

March 2012
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Arizona Press Women

Celebrate 'Skirting Traditions' at Art Alliance



L-R: Jana Bommersbach, Sheila Roe, Brenda Warneka and Pam Stevenson at APW's anthology booth at the Arizona Centennial Day event. See Page 2 for additional Centennial celebration photos.

by Barb Lacy & Brenda Warneka

Arizona Press Women members and guests are invited to a celebration and book signing of the APW anthology, which covers 100 years of women writers and journalists in Arizona, from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 4 at the Arizona Art Alliance Gallery at the Pavilions, 9011 E. Indian Bend Rd. in Scottsdale. The book, which retails for \$22.95, will be sold for \$15 at the party.

Those who already own a copy of *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012*, can bring it for signing by the authors at the party or just come to socialize and hear about book's creation and the outstanding women in it. Refreshments will be served. The event also offers a chance to network with APW members. RSVP to apw.anthology@gmail.com by March 2.

The Anthology, *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012*, chronicles the lives and accomplishments of 28 Arizona women who exhibited resilience, creativity and the grit to survive,

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Support needed for NFPW Conference

APW needs you! Your contacts and savvy can be used to help get funding to support events at the 2012 NFPW National Conference held at Scottsdale's Hotel Valley Ho September 20 through 22. APW is hosting the event to help provide professional development to its members, while celebrating the 75th anniversary of NFPW and Arizona's Centennial.

"Our members have contacts with companies and organizations throughout

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APW says goodbye to Hopkins

by Brenda Warneka

Wilma S. Hopkins, an APW member and avid booster of APW since 1967, died in Tucson on November 15, 2011 at 94.

Hopkins, a pioneer female photojournalist in Arizona, is one of 28 women featured in APW's anthology, *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012*. She was also featured in APW's 50th



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APW celebrates 100 years of statehood, February 14, 2012 at Arizona's State Capitol



Upcoming events for writers

Tucson Festival of Books at the University of Arizona Campus, Main Mall, March 10 and 11. The largest book event in Arizona offers big names of the industry and free workshops for writers and readers all day, each day. All genres are represented. Attendance is free. Info: <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>.

Desert Dreams Writers' Conference, "Believe in the Power of Your Dreams," April 27 through 29. Authors of all skill levels receive the tools necessary to take their writing to the next level. Sessions include general writing, career development, genre-specific and agent/publisher spotlights, as well as an agent/editor panel. There will also

be one-on-one appointments with editors or agents, a book signing and keynote addresses. Check out our roster of editors and agents along with keynote speakers and workshops. Romance Writers of America registration is \$235 for members. Non-RWA members pay \$255. The registration deadline is March 15. The conference is held at Chaparral Suites, 5001 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Info: www.desertroserwa.org.

Northern Arizona Book Festival, May 18 and 19. This venue attracts renowned authors from across the nation. Contact Barbara J. Carlile at bjcarlile@npgcable.com.

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whether on the frontier of a young state or in a male-dominated profession. They are women who in their time, by skirting traditions, were often controversial yet made significant contributions to the history of Arizona.

"These are women whom readers won't soon forget," says Brenda Warneka, APW member and co-editor who conceived the project. "What they had in common was their love of writing and journalism, and their ability to use the written word to earn a living, argue a cause and promote the virtues, beauty, history and people of the Southwest."

The 308-page paperback book was designated an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project by the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission.

APW member Barbara Lacy, one of the book's writers, is a member of the Arizona Art Alliance, which usually has some of her paintings on display. For more information, contact her at blacy1@cox.net.

More anthology signing dates

The Rim Country District of APW offers a book signing event for *Skirting Traditions* at the Northern Gila County Historical Society in Payson on March 17th. Anthology authors Carol LaValley and Carol Osman Brown will sign books there from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Historical Society has a new Centennial Exhibit that includes the APW anthology. The gift shop has an excellent selection of Arizona and Southwest history books, and it will be where Rim Country APW members and residents can purchase the book.

Warneka and her co-editor, Pam Stevenson, also a writer of *Skirting Traditions*, will make a presentation about the anthology before the Scottsdale Westerners

Corral at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28 at Guidon Books, 7109 E. Second St. on the corner of Marshall and Second streets in Scottsdale. Reservations are not required and guests are welcome.

In addition, Warneka will sign *Skirting Traditions* from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 31 at Hastings Books, 1985 Highway 95, Bullhead City.

Several anthology authors will also sign copies of the book at the Arizona History Convention held April 18 through 22 at Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix.

Kudos for APW anthology

Here are some of the early reactions to *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012* since its publication on February 1:

The book is FABULOUS!!!! I'm learning so much about so many fascinating women. —*Jana Bommersbach, the subject of Chapter 27.*

"Congratulations! I am so proud to have been part of this project! I hope we can get it into every school library in the state!" —*Barbara Lacy, APW member and author of Chapter 7*

What a fabulous site (www.skirtingtraditions.com) I can't wait to read the book! —*Glennis McNeal, APW member*

Book looked great! —*Carol La Valley, APW member and author of Chapter 6*

Just received my books and they are absolutely wonderful. —*Jane Eppinga (APW member and author of Chapters 5 and 18)*

The anthology is available at online book stores including www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com, and in brick-and-mortar bookstores. It can also be ordered direct from Arizona Press Women. Contact apw.anthology@yahoo.com for more information.

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anniversary project, *News Women: 50 Years of Change/1954-2004*. Hopkins was excited to learn in 2009 that she would be included in the anthology. Unfortunately, she died shortly before the book was published and without knowing her photo is on the cover.

Hopkins began her career as a photographer at the *Columbus Citizen* when she was among women recruited during World War II to fill jobs vacated by men who had gone to war. She soon started writing the articles for which she was doing photography.

She and her husband, Bruce, moved to Tucson in the 1960s, where both worked for the *Tucson Citizen*.

Hopkins retired in 1979. She was honored by the University of Arizona Department of Women's Studies in 2005 with a tile leaf in the Women's Plaza of Honor.

Hopkins was predeceased by her husband, who died in 1983. She is buried at the Funerarias del Angel South Lawn in Tucson.

Kudos to former Citizen journalists

submitted by Jane Eppinga

Following is a letter Hopkins wrote when the *Tucson Citizen* folded:



Wilma Hopkins circa early 1950s
photo by Bruce Hopkins

The only way I have to express how much I'll miss the paper is to tell my story. Most of all I'll miss Billie Stanton. She is irreplaceable.

The summer of 1967 was the happiest time of my life. The *Tucson Citizen* gave me the chance to continue my newspaper career in a new town, in a new job.

The job was as city desk assistant, working with Tom Duddleston and Keith Carew. The staff was great – so warm and friendly, like a big family, pre computer with more time for each other.

I was able to continue my journalism career, which began in Columbus, Ohio, in 1942 as one of five war-time staff photographers on the *Columbus Citizen* newspaper.

In 1956, I had gone to New York and married Bruce Hopkins, a *New York Mirror* photographer. The paper folded. John Hemmer, a former staffer there, offered Bruce a job here. So here we were. I retired when I was 62. At the *Tucson Citizen*, we made

longtime personal friends, such as my 30-year-friend Allison Hock-Rose, who started as a teen intern. She recently was in town, and we discussed old times.

From the old building, these staffers deserve to be remembered – and bosses, too: William Small Jr., Paul McKalip, George Rosenberg, Clyde Lowery, Tony Tselentis, Mary Brown, Mary Moody, Micheline "Mike" Keating, Nicki Donahue, Ellen Crosby, Anne Ross, Corky Simpson, Bill Hopkins, John Winters, Dan Pavillard, Sue Giles, Mary Gerdan Hunt, Judy Terlizzi, Regis McAuly, Paul Allen and Jeannie Jett.

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the state," explains Planning Committee Chair, Pam Stevenson. "We need people who can help the planning committee with fundraising efforts to get underwriting for expenses relating to meals, speakers, and equipment required for programs.

APW members are urged to think of their clients and contacts who might provide funds in exchange for showcasing their company at the event. Sponsor partners are needed to help APW share expenses, and it is preferred that the person who has a contact approach the company first. The APW Conference Committee can supply letters that explain the various levels of giving, etc.

Carol Osman Brown is coordinating fundraising efforts in order to avoid duplicate requests aimed at the same company. Contact her at carolosmanbb@gmail.com or 928-

468-9269 if you know of a company or organization that might be willing to partner with APW.

"We all need to work together on this important part of hosting the NFPW national conference this September," adds Brown.

Other ways to help

For more volunteer opportunities, contact Stevenson at 480-839-2676, 602-301-9595 or pstevensoncomm@cox.net.

"I want to begin holding regular meetings for planning the 2012 NFPW Conference in Scottsdale," says Stevenson. "The meetings will be at 1 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month."

Future dates include: March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19. Locations TBD.

IN TOUCH WITH APW

Barbara Marriott, a Southern District member, shares stories of the Federal Writer's Project in *In Their Own Words: Interviews with Arizona Pioneer Women* at a presentation at 7 p.m. on March 5 at the Performing Arts Center, Apache Junction High School, 2525 S. Ironwood Dr. in Apache Junction, as part of the AJUSD's Arizona Lecture Series. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door, at the AJUSD District Office, or online at www.ajusd.org by clicking on the Community tab, then PAC Tickets.

Jaimie Hall Bruzenak, a Rim Country District APW member, was interviewed for a segment on solo women RVers that appeared on CBS This Morning on February 7. The producer, interviewer Lee Cowan, CBS National Correspondent, and a cameraman came to Quartzsite, Ariz. to film footage and interview Bruzenak in the desert.



Bruzenak appeared as an expert on women who travel by RV by themselves. Members of the Texas Ramblin' Roses, a chapter of the club RVing Women, was also filmed at one of their rallies. Bruzenak is the co-author of *The Woman's Guide to Solo RVing* and *RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journey's on the Open Road*, available at RVLifestyleExperts.com and other RV booksellers. The segment can be viewed at www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7397831n#ixzz1ljUxwZBE.

Lynda Exley, APW Central District member and co-author of *Arizona Way Out West & Wacky* and *Arizona Way Out West & Witty: Library Edition*, which was designated 2012 ONEBOOK for Kids, was interviewed on ABC Channel 15's *Sonoran Living Live* on February 13. Watch the segment at www.abc15.com/dpp/lifestyle/sonoran_living/arizona-way-out-west--wacky.



Submissions wanted!

Share industry related news with your fellow APW members including committee reports, event news, writing contests, industry related articles, industry-related personal accomplishments ... anything you think would be of value to our membership!

Send submissions, photos and art to Lynda Exley at exlent@aol.com. The deadline for the April issue is March 21.

Find APW online!

- Like APW on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArizonaPressWomen
- Visit us at our newly updated blog, www.arizonapresswomen.com
- Twitter feed coming soon!

Exley and her co-author, Conrad Storad, are presenting authors at the Tucson Festival of Books at the University of Arizona Campus, Main Mall, March 10 and 11. Attendance is free. Info: <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org>.

Patricia Myers of the Central District reviewed a four-day jazz festival with 44 hours of live jazz in Newport Beach, Calif. during President's Day weekend. Her review and photos will be posted by mid-month March at www.allaboutjazz.com. Her annual *Paris Jazz Diary for 2011* was posted on the site earlier this year, adding to archived past years' Diary postings and various other jazz articles she regularly contributes.



Susanne Carol Tso, APW's newest Central District member, writes for *Tribune Your Health Monthly*.

Barb Lacy is one of only 21 artists whose works were selected for display at the State Capitol. Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzyhpLOlfUg&feature=youtu.be.

