

# NPW NEWS<sub>e</sub>LETTER



## Geery-Zink presented COA at NPW awards luncheon

by Bette Pore

Stephanie Geery-Zink, a two-term past president of Nebraska Press Women, was honored September 8 as 2011 Nebraska Press Women Communicator of Achievement.

The award was presented as part of the NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon, marking the 65th anniversary of NPW, prior to the beginning of the National Federation of Press

Mary Pat Hoag

**Martha Stoddard presents Stephanie Geery-Zink with the 2011 Nebraska Press Women Communicator of Achievement award during the NPW Anniversary Awards Luncheon September 8 in Council Bluffs.**

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## Hahn honored at NFPW conference

by Bette Pore

Terri Hahn, Nebraska Press Women 2010 Communicator of Achievement, was honored September 9 as the runner-up for 2011 Communicator of Achievement at the National Federation of Press Women Communications Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Hahn was one of 12 nominees from across the country for the highest honor bestowed by NFPW. The 2011 Communicator of Achievement

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Lori Potter

**Runner-up Terri Hahn (right) with National COA from Delaware.**

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

WOW! It all went off without a hitch!

The Nebraska pre-tour that Lori Potter planned so meticulously had Press Women from many states learning about some of Nebraska's treasures, from Willa Cather's Red Cloud to Barb Batie's coffee in the cornfield and the steak fry at Sallie Atkins' ranch in the Sandhills.

The day tours that Sherry Thompson and Carla Chance planned and guided as well as an extra tour that Cheryl Alberts-Irwin's husband, Russ, guided all added to the NFPW pre-conference festivities.

The NPW Anniversary Awards luncheon was a huge success with 57 people attending, including NFPW President Cynthia Price and NFPW VPs Teri Ehresman and Lori Potter. Marian and Harold (Andy) Andersen were present as NPW VP Bette Pore inducted the first class into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists' Hall of Fame.

Inductees Deanna Sands, Bev Pollack and Lynne Grasz attended with family and friends. Deceased inductee Marj Marlette was represented by her husband Ralph and daughter Jeanne; Bess Furman Armstrong was represented by her daughter, Ruth Armstrong, and her nephew, Ed Furman; and Wilma Crumley was represented by daughters Liz Varvel and Stacy Trapp.

Gwen Lindberg brought husband Dick and sons Greg and Mike to witness her being honored for 50 years of continuous membership in NPW and NFPW. Sue Fitzgerald even came from Georgia to see everyone.

Stephanie Geery-Zink's husband, Roger, appeared just as Martha Stoddard announced Stephanie as NPW's 2011 Communicator of Achievement. It was all very exciting!

As soon as the luncheon was over, NPW members hurried to the official



**Ruth Brown**

start of the NFPW conference as the business meeting was gavelled to order. We couldn't wait to cast our ballots for our own Lori Potter to be president of the National Federation of Press Women and to bestow on her an arrangement of Sandhills grasses and artificial flowers that we brought back from the dinner at the Atkins ranch.

Lori is the second Nebraskan to be elected national president; Velma Price of Newman Grove was elected national president in 1955 after serving as national VP.

The reception at the Durham Museum was a hit with conference participants who enjoyed the ambiance of the beautiful art deco building as well as the delicious food, Nebraska wines and entertainment by Joan Burney and daughter Juli.

Conference keynote speakers, who were all from Nebraska, were excellent. Pulitzer Prize winner Matt Waite explained how he and others created Politifact.com on a whim and a shoestring, learning every step of the way; international best selling author Alex Kava told how her thrillers went unpublished until she changed her name from Sharon to Alex; and Juli Burney

reminded us that laughing is good for our health.

Sessions were interesting, accommodations were comfortable, meals were great, the silent auction was fun, the authors' book tables were good, the live auction with Julie Burney was amazing, and camaraderie abounded.

Friday night, we joined in Terri Hahn's excitement as she was named runner-up to the NFPW Communicator of Achievement! The last time NPW had a member so honored was in 1996 when Lori Potter was named runner-up.

Saturday night saw numerous NPW members walk across the stage to receive their national awards in the NFPW Professional Communications Contest.

A follow-up survey found that 75% of respondents rated the overall conference experience as excellent while the other 25% rated it good.

WOW! And it all went off without a hitch, thanks in large part to the NFPW Conference Committee of NPW's Stephanie Geery-Zink and Sherry Thompson as well as Iowa Press Women Marsha and Julie Hoffman.



**Lori Potter of Kearney, our newly elected NFPW president, shows off an arrangement of Sandhills grasses to include little blue stem, indian grass, iron weed, and wheat.**

# Berens Inducted into NPA's Hall of Fame

NPW member Charlyne Berens, associate dean of the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications, added another female face to the Nebraska Press Association's Hall of Fame when she was inducted on Friday, Oct. 28, at the NPA's fall convention in Lincoln.

Berens taught junior high English before she and her husband, Dennis, became co-publishers of the Seward County Independent. After 14 years as editor and reporter, she joined the UNL journalism faculty in 1990 and earned her master's and doctorate degrees in political science from UNL.

The author of two political biographies and two books about Nebraska's Legislature, Berens has taught classes in reporting, editing, mass media and online publications. She developed a freshman honors seminar on the First Amendment and taught the course for more than a decade. She was a department chair for almost 10 years and helped lead the college to adopt a



**Charlyne Berens**

curriculum to prepare students for the new multi-media journalism world. She served the college as interim dean in 2009–10 and was named associate dean in 2010.

Berens was honored with UNL's College Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2002 and was named Outstanding Educator of the Year for 2005-06 by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

# UNL profs win award

Sue Burzynski Bullard and Michelle Hassler won a third place award in the Teaching News Terrifically in the 21st Century competition, held by the News Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

The award recognized an assignment they use in a multimedia reporting class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The assignment combines traditional journalism values—what makes a good story—with 21st century tools. Students, who will need to learn to tell stories in multiple platforms to succeed in today's world, learn to develop story ideas with different mediums in mind. They become comfortable with newer tools like RSS readers, Twitter and blogging systems and see the possibilities they offer in helping the reporting process. They essentially learn to crowdsource their ideas by posting them publicly for review. All of these skills will be useful to them in internships or jobs.

The award was announced at the AEJMC meeting in St. Louis in August.

## Contest deadline January 9 Start preparing entries

It's not too early to start getting your entries together for the Professional Communications Contest. The deadline to postmark entries is Monday, Jan. 9, 2012. The fee is \$7 for the first entry and \$4 for each additional entry.

Contest categories, entry forms and rules may be found at [http://nebraskapresswomen.org/?page\\_id=115](http://nebraskapresswomen.org/?page_id=115). Entries should be sent to Barb Micek, Box 203, Fullerton, NE 68638.

A group of Lincoln Press Women will help Barb sort

entries, find judges, print certificates, etc. This year NPW will exchange entries with Kansas Press Women.

NPW members who work at colleges and universities should let their students know about the Student Communications Contest. The student contest categories are at the end of the list for the professional contest. Entry forms, fees and deadlines are the same as those for the professional contest, but the students must be members to participate.

## Hall of Fame ready for viewing

The Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists' Hall of Fame is ready for viewing. Signage was secured and photos were hung in early October. If you are in Lincoln, stop at Andersen Hall, 16th and Q Streets, go to second floor and look at the wall across the hall from Rick Alloway's office (near KRNU studio).

This is a far more prominent location than that of the Nebraska Press Association Hall of Fame which is in the lecture hall in the basement, or the Nebraska Broadcasters Hal of Fame which is in a distance learning classroom.

# Potter's Wheel

by **Lori Potter**

*Kearney Hub*, Sept. 16, 2011

I laughed on Labor Day as folks my age behaved like schoolchildren. They climbed into tractors and a combine parked at Don and Barb Batie's farm northeast of Lexington. They grinned for photos taken of them pretending to drive.

A North Carolinian who was allowed to start the combine—still in park and with a farmer in the jump seat—excitedly talked about the experience for days.

I thought I had planned an interesting central Nebraska prairie tour for 22 professional communicators as part of the 2011 National Federation of Press Women Conference in Council Bluffs. But I still worried.

Nebraska isn't a destination for most travelers, unless they come to see family, friends or sandhill cranes. Our guests from Alaska, Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado, Louisiana,



Lori Potter

**Barbara Micek of Fullerton, left, helps serve freshly baked rolls and coffee at Don and Barb Batie's farm near Lexington during the "Coffee in the Cornfield" stop on Labor Day morning. Tour participants enjoyed climbing into the cabs of tractors and a combine parked in the Baties' yard.**

Illinois, Virginia and North Carolina are in places with forests, mountains, beaches, cities and other destination features.

Would they see Nebraska as flat, bland and empty?

The answer, no, was clear at our first stops on September 4 at the Great Platte River Road Archway and Rowe Sanctuary. As journalists, our guests saw stories and photos all around them. I watched them embrace our prairie history, culture and landscape.

The national media pays little attention to Great Plains stories. When they do, they usually focus on the wrong story. Some pre-tour travelers had rural roots, but few had ever learned about modern agriculture from family farmers and ranchers.

The Virginians were particularly interested in their native daughter, author Willa Cather, who was transplanted to Red Cloud as a child. Loneliness and homesickness contributed to her initial dislike of the wild, empty Nebraska prairie.

"... by the end of the first autumn, that shaggy grass country had gripped me with a passion I have never been able to shake," Cather wrote.



Lori Potter

**Participants in the NPW Nebraska Prairie Pre-tour over Labor Day weekend sit inside an earth lodge built by members of the Arikara and Pawnee nations at the Great Platte River Road Archway near Kearney. Archway Cultural Education Director Ronnie O'Brien talked about the lodge and efforts to grow Pawnee corn in the Platte Valley to restock seed supplies.**

Our 2011 “pioneers” walked Cather’s prairie and absorbed stories about saving ancient varieties of Pawnee corn, the day-to-day lives of farmers and ranchers, and the gift of hospitality to World War II service members given by North Platte Canteen volunteers.

In her September 7 blog, NFPW President Cynthia Price of Virginia listed “did you know” rhetorical questions concerning things she had learned about farming, sandhill cranes and pioneer history.

As we left Al and Sallie Atkins’ ranch north of Halsey on Labor Day evening, full from a steak supper and amazed by the evening light bathing the Sandhills, the tour trail bosses (Mary Pat Finn-Hoag of Norfolk, Barbara Micek of Fullerton and me) invited our guests to enter a creative writing contest.

They submitted a poem, description or novel- or news-style lead of about 30 words. As we left Red Cloud on September 6, Mary Pat, Barb and I selected our three favorites. Barb read them aloud and the tour group selected first place on a 7-6-6 vote. All three writers won prizes.



**Mary Pat Finn-Hoag of Norfolk makes a quick telephone call in front of the Starke Round Barn near Red Cloud prior to a pre-tour lunch featuring corn chowder, fresh tomatoes, hush puppies and homemade ice cream.**



**North Platte Canteen**

I love what all the wordsmiths wrote about the Nebraska prairie.

One Virginian wrote that “the sandhills unspool.” It made me see them in a different way, as if God took a rolled-up carpet, shook it and let it flow unevenly over north-central Nebraska.

The winning entry from Oregon ended with: “Lithe grass rippling across the sandhills into memories.”

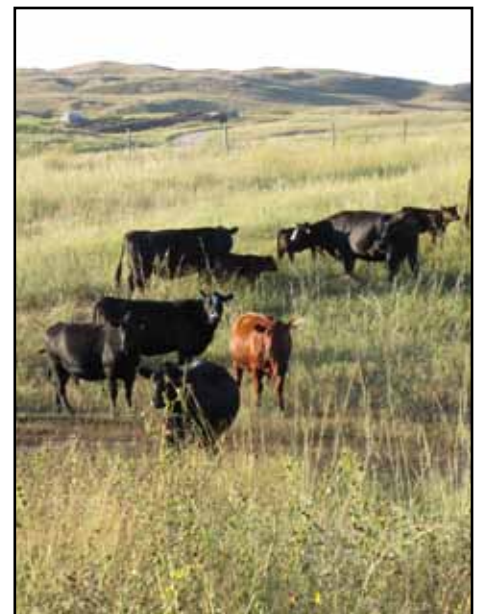
A haiku writer said, “Wind whispers to me.” Our Alaska guest wrote about sand burrs that tried to “pin me to their home, but I move on.”

Our guests received Nebraska-themed welcome gifts at a Hub-sponsored supper at the Museum of Nebraska Art on September 4. Their good-bye gifts on September 6 were copies of “The Road Home,” a soft-cover photo book published in 1995 by *NEBRASKAland Magazine*.

I told them they now have an extended family in Nebraska, so they must visit us again. I know they took pieces of the Nebraska prairie home with them. Their words tell me so.

As Cather said, “A reporter can write equally well about everything that is

presented to his view, but a creative writer can do his best only with what lies within the range and character of his deepest sympathies.”



**No visit to Nebraska would be complete without a trip to the Sandhills. The Nebraska pre-tour stop at Al and Sallie Atkins’ ranch north of Halsey included a steak supper and visit to a pasture and hay meadow.**

# Nebraska Prairie Creative Writings

## Nebraska in Motion

by Katherine Keniston, Oregon

Long train rolling through a miracle town.  
Brown deer bounding up a sunset slope.  
Lithe grass rippling across the sandhills into memories.

by Cathy Jett, Virginia

Looking out the window,  
The sandhills unspool  
In undulating waves of grass and grain  
Yielding a bounty to feed nations.

## Sandhills haiku

by Cynthia Price, Virginia

Rolling hills of sand  
Awash in prairie grasses  
Wind whispers to me

## The Sounds of Nebraska

by Pamela Stallsmith, Virginia

Trains whistling  
Trucks whirling  
Leaves rustling  
Friends laughing.  
The sounds of Nebraska echo across  
the vast beauty of the prairie.

## Pawnee Corn

by Francine Crutchfield, Virginia

Remnants existing in Indian lore,  
Rescued and planted from days of yore.  
Harvest preserved for future store,  
Returned to its people forevermore.

by Louise Seals, Virginia

Pursing your passion exacts a price,  
from enduring the extremes of  
Mother Nature to putting the needs  
of your farm first.

Is it worth it?

Oh yes, according to two Nebraska families who shared their agriculture ups and downs with visiting communicators on, appropriately, Labor Day.



Lori Potter

**NFPW members couldn't wait to get off of the bus to photograph the evening light on the Sandhills north of Halsey at Al and Sallie Atkins' ranch on Labor Day.**

## Alliteration

by Kathy Cordova, New Mexico

Pictures of Pawnee corn in the paper  
Coffee in the cornfield.  
Music and munchies at the museum.  
Steak supper in the Sandhills.  
Famous people's places.  
Beans in the barn.  
Purely priceless!

by Marsha Shuler, Louisiana

The gently rolling hills break the flat  
farmland.

The grassy knolls get more pro-  
nounced as we travel.

They are sandhills—a surprise to this  
beach goer more accustomed to barren  
sand dunes occasionally punctuated  
with sheafs of seawheat instead of cattle.

by Glennis McNeal, Oregon

Over the sandhills the grasses still  
stir.  
Winds, like the ranchers, persist and  
endure.  
The Sandhills real beauty? Its lasting  
allure?  
True land-love commitment.  
It sticks like a burr.

## Nebraska Sandhills

by Francine Crutchfield, Virginia

Cornstalks waving  
Beyond the paving,  
Nature's craving  
Land for saving.  
Sunlight blazing,  
Ranchers gazing  
Cattle grazing.  
Thanks we're raising—  
Simply amazing!

by Pat Richardson, Alaska

The Sandhills don't look like sand  
to me, except a the wind-carved  
blowouts. Native grasses cover the  
hills with grayish green fuzz. Sand  
burrs try to pin me to their home,  
but I move on.

by Carol Kreis, New Mexico

Winds wind through haunting  
spaciousness where restless Angus  
graze.

Turkey vultures glide over soft,  
grassy hills and long, lonely roads.

Calmness belies tenacity and stami-  
na of ranchers who plant their roots  
within the starkness of the Sandhills.

# What they said...

Several participants in the Nebraska Prairie Pre-Tour shared their impressions of our great state in blogs, columns and reports to their affiliates.

Here's a taste of what they said.

*NFPW President Cynthia Price of Virginia—*

Although the NFPW conference is a great time for professional learning, some of the best knowledge is gained during the pre-tours and post-tours. Why? Because the people organizing the tours are from the state and know the best sources to go to.

So when we learned about the Pawnee and the efforts to bring back their native corn, we heard directly from Ronnie O'Brien, director of cultural education for the Great Platte River Road Archway.

And when we learned about the crops of Nebraska and irrigation, we heard directly from Don and Barb Batie of Lexington, NE, who not only shared their knowledge, but allowed a bunch of press women to climb around on their combines and tractors and offered them coffee in the cornfields.

*Paul Sullivan of Virginia, freelance Armchair Adventures columnist at Fredericksburg.com—*

## On farming

How do so few people farm so many hundreds of acres with so little help?

Technology, clever planning and endless hours hanging in there.

## Sandhills ranch

At Al and Sallie Atkins' AL Ranch, not only did we glimpse the realities of raising 600 head of beef cattle with three—count 'em, three—people, we rounded out the day with the very best steak cookout available anyplace, period. I'd put that corn-fed Sandhills beef up against any other.

But for me, the really big eye-opener was the Nebraska Sandhills themselves

...Watching the sun sink behind the green hills as cows and calves moved beyond the big, round hay bales, lowing and murmuring, left an image that will remain imprinted in my mind as long as I live.

## Surprises along the trail

In a week of meandering Nebraska and nearby Council Bluffs, Iowa, I was forever surprised that such a simple landscape with only a comparative handful of people in it could hide so many pleasant surprises. (He described the Great Platte River Road Archway, Rowe Sanctuary and Museum of Nebraska Art.)

## Lincoln County Museum's North Platte Canteen

This place is not the Smithsonian. But when you listen to their story, and stand in front of that huge old-fashioned coffee urn and gaze at the old photos of those smiling people, keep a tissue or two handy.

*Glennis McNeal of Oregon, a three-part report to her affiliate—*

## Coffee in the cornfield

The NFPW tour group stood in a cornfield wolfing down cinnamon rolls baked that morning by Nebraska Press Woman Barb Batie. She used a recipe handed down from her grandmother. We sucked down coffee perked from beans her daughter sells as a marching band fund-raiser. Every aspect of farming is a family affair.

Barb, who just won first place for her sauerkraut at the Nebraska State Fair, worries she'll never shuck the title "Sauerkraut Queen."

## Sandhills ranch

Cattle country background music accompanied their narratives, as heart-broken calves, newly weaned, bawled constantly. "They are missing their mommies," Al explained.

Al's detailed explanation of the artificial insemination process was cut short by the arrival of Nebraska steaks hot off the barbeque. Food trumps sex talk when steaks are so tender you cut them

with a plastic knife. Not a dollar store plastic knife, I grant you, but garden variety picnic-grade cutlery did the job.

## Red Cloud

We strolled the prairie to get insights into its vastness and silence. We also got more sandburs to pry out of our clothing.

We ate at the Stake round barn... As cook and tour guide, owner Liz Rasser provided fresh cuisine from area gardens, and then took us through the massive 100-year-old barn, held together without nails or pegs of any kind.

# Thanks again to these conference sponsors

Nebraska Press Women want to thank the following sponsors once again for their support of the National Federation of Press Women Conference September 8–10 in Omaha/Council Bluffs:

## Bronze Sponsors

Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau  
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Nebraska Press Association and Nebraska Press Advertisers Services  
Nebraska Rural Radio Association



**Juli and Joan Burney added fun and laughter to the opening reception of the 2011 NFPW Conference hosted by the Nebraska and Iowa affiliates at the Durham Museum, which is the old Union Pacific Railroad Museum in Omaha.**

# Burneys run laughter relay at Durham

*by Barb Bierman Batie*

OMAHA – With the classic art deco surroundings and train era nostalgia hanging heavy in the air at the Durham Museum, it was only fitting that National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) members be entertained with some classic standup comedy during the Communicator of Achievement reception on Thursday, September 8.

Nebraska's own mother-daughter duo of Joan and Juli Burney took to the stage for a tag team presentation. Mother Joan went first and recapped her association with NFPW and Nebraska Press Women. She also shared some tidbits learned along the way as a columnist and writer and lessons learned during her years as a motivational humorist. She also expressed thanks to all who had supported her during her recovery from a traumatic brain injury sustained in a fall following a speaking engagement nearly three years ago. "They always teased me that I wasn't quite there all the time. Well, now I have an excuse," quipped Burney.

Juli followed after receiving some good-natured ribbing in the introduction done by her mother. The only girl in her family, she gleans material for her presentations from experiences shared growing up with five brothers.

As she travels frequently for her speaking engagements, designed to improve people's lives through effective use of communication tools, she has learned a lot about human nature and how to deal with stressful situations.

Juli shared one story in particular that started with a woman stressed out about a snowstorm induced travel delay. The woman was ranting at the

Lori Potter

Lori Potter



**From left, NPW President Ruth Brown of Lincoln-Johnson Lake, Gwen Lindberg of West Point and Joan Burney of Hartington enjoy the 2011 NFPW Conference opening reception festivities September 7 at Omaha's Durham Museum**

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**NPW NEWSeLETTER**



# Get Down to Writing workshop held at NFPW conference

by Mary Pat Finn-Hoag

While many of us spend hours hunched over a keyboard for our work, it's important to take time for personal writing, according to Paula Damon.

"I must write," said the director of marketing and communications at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. She presented a "Get Down to Writing" workshop at the 2011 National Federation of Press Women Conference in Council Bluffs.

But penning one's thoughts is not always easy. "Easy reading is damned hard writing," she said in quoting novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Damon recommends devoting at least one hour per week or 10 minutes per day to personal writing. "I have to have that protected time," she said.

But what to write? "Writers are always on the lookout for stories," said Damon, adding that she looks to other writers for inspiration and also listens "to the story within."

Stories abound in everyday experiences and in life, Damon said. Take time to document these stories; write down your thoughts, she said.

"Take heart," she said. "That's the way we roll. Pay attention to what's on our minds and in our hearts."

## Note from Marian Andersen

September 9, 2011

Dear Ruth,

Many thanks for a wonderful event yesterday. I was so impressed with the Nebraska Press Women and the warm feeling among the members.

I was privileged to have known three of the honorees—Deanna, Bev and Wilma—and felt that all six were very deserving.

And I love my new clock (battery included)! I hope it will help to make Andy and me more punctual!

I am very honored to be named in connection with the Journalism Hall of Fame, and I look forward to being involved with the event in the future.

My very best,

Marian

Editor's Note: The mantle clock was engraved: *Marian Andersen, In Appreciation of Your Support, Nebraska Press Women.*

But what if the words don't come?

"Writer's block is a naysayer in our heads," Damon said. "Tell the 'warrior' inside to be quiet. Stay out of the way," letting the words flow.

Damon then led the workshop participants through a writing exercise, asking them to pen one happy memory from their childhood. "We're putting ourselves on paper," she told the group.

She offered several bits of advice:

- Take time. Take a break to develop your writing style. Take heart.
- Get your personal critic to be quiet. Write. Critique later.
- Adopt a special writing place.
- Write a letter. Go on Facebook.

"Whatever you aspire to write, set a deadline," said Damon, who establishes deadlines for herself, even on vacation. "One draft every day I'm away," she said.

Damon then issued this challenge: "On your mark, get set, go write!"

Following her workshop, Damon conducted a book signing of her collection of short non-fiction stories titled "Look. Don't Look." Her weekly column "My Story. Your Story." appears in the *Vermillion (S.D.) Plain Talk* and the *Carroll (Iowa) Daily Times Herald*.

## Website Panel workshop

These helpful websites were shared during the Website Panel workshop at the NFPW Conference:

[socialmediaexaminer.com](http://socialmediaexaminer.com)

[hubspot.com](http://hubspot.com)

[marketingprofs.com](http://marketingprofs.com)

[socialmediainformer.com](http://socialmediainformer.com)

[smartbrief.com](http://smartbrief.com)

[animoto.com](http://animoto.com) (create videos, as well as still photos to videos)

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## Burneys add humor

airline clerks when Juli saw an opportunity to diffuse the situation with humor. After several exchanges the woman visibly began to calm down and commented, "I guess I'm not the brightest crayon in the box. That's what we say at work."

To which Burney responded, "Well, where do you work?"

"Crayola," was the woman's response.

As the airline clerks dissolved in laughter behind the checkin partition, the exchange ended with the two women becoming friends, and they continue to share the humor they find in their travels.

The Burneys continued their laughter relay throughout the convention, with Joan once again providing the introduction for Juli's noon luncheon keynote on Saturday, September 10, using the theme, "Those Who Laugh Last."

They wrapped up their humor with Juli assisting as auctioneer at the Education Fund Live Auction at the closing banquet.

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## NFPW honors Hahn

is Beth Miller, a reporter for *The Delaware News Journal* in Wilmington, Delaware.

Hahn is features editor of *The Grand Island Independent*, having worked there since 1993. She edits and designs a weekly food section, weekly lifestyle, entertainment and business pages and daily community news pages, for which she has earned multiple honors in the NPW and NFPW Communications Contest.

She is a 17-year member of NPW and a 21-year member of NFPW.

She has served as NPW president, vice president, historian, newsletter editor and on the President's Advisory Board. She is currently NPW publicity director.

From 1989 to 1993, Hahn was news editor at the *Dodge City Daily Globe* in Dodge City, Kan. While there, she served as president of the Dodge City Media Pros, a local affiliate of Kansas Press Women, and on the board of KPW.

The last Nebraska Press Women member to be runner-up for Communicator of Achievement was Lori Potter. Joan Burney of NPW was Communicator of Achievement in 1993.

## Board meets November 19 in Lincoln

The NPW board of directors will meet on Saturday, November 19, in Andersen Hall room 120 at the UNL College of Journalism & Mass Communications in Lincoln.

The Finance Committee, composed of Sherry Thompson, Lori Potter, Stephanie Geery-Zink and Ruth Brown, will meet at 9:30 A.M., with the full board meeting beginning at 10:30 A.M. Visitors are welcome.

# Gifts that give twice

As you think gifts this year, think gifts that give twice.

When you purchase a t-shirt or a set of notecards with Marianne Beel photos or a copy of her book, "Sand in My Shoes," you not only have a great gift for birthdays, Christmas, hostesses, speakers, or any other use, you also honor the memory of a long-time NPW friend and you contribute to building an NPW scholarship that will help students yet unknown to us.

Not only are these all great gifts for Nebraskans, they're also great gifts for people who have moved elsewhere and need a reminder of home, and those who have been here and should take a lasting reminder of Nebraska away with them.

NPW t-shirts feature the popular Beel photo of horses by a Sandhills fence as a storm moves in upon them. T-shirts pre-ordered by those at the spring convention in Halsey were delivered at the National Federation of Press Women convention in Council Bluffs.

T-shirts also were available there for NFPW attendees to purchase, and

## April 14 convention at Peru

Mark your calendars now for the NPW Spring Convention, which will be Saturday, April 14, at Peru State College with new member Regan Anson coordinating it. Regan is director of marketing and communications there.

Because Peru does not have a motel, NPW members will be staying at the Best Western in Nebraska City where a block of rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. The NPW board will meet Friday night, April 13, at the motel.

You will hear more about this in the next newsletter.



Mary Pat Hoag

### Judy Nelson displays the gift items for sale at the NFPW conference.

purchase they did. Of an order of 50, only 18 remain, so order now for the sizes you need. With these, a person can literally slip into Nebraska!

Sizes available are: four mediums; nine larges; one extra-large; two 2-Xs and two 3-Xs. They're Hanes Beefy Ts and sell for \$20 each. They also can be delivered to you if you'll be at the board meeting in Lincoln on November 19, or you can make arrangements to pick them up when you're in Lincoln.

The same is true for orders and/or pickup of Marianne Beel's book, "Sand in My Shoes," which sells for \$15, and Beel photo notecards that sell for \$10 per pack of eight (two cards of each of four different photos per pack). They are great gifts, and a wonderful introduction to Sandhills life for those who haven't had the privilege of living there.

To purchase the above items, contact Judy Nelson at [jnelson5@unl.edu](mailto:jnelson5@unl.edu) or 1301 N. 78th, Lincoln, NE 68505, phone 402-464-7830. Judy will be glad to mail orders, too—please plan to add \$5 per item to cover postage and mailing if you would like an order mailed to you.

When you need gifts, remember the gifts from NPW that give twice. And don't forget—you deserve a present, too! Order yours today.

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## NPW awards luncheon

Women Communications Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Martha Stoddard, NPW COA director, announced the winner of this year's award, chosen by past COA recipients.

Geery-Zink, of Lincoln, is the communications director for the Center for People in Need, a Lincoln nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive services and opportunities to help people pull themselves out of poverty.

Geery-Zink, in the words of one supporter, "has done so very much for NPW and rightly deserves this recognition." She served as NPW president from 2004 through 2008. She previously held the positions of vice president and secretary. While holding other offices, she filled in as treasurer and helped put out the newsletter.

Most recently, she led planning for the 2011 NFPW convention. She was a Nebraska co-chairwoman for the event, which was jointly sponsored by Nebraska and Iowa Press Women affiliates.

Before her present job, Geery-Zink worked for Swanson Russell, a Lincoln marketing and communications agency. She also has done freelance writing, was a reporter at the *Beatrice Sun* from 1995 through 2002 and was a reporter and photographer at the *Derby, Kan., Daily Reporter* from 1991 through 1995.

A graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School, Geery-Zink earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology and political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1987 and took graduate coursework in anthropology from Wichita State University in Kansas.

Geery-Zink serves on her church board and planning committee. She has been a Girl Scout leader and delegate to the Girl Scouts' national convention.

The program for the awards luncheon also included induction of six women as the inaugural class of the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame.



Mary Pat Hoag

**Marian and Harold (Andy) Andersen were present at the NPW awards luncheon for the first group of inductees into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists' Hall of Fame.**

The hall of fame, which will be displayed in Andersen Hall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was formed to recognize the working women journalists who, through talent, initiative, intelligence and stamina, have made a difference for the profession, for their communities and for those who follow in their footsteps.

Honored this year were Bess Furman Armstrong, Dr. Wilma Crumley, Lynne M. Grasz, Marjorie Marlette, Beverly Pollock and Deanna J. Sands.

Grasz, Pollock and Sands attended the luncheon along with family members and friends. The families of Armstrong, Crumley and Marlette also were represented.

The hall of fame is sponsored by and named for Marian Andersen of Omaha, a graduate of the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNL.

Nominations will be accepted again in January for induction of more women into the hall of fame at NPW's spring convention.

Another reason for NPW to hold the awards luncheon was to recognize Gwen Lindberg, who was to be

honored at the NFPW conference with a 50-year Milestone Membership Award.

A retired *West Point News* co-publisher, Lindberg was named NPW Communicator of Achievement in 1996. Most recently, she served as NPW historian in 2010.



Mary Pat Hoag

**NPW president Ruth Brown pins a corsage on Gwen Lindberg who was recognized at the NPW awards luncheon for 50 years of membership in NPW and NFPW.**

# Authority on Afghanistan speaks at NFPW conference

by Cheryl Alberts Irwin

A leading authority on Afghanistan described his history with that country to members of the National Federation of Press Women convention Sept. 8-10 in Council Bluffs.

Thomas E. Gouttierre, dean of International Studies and Programs and director of the Center for Afghan Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, also expressed hope for the war-torn nation.

Gouttierre said when he heard about the second plane crashing into the World Trade Center on 9/11, he knew immediately Osama bin Laden was behind it. On that day, al-Qaida hijackers, trained in camps located in Afghanistan, took over four U.S. jetliners: two aimed at the World Trade Center and one at the Pentagon. The fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost.

Gouttierre had worked as a Peace Corps volunteer, a Fulbright Fellow and executive director of the Fulbright Foundation for nearly a decade in Afghanistan beginning in the 1960s. During that time he coached the Afghan National Basketball team.

His many international roles include serving as the U.S. Department

of State's senior political affairs officer on the United Nation's Peacekeeping Mission to Afghanistan. He has testified before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on many topics related to Afghanistan, U.S.-Pakistani relations, international terrorism and human rights issues. Grants and contracts he helped obtain have helped deliver education and textbooks to Afghan children.

The son of an Ohio baker, Gouttierre gave more than 2,000 presentations and interviews about Afghanistan and al-Qaida in the first 10 months following 9/11.

Despite Afghanistan's war-torn history, Gouttierre said young people who have been targets for extremist groups now may have reason to hope as they aspire and focus on more positive outcomes.

Among the languages Gouttierre speaks are Persian dialects of Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan. According to his biography, Gouttierre has authored textbooks on the Dari (Afghan Persian) language and was project director for the 23,000-word Dari-English dictionary.

## NEW NPW MEMBER

### Vicki Jedlicka

publications and media assistant,  
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## NFPW honors seven Omaha high school students

In the last newsletter we reported that Nebraska had no winners this year in the NFPW High School Communications Contest. However, we were happy to learn at the NFPW conference that seven Nebraska high school students—all from Omaha—received national awards.

Winning second place awards were Kathleen Gerber of Marian High School for double truck layout, Jane Rock of Westside High School for video feature story, and Madison Mapes of Westside High School for video sports story.

Receiving honorable mentions were Samantha Juster of Westside High School for editorial, Liz Berigan of Marian High School for sports story, Daniel Kemp of Westside High School for reviews, and Anne Sundell of Westside High School for video news story.

Congratulations to all these students.



Mary Pat Hoag

Several dozen NPW members attended the NFPW conference.

# Membership strong; good time to add members

Membership in Nebraska Press Women stands at 74 with 26 of those being state only, 46 both state and national, and two student members.

The newest member is Vicki Jedlicka, publications and media assistant, UNL Extension, Lancaster County. Welcome, Vicki.

This is a great time to encourage others to join the organization. Joining now means that the new members get credit for the rest of this year and for all of next year, which puts them in good position to enter the communications contest.

Renewing members need to pay dues by December 31 to enter the contest. State dues currently is \$25 for professionals, \$12.50 for retired and students, but on January 1, it increases to \$30 for professionals and \$15 for retired and students—another good reason to pay on or before December 31. State dues may be sent to NPW treasurer Sherry Thompson, 5415 S. 174th Ave., Omaha, NE 68135 or may be paid online at [http://nebraskapresswomen.org/?page\\_id=210](http://nebraskapresswomen.org/?page_id=210).

Combined state and national dues is \$94 for professionals, \$35 for retired, and \$30 for students. Combined dues may be mailed to NFPW Membership Dept., PO Box 34798, Alexandria, VA 22334-0798 or may be paid online at [https://secure.shopisgtech.com/nfpw/renew\\_membership\\_app.cfm](https://secure.shopisgtech.com/nfpw/renew_membership_app.cfm).



## NPW CALENDAR

**November 19** - 9:30 A.M. Finance Committee meeting; 10:30 A.M. Board meeting at UNL's Andersen Hall, 16th & Q St., Lincoln

**December 31** - Deadline to pay dues for 2012 if you want to enter the contest

**January 9** - Deadline to postmark contest entries

**April 14** - Spring convention at Peru State College

## NPW NEWS

### Rita Brhel

Rita, a freelance writer from Fairfield, Neb., gave birth to her third child, a son, at 10:24 A.M. on September 5, 2011, after 25 hours of natural, unmedicated labor via a VBAC (Vaginal Birth After Cesarean). Nathan Michael weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and measured 20 inches long. Rita found the birth experience to be intense but very satisfying. Her husband Mike and doula Rebecca Clark, of Dannebrog, attended the birth at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings. Nathan is doing well and was welcomed home by big sisters, Rachel (5) and Emily (4).

### Amber Medina

I want to thank all of the kind ladies (and gentlemen) of NPW for your warm wishes during the past year. My face has been missing from the last few conventions; since I began the year green from morning sickness, the month of May found me already way too large to sleep in a Halsey cabin and I was nursing a newborn in September. My world has changed, with my new daughter now at the center of it. As a new mom at the birth of my daughter, I had never felt such



**Marisol Grace Medina was born August 23, 2011.**

great joy and equally great fear in all my life. Suddenly, Carlos and I were the guardians of a beautiful, precious, miraculous little life. "Just the two of us" had become three. Marisol Grace turned 2 months-old this week. And we hang on her every dribbly coo, marvel at each crooked little smile and drive, white-knuckled, at the top speed of 30 mph.