

Sunshine Week spotlights 'right to know'

Editor's Note: The following article was written to celebrate Sunshine Week 2010, March 14-20, and is provided to you by the Nebraska Press Women. Sunshine Week focuses on the importance of government conducted in the open and emphasizes the public's right to know.

By **DIANE WETZEL**
The North Platte Telegraph
 Member of Nebraska Press Women

As members of the only profession protected by the U.S. Constitution, journalists carry a heavy responsibility.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

That is why reporters sit in city council meetings and spend hours in court hearings, challenge local boards to open their meetings and attempt to shine a light on the actions of those tasked with making decisions that impact the public. Journalists are on the front lines in the skirmishes and the battles for the people's right to know.

Constitutional scholars note that the 1976 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Nebraska Press Association vs. Stuart* ranks as one of the most significant free-press cases in First Amendment law. NPA executive director Allen Beermann told the First Amendment Center that the case "represents probably the most significant of all First Amendment cases as it relates to the press and open courts."



Robert O'Neil, founder of the Virginia-based Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression said he would rank the case as one of the top three cases, along with *New York Times vs. Sullivan* and *New York Times Co. vs. United States*.

Nebraska Press Association vs. Stuart is taught in journalism and law schools throughout the country.

"The amazing thing is that it started right here on a small town paper," said North Platte Telegraph veteran reporter Sharron Hollen, who covered the Kellie murders and the sub-

sequent court case and contributed to this article. "It didn't come out of some big city newspaper."

It began on a blood-soaked autumn night in the small town of Sutherland, Neb. Six members of the Kellie family were discovered murdered in their modest home. The dead were Henry Kellie, 66, his wife, Audrey, 57, their son, David, 52, his children, Deanna, 7, and Daniel, 5, and another granddaughter, Florence, 10.

The next day, a 29-year-old unemployed farm worker named Erwin Charles Simants, who had been living with family members next door to the Kellie home, surrendered to the police. There were rumors of necrophilia and sexual assault. He was held in the Lincoln County Jail in North Platte.

"Fear permeated the darkness of Saturday night and Sunday morning," The North Platte Telegraph reported. "Sutherland huddled behind locked doors while a murder suspect roamed the night."

Local, regional and national media descended, expecting to report on a horrific crime but quickly found themselves "in a courtroom confrontation between the conflicting rights of a free press and of a defendant to a fair trial," Time magazine reported on Monday, May 3, 1976, after the Supreme Court decision.

The day after the discovery of the bodies, Simants was arrested. His attorney and the prosecuting attorney asked Lincoln County Court Judge Ron Ruff to issue a gag order prior to Simants' preliminary hearing. They

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President's Corner



Spring is Time To Re-energize Self

Cynthia Price, NFPW President

Spring is a time of renewal. And for those hammered by snowstorms this winter it will be especially welcome.

I always find spring a good time to review my resolutions or my personal health dashboard (see my blog, Oct. 25, 2009). It's a good time to think about what is important to you. Spring always energizes me.

I am writing this just before I leave for a weeklong leadership program in Thailand. Very exciting, I know. And also daunting. I'll be getting 360 feedback. I'll have an entire week to focus on me as a leader. Do I really have what it takes? What do I need to grow? It will be challenging, and I can promise that what I learn I will apply toward my role as president of NFPW.

The NFPW board meets in April. I'd love to hear from you about what we're doing right and where we could improve. Just shoot me an email. All of us on the board are committed to making NFPW a vibrant and viable professional communications

organization. We have such a strong foundation.

I remember about five years ago, we didn't even know where the next year's conference would be held. Now we have affiliates jockeying to hold it. We're scheduled through 2012 with interest for at least two years after that. Now that's an organization that's going someplace!

And speaking of going places, have you booked your hotel room for the NFPW Communications Conference in Chicago? I've already booked my room at the Urban

League Club. I stayed there a few times when I worked for the Federal Reserve. It's such an historic building with incredible artwork and the most accommodating staff.

I don't even need to see the speaker line-up to know the conference is going to be great. Cecelia Green, Suzanne Hanney and all the members of Illinois Woman's Press Association are hard at work coordinating speakers and logistics. I've already scheduled vacation so I can go on the post-tour. And I'm sure I'll pick up at least one pre-tour activity.

If you haven't been to a national conference, I would encourage you to do so. The networking and learning are stellar. And then you throw in friendships and travel and it doesn't get any better. Oh, but it does — we're in Chicago, the Windy City, the City on the Lake. It doesn't matter what you call it — it's a fun, cosmopolitan place.

Making these conference plans definitely re-energizes me. How will you renew yourself this spring?

If you haven't been to a national conference, I would encourage you to do so. The networking and learning are stellar.

NFPW is proud to be an associate and partner with:

- ▶ National Women's History Museum
- ▶ Dow Jones Newspaper Fund
- ▶ World Press Freedom Committee
- ▶ The Council of National Journalism Organizations
- ▶ Library of Congress Center for the Book Reading Promotion Partners

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argued that if the media were allowed to publish or broadcast information about his confession, details about a note he wrote on the night of the murder and aspects of alleged sexual assaults of the victims related to the case, Simants would not receive a fair trial. Simants' right to a free trial superseded the freedom of the press, the Judge said, granting the order.

Several days later, members of the media, which included publishers, reporters, and press and broadcast news organizations asked the county court to remove the gag order. Arguments were heard in District Court, and Judge Hugh Stuart upheld the order. He found that "because of the nature of the crimes charged in the complaint that there is a clear and present danger that pre-trial publicity could impinge upon the defendant's rights to a fair trial."

In an interview before his death in 2006, Stuart said he was "trying to achieve a balance between the First Amendment right to a free press and the Sixth Amendment right to an impartial jury."

The NPA appealed the decision to the Nebraska Supreme Court, which modified Stuart's order, prohibiting reporting on the confession, any confessions or statements made to third parties, except members of the press and other facts "strongly implicative of the accused."

In the meantime the case went to trial on Jan. 5, 1976, and Simants was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. Stuart had declined to move the trial but agreed to isolate the jurors. He barred the news media from a suppression hearing and refused to allow the public and press to attend jury selection.

Five months after Simants' conviction, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling that struck down Stuart's gag order. Writing the ruling, Chief Justice Warren Burger said, "there is nothing that proscribes the press from reporting events that transpire in the courtroom." The thread running through all the cases is that prior restraint on speech and publication are the most serious and least tolerable infringements on First Amendment rights, Burger wrote.

Simants had been on death row for two years; two execution dates were set, then stayed. Then a new motion was filed saying that Stuart had visited jurors while they were sequestered and that the county sheriff, who was a witness for the prosecution, had played cards with them. Simants was granted a new trial.

On Oct. 1, 1979, Simants went on trial for the second time, this time in Lincoln, where he plead not guilty by reason of insanity. One day shy of the fourth anniversary of the murders, Simants was acquitted. He was committed to the Lincoln Regional Center where he remains today.

The Nebraska case, which asked the Supreme Court to determine whether Stuart's gagging of the media was constitutional, in effect forced the high court to weigh in on the sometimes conflicting rights of First Amendment free press and Sixth Amendment fair trial. In reality, they were also weighing in on the public's right to know.

The problems presented by the case are almost as old as the Republic, Burger wrote.

"It is inconceivable that the authors of the Constitution were unaware of the potential conflicts between the right to an unbiased jury and the guarantee of freedom of the press."

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision, prior restraints on the press are now viewed with suspicion, O'Neil said.

In 2001, Will Norton Jr., then dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, wrote that "the nation is indebted to Nebraska journalists for their sense of responsibility and personal investment in freedom of expression." □



Press Women of Texas tried for three months to schedule its Fall Board Meeting in 2009. Since we had hosted the NFPW Conference in September, we rested for a while and changed our November meeting to December. The weather didn't cooperate.

We rescheduled in January at the Czech Motel in West, Texas, famous for Kolaches. Attending the meeting were Clara and Odin Clay, Houston, Larry and Bonnie Arnold, Kerrville; Kathie Magers, Lake Tawakoni; Kay Casey, Denison; Felecia Garvin, Denison; Angela Smith, Austin; and Donna Hunt, Denison.

The board made the decision that funds allotted to PWT from the National Conference will go to two scholarships to college students majoring in communications.

Affiliates Mentionables

ALASKA

Alaska Professional Communicator Stan Jones got a three-star review (3 of 4 stars) for his book, “Village of the Ghost Bears.” The review called the book “the fourth book of this enchanting series set in Alaska” and said the author has “created a richly populated universe you’ll be sorry to leave.” *People Magazine*, Dec. 7, 2009

Become a member today of Alaska Professional Communicators’ groups on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com> and LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com> — just more ways to network and share ideas and events with like-minded Alaskans.

Please visit the APC Website at <http://www.akprocom.org/meetings.php> where you will find information about the next lunch meeting, our organization, lots of great links to some of our lunch videos, writing-related sites and the latest APC news postings.

COLORADO

Colorado Press Women

Lynn Dean of Fort Collins, former CPW president in 2009, broke her ankle in three places, had surgery and has been out of commission for the last month.

Morgan Brooks, a 2009 student member of CPW who graduated from University of Northern Colorado in August, is looking for a job in communications, preferably an entry-level public relations position. If you know of any openings, contact her at mbrooks47@hotmail.com.

CORRECTION: **Carol Anderson** of Denver is working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, on reviewing environmental assessments and environmental impact statements to check for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (not in community relations.)

INDIANA

This photo was taken at the November Education Fund Auction/Luncheon at the home of **Julie and Gene Slaymaker, 5161 Washington Blvd.**, Indianapolis, Ind. Gene Slaymaker’s famous Bloody Mary’s rendered members in a generous mood and they raised over \$1,000 for Indiana journalism scholarships.



They are wearing the “Press Women Make Headlines” sweatshirts that they had made. Members scooped them up at the Auction and immediately donned them.

Left to right, front row: **Tara Puckey, Ann Weldy** and **Julie Slaymaker**. Back row: **Becky Manley, Jackie Davis, Ann Allen** and **Viv Rosswurm**.

They will be happy to take orders from other affiliates if they want to buy their sweatshirts which benefit the Woman’s Press Club of Indiana Education Fund, Inc. Contact slaymakers@aol.com.

KANSAS

Wichita Professional Communicators — 2010 officers elected Elections for the 2010 Wichita Professional Communicators board positions were held during the Jan. 6 WPC luncheon meeting. Board meetings for 2010 will be held at noon, the second Tuesday of the month, at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas. The WPC membership is invited to attend.

Those elected to office are **Beth Bower**, president; **Susan Hund-Milne**, president-elect; **Carreen Simon**, secretary; **Melissa Lacey-Nagy**, treasurer; **Teresa Veazey**, vice president, membership; and **Jill Miller**, vice president, programs.

Suzanna Mathews recently took the position as director of marketing and public relations for The Wichita Center for the Arts. Her work contact information is 316-634-2787 ext. 214 or smathews@wcfta.com.

Kansas Professional Communicators — BD Tharp’s new book, “Feisty Family Values,” revolves around three mature (and feisty) ladies living in Wichita. It’s a tale of relationships, friendship and love, and growing old with grace. It appeared on bookshelves in February.

Face to Face in Illinois

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next NFPW conference Aug. 26-28 in Chicago. Illinois Woman’s Press Association is thrilled to host the NFPW Conference this year, the 125th anniversary of its founding. It will be at the historic Union League Club of Chicago in the Loop at 65 W. Jackson in the heart of the financial district.

It’s easy to get there with two major airports: Midway and O’Hare. Besides shuttles and taxis, the CTA rapid transit system has stops near the ULCC, and Amtrak arrives at Union Station, just four blocks away.

There will be pretours Aug. 23-25 with three days of your choice of several short, affordable trips that offer an ala carte “taste of Chicago,” including an architectural tour on the Chicago River, a big-league baseball game, neighborhood tours, an Obama Tour and a Route 66 walking tour.

From Aug. 26-28 organizers are planning networking events, keynote speakers, leadership meetings, and two days of professional development workshops to reflect the needs of communicators to use the considerable skills they already have and develop new ones for “Innovation and Reinvention.”

Other conference events include the coveted Communicator of Achievement awards banquet and the youth awards luncheon. The conference will end with the presentation of the winners at the 2010 Communications Contest banquet on Saturday night.

Registration information will run in the next Agenda. If you have any questions, contact conference directors Cecilia Green at cecgreen1@comcast.net or Suzanne Hanney at suzannestreetwise@yahoo.com.

Employment Opportunities

Regional Agriculture Editor

Farm Progress seeks a regional editor for Nebraska and Kansas. Responsibilities include planning and providing editorial content for Nebraska Farmer and Kansas Farmer publications and web sites. The regional editor is responsible for covering issues, crops and livestock for producers in Nebraska and Kansas.

The position requires good writing and photography skills, travel throughout both states.

Selected individual must be a self-starter, possess strong organizational skills, be able to meet planning and deadline schedules and will be expected to work well within regional and national teams as well as with production and copy editors.

Applicants should have three to five years experience as a writer or journalist. Knowledge of corn, soybeans and wheat is important. An understanding of Nebraska and Kansas agriculture and local issues is a plus.

Must be familiar with Word, Excel and have some computer experience. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience required. Position can be managed out of home office if it's located in Nebraska or Kansas.

Comprehensive benefits include generous paid time off, health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, short-term and long-term disability, vision coverage and 401(k).

Farm Progress Companies is the largest U.S. media company serving the agricultural market. Headquartered in Carol Stream, Ill., with offices in Decatur, Ill., Lincoln, Neb., Des Moines, Iowa, and Minnetonka, Minn., and 150 employees across 23 states, we publish 22 state, regional and national farm publications. Since 1841, we have been serving the needs of agricultural readers in the continental United States. We also operate farm trade shows and provide marketing and custom publishing services.

If interested, submit cover letter with salary requirement and resume to recruiter@farmprogress.com.

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Member Milestones

Alaska Professional Communicators

Ella Wright was presented Oct. 1 with lifetime membership to Alaska Professional Communicators and a plaque honoring her lifetime service and achievements.

Wright has been a leader of the Alaska affiliate for more than 30 years, having served as its president as well as vice president, Communicator of Achievement director and scholarship judge.

She volunteered for the national board in 1990 and ascended the ladder of offices, culminating with the presidency of the National Federation of Press Women in 2001-2003.

Coordinator of the hugely successful NFPW conference in Alaska in 2000, Wright also served as NFPW communications contest director and director of ethnic recruitment.

She has served her community in numerous ways, such as volunteering with the Anchorage School District to promote minority female leadership, recruiting minorities for government positions, and serving on the board of Alaska Pacific University and editing its newsletter.

While working and raising two sons, she earned two college degrees, a Bachelor of Arts in English/Art from the University of Alaska

Anchorage and a Master of Liberal Arts in English from Alaska Pacific University.

She is ending a career of nearly 40 years as a professional communicator with the federal government, starting as a clerk-typist and ending as a writer-editor with the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska.

Colorado

Gay Porter De Nileon, former Colorado Press Women president from 2007-09, was awarded her master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado at Denver's School of Public Affairs in December. She conducted a survey of Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Tier III organizations for her capstone project and is interested in becoming more involved in the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Her studies also included classes in negotiation, conflict resolution, finance, public policy, and organizational and personnel management. Gay is currently the publications manager for American Water Works Association where she oversees the editing and production of books, standards and manuals.

Barbara "Bobbi" Gigone, a former CPW president who lives in Louisville, is celebrating her 50-year membership in the National Federation of Press Women. The NFPW historian is planning to honor four such members in Chicago at the NFPW Conference in late August. Bobbi plans to go.

Meet a Member

Amy Geiszler-Jones | Wichita Professional Communicators

For the past year, newsbriefs and e-news alerts editor Amy Geiszler-Jones had been asking members to share their profile. Now it's Amy's turn.

Amy Geiszler-Jones is a part-time marketing assistant for Mid American Credit Union, and a freelance writer/editor and owner of Golden Light Communications.

At her steady income job at the credit union, she is responsible for handling the content of three newsletters, an annual report, news stories for the credit union's Web site, and news releases. She also oversees the ordering, editing and such for all logoed marketing materials. As a freelancer, she does primarily writing and editing work, with some design work, for clients such as Via Christi, Cargill Animal Nutrition, the Kansas Society for Children with Challenges and Healthy Living.

She has a 10-member household of four kids, ages 5 and younger, three adults, two Labrador retrievers and one aging cat who joined the family 18 years ago shortly before they moved from England to Wichita, thanks to the U.S. Air Force. Her only daughter, Jewel, recently returned home with her kids, Jayvin, 5, Will, 4, Malaysia, 4, and Za'Riyah, 9 months. She says they have been a wonderful boost to her self-esteem (and add a lot of laughter and stories) when they greet her with shrieks of "Nana, you're home" each time she walks through the door or ask for encores as she rehearses dances.

She grew up on a farm in south-central North Dakota, near the two tiny towns of Lehr and Fredonia, populated primarily by Germans-from-Russia descendents. Lawrence Welk's birthplace was about 50 miles away. Wunnerful, Wunnerful.

She earned a bachelor's degree, with honors, in both English and journalism from the University of North Dakota. She earned a minor in German, but after two decades and not much practice in the language, her mom, a first-generation American, often lapses into German when she talks to her, but she answers in English, to her disappointment.

Her favorite things to do see or visit in Wichita range from lectures at WSU and the many arts and cultural happenings and she and her husband enjoy going to WSU basketball games.

When she reached a milestone birthday six years ago, she started belly dancing and has developed a real passion for it. Now she can be found three nights a week at Safira's Center for World Dance, 2919 E. Kellogg, dancing flamenco, gypsy fusion and Middle Eastern dances, working out to zumba and teaching a class she developed called Yo-Belly, which consists of doing yoga and then learning introductory belly-dance moves.

She travels a lot for dance workshops — including to Egypt in 2008. She has an upcoming trip to Turkey. Through her dancing she has learned to sew, and developed a lot of great friendships.

“I have some of the most awesome beaded bras you’ll ever see!” Amy did 10 dances, with just six costume changes, in the studio’s major annual concert at the Mary Jane Teall Theater Jan. 30. Her stage name is Zahavah Noor, which means golden light in Hebrew and Arabic, respectively.

In her former jobs working as a writer for the European edition of *The Stars and Stripes* (where Andy Rooney once worked) and as a longtime writer/editor at Wichita State University, she has gotten to interview all kinds of people from celebrities and politicians to high-ranking generals to curmudgeonly professors. One WSU professor apparently misunderstood the intent of an interview and basically started dictation for her, not allowing her to ask questions about his work, and then concluded by saying, “There, I’m done talking now.” Some of her stories for *The Stars and Stripes* led to interesting fall-out: One England base dropped its practice of busing English women to its recreation center for a night of dancing with the American airmen — a holdover practice from the World War II-era — after her feature drew attention to it. The GIs had dubbed the night “hog call.” (The girls who had been transported on the back of “lorries” in WWII were called “spam-bashers.”)

Another story about how a night of what was to be family bowling went to the gutter when the base bowling manager decided to spice things up by giving away sex toys almost got her banned from the very base where they lived.

Beth Bower | Wichita Professional Communicators

Beth Bower is the Wichita Professional Communicators 2010 president. She is a self-employed freelance writer and part-time bookseller at Watermark Books & Café, writing for a number of publications in the local area and sells books at Watermark on Mondays. She has been married to her husband, Guy, for 27 years. They have two boys, both graduates of Kansas State, and two dogs, both “rescued” animals. Guy is a retired Air Force pilot who flies for FedEx and does a radio show called *The Good Life* on KNSS 1330 AM.

“Because the radio show revolves around ‘food, wine and fun for your ears,’ we travel to various food events and wine regions in search of that ‘fun.’ We also like to entertain. He’s the chef but I’m a darn good cook!”

Beth was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and after graduating from high school, she joined the Air Force. Her first job was as a helicopter mechanic and she was the second woman helicopter mechanic in the Air Force and the first in the Tactical Air Command. After three years of “grease” monkey work, she transferred jobs and worked with pilot records. This job took her to Spain where she met Guy. They got married in Las Vegas and then relocated to England. After their oldest son was born in Cambridge, she got out of the Air Force to raise him. They moved to Las Vegas and after the birth of her second son, she went back to school to get her degree. It wasn’t until after they had moved to Florida, three years later, that she got her degree in English with the emphasis in creative writing from Florida International University.

“Food, music, shows, museums: We have it all in Wichita. Whoever says Wichita lacks entertainment opportunities, hasn’t looked lately. If you’re a wino, like me, events abound and then some. If you’re a foodie, we have some of the best food, best prices and best chefs around. And then some.”

Are people surprised by her hands? “Yes, these are the hands of a helicopter mechanic and yes, they are my own nails.”

“Everyone I’ve interviewed is interesting/funny/unusual and/or weird; you just have to get them to tell you that bit about them. Everyone has a story. I did get to interview the first woman fighter pilot to go through training at McConnell. And yes, she did have to wear Depends on some flights. Goes with the territory.

Her favorite books are some she has read more than eight times each. Like “*Little Women*,” the entire, original “*Dune*” series by Frank Herbert, “*Doomsday Book*” by Connie Willis (it features a pandemic, Black Death and time travel, how bad can it be?), and the “*Dragonriders of Pern*” (the early books). Right now, Janet Evanovich’s *Stephanie Plum* novels and Charlane Harris’ *Sookie Stackhouse* vampire stories are leading the pack. She admits to not being much of a non-fiction fan other than food magazines and cookbooks.

Charlotte Walker | Press Women of Texas

Charlotte Walker was truly her mother’s valentine, born on Feb. 14, 1927. A good thing, too, because life was not easy for her parents. Her father was a farmer, first in Kansas, where the family’s livelihood was blown away by the Dust Bowl, then in Missouri, where the grain and corn were flooded out.

As a child, Charlotte memorized monologues she learned from her mother, who had been a speech major at college. She began reciting them herself in high school. Maybe a theater career was in store? But when time came to start college herself, Charlotte’s father passed on his hard-earned lesson: study something that will guarantee you can make a living.

“The Ladies Home Journal had ‘Ann Batchelder’ then,” Charlotte recalls, “with a tip for every day of the month.” So she enrolled as a home economics major at the University of Missouri. But, truth be told, it was Batchelder’s writing that appealed to her more than the kitchen advice.

She did take part in college theatrics, on stage in plays rather than delivering monologues. An early role was the lead in “*Angel Street*,” the live drama version of Ingrid Bergman’s film “*Gaslight*.” Then she appeared in Shakespeare’s “*Twelfth Night*.” Finally, on a catwalk over the stage during a break in a play named “*State of the Union*,” Charlotte and fellow thespian Tom Walker declared their own union, and decided to cement it. They married in June of 1949.

Their first home was in Arizona, where Tom taught English and Charlotte “checked our shoes and bedclothes each night for scorpions!” Next it was off to the University of North Carolina. While Tom did his graduate studies, Charlotte worked in the catalog department of the university’s library, a job she held until son Craig was born. Two years later, daughter Wendy arrived.

When the GI Bill ran out for Tom, who had served in World War II, he accepted a teaching position at Hanover College in Indiana. After a year he moved to Culver Military Academy near South Bend. While her husband headed the English department, Charlotte was the then-traditional housewife and mother -- until she came out of the kitchen for a job in the school’s library.

Finally, her long-delayed opportunity to write was when she was asked to report on Culver faculty news. When an editorial position opened at a local newspaper, the *Pilot News* in nearby Plymouth, Charlotte’s ability had been recognized, and she was the choice.

“We published every day but Sunday,” she says. “We did community reporting — news about people, places and things.” During her first year at the *Pilot*, she joined NFPW’s Indiana affiliate and won a first

place in the state writing competition, which cemented her career choice — and her belief in herself.

In 1976, after Charlotte had been at the paper for a decade and Tom at Culver for 21 years, he accepted a post at Dallas' Hockaday, a top-rated girls' prep school. While he was teaching, she was also at Hockaday, writing its parents' newsletter and alumnae magazine, plus developing and printing her own pictures. After 14 years, she retired in 1990. Well — sort of. First she worked for another three in the library of a Mobil Oil exploration and producing facility.

The Walkers bought their current North Dallas house in 1978, and although they talk from time to time about downsizing, they're really too content in it to leave. Over the years they've traveled quite a bit, especially treasuring memories gathered back in 1963-64, when Tom was a Fulbright scholar at Anatolia College in Thessalonica, Greece. Then they went to Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, by turns—one would travel while the other stayed at home with the children. Now their trips are stateside, to visit the various places where their children, grandchildren and great-grands live.

They still love Greek food. Other loves are genealogy and their church, Northaven United Methodist in Dallas, where Charlotte is in the Movement Choir and writes profiles of interesting members for the monthly newsletter. And she continues as an active member of Press Women of Texas, the state's NFPW affiliate, serving as its historian.

How fitting that last September, Charlotte hurried home from our national conference in San Antonio in time to appear in a scene from "The Four Poster" at a church theatrical event. With Tom as her co-star, of course!

In Memory

Wichita Professional Communicators — Condolences go to **Shannon Littlejohn**, whose mother, **Delaine Dannelley**, a former Wichita Press Women member, died Jan. 6. A memorial has been established in Delaine Dannelley's name with St. Joseph's Indian School, P.O. Box 100, Chamberlain, SD 57325-0100.

We say goodbye to Doramae C. Jakobson, former NPW member **Doramae C. Jakobson** joined her son, Sidney Cook, on Nov. 9, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Bert A. Jakobson; her daughter, Stephanie G. Helberg; her six grandchildren, Stacey Nissim, Miles and Imelda Radmall, Christopher and Stephanie Haddock, and Channin Haddock, and four great-grandchildren. She was born in Reno on Feb. 10, 1926, and lived in the area most of her life. The services to honor her life were held on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, at Walton's Funeral Home, 875 W. 2nd St, Reno, Nevada. An inurnment ceremony followed at Mountain View Mausoleum, 435 Stoker Ave., Reno, Nevada, then a reception at her home in Reno. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in her name to the Nevada Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Ann M. (Toner) Gottwald, 60, of rural Nebraska City, died Feb. 6 after a battle with cancer. Ann had been a member of Nebraska Press Women since 1996, winning numerous awards in the NPW and NFPW communications contest and from the American Agriculture Editors Association and the North American Agricultural Journalists. In 1985, she served as president of the NAAJ and in 1983 was NAAJ's farm editor.

A native of Iowa and a graduate of Iowa State University where she majored in science journalism, Ann was farm writer for the Lincoln Journal-Star, the Kansas City Star and the Omaha World-Herald before joining the Nebraska Farmer staff as field editor in 1997, working there until her death.

Finding a Job in a Recession: Tougher Than Ever Before

By Christina Motley
Virginia Press Women

An economic recession. An enormous talent pool. Thousands unemployed. Massive numbers of highly qualified — and over qualified — applicants. Really, it's no wonder finding a job today is harder than ever before.

What once worked no longer does. Instead, I've applied new tricks to land the right job for me, including:

- Creating a scannable resume for automated readers.
- Attending job support groups.
- Posting my resume on dozens of Web sites and job boards.
- Researching list serves upon list serves.
- Making use of social media.
- Creating a job seeker Web site.

But I can't help believe, it's still boils down to who you know. Based on my experience over the last two years as a job seeker who has applied for thousands of jobs, I am left to assume it still takes a connection.

Members of trade organizations, like National Federation of Press Women and Virginia Press Women, can help the unemployed find jobs. Whether it is a regional, state or national association, job seekers want to be able to network and make connections with members every way possible.

So what can you do? Here are a few suggestions to consider from my perspective:

- Engage in social media. Actively, join groups and respond to discussions. Create a LinkedIn presence and seek out other organization members. Build your connections and make it easy for job seekers to connect with you.

- Establish Facebook presences – as an organization and as individual members. Develop a fan base. Provide RSS feeds.
- Make yourself available to critique a resume, respond to an email or voicemail, or contribute a creative, out-of-the-box idea.
- Establish and promote a job board to connect employers with job opportunities to job seekers.
- Launch chat rooms where members can engage in conversations with each other.
- Share resources, connections, recruiters and job leads with others.

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Let's Get Connected

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared Jan. 13, 2010, on <http://cynthiapricecommunique.wordpress.com>.

Are you searching for a job? Do you have a question you need answered but don't have a contact in that field?

Then try LinkedIn, a business networking site that enables you to network, hire, post jobs, get business advice and share your expertise.

You can also join various groups and share information. NFPW has a group on the site. It's a great way to get others interested in NFPW. If they see you are a member of the group and are in the communications field, they'll ask you about it and then you can have a conversation about the benefits of joining NFPW.

So if you aren't already, join the NFPW LinkedIn group. And if you aren't on LinkedIn, why not take the plunge into this business networking site? It's a great way to polish your resume, learn about social media and define your brand.

Once you are on the site you will create a free account and then you will create a profile. Use a professional photograph and share highlights of your professional experience. Then begin adding contacts. Expand your network over time.

If you are feeling ambitious ask for recommendations. If you disagree with what the person wrote, you can reject that recommendation. You also can recommend people. Add your Web site or your Twitter account. Again, it's all about connecting.

I've used LinkedIn to post jobs, to find out more about candidates, to ask professional questions and get answers from those with more expertise.

Are we LinkedIn? If not, let's connect!

Time to Change Chairs

By Linda Koehler
Pennsylvania Press Club

Dear NFPW Friends,

When I was asked to step in as editor of the NFPW Agenda, it was in a crowded noisy room at the conference in San Antonio, Texas. I thought Cynthia Price was asking if I would like to serve on a committee. I didn't want to let her know I couldn't hear her and ask her to repeat it a third time so I just smiled and nodded my head, "Yes." It was a few hours later, someone came up to me and congratulated me on becoming the new editor of the Agenda.

I'm sure I met the statement with the deer in the headlight look! Me? Surely she had the wrong person.

But after the second, third, fourth person congratulated me, I began to believe they really thought I was the new editor.

Wherever did they get that idea, I wondered.

I finally got up enough nerve to approach Cynthia and sure enough, when I nodded my head and smiled at her that first night, it was to say yes to the position.

I spent the remainder of the conference with my stomach in knots. I knew I had to tell Cynthia that it was all a mistake and that she had to find someone else for the job.

But, between Cynthia and Pat Ryder, the previous editor, they assured me I could do it.

So, here goes. My first issue of the Agenda.

My stomach is still in knots because I don't want to let anyone down and I know I have a hard act to follow after Pat's amazing tenure as editor.

But I had a fabulous mentor when I first entered the world of journalism in Pattie Mihalik. I always called her, my Fairy Godmother because from the day I met her, my life changed drastically, and all for the wonderful. She insisted that we can do anything if we want to.

I might just have a new Fairy Godmother named Cynthia. Through her cheerleading efforts, I believe she is making it possible for new doors and new adventures to be opened to me through this new endeavor.

And that is what I hope the NFPW Agenda can do for all of you—open new doors, offer new adventures, inform and report to you what is going on across America through our affiliates.

One thing I do know—we can't do it without you. So please, send me your news, what you're reading today, articles your members have written that applies to everyone and not just your neck of the woods, and members' milestones. Help keep us all connected. Please send to me, Linda Koehler at lkoehler@tnonline.com or call 610-826-9641. The next deadline is June 1.

Linda Koehler lives in Effort, Pa., with her husband of 38 years, Harry, who she calls Hunter Man because he keeps their fridge and freezer stocked with all sorts of game. She cooks it, he eats it. They have one daughter, Becky, 32, one dog, Trapper, and one cat with Alzheimer's, Tinkerbelle. She is a reporter/columnist for the Times News and a member and contest director of NFPW's affiliate Pennsylvania Press Club.