



# NMwriters

SUPPORTING *and* CONNECTING THE LITERARY COMMUNITY

## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER

APRIL 25, 2024

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



MAY 17-19, 2024  
 SANTA FE COMMUNITY CONVENTION CENTER  
 TICKETS: SFINTERNATIONALLITFEST.ORG

# A Book Lover's Dream Weekend.



## SANTA FE *international* LITERARY FESTIVAL

*Photo credit: Jack Parsons*

Be part of an unforgettable long weekend dedicated to the *power of story*. Join us at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center for more than thirty events with literary legends, book signings, and more.

*Authors include:*

- |                  |                  |                   |                  |                         |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| JULIA<br>ALVAREZ | ANTHONY<br>DOERR | DAVID<br>GRANN    | JOHN<br>VAILLANT | ANNE<br>LAMOTT          |
| TOMMY<br>ORANGE  | HAMPTON<br>SIDES | TRACY K.<br>SMITH | JESMYN<br>WARD   | PATRICK RADDEN<br>KEEFE |

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KARIMA ALAVI

J. REVELL CARR  
*Treasurer*

PAT HODAPP

TOM JOHNSON

PAM LEWIS

ZAHRA MARWAN

CASSIE MCCLURE

LUCY MOORE  
*Secretary*

CARMELLA PADILLA  
*Chair*

LIZ TRUPIN-PULLI

JJ AMAWORO WILSON

JAMES MCGRATH MORRIS  
*Executive Director*

COVER: Ute Mountain and the Río Grande. Photo ©Geraint Smith Photography [www.Geraintsmith.com](http://www.Geraintsmith.com)

TOP RIGHT: Editorial and rewrite staff of New Mexico Writers Projects, a program of the Works Progress Administration, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1935. Pictured are Henry Schmeltzer, Alice Corbin, Mary Walsh, Vincent Kane, Aurora Lucero White, E.L. Drake and Allen B. Cooke. Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA), Negative Number 101271.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER

APRIL 25, 2024 | SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



### About New Mexico Writers

New Mexico Writers is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2016 to support and connect New Mexico's literary community. Our mission is to provide grants, networking, and career development opportunities to aspiring and established writers from communities throughout New Mexico and the greater Navajo Nation. We believe that by addressing cultural, financial, and professional barriers facing writers, we will build a more vibrant and diverse literary community. Our annual dinner brings together writers and others to celebrate and inspire each other as well as to honor our annual grant recipients. In addition to our grant-making program, our public outreach activities include Rising Writers and our award-winning monthly newsletter, *The New Mexico Writer*. To learn more, or become a member, visit [NMWriters.org](http://NMWriters.org).



## DETOURS

LA FONDA'S GIFT SHOP

HF Coors | Pendleton | Kelly Jo Kuchar | Los Poblanos  
 Santa Fe Spirits | Sandy Vaillancourt | Jan Barboglio



100 E. SAN FRANCISCO STREET | SANTA FE, NM  
 505.988.1404 | DETOURSATLAFONDA.COM

## NMW ANNUAL DINNER TEAM

### DINNER COMMITTEE

KARIMA ALAVI, *Chair*  
 SANDY BLAKESLEE  
 KATY KELLEHER  
 PAM LEWIS  
 LUCY MOORE  
 JAMES MCGRATH MORRIS  
 CARMELLA PADILLA  
 BOB PUGLISI

### GRANTS COMMITTEE

SANDY BLAKESLEE  
 CARMELLA PADILLA  
 LIZ TRUPIN-PULLI  
 JJ AMAWORO WILSON

### VOLUNTEERS

KARIMA ALAVI  
 SANDY BLAKESLEE  
 REVELL CARR  
 KATY KELLEHER  
 PAM LEWIS  
 ZAHRA MARWAN  
 LUCY MOORE  
 PATTY MORRIS  
 BOB PUGLISI  
 RYAN ROSE  
 LIZ TRUPIN-PULLI  
 SUSAN TWEIT

### PARTNERS

COLLECTED WORKS  
 BOOKSTORE &  
 COFFEEHOUSE  
 LA FONDA ON THE PLAZA  
 SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL  
 LITERARY FESTIVAL



## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER

APRIL 25, 2024

*Lumpkins Ballroom, La Fonda on the Plaza*

### 5:30 P.M. RECEPTION

*Cash bar, time to mingle, browse, and buy*

- Books by keynote speaker Hampton Sides
- Books by New Mexico Writers grantees
- Raffle tickets
- Display of books by New Mexico publishers

### 6:30 P.M. DINNER AND WELCOME

- James McGrath Morris, *NMW Executive Director*

### 6:45 P.M. PROGRAM

- Award for outstanding service to the writing community
- Celebration of NMW Grantees  
 Carmella Padilla, *NMW Grants Committee Chair*
- Video of 2023 NMW Grantees
- NMW 2024 Grantee Awards

### RAFFLE DRAWINGS

- New Mexico Book Sampler
- Two Santa Fe International Literary Festival Big-Stage weekend passes
- Handmade, hand-painted ceramic platter by Allan Walter of Rainbow Gate, Santa Fe

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER HAMPTON SIDES

*in conversation with Hakim Bellamy*

### 9 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS

# Hampton Sides

*Narrative Nonfiction Master, Journalist,  
New York Times Bestselling Author*



Photo by Kitty Leaken.

Hampton Sides is one of the most respected authors of narrative nonfiction working today. His most recent work, *The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook*, was published on April 9.

Born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Sides' early life plans did not include being an author. Rather, he hoped to be the star of a rock band. This musical ambition was altered when he met the historian Shelby Foote, famous for his work *The Civil War: A Narrative*. The band, whose members included the writer's son,

practiced in the Foote house. Their noisy efforts brought Shelby Foote to bang on the door and plead for silence.

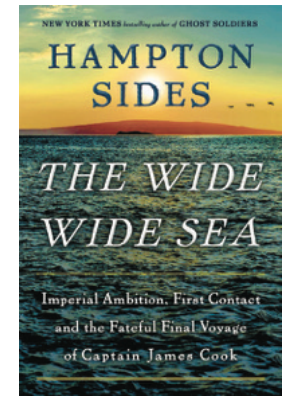
"He was deep into his Civil War trilogy then, and didn't appreciate the interruptions of wah-wah pedals or Hendrix-inspired feedback," says Sides. "So, my image of what a writer was supposed to look like, sound like, and *smell* like, came first and foremost from him."

Years later, at Yale University, another writer further inspired Sides' literary aspirations. He was among the fortunate students to take classes from the accomplished journalist John Hersey,

an early apostle of using storytelling techniques in nonfiction and whose 1946 account of the Hiroshima bombing was legendary. "He did his journalism in a way that immediately gave off a historical patina," says Sides. "There was a seriousness, a gravitas, that made you realize, wow, what I'm reading here really is the first draft of history."

In the years since, Sides has written a string of immensely popular

narrative histories including, among others, *Ghost Soldiers, Blood and Thunder, Hellhound On His Trail, In the Kingdom of Ice*, and *On Desperate Ground*. His journalistic work, collected in numerous published anthologies, has been twice nominated for National Magazine Awards for feature writing. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his wife Anne. ■



*The Wide Wide Sea*, the newest book from Hampton Sides, was published on April 9.

## CONVERSATION STARTER: HAKIM BELLAMY



Photo courtesy Hakim Bellamy.

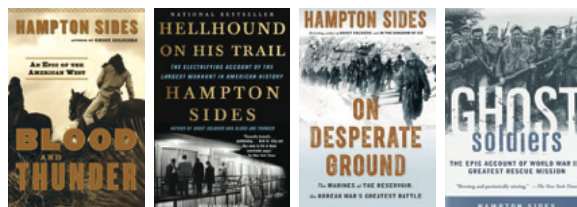
**HAKIM BELLAMY** is the Inaugural Poet Laureate of Albuquerque (2012-2014), a two-time National Poetry Slam Champion (2005 and 2006) and past Creative Writing Chair at New Mexico School for the Arts. His poetry has been published on the Albuquerque Convention Center, on

the outside of a library, in inner-city buses, and in numerous anthologies across the globe.

Bellamy was recognized as an honorable mention for the University of New Mexico Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize for his work as a community organizer and journalist in 2007, and later awarded the Career Achievement Award for the same Prize in 2018. In 2017, he was named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow and previously served as the on-air television host for New Mexico PBS's ¡COLORES! program for three

years. Prior to pursuing a law degree at the University of New Mexico School of Law, Bellamy served from 2018 to 2022 as deputy director for the City of Albuquerque Department of Arts and Culture.

In June 2023, Bellamy enjoyed the opportunity of interviewing Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead in front of a sold-out crowd at the Kimo Theater in Albuquerque. He says that interviewing Hampton Sides at the New Mexico Writers Annual Dinner is THE coolest thing he has done since. ■



# 2024 NMMW GRANTEES

MEET OUR FIFTEEN OUTSTANDING GRANTEES



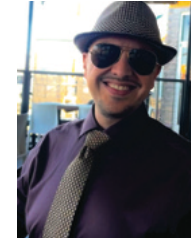
**VIVIAN ARVISO** is Diné with a background in education. She wrote an Oglala Sioux history and culture curriculum in 1970 for high school students that confirmed learning about one's tribe improved self-image. Among her curriculum writings is the 2005 "Writers in Indian Country: A Handbook for Author Residency Programs with Native American Students," completed for the National Book Foundation. A number of her forewords have been published by Parabola Books, World Wisdom Publishing, and Washington State University Press. The New Mexico Writers grant will support a memoir of life on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation as well as the Navajo Nation. Arviso lives in Albuquerque with her husband Sam Deloria and still maintains her home near Tohatchi on the Navajo Nation.



**ROBIN BABB** is an MFA student in creative nonfiction at the University of New Mexico. Her work has been published in *Phoebe Journal*, *New Mexico Magazine*, and *Southwest Contemporary*, and is forthcoming in the *Kenyon Review*. In 2023, she was a finalist in the Ploughshares Emerging Writers Contest and for the New Letters Conger Beasley, Jr. Award for Nonfiction. Babb's New Mexico Writers grant will help fund a work of literary journalism centered on the New Mexican gray wolves inhabiting the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. She lives in Albuquerque.



**ERIN ELDER** is an artist, writer, and curator based in Albuquerque. Her research-driven projects work with a broad definition of art to bring audiences into a direct experience of particular places. Elder writes about art, artists, nature, land use, counterculture, communes, alternative education, and her encounters with the physical and ethereal world. Her writing, which often includes her own illustrations, has been published by University of Minnesota Press, University of Houston Press, and various regional magazines, including a blog, two self-published books, and a new Substack. Her grant from New Mexico Writers will support a forthcoming book about the often-overlooked creek that defines Elders hometown of Colorado Springs.



**DAMIEN FLORES** hails from nowhere but Old Town, Albuquerque, and is a proud graduate of the University of New Mexico. Best known as a member of the National Champion Albuquerque Poetry Slam Teams, and a member of the National Champion UNM Loboslam Teams, Flores received the 2024 Chatter Fellowship for his poetry and community work, was New Mexico Hispano Entertainers Association Poet of the Year, and received UNM's Lena Todd Award for creative nonfiction. His first full-length book, *Junkyard Dogs*, was published by West End Press. Flores is also an educator in Albuquerque and hosts the Spoken Word Hour on 89.9 KUNM-FM. His New Mexico Writers Douglas Preston Travel Grant will support his travel and tuition to attend the Macondo Writers Workshop at Trinity College in San Antonio, Texas.



**JANET GOTKIN** of Santa Fe did not write for forty-two years after the publication, in 1975, of *Too Much Anger, Too Many Tears: A Personal Triumph Over Psychiatry*, which she co-authored with her husband Paul. She writes: I thought I was a one-book writer; I was wrong. In my late seventies, after my husband's death, I wrote *The Tattooed Widow: A Love Story*, a memoir that is still seeking a publishing home. I am currently writing a novel about death, alternative universes, families, and friendship called *The Do-Over*; the project that the New Mexico Writers grant is supporting. I am a New York Mets fan and a feminist.



**SARA GRAB**, a fifth-generation Santa Fean, grew up in a diverse family with members from Native, Hispanic, and European descent, giving her a deep understanding of the rich cultural fabric of New Mexico. She earned her BA in film from University of California, Santa Barbara, and launched her career working for George R.R. Martin's Stagecoach Foundation, responsible for bringing blockbuster films to New Mexico and fostering emerging Indigenous filmmakers. Awarded "best location team" in 2022 for *Matrix Resurrected*, some of her other credits include *Finch* and *Star Wars: Obi-Wan Kenobi*. Currently, she's producing a documentary about the legacy of a prominent spiritual teacher. Grab's New Mexico Writers grant is supporting the writing of a New Mexico-based screenplay, *Plastik*, in collaboration with team members Rowen Kahn and Maiana Rose.



**EMMA HINE** is the author of the debut poetry collection *Stay Safe*, which received the Kathryn A. Morton Prize and was published by Sarabande Books in January 2021. Poems from this collection have appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Southern Review*, among others, as well as on *The Paris Review Podcast* and *The Slowdown*. Hine's essays have also been published in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Guernica*, and *Poets & Writers*. She currently serves as the communications director at the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses and lives in Santa Fe. Hine's New Mexico Writers grant will support work on her second poetry collection.



**ROWEN KAHN**, a writer, actor, and director local to Santa Fe, has worked across the film industries of Los Angeles, Vancouver, and New Mexico. His first short film, "Marsha!", was screened at the Napa Valley, Santa Barbara International, and Lower East Side film festivals. He directed "The Innocent Butler" (Pardus Productions) featuring Ron Perlman, and collaborated with award-winning director Monika Mitchell on a Netflix film starring Alyssa Milano. As an actor, Kahn is recognized for his recurring role on "Little Bird" (PBS). He holds a BA in literature/creative writing from Sarah Lawrence and is pursuing a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California. Kahn's New Mexico Writers grant is supporting the writing of a New Mexico-based screenplay, *Plastik*, in collaboration with team members Sara Grab and Maiana Rose.



**GINNY LEISE** is a prolific writer and director from South Jersey living in Albuquerque. One time, as a kid, she was so determined to beat a neighbor boy in a foot race, she ran straight into a parked car. She lost a front tooth and won the race. Today, Leise directs and produces commercials all over New Mexico. Leise's original pilot scripts, *The Sisters Morrigan* and *Deserters*, were second-round finalists at the Austin Film Festival in 2021 and 2023, respectively. She is currently writing and developing her first feature film, an endeavor that will be supported by her New Mexico Writers grant.



**SUSAN MIHALIC** of Taos is the author of the critically acclaimed novel *Dark Horses* (Scout Press, 2021), which received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *Library Journal*, and *Booklist*. She serves on the board of SOMOS, Taos's literary nonprofit, where she is curator of the Young Writers Program for 2024-2025. She has taught at the Taos Writers Conference and will return this year to lead her workshop "From the Mind to the Page: A Generative Writing Workshop." She is working on her next novel, *Golgotha*, set in a cult in New Mexico, a project supported by her New Mexico Writers grant. When she isn't writing, Mihalic enjoys riding her horse, Goldmark.



**DENA MOES** is an author, registered nurse, and nurse-midwife. Her first book, *The Buddha Sat Right Here*, is a travel memoir that won eight book awards. Her second book, *It's Your Body: The Young Woman's Guide to Empowered Sexual Health*, is forthcoming from W.W. Norton. Her New Mexico Writers grant will support completion of her novel-in-progress, about a labor and delivery nurse on a quest to recover the pieces of herself lost in high-stress working motherhood. It is also a Muslim-Jewish love story. Moes's literary work is infused with her commitment to a world of peace, in which all people live in dignity and freedom. She lives in Santa Fe.



**MAIANA ROSE**, a Santa Fe native, is an author, artist, and producer holding an interdisciplinary BA from Pitzer College. Beginning her career in Los Angeles, she delved into development for television and film, producing series for major networks including Netflix, E!, and MTV. Returning to her roots, Rose is excited to immerse herself in the local New Mexico creative scene as an author, actor, and filmmaker. Her debut illustrated book, *Oh, The Pics You'll Post!*, is a Dr. Seuss parody exploring social media's impact on mental health. She aims to release its sequel, tackling dating in the digital age, by 2025. Rose's New Mexico Writers grant is supporting the writing of a New Mexico-based screenplay, *Plastik*, in collaboration with team members Sara Grab and Rowen Kahn.



**KATIE SINGER'S** books include *An Electronic Silent Spring*, *The Garden of Fertility*, and *The Wholeness of a Broken Heart*. She writes now about technology's impacts on ecosystems. Her New Mexico Writers grant supports *Mapping Our Technosphere*. This nearly-completed book illuminates what's involved in manufacturing, operating, and discarding the Internet's devices and infrastructure as well as solar PV's, wind turbines, battery storage systems, and e-vehicles. It also reports on ways to decrease production, decrease consumption and increase community. Singer has spoken about technology's ecological impacts at the United Nations and on a panel with climatologist Dr. James Hansen. She moved to Santa Fe in 1992, after a year in Rio Arriba County.



**ANNA SOCHOCKY** of Santa Fe is a past award-winner of the Creative Nonfiction Mentorship, Loft Literary Center, and A Room of Her Own Foundation residencies. Her literary work has appeared in multiple journals, including *Waterstone Literary Journal*, *Southwest Writers* magazine, and *Sky Island Journal*. In 2021, *Southwest Writers* awarded her essay, "An Annual Visitation," first prize in Biography Prose, and her poem, "Time Between Hours," second prize in Spiritual Poetry. Her New Mexico Writers Douglas Preston Travel Grant will support research travel related to her book-in-progress, *Unbroken Heart: A Memoir of Horses, Health, and Healing*. Sochocky is vice president of the New Mexico Book Association.



**GRACE SPULAK** is a writer based in Valencia County, New Mexico. She writes about queerness, trauma, and cycles of violence, in work often set in her native New Mexico. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, was awarded *Witness Magazine's* 2021 Literary Award in fiction, and her short story collection manuscript *Magdalena is Brighter Than You Think* was short-listed for the 2021 Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. Spulak's work has appeared in the *Ploughshares Blog*, *Witness Magazine*, *Nimrod International Journal*, *Southwest Review*, *Pembroke Magazine*, and *Arkana*. She is currently a student in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers. Her New Mexico Writers grant will support research travel for her novel-in-progress, *Loose on Earth*.

## NMW GRANT PROGRAM

OVER \$50K  
AND COUNTING!

Every year, New Mexico Writers grants support writers in a variety of literary endeavors in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, playwrighting, and screenwriting. The competition highlights new works or works in progress by writers from all populations and geographic areas of New Mexico and the greater Navajo Nation. Grants are awarded at our annual dinner, where current grantees are honored as special guests.

Since the program's inception, NMW has awarded over \$50,000 in grants supporting a variety of writers' needs—including attendance at a writing-related workshop, conference, or mentorship program; research-related travel costs; time away from employment to work on a project; and more.

Major support for our grant making program is provided by bestselling author and Santa Fe resident Douglas Preston and the Captain Bob Morris Fund. Thank you, Doug and Captain Bob for your many gifts to New Mexico Writers.

## RISING WRITERS: TAKE 2!

After two successful seasons, Rising Writers is here to stay. New Mexico Writers conceived of the program as a way to bring together established New Mexico authors with aspiring writers for informal conversations about the joys and challenges of a writing career.

This year, five successful authors and one literary agent offered sessions for small groups of eager participants. We are very grateful to the following season two authors for their generosity of time and wisdom:

- **Sharman Apt Russell**, nature and science writer
- **Sandra Blakeslee**, former *New York Times* science writer
- **Liz Trupin-Pulli**, literary agent
- **Alexandra Díaz**, children/YA author
- **Joseph Badal**, mystery, thriller writer
- **Cynthia Sylvester**, fiction, memoir, poetry author

We also thank **Collected Works Bookstore**, **Books on the Bosque** and the **New Mexico Foundation** for welcoming our Rising Writers participants with refreshments and comfortable spaces for conversation.

If you are interested in hosting or attending a Rising Writers session in 2025, contact Lucy Moore at [lucymoore@nets.com](mailto:lucymoore@nets.com).

**SOMOS** presents  
A Place for Words in Taos

**SAVE the DATE**

Limited-seating live sessions as well as online via Zoom

A full weekend of workshops on fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir, poetry, essays & more!

**Friday, July 19 - Sunday, July 21 2024**

with Keynote Speaker/Instructor: **ALLISON HEDGE COKE**

Confirmed Faculty Include:

Allison Hedge Coke	Connie Josefs
Sawnie Morris	Valerie Martinez
Catherine Strisik	Johnny Boggs
Veronica Golos	Sean Murphy
Minrose Gwin	Lotitia Gomez
Sharon Oard Warner	James Reich
Lauren Camp	Julia Goldberg
Jamie Figueroa	Tommy Archuleta
Allegra Huston	Jean-Marie Saporito

Faculty Reading & Book Signing on Saturday, 7/20/24, at 7pm.  
Saturday Lunch (12-2) roundtable discussions on *Publishing and Working with an Editor*

Go to [somostaos.org/taos-writers-conference/#about](https://somostaos.org/taos-writers-conference/#about) for a full schedule of workshops, intensives, faculty bios and to register  
575-758-0081 | [somos@somostaos.org](mailto:somos@somostaos.org)

**NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION**

**NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO HONOR AND SUPPORT RISING AUTHORS IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT.**

**THANK YOU TO NEW MEXICO WRITERS FOR CONNECTING THE LITERARY COMMUNITY.**

[NEWMEXICOFUNDATION.ORG](https://newmexicofoundation.org)



CONGRATULATES

## New Mexico Writers

ON ITS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS  
SUPPORTING DOZENS OF WRITERS  
AND AWARDING MORE THAN  
\$50,000 IN GRANTS AND PRIZES  
OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS.

Education | Advocacy | Legal Assistance  
Author Websites | Insurance & Discounts  
Local Chapters | Online Community

Learn more about membership  
[authorsguild.org/nmw](http://authorsguild.org/nmw)



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

New Mexico Writers thanks the many partners, donors, and volunteers who have helped make this evening's dinner possible.

Special gratitude to **Allan Walter** of **Rainbow Gate Pottery** and to the **Santa Fe International Literary Festival** for their generous raffle donations. And huge thanks to **Roberto Gallegos** for the beautiful handcrafted bookshelf that holds our books-for-raffle by distinguished New Mexico authors.

We are also immensely grateful to **Dorothy Massey** and her team at **Collected Works Bookstore** for their longtime support of New Mexico Writers.

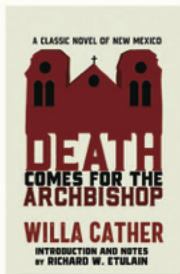
A special shout out to **Lorie Woodmansee** of **La Fonda** for her kind assistance in organizing our annual dinner. Our fiscal sponsor, the **New Mexico Foundation**, is also greatly appreciated.

Finally, *mil gracias* to all of our **annual dinner guests** for your support of **New Mexico Writers**. See you next year!

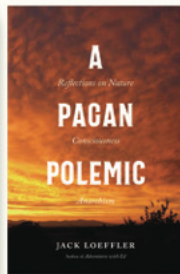
Congratulations to New Mexico Writers Honoree and Grantees!  
We're proud to be selling books on behalf of the Writers Dinner and this year's grantees.  
Visit our table to purchase their books.

**Collected Works**  
Bookstore & Coffeehouse  
Santa Fe's Source For  
All Things Literary Since 1978

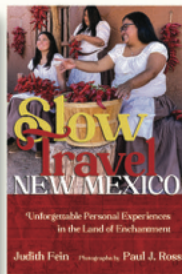
505.988.4226 | 202 Galisteo St, Santa Fe NM | [collectedworksbookstore.com](http://collectedworksbookstore.com)



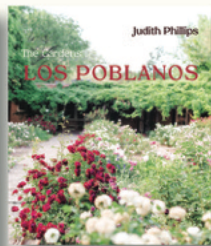
978-0-8263-6572-9  
\$16.95



978-0-8263-6517-0  
\$19.95



978-0-8263-6584-2  
\$22.95



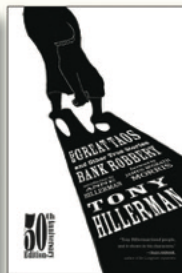
978-0-8263-6522-4  
\$34.95



978-0-8263-6543-9  
\$29.95



978-0-8263-6528-6  
\$21.95



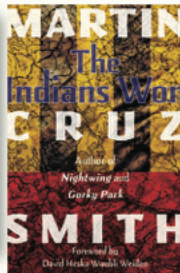
978-0-8263-6545-3  
\$17.95



978-0-8263-6534-7  
\$19.95



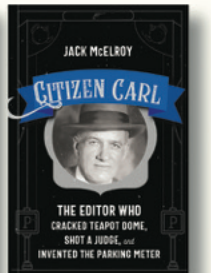
978-0-8263-5151-7  
\$49.95



978-0-8263-6604-7  
\$16.95



978-0-8263-6600-9  
\$19.95



978-0-8263-6576-7  
\$24.95

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS

Our culture. Our history. Our stories.

unmpress.com

