



# Colorado Press Women

## exPRESSIONS

Newsletter of Colorado Press Women

JULY 2007



*Rick Romancito*

### Taos Retreat Highlights Minority Cultures, Relaxation

It isn't often that creative press women from two of the most beautiful states in the Union come together for a weekend of networking, fun, food and wine – so here's your opportunity! Press Women's Associations in Colorado and New Mexico are retreating to the Don Fernando De Taos Hotel in Taos, New Mexico on Friday, July 27, through Sunday, July 29. We've put together a fresh and interesting program to get those creative juices flowing!

The theme of the retreat is writing about and for minority cultures. Highlights of the retreat feature:

- Rick Romancito will speak about special considerations for covering news at the pueblos. Romancito is an award-winning photographer and journalist, motion-picture actor, filmmaker and artist. He has been editor of *Tempo Magazine* of *The Taos News* since 1994. He also contributed to the Cultural Reporter curriculum through the Smithsonian Institute, and was a policy council president for three years at the Taos Pueblo Head Start. He is a leader in the Taos community and a proud member of the Taos Pueblo Indian tribe.
- Martha Egan will talk about her first novel Clearing Customs, the winner of the 2005 fiction book of the year award from Online Review of Books. Egan is also the author of several books and essays, including Milagros: Votive Offerings from the Americas, a book about Latin American decorative art. Her interest in Latin American folk art began in the mid 60s in Mexico City, where she was a student at the Universidad de las Américas. She graduated in 1967 with a B.A. in Latin American History, then spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer working with credit unions in rural Venezuela.

Contents	
Entertainment panel	p.2
Contests	p.4
Leaders honored	p.3
FYI	p.5
Upcoming events	p.5-6
NFPW conf.	p.6
Job bank	p.6
Member news	p.7
New members	p.8

Summer can be busy, so take some time to relax, rejuvenate and dream. The retreat is a fabulous way to recharge your batteries. Begin with a backyard barbeque at cowboy artist Thom Wheeler's home and

*Colorado Press Women ExPRESSIONS Newsletter, p.1*

studio. Thom will open up his exciting and beautiful house for us to enjoy. The barbeque fare will have a New Mexican twist, and wine and other beverages will be available. Time to let your hair down with old friends, and make new friends.

Saturday starts with a wonderful networking breakfast and Rick Romancito sharing his insights with us. We'll be brainstorming mid-morning on better ways to build our memberships, and keep the Press Women's meetings fresh and exciting! We'll have lunch with Martha Egan, whose experience working with the indigenous people of Venezuela and challenges as an importer working with US Customs will make for a fascinating presentation. The day can go the way of creativity with a tour of Taos Pueblo or the many Taos museums and galleries (special rates for Press Women), or relaxing and resting by the pool until dinner and more networking. Contact Emily Drabanski to register by email: [edrabanski@yahoo.com](mailto:edrabanski@yahoo.com). For hotel information, visit: [www.donfernandodetaos.com](http://www.donfernandodetaos.com).

-- *By Jeannine Natterman*

*Greg Moody, Marty Meitus and Mark Brown amused the audience at CPW's Annual Awards Luncheon on May 12.*



### **Entertainment writers' panel proved entertaining**

The panel of three entertainment writers speaking at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Colorado Press Women meeting at Mount Vernon Country Club west of Denver proved to be quite entertaining themselves.

Marty Meitus, food editor of the Rocky Mountain News and a staffer there for 26 years, confessed that she had an "Easy Bake Oven as a kid" and that "All jobs seem fun when you're not doing them." She's met all the big chefs, but particularly liked Julia Childs, who was down to earth and even left her phone number listed in the Boston phone book.

Marty advised the audience to double-check recipes to avoid problems with readers, since the food section appeals to an audience that is "all over the map." She regards her job as providing information and background in an objective way. She admitted she doesn't like ham, but tries to be objective in writing about it. And no, she doesn't cook all the time.

Mark Brown, popular music critic at the Rocky Mountain News, admits he "can't stand Bon Jovi" whose lyrics he believes use too many clichés, but he also tries to be objective in covering bands that he doesn't care for. He covered crime and courts early on and then

music as a business. Eventually, he became a music critic. He has a great CD collection, he says.

His worst and best star interviews occurred the same day. First he interviewed Suzanne Vega who proved quite difficult with a long list of things she refused to discuss. Late in the day, his phone rang and a hoarse voice croaked "Mark Brown?" It was Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones, who was happy to chat about anything.

Greg Moody, critic at large for KCBS-4 (Channel 4), cited his nefarious background, going from a Western Michigan University theater and film degree to acting in New York, then comedian and surgical orderly. He started working for a Grand Rapids all-news radio where he critiqued movies, plays and concerts. He moved on to television, learning how to shoot and edit stories, skills that have proved very valuable to him and his bosses years later as staff have been downsized.

Moody has been at Channel 4 for 19 years and has interviewed many stars. He likes to ask them what their favorite book is, which often yields an interesting response. His favorite interview was Bill Bixby of "My Favorite Martian" fame. His least favorite interview was Tony Curtis, who acted like a diva "full of himself." Another star, Cloris Leachman, surprised him by taking off her clothes while he was interviewing her. He said he didn't know where to look.

**-- By Ann J. Lockhart**



### **Leaders honored at annual awards luncheon**

Members applauded outgoing CPW President Judi Buehrer, outgoing Treasurer Marlys Duran and Communicator of Achievement Marilyn Saltzman on May 12. We are grateful for all of your efforts on our behalf and for strengthening our organization!

### **2007 Colorado communications contest**

More than 110 entries were received for the 2007 CPW Communications Contest. Forty of those went on to the national contest, the largest number of first-place winners ever. And a record number of awards were given out this year.

Professional journalists, media representatives, authors and university professors from throughout the state as well as from Pennsylvania and California judged contest entries.

Visit our website for a complete list of Colorado winners:

<http://www.coloradopresswomen.org/contests.shtml>

### **National contest winners announced**

Colorado Press Women are well represented in this year's list of national winners. We have 12 women who will collect a total of 20 awards at this year's national conference in Richmond, Va. We'll save the announcement of what place and in what category these women excelled for a future newsletter, but we are proud to say that Kenna Bruner, Judi Buehrer, Christine Cole, Lynn Dean, Rosann Doran, Teresa Ford, Erin Hottenstein, Kelli Lackett, Sandy Nance, Stacey Nick, Gay Porter De Nileon, and Stacey Sepp are all winners. Awardees are encouraged to attend the conference to collect their awards in person and to participate in the many sessions and events the Virginia Press Women have planned.

### **Colorado high school students win awards**

Nearly 60 Colorado high school journalists have been recognized by Colorado Press Women for their writing and graphic design skills. The students are learning journalism skills by participating in the creation and production of their school newspapers.

The contest categories include Editorial, Opinion, News, Feature, Sports, Columns, Feature Photo, Sports Photo, Cartooning, Reviews, Graphics and Page Layout. The first-place winner in each category goes on to compete in the National Federation of Press Women High School Communications Contest. National winners will be announced in September at the national conference in Richmond, Va.

Colorado winners were announced May 12 at CPW's annual spring meeting and awards ceremony. For a complete list of winners, please visit this web page:

[http://www.coloradopresswomen.org/high\\_school\\_contest07.shtml](http://www.coloradopresswomen.org/high_school_contest07.shtml)



### **DU student awarded 2007 scholarship**

Colorado Press Women has awarded its 2007 college scholarship to Kara Lyons, a student at the University of Denver.

Kara was born and raised in Lakewood, where she lived with her parents and a brother and sister until heading to college. She began taking journalism classes in her freshman year at Green Mountain High School and hasn't stopped.

Kara is majoring in journalism, and minoring in political science and business. She plans to graduate this November. She has worked for several small newspapers as an intern and is managing editor of the university newspaper.

Earlier this year Kara studied in France for a quarter and became fluent in French.

In high school she was an avid basketball player and a member of the student government. She also played tennis and soccer.

During her time at DU Kara has kept up her interest in sports, serving as president of the club basketball team for a year. She also enjoys playing tennis and golf. She participated in DU's Programs Board, helping with event planning for the student body, and serves on the Student Media Board. Typical of many college students, Kara enjoys spending time with her friends, exercising and traveling.

## **FYI**

By Gay Porter De Nileon  
CPW President

Changes. Challenges. We all face them, and I believe the more people you have supporting you during these life passages, the more successful you'll be in handling whatever comes along. That is why I was so pleased at the great turnout of past presidents and your new CPW officers for our first official board meeting under my tenure as your president. We met for almost two hours to discuss the budget, the schedule for the upcoming year, the upcoming national conference, and assorted other matters.

Because we do have healthy finances, we decided to allot some extra money for our events this year so we can keep the costs down for our members and to help bring in some top-notch speakers. We reserved five dates on our calendars for CPW events in 2007-2008 (see elsewhere in this newsletter for the schedule), and we discussed our participation in the upcoming joint retreat with our colleagues from New Mexico and at the National Federation of Press Women Annual Conference in September in Virginia.

Our organization is strong, with more than 80 members and money for developing our skills as press women. In particular, we have money to award registration fees for a first-time attendee of the national conference (see below), and we have money for scholarships.

What we really need now is your participation. Although we have a good core group of officers and some outstanding volunteers heading some of our committees and putting together our newsletter (Thanks Erin!) and website (Thanks Teresa!), we need help with putting together programs you want to participate in this year.

We also need a new contest chair, or two people to co-chair the 2008 awards. After many years at the helm of our contest, Joyce Davis is facing her own changes and challenges, and must pass the responsibility on to someone new. Please contact me, [gporter@awwa.org](mailto:gporter@awwa.org), or any of our great officers, if you would like to get involved. You will join a group of women who are facing changes and challenges together. And are the better for it!

Minutes of the meeting can be found on members' only page of the CPW website ([http://www.coloradopresswomen.org/members\\_only.shtml](http://www.coloradopresswomen.org/members_only.shtml)). Contact me or another board member for the login and password.

## **Schedule of upcoming events**

Save the Date! We've reserved the following dates for CPW events this year. Speakers, topics and locations will be announced later, and we may throw in a social event this fall as well. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact one of our

Vice-Presidents of Programs: Marion Galant, [mariongalant@msn.com](mailto:mariongalant@msn.com), or Jeannine Natterman, [jeannine.natterman@state.co.us](mailto:jeannine.natterman@state.co.us).

Saturday, Sept. 15 – Professional development workshop  
Sept. 20-22 – NFPW Annual Conference & 70th Anniversary Celebration, Richmond, Va.  
Saturday, Nov. 3 – Meet the Author's Luncheon  
Mid-January 2008, midweek – Professional Development Luncheon  
Saturday, March 1, 2008 – Professional Development Workshop  
Saturday, April 26, 2008 – Spring Conference, Awards Presentations  
Summer 2008 event – TBD

## **NFPW annual conference & 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration**

Join Virginia Press Women from September 20-22 for an exciting National Federation of Press Women Conference. We'll meet in the Commonwealth's capital, Richmond, but there will be side tours to Jamestown (commemorating 400 years of history) and to Charlottesville (home of Thomas Jefferson). Also in 2007, the Commonwealth is celebrating the 275th anniversary of the birth of George Washington and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee. And it's the 70th anniversary of NFPW!

The conference will feature a variety of top-notch speakers and topics. Already scheduled to speak is best-selling author Adriana Trigiani, whose Big Stone Gap trilogy is being made into a movie — possibly starring Hugh Jackman! During each session, we will offer one seminar each in writing, public relations and life skills. Stay tuned for more details.

Among the special events we'll be offering will be an evening hosted by Dominion, one of Virginia's leading energy companies, at its scenic corporate headquarters along the James River. You'll enjoy an evening of Virginia food, wine and entertainment.

VPW members already are working hard to guarantee that history is again made in the Commonwealth. Come be a part of history!

## **Grant available for first-time attendee**

Colorado Press Women have funds available to pay the registration fees for the national conference for one first-time attendee. Applicants need to be a member in good standing. To apply for the grant, submit a short essay on why you should be considered and what attending the national conference would do for you to Gay Porter De Nileon, [gporter@awwa.org](mailto:gporter@awwa.org), by July 30.

## **NFPW job bank now open!**

The NFPW job bank, a new Web-based service for NFPW members only, is up and open for you! Go to [www.nfpw.org](http://www.nfpw.org) and click on the JOB BANK button at the top. You'll then have to log in – contact a CPW board member for user name and password. A listing of jobs in journalism and public relations located throughout the nation. Contact information is listed for each.

Send any job openings to Webmaster Jane Lee at [jane@janeleecomm.com](mailto:jane@janeleecomm.com). We are counting on you, our members, to keep this very useful and very important resource full of opportunities.

## Member news

**Ruth Anna** ([ruthannapr@msn.com](mailto:ruthannapr@msn.com)) gives an update on her knee surgery: Rather than needing to rebuild cartilage by drilling holes in my bones, and be in a wheelchair for 6-8 weeks, they found 'exceptionally hard packed debris' that was causing all the pain, swelling, popping, etc. So, after only two hours under the arthroscopic whatever, I'm doing great! Needless to say, when I came out of the anesthesia, and they were explaining my good fortune, I thought I was hallucinating. The best part is no wheelchair and only two therapy visits vs. several months of therapy.

The Denver Post is now running Grace Notes columns by **Natalie Costanza-Chavez** ([n.costanza@comcast.net](mailto:n.costanza@comcast.net)).

Longtime CPW contest chair and 2006 Communicator of Achievement **Joyce Davis** ([jaymarried@msn.com](mailto:jaymarried@msn.com)) was laid off from the Coloradoan recently and is pursuing other avenues in Fort Collins and around the state. If something doesn't come up to suit her here, she and her husband may be taking off for Big Sky country, where she has already had some offers.

In Alameda, Calif., **Ellen Glover** ([gloverellen@hotmail.com](mailto:gloverellen@hotmail.com)) is now a construction outreach specialist with the commuter train line, Caltrain, working on all the railroad's major capital projects and every community along the way.

**Mary Manley** ([serendipity53@msn.com](mailto:serendipity53@msn.com)) writes: As of mid-July, I will be returning to the metro area to live. Since moving back to Wichita Falls, where I grew up, I have appreciated being on a sentimental faith journey. Now I look forward to coming back to where I spent two decades until my move here in May '05. In meantime, I would appreciate your prayers in my major transition. Should you have any good leads for employment possibilities, I would be glad to receive them! Cell: 940-704-6949 I will keep for time being.

CPW's 2006 scholarship winner **Christine Powell** ([powe4838@blue.unco.edu](mailto:powe4838@blue.unco.edu)) has been accepted to the graduate journalism program at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Is there a book or biography or perhaps poetry that has been hiding inside you that you would like some guidance on, in order to "write creatively and from the heart"? Or, perhaps you wanted to get a better handle on journaling? Fellow CPW award-winning member **Kathleen Spring** ([writers@springtimewriters.com](mailto:writers@springtimewriters.com)) has been conducting private workshops in the Rocky Mountains, near Estes Park, for nine years. The four-day weekend summer workshops have one to three students, and include lodging and meals at her relaxing B&B retreat, at a reasonable price. Each year, she offers two new workshops, with this year being "visual art/journaling" and "poetry for beginners."

Free bi-monthly newsletter with many "reviews" (books, web sites, etc.), multiple writing tips, and more (including a featured Colorado author each issue). For more information, go to her web site: <http://www.springtimewriters.com>.

## CORRECTION

In the article about Ann Lockhart and Marion Galant's involvement in the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum in the March 2007 issue, an incorrect date was included. The former Rocky

Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant produced "triggers" or cores for nuclear weapons from 1952-1989. (The item said 1925-1989.)

## **New members**

**Sandra Cortner's** 40-year newspaper and magazine career culminated in the recent publication of her self-published book: "Crested Butte Stories... Through My Lens", a recent award winner in the CPW's communications contest.

Founder of the *Crested Butte Pilot* weekly newspaper, which she ran single-handedly throughout the 1970s, Cortner is equally adept behind the camera and received multiple awards from the Colorado Press Association and the Colorado Press Women's Association for photography and writing. She contributes to the *Crested Butte Magazine*, the *Gunnison Country Magazine*, the *Crested Butte Weekly*, and the *Gunnison Country Times*.

A gallery of her photographs of Crested Butte natives from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s serves as the centerpiece of the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum. These portrait subjects and their stories are showcased in her book, along with her reminiscences of Crested Butte's unique lifestyle. Contact her through her website: [crestedbuttestories.com](http://crestedbuttestories.com).

Welcome to other new CPW members:

**Laura Anderson**, Denver

**Jamie Dickerson**, Denver

**Marcia Simmons**, Denver

## **Photo credits**

Thanks to Ann Lockhart, Gay Porter De Nileon and Rick Romancito for submitting the photos used in this newsletter.

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