary section of a publication.

Entries for the contest must be published or printed between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020.

The early entry deadline for the contest is Jan. 27, 2021, at noon in the entrant's time zone. A one-time fee of \$25 will be charged for the first entry submitted by a member after the Jan. 27 deadline. The book deadline is Feb. 3, 2021, at noon and the final deadline for all other

entries is Feb. 10 at noon in the entrant's time zone.

First-place winners will advance to the national round of competition, provided the entrant is a member of NFPW by the March 15, 2021, membership deadline.

The goal is to have the national judging complete by early April so winners can be notified and those eligible for a first-timer grant can apply for the grant by the April 23, 2021, application deadline.

Entrants will be notified if they placed in the contest, but the actual placement will be announced Saturday, June 12, during the NFPW conference contest awards ceremony in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Questions about the contest may be directed to Teri Ehresman, contest director at islandpark723@gmail.com.

Contest-related deadlines for 2021 are:

Oct. 1, 2020: NFPW communications contest opens

Jan. 27, 2021: Early entry deadline

Feb. 3, 2021: Book entry deadline

Feb. 10, 2021 : Contest entry final deadline

Feb. 12, 2021: Affiliate judging begins

March 3, 2021: Affiliate judging ends

March 5, 2021: National judging begins

March 15, 2021: Winners must be NFPW members

March 31, 2021: National judging ends

April 23, 2021: First Timer Grant application deadline

June 12, 2021: National winners announced, honored

Education fund sponsors communications contest for students

**By Teri Ehresman, Media Network Idaho
NFPW Contest Chair**

The NFPW High School Communications Contest is an excellent way to help encourage high school students to hone their communications skills.

The NFPW Education Fund is again sponsoring the contest, which is open to high school-age students across the country.

So far this year, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Texas have indicated they plan to again sponsor the student contest. Other affiliates are encouraged to also consider hosting a contest.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Teri Ehresman, NFPW high school contest director, at island-park723@gmail.com.

Students living in states without an affiliate contest may enter the at-large high school contest. The first-place entries in the affiliate and at-large contests advance to the national competition. The national awards will be announced in May, and student winners will be encouraged to attend and be recognized at the NFPW conference June 10-12 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

With many students learning and studying from home for much of the year, this is a great time to help encourage the students and recognize their efforts.

The contest features 23 categories for writing, photography, layout and design, television and radio and yearbook.

The entries must have been published between Feb. 1, 2020, and Jan. 31, 2021. The entries must be submitted by Feb. 10, 2021. The contest entry links will open Oct. 1, 2020.

Donate to NFPW and NFPW Education Fund

Affiliate and Member News . . .

Dear Gwen Larson and NFPW,

Thank you! All of you! Being celebrated as Virginia's 2020 Communicator of Achievement is indeed a great honor.

With all the distress in our world at this moment, I almost feel guilty being happy. I wish we could be together. I would hug every one of you and buy a round of drinks. With coronavirus, we can't do any of that, but the National Federation of Press Women did the next best thing in organizing a virtual Zoom event.

My stepdaughter, Lisa Crutchfield, was able to attend. My son, Henry Broaddus, and his family were there and met people they never would have otherwise. The chat rooms were wonderful opportunities to gather with family and friends. Thank you, Gwen Larson, for stopping by.

Thank you, Martha Steger and Gail Kent, for composing a nomination that made me sound so much better than I really am. And thank all of you for this opportunity to honor the press, the people's defender, not its enemy. And, as the people's defender, the press must expose the truth.

During quarantine, I've been writing four lines of poetry each day. This one kind of explains where we are:

*A new virus is attacking our bodies,
Exposing the sickness of our souls.
As 400-year-old racism is revealed,
Both diseases take deadly tolls.*

Katherine Rowe, president of William & Mary said, "Human beings loathe uncertainty" and "will do almost anything not to have it." Coronavirus has plunged us into deep uncertainty. Our best defense against it is verifiable information leading to exposure of the truth. That's our job.

Thank you,
Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield
Virginia Professional Communicators



Las Vegas talk show host Heidi Harris addresses Alabama Media Professionals members during its May meeting. Screenshot courtesy of AMP.

Zooming toward normal

Ann Halpern Alabama Media Professionals

The pandemic has upended our lives and delivered a bunch of lemons to everyone, but Alabama Media Professionals has found ways to make lemonade.

"We decided to keep meeting virtually since the epidemic is spreading. We're safer at home," says AMP President Donna Francavilla. "That will change once we feel that meeting in person is safe once more."

In April – just days before the postponed AMP 40th anniversary celebration and presentation of communications contest awards – AMP officers decided to try a Zoom meeting. The event went on successfully as scheduled with our founding president participating from Texas.

Board meetings and committee meetings also are happening as scheduled with members participating by Zoom from homes and offices. Realizing that Zoom allowed reaching past city limits and state lines for

speakers, AMP bringing in experts on timely topics was possible and affordable. Attendance has equaled or exceeded traditional face-to-face meetings.

In May, AMP met with Heidi Harris, talk show host for KMZQ in Las Vegas, where the pandemic is devastating the gaming, entertainment and hotel industries. She addressed how the virus is affecting an already fragile broadcast industry.

Solomon Crenshaw Jr. used Zoom in June to produce a compelling multi-speaker workshop with communicators who have been informing Alabama residents about what's happening in their communities as a result of COVID-19.

Ronda Robinson-McKinzey, a former TV anchor/reporter and now owner of Carmine Communications and Consulting, was the moderator. Panelists were Chris Osborne, public relations manager at the Jefferson County Department of Health;

(Continued on page 17)

Affiliate and Member News . . .

(Continued from page 16)

Melanie Posey, public information officer for the city of Hoover; and Ron Ingram, communications director for the Alabama High School Athletic Association. The panelists provided an in-depth and informative look into messages—and mixed messages—being disseminated today regarding the disease that has so greatly affected our world.

In July, AMP Zoom meeting focused on issues and opportunities associated with online learning. The speaker was Michael Throop, assistant professor of journalism and mass communications at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, and 40-year broadcast news veteran.

In August Julie Hedgepeth Williams, assistant professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at Samford University in Birmingham, discussed her new book "Little Newspapers on the Prairie: The Frontier Press Career of Carrie Ingalls," describing Carrie's trek following newspaper work as settlers moved West. Now a journalism historian, Williams found newspaper work on the frontier similar to her own press experience almost a century later. She spent most of the 1980s as a reporter, photographer, editor and columnist for a small-town daily newspaper in North Carolina.



Julie Hedgepeth Williams

Hedgepeth Williams is past president of the national American Journalism Historians Association.

AMP has lined up Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill to be the speaker for the Sept. 10 Zoom meeting. Merrill recently released a statement honoring 100 years of women's

suffrage. His program should be particularly interesting with all the discussion concerning voting during the pandemic, mail-in ballots and more.

"As Alabama slowly returns to normal, AMP is focused on moving forward, taking precautions not to gather in person too soon," said Francavilla.

New Mexico Press Women

In the midst of a pandemic and a public health order banning meetings, New Mexico Press Women is hosting Zoom conversations, exclusively for its members on controversial subjects.

Its June conversation focused on the protests that followed the murder of George Floyd. On July 13, the topic centered on the controversies surrounding the La Jornada sculpture outside of the Albuquerque Museum.

On the panel were Sherri Brueggemann from the Albuquerque Arts Board, Pamela Weese Powell, chair of the Albuquerque Museum Board of Trustees, and Nora Naranjo Morse, the artist responsible for one-half of La Jornada.

All three women shared fascinating stories that had not been reported in the news.

Oregon Press Women

Marilyn Stablein, Oregon affiliate member, was honored to have her memoir, "Houseboat on the Ganges and A Room in Kathmandu: Letters from India and Nepal, 1966-1972," reviewed in the International Pacific Rim Review of Books from Canada. (<http://www.prrb.ca/articles/issue25-asian.htm>.)

The review, "Asian Travel Accounts from the Higher Heights" was written by Trevor Carolan. In the NFPW contest the memoir was awarded second place in non-fiction books for adult readers, autobiog-

raphy or memoir.

Four poems from an ongoing series of recorded dream narratives was published in Otoliths #56, an online magazine out of Australia, and two more were published in the print edition of Gargoyle #71.

"Remembering Stewart Warren: In His Own Words" appeared in the anthology Offerings for the Journey: Poems for Stewart S. Warren" dedicated to New Mexico writer, publisher and community activist poet Stewart S. Warren.

A print of "Cirque d'Eclipse" appears in an Online summer exhibition of the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (<https://coastarts.org/visual-arts-center/ocoas-page-23/>)



'Cirque d'Eclipse' by Marilyn Stablein of Oregon Press Women.

Delaware Press Association

Devil's Party Press (DPP) of Milton, Delaware, has announced the launch of a new imprint, Gravelight Press (gravelightpress.com).

Gravelight Press will publish horror fiction and, like its parent company, will focus exclusively on authors age 40 and older. (For those not

(Continued on page 18)

Affiliate and Member News . . .

(Continued from page 17)

familiar with us, for NFPW Devil's Party Press was winner of best anthology for 2018, and one of our authors, William Crandell, won best short story for 2019.)

"Exhumed," a softcover collection of 13 short stories, is Gravelight's premier publication. This collection includes an introduction by book and film critic Jeffrey D. Keeten, a top reviewer with Goodreads.

"As we focus on our mission to provide older authors with publishing opportunities, we are thrilled to have Jeffrey Keeten who, in addition to being a skilled critic, is also a terrific writer, along for Gravelight's current book release," said Dianne Pearce, publisher of DPP and Gravelight. "It's exciting to be a part of this collection," added Keeten. "There are some truly frightening works between its covers."

"Exhumed," designed and edited by David Yurkovich, has a general release date of Aug. 14.

(Dianne Pearce is a member of Delaware Press Association. She joined NFPW in 2019.)

Virginia Professional Communicators
VPC members are known for

their resiliency and determination. That's why social distancing isn't preventing us from hosting our fall conference. It will be different, though, held on Zoom, instead of meeting held in person.

The series kicks off with a networking event and features a wide slate of speakers running from August through November.

Sept. 18: We will hear from our 2020 newsmaker of the year, Christy Coleman, executive director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and the past CEO of the American Civil War Museum. She also co-chaired Richmond's Monument Avenue Commission, which studied the Confederate statues and monuments that have dominated headlines since late May. Attendees will submit questions during the talk, and the moderator will choose a handful to pose to Coleman.

Oct. 13: Rachel Beanland will talk about how working in public relations made her a better novelist. Her first book was listed as one of Good Morning America's "25 Novels You'll Want to Read This Summer" and as one of Parade's "26 Best Books to Read This Summer." Simon and Schuster launched the book in

the midst of the pandemic, but that didn't stop Rachel from her promotions.

Nov. 7: Reporters from a variety of communities and media will share their experience covering the news in a time of enormous social change. Attendees will submit questions, and the moderator will choose a handful to pose to the reporters.

As of this writing, confirmed participants are VPC's past president Cathy Jett, soon to retire from the (Fredericksburg) Free Lance-Star, and Roberto Roldan, Richmond City Hall reporter for VPM.

In late September or early October, we also will celebrate our communicator of achievement Frances Broaddus Crutchfield. This casual, fun, socially distanced gathering will be held outdoors at Voices from the Garden: The Virginia Women's Monument.

Frances was a key supporter of the monument, which includes statues of important women in the commonwealth's history. As a member of the Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission, she also backed the nearby monument to Virginia Indians. with both monuments.

How will we remember 2020?

By Marsha Hoffman
Iowa Press Women
NFPW President, 2015-16

When all is said and done, what will we remember most about 2020? While the global COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement will top the list, I can add appearing in a nationally televised NASCAR show!

That high point does not alleviate the disappointment of 2020. I have lost trips to Nevada, for fun, the



Screenshot of Marsha Hoffman.

spring NASCAR race weekend at Kansas Speedway, and the National Federation of Press Women national conference in June. I would have received my 25-year membership certificate at the conference, and it would have been the 25th consecutive conference I would have attended. The good news is this streak can continue next year at the rescheduled conference in Little Rock.

(Continued on page 19)

Affiliate and Member News . . .

(Continued from page 18)

The other void in my life during the early months of the pandemic was the lack of sports. I am enduring the longest spell of my adult life without playing or participating in some form of volleyball. When Iowa re-opened bars, which are about the only locations for organized sand volleyball, I opted out of playing because my father and sister Julie, who is also an NFPW member, are both at high risk for COVID.

Back in May, you can't imagine my joy when NASCAR announced the return of racing, although without

fans in the grandstands. In addition to owning seats at Kansas Speedway, I had written a racing column when I worked at my hometown newspaper.

The first race back was held Sunday, May 24, at Darlington, South Carolina, and was broadcast by Fox Sports. As part of the broadcast, Fox announced that fans could post videos online with the hashtag #100,000Cameras, and they would air as part of a special show the following week. As one of my favorite drivers, Kevin Harvick, crossed the finish line, I shot my video with the action on my TV in the background.

I excitedly tuned into the show, but as the end seemed near, I was disappointed that my video wasn't used. But at the very end, I was overjoyed that not only did they use my video, it helped close the show! Several folks reached out after to ask if it was me!

June and July would see the return of other sports and the Black Lives Matter movement, which brought NASCAR to the forefront with the Confederate flag ban and support for driver Bubba Wallace during the noose misunderstanding.

I have never been prouder of the sport.



Alabama Media Professionals

Birmingham resident Carolyn Garrick Stern, 79, died July 2, 2020. Stern started her newspaper career in 1976 as secretary to the editor of the Birmingham Post Herald and later became a religion writer with the Pittsburgh Press. She also worked at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Birmingham Historical Society. An author of two books, she later was on the editorial staff of Southern Progress Corp., working on two magazines, "Cooking Light" and "Progressive Farmer."



Arizona Professional Communicators

Helen Cornell, 86, died June 20, 2020. Cornell had a 30-year career as a journalist and public relations professional, having worked as a writer and editor for the Maryvale Star, a reporter covering the development of emerging cities west of Phoenix for the Phoenix Gazette and the public information officer and special events coordinator for the City of Glendale from 1977 to 1990.



Colorado Press Women

Jane Valentine Barker, 89, died April 23, 2020, in Boulder. An author, columnist and historian, she was CPW's Woman of Achievement in 1979. Barker published two historical books about Boulder and Boulder



County and an award-winning biographical novel of frontierswoman Mari Sandoz and co-authored 13 Colorado history books for children. She wrote historical columns for the Daily Camera for 11 years. She was a founding member of Women Writing the West, an organization dedicated to the recognition of women's contribution to the history and culture of the American West.

Delaware Press Association

Longtime Delaware newsman Allan Loudell died July 6, 2020, at age 64. Loudell had a more than 30-year broadcast career in Delaware on WILM and then later WDEL and was well regarded by colleagues, listeners and even elected officials as an iconic radio newsman who covered issues with details and fairness. Before moving to Delaware, Loudell reported news in Memphis.



Illinois Woman's Press Association

Barbara Nell Land née Neblett, 96, died Feb. 22, 2020, in Urbana, Illinois. After graduating from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, she won a Pulitzer Travel Scholarship and wrote many articles on the role of women in the postwar reconstruction of Europe. The list of places she worked as a journalist is long, but notably included the Miami Herald, Life Magazine, Armed Forces Network, The New York Times, and Reno Gazette-

Journal. She wrote over 20 books, including many co-authored with her husband, Myrick Land.

North Dakota Professional Communicators

Janet Gallagher, 84, died Jan. 20, 2020. She wrote for the Minot Daily News and later worked for Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, as class notes editor. While working at Concordia College, she finished her degree in English writing at age 64. She authored the books "Bridging the Gap: Tales of the Cormorant Lakes Area" and "An Ingredient Called Kate." Gallagher was NDPC's president in 1970 and its 1999 Communicator of Achievement.

Press Women of Texas

Marj Carpenter, 93, a pioneer woman journalist in America and former moderator of the 207th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA, died June 13, 2020. Carpenter was NFPW president in 1991-92 and was a former national Communicator of Achievement award winner. She was the longtime head of the Presbyterian News Service; in her roles with the Presbyterian Church, she traveled to 126 countries. She also had 28 years' experience as a field reporter with three Texas papers. As a reporter for The Pecos Independent, she helped expose the activities of Texas swindler Billie Sol Estes in the 1960s.



Obituaries and death notices for NFPW members
should be emailed to
Amy Geiszler-Jones
algj64@sbcglobal.net

NFPW Leadership Directory

ELECTED OFFICERS

President:

Gwen Larson, Kansas

Vice President:

Karen Rowley, Louisiana

Secretary:

Julie Campbell, Virginia

Treasurer:

Jane Falany, Alabama

Immediate Past President:

Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas, Illinois

APPOINTED BOARD

Archivist:

Paula Casey, At-Large

Communicator of Achievement Director:

Karen Stensrud, North Dakota

FAN Co-Directors:

Marsha Shuler, Louisiana

Angela Smith, Texas

Historian:

Amy Geiszler-Jones, Kansas

Assistant Historian:

Mary Pat Finn-Hoag, Nebraska

Hospitality and Protocol:

Catherine Petrini, Virginia & D.C.

Parliamentarian:

Allison Stein, Missouri

POPPS President:

Mark Fowser, Delaware

Presidential Adviser — Conference Liaison:

Meg Hunt, South Carolina

Presidential Adviser — Membership:

Cynthia Price, Virginia

Presidential Adviser — Contest Director:

Teri Ehresman, Idaho

Student Membership Director:

Meredith Cummings, Alabama

Publications Director:

Cathy Koon, Idaho

Publications Assistant:

Gwen Woolf, Virginia

Web Director:

Michele Cook, Virginia

2021 Conference Co-Directors:

Kristin Netterstrom Higgins, Arkansas

Debbie Miller, Arkansas

Agenda DEADLINES

Deadlines for submitting photos and/or stories for upcoming issues of Agenda are:

Dec. 10

for publication Jan. 1

March 10

For publication April 1

June 10

For publication July 1

Send submissions to
Editor Cathy Koon at
cakoon52@cablone.net

NFPW Headquarters

Cate Langley, Executive Director
140B Purcellville Gateway Drive
Suite 120
Purcellville, VA 20132

Phone: 571-295-5900
info@nfpw.org

Ad Rates for AGENDA

- Full / Page 8.250 x 10.625 = \$50
- Half / Page 8.250 x 5.175 = \$30
- Half / Page 4.063 x 10.637 = \$30
- Quarter / Page 8.250 x 2.476 = \$15
- Quarter / Page 4.064 x 5.2 = \$15
- 1/8 / Page 1.875 x 10.563 = \$10
- 1/8 / Page 4.075 x 2.476 = \$10

Discounts are available for multiple runs of the same ad.