

Spring 2021 Vol. 83, No.3

Agenda



Quarterly Newsletter of the
National Federation of Press Women



ARKANSAS
THE NATURAL STATE



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF PRESS WOMEN 2021

EMERGE
EVOLVE
ENGAGE
guided by truth

NFPW 2021

ARKANSAS
EMERGE, EVOLVE, ENGAGE
guided by truth

NFPW

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President's Message: Memories Past & Future

By Gwen Larson
NFPW President

This photo of daffodils below appeared March 19 on my Facebook Memories from one year before. My caption read, "When you are drowning in COVID-19 communication and decide to walk to the mailroom . . . so nice to see these bright, cheery, hardy daffodils while I breathe the fresh air!"

My memories of that time in 2020 are a blur. A coworker and I joked that those days of writing, vetting, sending (me) and posting COVID communications to the website (her) often took us back to our days of working election nights in the newsroom. We survived on adrenaline, caffeine and chocolate. In fact, I'm positive that my trip to the mailroom on March 19, 2020, probably included a stop upstairs in the bookstore for a Hershey's bar!



A year later, this daffodil photo made me smile again. The renewal of spring in 2021 coincides with new communications to campus looking ahead to a "more traditional" fall semester. (That's the new buzz phrase that will quickly become cliché: "More traditional.")

At the same time, I still feel sad about continued changes to plans because of COVID, most notably our decision to move the 2021 NFPW conference to a virtual format. I know we made the right decision, yet it remains difficult to swallow.

The planning team from Arkansas Press Women have worked tirelessly for three years to plan our conference. They agreed to pivot in 2020 when we postponed the

conference. They all took a collective deep breath and jumped back in.

Believe me, they are as disappointed as the rest of us. And what is most disappointing is not being able to see each other in person. I've told you before how much NFPW conferences are family reunions for me — hugs when we meet at elevators, impromptu discussions in the hotel lobby and fun exploring our host city together.

That is where the future memories part of the headline comes in. I have every intention of visiting Arkansas once the world seems a little safer to me. I've driven to Arkansas one time but couldn't explore because I was on a timetable to funerals in Monticello.

On the way home from that trip, though, I did spend the night in Bentonville, and met Deb Miller for drinks. Deb was planning the pre- and post-tours for conference and had wonderful ideas.

For me, it's about a four-hour trip to Bentonville. When I'm ready to go, I'm going to see who from Kansas Professional Communicators wants to come along. And I'll let all of you know our plans in case you can join us, also. I know many from Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and even Alabama who were thinking of driving to Arkansas.

We won't ask Arkansas Press Women to plan anything official for us, but I know they'll have great advice for us about museums, restaurants and must-do activities. If we're really lucky, all of the Arkansas conference planning team will be able to join us, if only for dinner.

After all, I've got lots of hugs and laughter stored up for all my NFPW family!

On the Cover:

Once again, COVID won out, and NFPW's annual conference will be held virtually after being canceled last year. Arkansas Press Women is to be congratulated on all the work it has done over the past three years, since first volunteering to host the event. The cover of this issue of Agenda is intended to mirror the complexity of hosting the 2021 conference, coming to you live from Little Rock.



Candidates declare for NFPW offices

By Meg Hunt

Nominating Committee

Though nothing about the past year has resembled “normal,” one thing remains constant in the world of NFPW . . . the election of officers every two years.

Yes, 2021 is an election year, and the following members have declared themselves as candidates to fill offices for 2021-2023:

- President: Karen Rowley, Louisiana
- Vice President: Julie Campbell, Virginia
- Secretary: Meredith Cummings, Alabama
- Treasurer: Debbie Miller, Arkansas

The current NFPW executive board is working on plans for a virtual membership meeting either before or during the annual June conference hosted this year by Arkansas Press Women. Information regarding delegates and the procedural steps for voting will be provided in an upcoming email to members.

Nominations for any of the offices may be made from the floor during the membership meeting.

The new NFPW officers will be installed by President Gwen Larson on Saturday, June 12, following the Communicator of Achievement presentation.

Here is information about each of the candidates:

President

With a long, storied career in journalism and communications, Karen Rowley of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has an abundance of experience to build on in her continued service to NFPW.

A member for more than 20 years, she has held numerous positions within the organization at the national and affiliate levels, including current NFPW vice president, NFPW treasurer and NFPW protocol director, NFPW Education Fund high school contest director, as well as Louisiana Press Women (LPW) president, contest director and treasurer.

Her advocacy for a strong press and support of the people’s right to know are part of why she’s seeking the office of president.



Karen Rowley

“My primary goals will be to work with fellow board members to continue NFPW’s advocacy on behalf of a free press and the First Amendment,” says Rowley. “I also want to encourage aspiring journalists to pursue mass communications as a career and work to reimagine the organization so that it remains relevant in a rapidly changing media world.”

In support of her nomination, LPW notes that “Karen’s commitment to NFPW and LPW continues as strong today as it has been through the years as she has taken roles of leadership at the state and national levels in both appointed and elected positions. Her talents, energy, intellect and people skills have served us well. We can think of no one more qualified to be NFPW’s next president than Karen Rowley.”

Vice President

Currently serving as secretary for NFPW, Julie Campbell of Richmond, Virginia, has been involved with both NFPW and Virginia Professional Communicators (VPC) since 1999.

Recognized as a dedicated professional communicator, she has given her time and talents by serving in many different leadership positions from affiliate president, vice president, treasurer and contest chair to NFPW student membership chair and NFPW Education Fund board member.

An ardent advocate of teamwork, Campbell says she believes the efforts by the board and so many in NFPW during the past year have actually strengthened the organization’s mission.

“When the pandemic brought the world to a halt, we added ‘creative’ to our description as we figured out new ways to keep our organization vital and our members engaged,” she notes.

“It would be an honor to serve as vice president for the next two years as we continue those mighty efforts and write a new chapter of NFPW’s history.”



Julie Campbell

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Candidates declare . . .

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Secretary

Meredith Cummings is a college journalism instructor and freelance multimedia journalist in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She has been active in Alabama Media Professionals (AMP) and NFPW serving in a variety of leadership roles.

The current student membership director for NFPW, she has also served as AMP president, contest director and membership vice president. In addition, she was president of the Alabama Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, as well as a member of the SPJ education committee and coordinator of SPJ #press4education-initiative.

In support of her nomination, AMP says it “believes Meredith can serve effectively as secretary of NFPW because of the outstanding ways in which she has served our organization. She is a well-respected senior journalism instructor at the University of Alabama, and she also has expertly fulfilled duties as director of the National Elementary School Press Association and the Alabama Scholastic Press Association.”

Leveraging her more than 25 years of experience as a journalist, storyteller and journalism instructor, Cummings is eager to “give back to an organization that has served as such inspiration to me.” She is motivated by NFPW’s esteemed history and extraordinary mix of members and ready to help lead and share her passion for diversity “to ensure the next generation of Press Women.”



Meredith Cummings

Treasurer

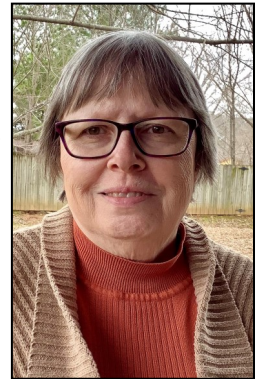
“A dependable team member and leader you can count on to do what’s best for the long-term health of the organization” is what Arkansas Press Women (APW) writes in support of its nomination of Debbie Miller from Bentonville, Arkansas.

Miller, a seasoned strategic communicator, has been active with APW and NFPW since 1986.

Throughout her years of involvement, she has given her time and talents in service at both the affiliate and national levels as APW president, secretary and contest chair, and also as NFPW parliamentarian, assistant contest director and current co-chair of the 2021 national conference planning team. In addition, she was president of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter of Public Relations Society of America.

A believer in the value of collaborative efforts, Miller has spent her career developing skills to help others achieve success. Her professional experience, from reporter to communications specialist to fundraising director to college journalism instructor, gives her a broad spectrum of knowledge by which to lead.

In noting her reason for running for NFPW office, Miller says simply that “my goal would be to continue to fulfill the duties of the treasurer effectively and completely and to work with other members of the elected and appointed board, the management team and the membership to enhance the financial viability of the organization.”



Debbie Miller

Official conference bookseller is online

WordsWorth Books, a Little Rock bookstore, will serve as the official bookseller for the 2021 NFPW conference.

WordsWorth will sell books about Arkansas and of interest to writers and other professional communicators through a 2021 NFPW Conference page created on the bookstore’s website. A link to the page will be shared with conference registrants and posted on the conference website. Conference speakers and NFPW

members who want the bookstore to handle sales for them may also be included on the bookstore’s page.

A list of titles is being compiled that will be posted by the bookstore, which can complete orders. Conference speakers and members of NFPW are encouraged to submit their titles to the bookstore via email at rsplotkin@conwaycorp.net.

In addition, WordsWorth Books will accept signed bookplates from listed authors.

Zoom to Arkansas for NFPW Conference June 11-12

Kristin Netterstrom Higgins, Arkansas

Debbie Miller, Arkansas

2021 Conference Co-Directors

Since June 2019, Arkansas Press Women members have been busily sweeping off our welcome mats, getting ready for a visit from our NFPW friends. We're disappointed that the continuing pandemic means you won't be able to see how clean and welcoming those mats are now. But we're excited to invite you to spend some time with a great lineup of speakers during NFPW's first virtual conference.

You'll find a list of confirmed speakers in this edition of Agenda. We're nailing down details with a few more

folks that we can't wait to tell you about. So, watch future newsletters and emails for updates.

Because we aren't able to take you on the tours we had planned, we intend to share the beauty and diversity of The Natural State by "zooming" around Arkansas. We want to show you a few of the special sights and sounds of our home and invite you to visit in person first chance you get. Or, as the old song says "y'all come to see us when you can!"

Right now, what we'd really like for you to do is register and join us online June 11-12 to emerge, evolve and engage together at the 2021 NFPW Conference.

Workshops aim at honing communication skills

Workshops

The 2021 NFPW conference will provide multiple opportunities to hone your skills and to learn about better communication in a fluid, interconnected, digital environment.

Some of our program has changed to accommodate the move to a virtual conference, but most of the outstanding speakers scheduled in 2020 still plan to participate. Check conference emails and newsletters for additions to this list of confirmed speakers in the coming weeks.

Deviant Cyber Flash Mobs of the Internet: Bots, Trolls, and Misinformation

Presenter: Dr. Nitin Agarwal

A social media expert unravels online behavior, identifying some of the dangers of sharing our private lives with the online world and illustrating how what we see online influences our thoughts and actions.

Nitin Agarwal is the Jerry L. Maulden-Entergy Endowed Chair and Distinguished Professor of Information Science at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is also founding director of the Collaboratorium for Social Media and Online Behavioral Studies (COSMOS) at UALR. His research aims to expand our understanding of



Dr. Nitin Agarwal

digital and cyber social behaviors that emerge and evolve constantly in modern information and communication platforms. At COSMOS, he leads projects funded by more \$20 million in grants from various federal agencies, including the departments of Defense, State, and Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation. He has published 10 books and more than 200 articles in top-tier peer-reviewed forums with several best paper awards and nominations. [More details.](#)

Drone On!

Presenters: Michael Ray Taylor and Scott McKinnon

Drones have become increasingly affordable and essential story-telling tools for all kinds of newsrooms and other communications outlets. Learn the basics of legal, safe drone usage in journalism and what equipment you should be using



Michael Taylor



Scott McKinnon

from two teachers in the Innovative Media program at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Michael Ray Taylor chairs the communication department at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and has written for Sports Illustrated, The New York Times and many other publications. His latest book,

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Workshops . . .

(Continued from page 5)

"Hidden Nature: Wild Southern Caves," was published in 2020.

Scott McKinnon is an instructor of Innovative Media at Henderson State. He specializes in emerging digital media technology and documentary filmmaking.

Building a career on travel, dining and a quest for pie

Presenter: Kat Robinson

A successful travel and food writer shares tales from the road, insight on using your journalism skills to move to a new career and tips for finding the best food in Arkansas.

To find the best pie in Arkansas, ask Kat Robinson. From her base in Little Rock, Robinson hosts "Make Room For Pie: A Delicious Slice of the Natural State," an Emmy-nominated documentary, and a similarly titled book. She has written nine books on food, including "101 Things to Eat in Arkansas Before You Die" and "Arkansas Food: The A to Z of Eating in the Natural State." Her most recent work is "A Bite of Arkansas: A Cookbook of Natural State Delights," which offers 140 recipes, personal stories and photographs.

Her work appears in regional and national media outlets, including Food Network, Forbes Travel Guide, Serious Eats and AAA Magazines. Before jumping into the world of food and travel writing, she was a television and radio producer and a radio personality.

She is a member of the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame committee, co-chair of the Arkansas Pie Festival and the Arkansas Fellow to the National Food and Beverage Foundation.

She also loves hats. Sample her writing [here](#).



Kat Robinson

Memoir Writing

Presenters: Greg Graham and Heidi Skurat Harris

Develop writing skills and learn more about the art of memoir writing from two professors with experience mentoring a wide variety of writers.

Greg Graham teaches memoir writing as a professor in the department of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Graham also directs the Little Rock Writing Project, a regional network of pre-K through college teachers who have successfully completed intensive preparation in the teaching of writing.

The network provides professional development workshops for teachers and outreach programs for children and young adults. He received a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's degree in professional and technical writing from UA Little Rock.



Greg Graham



Heidi Harris

Heidi Skurat Harris is an associate professor and graduate coordinator in the department of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has published parts of her longer memoir, "Buried in Polyester," in North Dakota Quarterly Review and Quarterly West, and her essay "Water Hazards" won the 1999 Intro Journals Award from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). She teaches nonfiction, technical writing and online writing instruction.

Getting Started in Podcasting

Presenter: Adena J. White, Blackbelt Media LLC

Learn how to get started in podcasting from a public relations professional who developed Blackbelt Voices, a podcast ranked among the Top 100 on Apple Podcasts since it launched in 2019.

Adena J. White, APR, is an accredited public relations professional with more than a decade of experience leading communications efforts for nonprofits.

In 2017, she became the founder of Blackbelt Media LLC, helping purpose-driven organizations advance progressive social change throughout the South through strategic communication and storytelling.

Blackbelt Media launched the Blackbelt Voices podcast to spread and promote the richness of Black Southern culture and tell stories from and about Black folks down South. Her Blackbelt Voices podcast has been ranked among the Top 100 on Apple Podcasts and has been featured in O, The Oprah Magazine and Vanity Fair.

In 2013, she earned her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) through the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). She served on the board of directors for the Arkansas Chapter of PRSA for nine years and was elected president of the 100-member chapter in 2019,



Adena White

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Keynote to be delivered from desegregation site

Elizabeth Eckford, one of nine Black students who integrated Little Rock's Central High in 1957, will connect with the 2021 NFPW Conference from the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

Her arrival at Central High School on Sept. 4, 1957, is immortalized in an iconic photo of a stoic Black girl walking down Park Street in front of Central High toward a bus stop, being followed by an angry white mob yelling threats and slurs. Will Counts, a photographer for the Arkansas Democrat, captured the image, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1958.

Eckford speaks often about her history-making experiences, racism, bullying and reconciliation. In 2018, she released a book for young readers titled "The Worst First Day: Bullied while Desegregating Central High."

After her life-changing time at Central High, Eckford earned a bachelor's degree in history from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Her career included five years in the U.S. Army, serving as a military journalist for part of that time. She also taught social studies and history and worked as a probation officer for the First Division Circuit Court of Pulaski County.

She lives in Little Rock.



Elizabeth Eckford, top right, during a presentation for the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service Speaker Series on Jan. 29, 2020. Photo by Nelson Chenault, courtesy of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

Right, Eckford on the day in 1957 at Central High School in Little Rock. Photo from Central High School [website](#).



Workshops . . .

(Continued from page 6)

making history as the first Black person to hold this office.

Creating online ad campaigns that yield results Presenter: Dina Pruitt, 2D Strategic Marketing

A digital media strategist and self-identified Google Analytics nerd shares information about creating and tracking Instagram posts that work.

Dina Pruitt is a digital marketing strategist specializing in paid social advertising. Businesses hire her to increase online sales and generate qualified leads. With more than 20 years of agency experience in website

project management, data analytics and digital marketing, Pruitt understands not only how to build successful paid social campaigns, but also how to measure what is and isn't working.

Before starting her own business, she was a co-founder of Aristotle Inc., an award-winning digital advertising agency based in Little Rock. Current and past clients include St. Croix Rods, Baru Sustainable Clothing, the Utah Office of Tourism and Elvis Presley Enterprises.

Learn more about her company at her [website](#).



Dina Pruitt

Potter retires after 43+ years

*(Editor's Note: Former NFPW President Lori Potter's farewell to her readers appeared in her column, *Potter's Wheel*, on her last day of work at the Kearney [Nebraska] Hub, where she worked as a reporter, photographer and columnist for 34 years. Her work garnered awards from local, state and national organizations, including NFPW.)*

By Lori Potter
Nebraska Press Women
Former NFPW President

I know I have too much stuff in my life, ranging from trash to treasure to why did I save that! That was clear the past week as I emptied my Kearney Hub office



Lori Potter

desk. This is my last day as a full-time Hub reporter-photographer-columnist. I still will write a few stories and a monthly column, and take photos as a "contributor."

The timing is right. I'll be 65 on Tuesday and, thanks to my late parents and at least three earlier Potter farm-family generations, I have regular income as a landowner.

I'm tired of always being on a deadline, turning in projects I know need more editing and working on multiple topics and tasks at the same time. Also, the newspaper business is different now than it was during most of my 43-plus full-time years.

I accept that newspapers, present and future, are multi-media businesses. However, my heart and soul is as a print journalist. I'll never prefer to read a newspaper, book or much of anything else on a screen.

When I started a career that spans all or part of six decades, newspapers actually were papers and the main source of most people's local and state news. News-

rooms hummed with reporters doing phone interviews or discussing projects with each other amid the chatter of emergency scanners and the many other sounds of putting out a newspaper.

I was age 21 when I started my first full-time job at the Alliance Times-Herald in early January 1978, a few weeks after graduating from Kearney State College. My newspaper career goes back 46 years if I count summer internships at the Holdrege Citizen and work on KSC publications. Add two more for my high school years on the staff of the monthly Wilcox Eagle.

I went to the York News-Times in January 1979 as a reporter-photographer-columnist and returned to Kearney in early November 1986 after former Hub Managing Editor Steve Chatelain hired me as regional editor.

The goal was to expand the Hub's coverage of a nine-county region of south-central Nebraska. The mission grew to include a greater focus on agriculture and what Steve accurately believed could be big issues ahead for the state's water resources, especially in the Platte and Republican basins.

Now, 34 years later, programs, projects and partnerships are in place or evolving to protect endangered species habitat in the Central Platte region and to comply with the Republican River interstate compact, while maintaining irrigated agriculture and local economies.

Many people, including some gone now, deserve our thanks and respect for working together on local, regional and state solutions to protect our water interests and uses. Some of them were not on speaking terms when they started, but they knew it was better to compromise



Lori Potter, right, receives one of her many communications contest awards from another former NFPW president, Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas.
Photo from Agenda archives.

for Nebraska solutions than to have federal laws and courts make the decisions.

As a journalist, I've done many things and been many places I wouldn't have experienced on my own. I covered local sports, Husker football games, floods, tornadoes, fires and Nebraska visits by two presidents; participated in World War II and Korean War Hero Flights to Washington; and went on water tours in Nebraska and several states.

The many things I learned from so many people could fill a library. I've also been to many places in Nebraska and other states as a 42-year member of Nebraska Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women.

I traveled to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand in January 2002 with the Nebraska LEAD Program's 20th class. I went to Tasmania, Australia, in 2003 with Nebraska Women in Agriculture, and to Mexico and Costa Rica in 2007 with LEAD alumni.

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Another View: *Lori's front-row seat*

By Mary Jane Skala
Nebraska

(Editor's Note:
NFPW member
Mary Jane Skala,
penned this tribute
for *Another View*,
her column in the
Kearney Hub.)



Mary Jane Skala

In 2012, when I arrived at the Kearney Hub from an upper-middle-class suburb of Cleveland, I didn't know a combine from a cockroach, but I knew Lori Potter. I'd met her 15 years earlier at a National Federation of Press Women conference.

Now, nine years later, I can say without hesitation that everything I know about Nebraska, I learned from Lori Potter.

Lori, in fact, is why I came to Nebraska. When I took a buy-out from my newspaper editor's job in Cleveland, I was too restless to retire, so Lori said, "Come to Nebraska. Newspapers are still thriving out here." Since my children were grown and gone and I guzzle travel like some folks guzzle beer, I followed her advice and came to Kearney.

When I arrived, I felt as lost as a wind-tossed tumbleweed, so Lori set out to show me central Nebraska.

Lori bumped down meandering dirt roads (every road back home was paved) and filled me in about feedlots. She explained pivots, too, which to my city eyes looked like space-age metal spiders hunkered down with the corn. She talked about "combines" (huh?) and grain trucks (huh?) and how those canvas-covered semis that thunder down rural roads in the fall are taking corn to market.

She explained dryland farming.

To an agricultural nitwit like me, "dry land" sounded thirsty, but she said dry land never gets a drop of water from irrigation.

She took me to the humble Wilcox Cafe in her native Wilcox and reminisced about eating Sunday dinner there after church. Here? I thought, aghast. To me, Sunday dinner was enjoyed in an elegant restaurant that required ties and high heels.

In January, Lori took me to see bald eagles at the irrigation canal over the J-2 plant in Dawson County. I'd never heard of irrigation canals, either.

She took me to my first-ever rodeo. I paid my \$6 admission (cash only) at that July 4 event in Sumner and clomped up into the bleachers to watch calf roping and barrel racing and bull riding and gawk at tots in cowboy boots. There was even a rodeo clown. This wasn't some Hollywood set. This was real. My letter about this to my relatives back home ran on for 10 typewritten pages.

Lori took me on the Junk Jaunt, with lunch at the Double T Cafe in Halsey. My mother refused to eat in places like that with beer signs in the windows, but out here, we had no choice. We went on up to a Cherry County ranch owned by Nebraska Press Women member Lynn Messersmith. Messersmith drove me up a weedy hill in her pickup (we weren't even on a road) and stopped on land so vast all I could do was gawk.

"I know every piece of this 6,000-acre ranch like you know your living room," she said. I was speechless.

Lori showed me my first sandhill cranes. We went out to watch them on a frosty Saturday morning in a blind near Fort Kearny State Park. Shivering, I plopped down on an upside-down milk bucket and peered

out of that blind at cranes. Believe me, I'd never done that in Cleveland, either.

She even took me to a branding. I stood on that wild prairie on that Saturday morning and watched real live cowboys (my first ever) bring in herds of cows and calves toward branding irons heating on small stoves.

She took me to the Speakeasy, that cozy wooden steakhouse way out beyond Wilcox. She took me to my first-ever bull sale and showed me that raising beef is serious business here in the Great Plains.

Lori always took photos. No matter where we went, she'd vanish with

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Potter . . .

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I wrote an ag-related series for the Hub after each international trip.

Living and working in Kearney has kept me close to my roots as a Franklin County farm girl and 1974 Wilcox High School graduate. The best part of my job has been visiting farms, ranches, small towns and with people who live and work there.

Any days spent along the Platte River, in a native prairie or driving down a rural road to take photos of people, places and wildlife also are days well spent. I'll still do that for pleasure or as a freelancer for the Hub or other media. However, starting Monday, I won't get up at 6 a.m. most weekdays to do so.

Long time, no see

An exciting new adventure

By Nancy Wright
Beasley
Author of 'Izzy's
Fire'



Nancy Beasley

Greetings to old and new friends alike. My absence from sending newsletters has been very long and complicated, so I'll just say that I'm back in the saddle again, following a time of dedicating myself to family matters that needed my undivided attention.

There is so much to share with you, but I'll start with the recent commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Jan. 27 was designated an annual event by a United Nations General Assembly resolution Nov. 1, 2005. The resolution came after a special session earlier that year, during which the United Nations marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of one the most infamous Nazi con-

centration camps.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, was liberated Jan. 27, 1945, by Soviet troops, helping to end the tragedy of the Holocaust that resulted in the deaths of 6 million Jews, including 1.5 million children, and 11 million others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. That significant day is recognized with memorial services held worldwide.

Even though I believe we must honor the past, I want to share something in the present, a time of great excitement for the future of my work. I have formed a 501(c)(3) organization, which I named Chutzpah and Courage. Those two words exemplify my beliefs as a Christian and also honor the deep respect I have for Judaic history.

I have dedicated more than half of my 40 years as a journalist to writing about anti-Semitism and finding ways to stop other discrimination.

Taking this step seemed like a

natural thing to do, since I am now entering my third decade researching and writing about ways to help bring an end to anti-Semitism, discrimination, bullying and bias, especially among school children.

I'm so appreciative of your past generosity. Chutzpah and Courage now provides a tax-deductible funding base that will enable me to continue offering programs about my work at schools, in various community organizations and presentations to local, regional, national or international audiences. I couldn't continue this work without your help.

I have been joined in that endeavor by four very able and trustworthy friends, individuals who have helped me in countless ways over the years and now have agreed to serve as the first members of the board of directors for Chutzpah and Courage.

You may get acquainted with them, my planned path forward and also support future work by visiting: www.chutzpahandcourage.org.

Another View . . .

(Continued from page 9)

her camera, leaving me to sniff out Buffalo County and beyond on my own, but how could I complain? She gave me a front-row seat to her world. My only gripe: W always left way before dawn because farm-bred Lori rises at 6 a.m.

Lori retired Friday, but she'll never stop chronicling cranes and black Angus and capturing her rural roots with her camera. Nebraska and Lori Potter are intertwined. I suspect Hub readers think so, too.

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Send submissions for Agenda to
Editor Cathy Koon at cakoon52@cableone.net

NFPW loses another former president

Compiled by Cathy Koon
Idaho, Agenda Editor

Mary Lou Webb stepped down as president of the National Federation of Press Women at the annual conference held in 1989 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

"I remember her southern accent and her loving her presidential suite with the swimming pool (read more about that presidential suite on page 13)," said Teri Ehresman, who would eventually follow in Mary Lou's footsteps as NFPW president. "I remember she loved the conference and was pushing for an international NFPW membership."

Mary Lou Webb, 82, died Feb. 17, 2021, at her home in Bude, Mississippi.

Mary Lou began her career in journalism as editor of her high school newspaper and at the Magee Courier. Her love of writing coupled with several scholarships led her to the University of Southern Mississippi, where she met the love of her life, David Webb, while they both worked on the campus newspaper, The Student Printz.

The couple married and bought The Franklin Advocate during the same week in March 1962. They also bought The Wilk-Amite Record, and, in later years, had a travel agency, Webb Travel.

She took over as managing editor of The Tylertown Times when editor Paul Pittman was called to active duty with the Navy.

In addition to having a career and being a wife and mother of two, Mary Lou served in many offices of the Mississippi Press Women and NFPW, including president of both organizations.

She was president of the Franklin County Federated Woman's Club for two years, president of the Band Boosters Club and was active in leading civic events such as Franklin County's Great Day, Christmas Parade and Luncheon and helping other civic leaders in the development of Okhissa Lake.

Nine years ago, Mrs. Webb retired to an assisted living home until recently when she moved back to Franklin County, to her home spot in Bude.

She was quoted in an interview years ago as saying, "Franklin County has been very good to our family. We travel to many places around the world, but we haven't found any better places or people."

The family requests those wishing to create a lasting memory in Mrs. Webb's honor to make donations to the Brookhaven Animal Rescue League at P.O. Box 3477, Brookhaven, Mississippi 39603; or to Bude Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization whose mission it is to promote and enhance the community by the cleanup of

blighted properties and the development of town parks and land and to provide educational opportunities for community members.

Donations should be mailed to Bude Community Foundation, Attention Cassandra Hauer at the Bank of Franklin, P.O. Box 606, Meadville, MS 39653.



Mary Lou Webb

We Remember . . .

compiled by Amy Geiszler-Jones

New Mexico Press Women

Christina Burroughs, 68, of Albuquerque died Jan. 29, 2021.

She had been a member of NMPW since 1993 and had served as an officer for the Albuquerque Press Women.

Christina earned a journalism degree from Kent State University in Ohio in 1974 and a master's degree in communications from the University of New Mexico in 1993.

After starting her career at a Texas paper, she went on to work in communications offices of two higher education institutions, a public relations firm and a government lab.



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

Just a thought . . .



By Cathy Koon

Media Network Idaho, Agenda Editor

If you read Mary Lou Webb's obituary before you got here, you know I promised to tell you more about the presidential suite with a swimming pool. Here goes:

That 1989 NFPW conference in Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho, was my first. Ironically, my introduction to Idaho Press Women and NFPW came during a state meeting at Louise Shaddock's home on the shore of Lake Coeur 'd Alene just 10 years prior. In all my travels throughout the U.S., I've never seen anything to compare.

The above photo of the Resort Hotel where we hosted the conference was taken years after 1989. The motel to the right wasn't there then.

Mary Lou's room, officially named the Hagadone Suite, takes up the top floor and the roof with a stellar view of the lake. Today you would see the floating golf course that was in the planning stages back then.

As is tradition in NFPW, the farewell social for the outgoing president is held the final night of the conference in the outgoing president's room, in this case the presidential suite. And sweet it is.

For this rural Idaho girl who had not yet begun her travels, it was amazing. Four of us from IPW (now Media Network Idaho) took a tour of the suite prior to the conference. The drapes in the master bedroom opened at the touch of a button on the bedside table. The window took up the entire wall and framed a view of the lake at

such an angle that all you could see was the water surrounded by forested land dotted by plush estates, barely visible among the trees.

The bathroom had heated towel bars that held the biggest, fluffiest towels I had ever seen or felt. Same goes for the complimentary bathrobes.

Remember, this was in the days before cell phones. There was a telephone on the wall next to the toilet. The four of us took turns having our picture taken, sitting on the pot with the receiver in our hands.

So, about the swimming pool? I've coming to that.

The night of the farewell reception, we gathered after the contest banquet. We were given a special code so we could access the suite from the elevator. Another first for this Idaho girl.

As we stepped off the elevator into a massive living room, the swimming pool immediately caught our attention. It is on the roof and forms the glass ceiling of the living room, all aglow from twinkling lights on the patio and from the lakeside marina and lakeshore homes.

And you could see the swimmers in the pool.

That image has stayed with me for the more than 30 years since that conference and reminds me of the many spectacular sites I've seen because of NFPW.

I look forward to the day we can go back to holding our conferences on site with all the memories and the friendships that last a lifetime, and somehow can change an Idaho girl in ways she never imagined.

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President:

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Vice President:

Karen Rowley, Louisiana

Secretary:

Julie Campbell, Virginia

Treasurer:

Jane Falany, Alabama

Immediate Past President:

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Debbie Miller, Arkansas

Agenda DEADLINES

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

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