Palm Springs, California
NLGJA: THE ASSOCIATION OF LGBTQ JOURNALISTS
NLGJA 2018
SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2018 | NATIONAL CONVENTION
#NLGJA2018
Let’s lift LGBTQ stories above the fold.

JetBlue is proud to be the Official Airline of The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.
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September 2018

As the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association Convention here in our beautiful city. Palm Springs prides itself on being one of the most welcoming and inclusive communities in the country where we respect and celebrate everyone!

We are particularly proud to host our nation’s LGBTQ journalists for this convention, and on behalf of our citizens, we thank you for your commitment to covering the issues that affect our exceptional and diverse LGBTQ community. Now more than ever, a free press and balanced journalism are keys to a democratic society, and the important work that you do is appreciated.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Palm Springs and all of the wonderful amenities and tourist attractions our very special city has to offer.

Most sincerely,

Robert Moon, Mayor

J.R. Roberts, Mayor Pro Tem

Christy Holstege, Council Member

Geoff Kors, Council Member

Lisa Middleton, Council Member
We are proud to support diversity in journalism.

Lester Holt, Anchor, NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and Dateline NBC

Rachel Maddow, Anchor, The Rachel Maddow Show

Savannah Guthrie and Hoda Kotb, Anchors, The Today Show

Brooke Sopelsa, Editorial Manager, NBC Out

NBC NEWS ™ MSNBC
This is who we are.
When Franklin D. Roosevelt asked my hero, Frances Perkins, to become the first female U.S. cabinet member, the community organizer said she would, but only if he promised to accept her plan to create the programs that became known as the New Deal. We have Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins to thank for the country’s first child labor laws, the 40-hour workweek, Social Security and much of our country’s current social safety net. I signed my first book contract at age 19 to co-author a chapter about her and, consequently, on my dresser I keep a collage box that contains her photos, her autograph and a tiny statue of FDR. It’s my inspiration and motivation every morning. I found myself staring at that box extra long and hard one day back in 2013. That’s when I got a call out of the blue from David Steinberg. David told me that Michael Triplett, our president at that time, didn’t have long to live. His cancer was much worse than we thought. He wanted me to be prepared, and he wanted me to know what our bylaws said: I was going to be NLGJA’s next president.

Unlike Frances Perkins, I didn’t get to say that I’d only accept the job if I was allowed to accomplish my long NLGJA wish list. And like all of us, I would have much rather had longer with Michael Triplett on this planet. But I’m happy to say I’ve been able to cross off nearly everything I’d hoped to accomplish in this position to make NLGJA stronger and better situated to grow into our future. This letter is to say thank you for all that you’ve done to help me make this happen.

I’ve now spent the majority of my adult life in some kind of leadership position with NLGJA. From my very first newsroom job, I saw the need for our association. I ran the weekend assignment desk in market 24 in Indianapolis. At that time, being a lesbian in news wasn’t ideal. In Indy, we had a serial killer preying on gay men, and the stories we kept airing made it sound as if the men deserved it. There, like in many newsrooms in the mid-’90s, we had no domestic partnership benefits and no inclusive nondiscrimination policy. Most gay employees stayed closeted to keep their jobs. Our anchor even had a “morals clause,” where his contract essentially said he’d lose his position if he came out because being gay violated the community’s morals.

When I moved to Kentucky for my second job, the employment circumstances were similar. Yet the LGBTQ community in Lexington was so strong that, while I was there, I quietly worked behind the scenes to help local leaders create Kentucky’s first trans-inclusive nondiscrimination law. Building on that momentum, I created NLGJA’s Kentucky chapter, which had more than 50 journalists in attendance at our first meeting. Then, having no mentor and noticing that was common, I worked with NLGJA staff to create our first national mentoring program. At a San Francisco mid-year meeting in 2000, I’ll never forget two things: I met my future spouse, Holly Crenshaw, who was the Georgia chapter president, and for that I’m forever grateful to NLGJA. I also met Roy Aarons, who told me how proud he was that I started the mentor program and said I must have been a force to be reckoned with because he never imagined the organization he created would expand to the hollers of Kentucky.

When I assumed the president’s office, it was a tricky time. NLGJA’s finances were shaky. As newspapers downsized, we had lost nearly half our entire membership. There were days, particularly when I had to fill in as interim director, that I wasn’t entirely sure we’d survive. But through the hard work of our incredible staff and with the help of our dedicated volunteers, board leaders and members, we’ve made it, and we are stronger than ever.

Now, more than five years later, we are on solid financial footing.

During my presidency, our membership grew nearly 50 percent, and the number of lifetime members grew to 114. NLGJA dramatically expanded its offerings, more than doubling our awards, scholarships and programs. Over the five conventions I’ve managed, we professionalized our workshops and recruited more high-profile speakers, and I’ve grown my database of potential speakers to 1,000+. We’ve grown closer to other minority journalism associations and brought in IRE, ACES, ONA, SABEW and others to improve our training. We’ve created more tip sheets, our stylebook is bigger and now in Spanish, and after many years of lobbying, ASNE is now finally at our convention gathering data to supplement its newsroom diversity survey.

This happens because we work together. The staff who we’ve hired is fantastic. I cannot say enough good things about Adam Pawlus and his wonderful team of enthusiastic, talented, top-notch staff. Our contractors who help make this amazing convention work are the best in the business. Sponsors have shown us such positive support. The board has never gotten along better, and they are always the first to say “yes” to taking on another project, even if I’m emailing them at 2 a.m. And the volunteers nearly always say “yes” when I ask them to speak, even knowing we can’t offer to cover their travel. And one of my favorite volunteers is always a smiling face at the convention registration table (Thanks, Mom. Your support means the world).

Yes, we have more work to do. LGBTQ people are still bullied on the job. Not all newsrooms have employment protections. Coverage of the community can fall short, and, of course, we could always use more funding and more members, but we’re getting there. Look around this convention, and you’ll see people who are not only dedicated to making the future a better one for the LGBTQ community, but members who’ve become like family. Sometimes literally. They’ve got your back. They’ll support and advance your career, and they’ll remain lifelong friends if you will let them.

Thank you for all that you’ve done to make NLGJA’s good work possible. It’s been an honor to serve as your president.
We were fabulous
before fabulous was even a thing.

Hollywood’s most glamorous turned our beautiful oasis into a star-studded playground for the LGBTQ community decades ago. And the celebration of equality hasn’t stopped since. We welcome you with open arms and big hearts, wish you a fabulous experience in our destination and look forward to reading all about it.

PROUD HOST TO NLGJA – THE ASSOCIATION OF LGBTQ JOURNALISTS

9 RESORT CITIES. ONE BEAUTIFUL OASIS.
palm springs | desert hot springs | cathedral city | rancho mirage | palm desert | indian wells | la quinta | indio | coachella

palm springs | desert hot springs | cathedral city | rancho mirage | palm desert | indian wells | la quinta | indio | coachella

GreaterPS.com
On behalf of the staff of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, I offer you a very warm welcome to Palm Springs, California.

This year, we are excited to host the LGBT Media Journalists Convening in conjunction with the National Convention. Sponsored by the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund and the Arcus Foundation, the convening uses an interactive approach to help attendees build their journalism skills, learn more about LGBTQ-centric topics and expand audiences through on-site media training with industry experts. We are excited to create synergy between the Convening and National Convention, and we hope to maximize networking and training opportunities for all attendees.

The success of the 2018 National Convention is made possible by the tireless efforts of the co-chairs Jen Christensen, Ken Miguel, Senta Scarborough and members of the Convention Planning Committee. It is because of their efforts that we are proudly able to present this fantastic convention to you.

Please join me in extending our deepest thanks to our many sponsors, donors, exhibitors, advertisers and presenters for their role in making this convention a reality. Their ardent support and many contributions have made it possible for NLGJA to offer outstanding programming and invaluable networking opportunities, while keeping registration costs affordable. Their contributions extend far beyond this weekend and help to make NLGJA’s year-round work possible.

NLGJA’s success is also due to you, our dedicated members. By joining NLGJA and renewing your membership annually, you ensure that NLGJA’s reach and impact continues to grow. We are happy to report that NLGJA is approaching 850 members, and our growth over the past several years has been consistent.

For the rest of this week, I encourage you to take advantage of all that the convention has to offer. With over 30 workshops to choose from, five plenary sessions, several receptions, a Career & Community Expo, countless networking opportunities and many more things to do in Palm Springs outside of the convention walls, this weekend will be a busy, but exciting time to grow. We are certain that every attendee, from our most seasoned convention veterans to our first-timers, will find the opportunities afforded at our 2018 National Convention plentiful and invaluable.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing NLGJA National Board President Jen Christensen for her leadership and tireless support. From the moment I joined NLGJA as executive director, Jen treated me as her teammate. Our collaboration, synergy and friendship has allowed us to work closely together to stabilize and expand NLGJA. Through Jen’s leadership, NLGJA is now ready to move from a stabilizing phase toward the next phase of capacity growth. I would also like to thank our “First Lady of NLGJA” Holly Crenshaw for all of her support and patience through the past several years. Although this convention is a bit bittersweet, as Jen prepares to leave her position as president, I am endlessly excited to work with NLGJA’s new president to bring our goals and mission to life.

As you enjoy all that this convention has to offer, we hope you’ll begin to look forward to our 2019 NLGJA National Convention which will be held, for the first time, in New Orleans, August 29 to September 1.

Again, I offer you a warm, “dry heat” welcome to Palm Springs. I eagerly anticipate meeting and visiting with as many of you as I can over the course of the next few days and look forward to seeing you once again in New Orleans. Engage and Enjoy!
ESPN Proudly Supports NLGJA’s Dedication to Promoting Diversity in Journalism
Welcome to Palm Springs, a first for NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. We hope that you enjoy the desert heat! We have an equally hot 2018 National Convention planned for you as well.

This year’s convention has something for everyone, whether you’re just starting off in your career, looking for the next job or focusing in on the next chapter of life. We’ve invited some of the best and the brightest in the industry to come share their ideas with us. You’ll be learning from Pulitzer, Peabody and Emmy winners from across the country. All here to help you be the best you can be.

The LGBT Media Journalists Convening, sponsored by the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund and the Arcus Foundation, will also run parallel to our conference. This allows us to tap many of the great resources and speakers who come for this event to help bloggers build their journalism skills, learn more about LGBTQ-centric topics and expand audiences through onsite media training with broadcast experts.

We are also happy to welcome back IRE, Investigative Reporters and Editors, for some excellent tips about how to take your reporting deeper and help sharpen your skills to pursue headline-making stories.

We know you will love hearing from some of the most important leaders in the industry in not one, but two View from the Top plenary sessions this year. In each session we are lucky to have the winners of two of NLGJA’s brand new awards. Karen Hawkins, the founder of Rebellious Magazine, is being honored with the Jeanne Cordova Award and Carolyn Ryan, the assistant managing editor of The New York Times, has won NLGJA’s inaugural Leadership Award. Be sure to come to each so you can be the first to know exactly where our profession is heading.

This year, we’re honored to have Judy and Dennis Shepard, parents of Matthew Shepard. Matthew was a student at the University of Wyoming when he was beaten, tortured and left to die near Laramie 20 years ago this October. Shepard’s murder brought national and international attention to hate crime legislation. Mr. & Mrs. Shepard will talk about that day and what’s happened since. They’ll also share with us what still needs to be done in a politically volatile time when hate crimes are on the rise.

We are also taking advantage of our proximity to Hollywood for some lighter programming. You won’t want to miss out on our Friday morning plenary, “That’s So Hollywood.” Hear from the entertainment journalists who have to be on their toes talking with those who make news on the red carpet. We’ll also have plenty of lighter moments.

As you will see, regardless of your interests, we have something that will certainly appeal to you! We hope you enjoy every minute of this jam-packed convention.
your future is here.

FOX NEWS encompasses two incredible networks - Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, which have revolutionized the way people get their information across all platforms.

Both are seeking talented, competitive and dedicated employees who thrive in a 24-hour breaking news environment.

Whether you’re just starting out or a seasoned pro, our vast network includes opportunities beyond just cable news production including Fox News Digital, Fox News Radio, and our exciting new platform Fox Nation. No matter what your expertise, from Marketing & Sales to Creative & Social Media, we have something here for you!

Joining our number one cable channel and number one business network is your chance to be part of a highly successful, dynamic team.

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1933-2004

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Don’t see a chapter in your area? It only takes one person to get started! Contact the national office today at (202) 588-9888 to see how you can get NLGJA going in your area!
SEEING LIFE THROUGH EACH OTHER’S EYES GIVES US ALL BETTER PERSPECTIVE.

Everyone benefits from diversity and inclusion. By promoting a culture of support and collaboration, the best and most innovative ideas fuel our business.

A place to work, grow, and be your true self. We hire people with different identities and backgrounds, and encourage everyone to bring their authentic self to work.

When every voice is heard, we are all better for it. We come from different perspectives, but share the belief that diversity and inclusion make us stronger together.

Prudential is proud to sponsor the 2018 NLGJA Convention.

Visit prudential.com
Our Lifetime Membership program is designed to celebrate a dedication and commitment to fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues by allowing NLGJA members to pledge their talents and support not just for today, but for a lifetime.

For more information, stop by Convention Registration in the Fourth Floor Foyer during the convention or visit the Membership Section of NLGJA’s website at nlgja.org.

NLGJA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Randy Alfred, 1995
Kenn Altine, 2002
Karen Bailis, 1995
David Barre, 1999
Robert Bennett, 2013
Matthew Berger, 2002
Sarah Blazucki, 2007
Rod Blum, 2007
Sherry Boschert, 1995
Ray Bradford, 2000
Gary Bramnick, 2004
David Brousseau, 2001
David Brown, 2000
William L. Canacci Jr., 1996
Michael Caprio, 2005
Sam Champion, 2015
Jen Christensen, 1996
Holly Crenshaw, 1998
Luis Cruz, 2005
Tim Curran, 1995
Geoff Dankert, 1996
Jason DeRose, 2001
Scott Dill, 1997
Randy Dotinga, 2000
Barbara Dozetos, 1999
Sharif J. Durhams, 2000
Dawn Ennis, 2014
Chad Findlay, 2005
Calvin Fleming, 2007
Alan Flippen, 1996
Ina Fried, 2000
Mathew Friedman, 1995
Steve Friess, 1996
Stephen Gendel, 1994
Howard Goldberg, 1996
Trey Graham, 1995
LZ Granderson, 2003
Susan Green, 2006
Jonathan Greenberger, 2015
Oriol Gutierrez, 2002
Eric Hegedüs, 1993
Belinda Hernandez, 2013
Simon Hobbs, 2015
Bethany Howe, 2015
Kathleen Howley, 2003
Mike Huckman, 1994
April Hunt, 1996
Leonard P. Iaquinta, 1996
Derrick Jones, 2013
Wesley Juhl, 2013
Christina Kahl, 2011
Jason Knight, 2007
Laurie Kozbelt, 2010
Eden Lane, 2008
Don Lemon, 2011
Sean Lewis, 2008
Randy D. Lovely, 1999
Mykel MacCarthry, 2000
Marc Malkin, 2017
John Marble, 2007
Christopher Martin, 2000
David McAlpine, 2010
Ian McCann, 2001
Reed McDowell, 2010
Margaret McElligott, 2002
Marshall McPeek, 1995
Jim Michalowski, 2003
Ken Miguel, 2003
Akila Monifa, 2000
Daniel Morales, 2003
Javier Morgado, 2003
Thomas Musbach, 1995
Bryan Norcross, 2014
Donald Parsons, 1999
Court Passant, 1996
Steven Petrov, 1994
Robin Phillips, 1999
Catherine Plato, 2009
David Plazas, 2002
David Poller, 1996
Richard Quest, 2014
Rick Reichmuth, 2015
Steve Rosen, 1991
Steve Rothaus, 1991
Senta Scarborough, 2002
Gregory Schmidt, 1997
Mark Segal, 2004
Kim Severson, 1996
Randy Slovacek, 2015
Chuck Small, 1990
Sandy Smith, 2011
Samantha Snyder, 2008
Curtis Sparrer, 2012
David Steinberg, 1998
Douglas Stewart, 1995
Rick Stuckey, 2005
Hassan Luis Sudler, 2001
Stacy Sullivan, 1998
Curtis Tate, 2004
Katie Thomason, 2015
Michael Tune, 2009
Lisa Van Arsdale, 2015
Kris Van Cleave, 2015
Meredith Vieira, 2015
Eric Walter, 2003
Zach Wichter, 2010
Robert V. Witeck, 1995
Judy Wolf, 1996
Matt Wurster, 1996
Our commitment to diversity doesn’t stop within Toyota. Across the Toyota family and in communities around the world, we admire and applaud the differences that make us unique and celebrate the love that drives us all. #LoveDrives
Hilton Als is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, theatre critic and social commentator. His work surrounding identity and queerness has earned him the praise of some of the most prestigious literary and cultural institutions in existence. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2017, “for bold and original reviews that strove to put stage dramas within a real-world cultural context, particularly the shifting landscape of gender, sexuality and race.” He has worked across diverse media and has collaborated on installments and exhibitions at the Metropolitan Opera, La MaMa and the VeneKlasen/Werner gallery in Berlin. Als joined the staff of The New Yorker as a staff writer in 1994 and was named theatre critic in 2002. He began contributing to the magazine in 1989, writing pieces for The Talk of the Town. Prior to his joining The New Yorker, Als was a staff writer for the Village Voice and an editor-at-large at Vibe. His first book, "The Women," was published in 1996 and his most recent book, "White Girls," was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the winner of the Lambda Literary Award in 2014. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2017. He has received awards from New York Association of Black Journalists and Lambda Literary. He was awarded a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in 2000 and was the recipient of the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism for 2002-03. Als is an associate professor of writing at Columbia University's School of the Arts and has taught at Yale University, Wesleyan, and Smith College. He lives in New York City.

Dudley Clendinen was a longtime reporter and editor known for his writings on gay life, societal inequality, addiction and illness. Throughout his storied life, he worked as a reporter for The St. Petersburg Times in Florida, a national correspondent and editorial writer for The New York Times and a senior editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and The Baltimore Sun. Clendinen wrote often about gay life in America, from the ravagements of AIDS in the last decades of the 20th century, to his own painful divorce after coming out as gay. He identified the need for AIDS coverage early in the epidemic, and he firmly advocated for front page placement of news stories about the disease in The New York Times. He was the author or co-author of four books and in 1999 he and Adam Nagourney, a political reporter and national correspondent for The New York Times, researched and wrote "Out for Good: The Struggle to Build a Gay Rights Movement in America." The book covered the period of time between the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 and the founding of Act Up in the late 1980s. In the final years of his life he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, and he wrote frankly about illness, death and dying. He died of the disease in 2012. According to his obituary in The New York Times, Clendinen was, “a courtly Southern journalist and author who wrote lyrically about civil rights, aging in America, the poignancy of ordinary lives and his own approaching death as a gay alcoholic victim of Lou Gehrig's disease.”

Established in 2005, NLGJA's LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made exemplary contributions through their careers to NLGJA’s mission of promoting fair and accurate coverage of issues affecting the LGBTQ community. The journalists honored here are true heroes. All of us hope that their stories will inspire you as they have inspired us.

2005 (FOUNDBING CLASS)
Leroy F. Aarons
Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin
Thomas Morgan III
Sarah Pettit
Randy Shilts
Don Slater
2006
Marlon Riggs
2007
Jim Kepner
Jack Nichols
Barbara Gittings & Kay Tobin Lahusen
2008
Richard Goldstein
Gail Shister
2009
Garrett Glaser
Ronald Gold
Deb Price
2010
"Lisa Ben"
Hank Plante
Richard Rouillard
2011
Dorr Legg
Don Michaels
Michelangelo Signorile
2012
Jill Johnston
Randolph Hayden Wicker
2013
Bob Ross
Mark Segal
2014
Tracy Baim
Donna Cartwright
Lisa Keen
2015
Randy Alfred
Alison Bechdel
Alan Bell
Lou Chibbaro Jr.
Charles Kaiser
Armistead Maupin
2016
Ina Fried
LZ Granderson
2017
Jinx Beers
Dan Savage
2018
Hilton Als
Dudley Clendinen

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PRINT & ONLINE AWARDS

Excellence in Book Writing
Judy Wieder for “Random Events Tend to Cluster,” Lisa Hagan Books

Excellence in Feature Writing Award
Kathryn Joyce for “She Was an Ultraconservative Texas Christian. Then Kai Was Born and Everything Changed,” Splinter

Excellence in Feature Writing Award (Non-daily)
Alex Mohajer for “A Tale of Two Marches,” HuffPost

Excellence in Food Writing Award
Zach Stafford for “Burned Out: Hot Chicken Was the Prince Family Legacy — Then Nashville Transformed it Into an Icon, and Now Everybody Wants a Piece,” Eater.com

Excellence in Longform Journalism Award

Excellence in News Writing Award
Jen Colletta for “Lesbian Couple Turned Away From PA Bridal Shop,” Philadelphia Gay News

Excellence in News Writing Award (Non-daily)
David Artavia for “Sordid Lives Actor Alleges Mogul Benny Medina Tried to Rape Him,” The Advocate

Excellence in Photojournalism Award

Excellence in Profile Writing Award
Danika Worthington for “Portraits of Pride: An Exploration of the LGBTQ Community Ahead of PrideFest,” Denver Post

Excellence in Sports Writing Award
Tim Teeman for “When Floyd Mayweather Shouts ‘Faggot,’ This Is What LGBT People Hear,” The Daily Beast

Excellence in Student Journalism Award
Leah Juliett for “Youth and LGBTQ Communities Disproportionately Victimized by Revenge Porn and Cyber Crimes,” GLAAD

Excellence in Travel Writing Award
Christopher Muther for “For Real: Salt Lake City is America’s Super Gay, Super Cool Hipster Haven,” Boston Globe

DIGITAL AWARDS

Excellence in Blogging
Josh Robbins for “Fauci: From a Practical Standpoint the Risk is Zero,” ImStillJosh.com

Excellence in a Digital Video Award
Roman Feessen, Alex Romano, Angelica Fusco, Nia Stevens and Luisa Garcia for “Uncharted: State of Mind,” CBS News

Excellence in Multimedia Award

Excellence in Online Journalism Award
Jessica Mason Pieklo for “Cakes for the Klan? Conservatives Craft a Trojan Horse in Supreme Court’s LGBTQ Discrimination Case,” Rewire.News

NLGJA’s Excellence in Journalism Awards were established in 1993 to foster, recognize and reward excellence in journalism on issues related to the LGBTQ community. In addition to Journalist of the Year and the Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBTQ Journalist of the Year (named for the late Newsweek journalist and founding editor of Out magazine), awards are presented for excellence in wide variety of disciplines spanning traditional and digital outlets, radio, television, publishing, film and social media. The awards are presented throughout the convention.
**EDITORIAL AWARDS**

**Excellence in Column Writing**
Lucas Grindley for “LGBTs to America: ‘We Told You So,’” The Advocate

**Excellence in Opinion/Editorial Writing Award**
Chase Strangio for “How Transgender People Have Survived (and Thrived) Under a Year of Donald Trump,” INTO

**BROADCAST AWARDS**

**Excellence in Documentary Award**
Nick Broomfield and Marc Hoeferlin for “Whitney: Can I Be Me,” Showtime and BBC

**Excellence in Local Television Award**
Peggy Kusinski, Katy Smyser, Lisa Capitanini, Richard Moy, Julio Martinez and Nathan Halder for “Some Local Rules Keep Transgender Athletes From Competing in High Schools,” NBC5 Chicago

**Excellence in Network Television Award**
Todd Cross and Gabe Gutierrez for “One Year After Pulse Nightclub Shooting, 4 People Reflect on How Their Lives Changed,” Sunday TODAY with Willie Geist/NBC

**Excellence in Podcasts Award**
Jacob Brogan and Benjamin Frisch for “Working,” Slate

**Excellence in Radio Award**
Natalie Winston, Gabriela Saldivia and David Greene for “‘They Told Me I Wasn’t A Human Being’: Gay Men Speak of Brutal Treatment in Chechnya,” National Public Radio

**COVERAGE AWARDS**

**Excellence in Bisexual Coverage Award**
Kate Sloan and Indiana Joel for “What It’s Like to Talk to Your Doctor About Sexual Health When You’re Bisexual,” Xtra

**Excellence in Health or Fitness Coverage**
Alyah Musaliar, Isabella Ortiz, Noel Gasca and Jenny Asarnow for “Why Was I Taught Sex Ed by a Man Who Uses the Word ‘Slut?’” KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio

**Excellence in HIV/AIDS Coverage Award**
Linda Villarosa for “America’s Hidden HIV Epidemic,” The New York Times Magazine

**Excellence in Queer People of Color (QPOC) Coverage Award**
Margie Fishman for “A Child’s Journey to ‘Truegender,’” The News Journal/USA Today

**Excellence in Religion Coverage Award**
Phoebe Wang for “God + The Gays,” The Heart (Radiotopia)

**Excellence in Transgender Coverage Award**
Ryan Kost for “Finding Himself,” The San Francisco Chronicle

**THE AL NEUHARTH AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**
Ken Schwencke for “Why America Fails at Gathering Hate Crime Statistics,” ProPublica and the Documenting Hate Coalition

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**NLGJA has recognized the work of hundreds of journalists. You can be one of those journalists.**

**Applications open January 2019.**

**Do you want to be a part of the process? Become a judge.**

**Help us select the future Excellence in Journalism Award Winners.**

**For more information regarding Excellence in Journalism Awards, please visit www.nlgja.org/awards**
The Vodka For The Loud And Proud

Stoli® is a proud supporter of the LGBT community. The Stoli® Harvey Milk Limited Edition was created in partnership with the Harvey Milk Foundation, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Harvey Milk assuming office. Stoli® is making a donation to the Milk Foundation to support its award winning work towards global equality.

RAISING THE BAR SINCE 1938.
The NLGJA Jeanne Córdova Award recognizes the achievement of an LGBTQ woman for a current body of work in journalism and/or opinion, with an emphasis on, but not exclusively coverage of, issues of importance to the LGBTQ community, in any medium and on any platform. Named for the editor and publisher of Lesbian Tide, which chronicled the 1970s lesbian feminist movement, this award is possible because of the vision and generosity of Jeanne Córdova, who died in 2016. Córdova also organized a number of lesbian conferences and fought for lesbian and gay rights on a number of fronts. She founded the Community Yellow Pages, a directory of gay- and lesbian-owned Southern California businesses, and co-founded an organization that sponsored lesbian art and history exhibits.

KAREN HAWKINS
2018 INAUGURAL RECIPIENT

“Karen Hawkins is a thoughtful and dedicated news leader who has created a go-to publication that captures the feminist perspective on an incredible number of important topics that impact women and the LGBTQ community. Everything she does with the magazine is meant to empower us. When the publication writes about President Donald Trump’s policy to separate children from their families at U.S. borders, she also offers a smart resistance guide, giving readers steps on how they can fight the policy of zero tolerance. The publication’s profiles of the women who run popular restaurants and successful businesses are inspiring. Its queer-focused sex column gives advice readers won’t find elsewhere. And she creates true community, producing events like Rebellious Magazine’s regular feminist freelancer coworking and cocktails gathering and the Red & Wild Feminist Prom fundraiser. Karen is also dedicated to hiring and supporting queer women throughout the industry. I know I personally am inspired by all that she does for the industry and for our community.”

− Jen Christensen, NLGJA President

The NLGJA Leadership Award, sponsored by Randy Lovely and the Gannett Foundation, recognizes individuals who have made a positive impact on their newsrooms by increasing diversity and improving coverage of the LGBTQ community. The recipients of the award may not necessarily be active journalists themselves, but have nonetheless used their work to improve the news industry and the journalism profession.

CAROLYN RYAN
2018 INAUGURAL RECIPIENT

In February 2017, The New York Times named Carolyn Ryan to the post of assistant editor to oversee recruiting journalists to the newspaper. In making the announcement, Dean Baquet, executive editor of The Times and Joseph Kahn, managing editor, noted that Ryan would “play a key role in building the newsroom of the future.” Before she was named senior editor for politics in September 2015, Ryan oversaw coverage of Washington as politics editor and Washington bureau chief. Ryan has also served as the newspaper’s Metro editor and helped run its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the fall of Eliot Spitzer, then the governor of New York.

NLGJA is proud to recognize Carolyn Ryan for her leadership at The New York Times, and we congratulate her dedication to a diverse newsroom.
Loud and Proud Sponsor of NLGJA
The Renberg Chair will focus on social justice journalism with an emphasis on issues relevant to the LGBTQ community.

Thrasher is a contributor to The Guardian and BuzzFeed. He was named NLGJA Journalist of the Year in 2012.
CANNABIS CAUTION

Adults 21 or older are legally able to possess and consume cannabis (marijuana) in California. Sale of cannabis from licensed retail outlets became legal Jan. 1, 2018. Under California law, adults 21 and over may purchase, possess and consume up to 28.5 grams of marijuana on private property or in an establishment licensed for cannabis consumption.

Please note: Hotel Zoso is a nonsmoking property.

Using cannabis can be risky. If you are thinking about using, be safe.

If you plan on using cannabis, here are some things you should know to help you avoid harming yourself and others:

Possession and use of cannabis is illegal under federal law. Additionally, it is also illegal to transport it across state lines or to drive under the influence of cannabis.

All cannabis in California is required to be tested for potency. The higher the THC, the higher you’ll get. CBD is the nonpsychoactive component of cannabis; it has a calming effect.

If you smoke or vape cannabis, you may feel effects right away, but it can take longer to feel the effects of edibles. If you eat too much, too fast you are at higher risk for poisoning.
# NLGJA 2018 Convention Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Pawlus</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya Blackmun</td>
<td>Development &amp; Project Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sachelle Brooks</td>
<td>Membership &amp; Programs Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon Lewis</td>
<td>Communications &amp; Marketing Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliot Ayers</td>
<td>Program Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jen Christensen</td>
<td>National Convention Co-Chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Miguel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senta Scarborough</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Hunt</td>
<td>Awards Committee Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Steinberg</td>
<td>Elections Committee Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Witeck</td>
<td>Hall of Fame Committee Chair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Convention Hotel

**Hotel Zoso**  
150 S. Indian Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
760-325-9676

## Convention Information Office

The NLGJA 2018 Convention Information Office is located in **Avalon Boardroom**. Please stop by if you have any questions or concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00am - 9:00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am - 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00am - 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8:00am - 10:00pm</td>
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</table>

## Convention Registration

NLGJA 2018 Convention Registration is located on the **Woodstock Ballroom Foyer** on the lower level of the Hotel Zoso.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>8:00am - 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:00am - 3:00pm</td>
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</table>

## Refresh & Recharge Station

Need to quench your thirst? We’ve got you covered with Refresh Stations sponsored by Coca-Cola. The Refresh Stations are located in the **Woodstock Ballroom Foyer** lower level of the Hotel Zoso.

## Coffee Break Café

Need a mid-afternoon boost? Visit the Toyota Coffee Break Café, located in the **Woodstock Ballroom Foyer** on the lower level of the Hotel Zoso. These complimentary coffee breaks are sponsored by Toyota.

## Join the Conversation

Posting to social media from the convention? Be sure to use the official convention hashtag, #nlgja2018.

## 12-Step Meeting

Two 12-Step meetings will be offered to attendees: Thursday and Saturday at 6pm in **Room 104**.
Local journalism has never been more important to our communities and to society. Our 30 newsrooms across the country are dedicated to strong independent local journalism in the public interest. Every day we seek to inform and inspire.

Come join us and define the future of news.
The CONNECTions Welcome Reception will be held in the Kitchen Bar and Patio on the Lobby Level.

Please consult the convention program for specific event and reception locations.

The restrooms on the Lower Level have been designated All-Gender Restrooms for the duration of the convention.

The CONNECT: Student Journalism Training Project Newsroom is located The Club on the Lobby Level of the hotel.

Room 102 and Room 104 are located in the sleeping room hallway on the first floor of the Hotel Zoso.

The Desert AIDS Project will be conducting complimentary HIV testing in Room 102 on Friday, September 7 from 11:30am - 3:30pm.
Facts are facts. They aren't colored by emotion or bias. They are indisputable. There is no alternative to a fact. Facts explain things. What they are, how they happened. Facts are not interpretations. Once facts are established, opinions can be formed. And while opinions matter, they don't change the facts. That’s why, at CNN, we start with the facts first.

#FactsFirst


Wells Fargo is proud to announce its sponsorship of The Newseum’s exhibit — *Rise Up: Stonewall and the Gay Rights Movement — 50th Anniversary (1969 – 2019)*. Opening March 2019, the exhibit will explore the history of the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement in the U.S.
Welcome to CONNECT: the 21st
CONNECT: Student Journalism Training Project
We are in the middle of rapid changes in our industry. The word “reinvention” is heard early and often. To that end, NLGJA will continue to emphasize its mission: to foster fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues. This year’s student media project consists of 11 students. Over the course of the convention week, they’ll have the opportunity to truly experience working in a converged media newsroom. Under a team of mentors — a select team of journalists from across media — each student will get the chance to write, edit and produce stories in all distribution platforms: print, TV, video, radio, online and social media. Students will live blog and tweet from selected sessions at the conference.

2018 CONNECT PARTICIPANTS

CONNECT Mentors
Frances Fernandes, Freelance Writer and Editor (retired)
Karen Hawkins, Rebelle in Chief, Rebllious Magazine for Women
David McAlpine, Producer, Channel 6 Action News, Philadelphia
John-Michael Murphy, Digital Learning & Innovation Fellow, Davidson College
David Ok, Senior Editor, The New York Times
Megan Rossman, Filmmaker and Adjunct Professor, Hunter College
Brett Zongker, Communications Manager and Storyteller, The George Washington University

CONNECT Student Participants
Benjamin Appel - Columbia University
Palmer Haasch - University of Minnesota
Leah Juliett - Western Connecticut University
Kristin Lam - San Jose State University
Bennett Purser - Utah State University
Brooklyn Riepma - Boise State University
Orion Rummler - Emory & Henry College
Trey Strange - New York University
Jacob Sutherland - University of California San Diego
Tamica Jean-Charles - Florida International University
Shaw Wan - Northwestern University
Mark Young - Del Mar College

Follow CONNECT throughout the convention!
news.nlgjaconnect.org | @nlgjaCONNECT

THANK YOU TO CONNECT 2018 SPONSORS!

DATELINE SPONSOR
jetBlue

Anchor Sponsors

Affiliate Sponsor

TEGNA FOUNDATION
CAREER & COMMUNITY EXPO
Friday, September 7 | 9:00am - 4:30pm
Encore/Fillmore

NLGJA’s Career & Community Expo is a prominent feature of the national convention experience. Connect with professionals and leaders from a wide representation of broadcast, print, online, new media and independent communication outlets along with companies and organizations committed to fair and accurate coverage of the LGBTQ community. For those seeking to hire, the expo is a prime opportunity to interview top-notch candidates for media, communications or public relations positions; for those looking for a new job, the expo is the best place to get your résumé in front of the right people. For everyone, the expo is a great way to learn about educational opportunities and story ideas from NLGJA’s partners.

Don’t forget our Critique Stations throughout the day for you to get help with your résumé, reel and social media profile. Our critics will help you put your best foot forward! Sign up for remaining time slots at registration!

Join us at 9am for coffee and pastries at the Expo Hall!

NEW THIS YEAR!
Join us for two rapid-fire sessions on the Expo Education Stage:
2:30 pm Art of Dynamic Networking
2:55 pm Ask the Career Specialists

Confirmed Exhibitors
(as of August 10)

Act Against AIDS - PACT
AARP
Axios
CBS News
CUNY Graduate School of Journalism
Comcast NBCUniversal
ESPN
FOX News
Gannett-Desert Sun
Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau
 McClatchy
Office of Dispute Resolution
SAG-AFTRA
TEGNA Inc.
The Florida Keys & Key West
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism
U.C. Riverside
USA TODAY Network
USC Annenberg School for Journalism and Communication
Wells Fargo

AUTHOR’S CAFÉ
Friday, September 7 | 2:15pm
Woodstock Ballroom 2

Come hear from NLGJA members in this year’s Author’s Café as they discuss their projects from books to podcasts. Come hear from LGBTQ authors as they share their latest and greatest, get a chance to purchase your favorite(s) and stay for the book signing!

The Author’s Café will be presented in one stand-alone session Friday at 2:15 p.m.

A complete list of participants will be posted at registration.
## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Woodstock Foyer: Convention Registration</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Woodstock Foyer: Convention Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Woodstock Foyer: Morning Coffee Klatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Woodstock 1: Chapter Leadership Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Fillmore: IRE Watchdog Workshop <em>(pre-registration required)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15am - 11:15am</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Palladium South: Google Fundamental Tools for Journalists</td>
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<td>• Palladium North: Middle Management Doesn’t Have to Suck</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am - 11:30am</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: NBCUniversity Masterclass, Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:15pm</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: Plenary — A View from the Top, Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Woodstock 3: Facebook for Journalism</td>
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<td>• Palladium South: True Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15pm - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Woodstock Foyer: Coffee Break Café <em>sponsored by TOYOTA</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: NBCUniversity Masterclass, Part 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45pm - 3:45pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Woodstock 3: Why Sports Matter for LGBTQ Media <em>sponsored by ESPN</em></td>
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<td>• Palladium South: Trauma: Surviving the Tough Stories</td>
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<td>• Palladium North: Getting A Hed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Woodstock 3: Better Branding</td>
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<td>• Palladium South: Telling the Hard Stories</td>
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<td>• Palladium North: Telling the Bisexual Story</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>Kitchen Bar (Lobby Level): CONNECTions Welcome Reception <em>sponsored by</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Fillmore: NLGJA 2018 Opening Reception <em>sponsored by</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30pm - 10:30pm</td>
<td>Travel Writers Caucus Reception <em>(by invitation only)</em> <em>sponsored by</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00pm - 11:00pm</td>
<td>Lifetime Member Reception <em>(by invitation only)</em> <em>sponsored by</em></td>
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### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Woodstock Foyer: Convention Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Fillmore/Encore: Career &amp; Community Expo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Fillmore/Encore: Expo Kickoff &amp; Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am - 10:45am</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: Plenary — That’s So Hollywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Fillmore/Encore: Résumé, Social Media and Reel Critique Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Woodstock 3: Family Caregiving in America <em>sponsored by AARP</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Palladium South: Hands-On Fact Checking *sponsored by Knight Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Palladium North: Fabulous Writing for the Rest of Us</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 2:15pm</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: Plenary — Giving Us Voices: Lifting Up the Human Connection in the News</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15pm - 3:45pm</td>
<td>Woodstock 2: Author’s Café 2018: Print, Podcast &amp; Pastries</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Woodstock Foyer: Coffee Break Café <em>sponsored by TOYOTA</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 continued

3:45pm - 4:45pm  Breakout Sessions
   • Woodstock 3: Keeping Newsrooms Educated with Social Media Changes
   • Palladium South: Covering Queer Commerce sponsored by
   • Palladium North: 25 HIV & AIDS Story Ideas sponsored by

5:00pm - 6:00pm  Breakout Sessions
   • Woodstock 3: Increasing Your It Factor sponsored by
   • Palladium South: “Dead Names” and Real Lives in Obituaries
   • Palladium North: Gay and Graying sponsored by

6:00pm - 7:30pm  Fillmore/Encore  NLGJA 2018 Diversity Reception sponsored by
7:30pm - 10:00pm  Women’s Networking Dinner (ticket required)
8:30pm - 11:00pm  Night Out: Palm Springs sponsored by

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

9:00am - 3:00pm  Woodstock Foyer: Convention Registration
9:30am - 10:45pm  Woodstock 2: Plenary — Michael Triplett Series: Matthew Shepard 20 Years Later
11:00am - 12:00pm  Breakout Sessions
   • Woodstock 3: LGBTQ Entertainment Journalists: Modern Muckrakers
   • Palladium South: Setting the Style: Ask the Experts
   • Palladium North: Diversity and Intersection

12:00pm - 1:00pm  Lunch on your own
1:00pm - 2:15pm  Woodstock 2: Plenary Session— A View from the Top, Part 2
2:30pm - 3:30pm  Breakout Sessions
   • Woodstock 3: Getting the Story Right: Religion Under Trump
   • Palladium South: Successfully Navigating Change in Your Newsroom
   • Palladium North: Beyond the Newsroom

3:00pm - 3:45pm  Woodstock Foyer Coffee Break Café sponsored by TOYOTA
3:45pm - 4:45pm  Breakout Sessions
   • Woodstock 3: Trans 101 sponsored by AXIOS
   • Palladium South: Get What You Deserve: The Journalist’s Rough Guide to Contracts & Negotiations
   • Palladium North: Podcasting Sampler: What Format is Right for You

5:00pm - 6:00pm  Breakout Sessions
   • Woodstock 3: The Importance of Visuals
   • Palladium South: Write It!: Books and Screenplays
   • Palladium North: Fellowships, Grants & Retreats for Journalists

7:00pm - 11:00pm  NLGJA 2018 Closing Reception sponsored by

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

9:30am - 10:30am  NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting
WE APPLAUD NLGJA

for their efforts to advance and foster diversity in newsrooms.

At TEGNA, our award-winning journalists are redefining journalism in the digital age through empowering stories, impactful investigations and trusted content that serves the greater good of our communities.
As part of an initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS program, NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists is presenting journalism training and offering resources to enhance strategies and skills in covering HIV & AIDS.

Since 2016, NLJGA has provided a series of in-person trainings in Atlanta, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and at this convention in Palm Springs at 3:45 pm on Friday. And don’t miss the chance to get tested for HIV for free. If you couldn’t make it to the trainings, you can be a part of them when you have the time as NLGJA rolls them out as online learning modules at www.nlgja.org/newways. Be sure to join us next year with more trainings being planned across the country.

We also are offering fellowships for journalists to get a stipend to produce news stories on HIV & AIDS. Learn more at www.nlgja.org/newways/fellowships.

These resources are designed to equip journalists to cover issues and trends related to HIV & AIDS in new ways while reiterating the time-tested basics of talking, testing and treatment. Journalists can better serve their viewers, readers and listeners with important information, especially those in communities and geographic areas most impacted by HIV & AIDS.

Want to be alerted about upcoming New Ways trainings? Have a suggestion on a New Ways training topic?

Email us at NewWays@nlgja.org.
9:30am - 10:30am

Kick-Off Morning Coffee Klatch
Woodstock Foyer

We’re giving you a boost to get your NLGJA 2018 Convention experience started! We’ll have a little something to wake you up and get your day started right! Plus, we’ll have breakfast pastries.

10:00am - 12:00pm

Chapter Leadership Meeting
Woodstock 1

BOOTS CAMP

10:00am - 5:00pm

IRE Watchdog Workshop
Pre-registration required

Fillmore

Investigative Reporters and Editors — dedicated to improving the quality of investigative reporting — offers several of its core sessions, designed to improve your ability to find information on the web quickly, and point you to key documents and data that will help you add depth to your daily work and produce quick-hit enterprise stories. In addition, this workshop will give you tips on building a watchdog culture, navigating freedom of information and open records laws and digging deeper on the web with social media, search engines and more. These sessions are designed for reporters, editors and producers from small, midsize and large publications; TV, radio stations; web-only news sites and news blogs. Freelancers, students and journalism educators are also encouraged to attend. Get the tools and the tricks of the trade that you need to be a better, faster, watchdog.

10:15am - 11:15am

Breakout Sessions

Google Fundamental Tools for Journalists
Palladium South

Attend this workshop to learn essential skills every journalist needs for reporting in the digital age — especially in the important election season. You will learn a broad range of practical, free tools that you can use immediately including how to use Google Search to research with precision, utilize Google Earth to bring location context to news, use Google Scholar to bolster your story with expert sources, patents, and research, and Google Trends to see real-time search data to bring people the stories they’re looking for. We’ll also cover the Election DataBot which can help inform stories on campaigns important to you — and cover verification techniques to help combat mis and disinformation from online content.

Middle Management Doesn’t Have to Suck
Palladium North

Panelists: Arlyn Gajilan, Michelle Garcia, Shana Naomi Krochmal, Maria Mercader, Rich Tarpening

Want to be a leader in the newsroom? Already working on climbing the ladder to the top? At the top and want some advice on how to keep your middle managers motivated? When you do your time in middle management it often means answering to those above you and sometimes making hard decisions about those below you. Being in a management sandwich comes with its own set of challenges, but there are some real opportunities too. Hear from some those who have not just survived, but thrived in this position.

NBC UNIVERSITY

A Masterclass in Writing (pre-registration required)

Part 1: 10:30am - 11:30am
Woodstock 2

Part 2: 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Speaker: Joe Fryer

An intensive workshop, geared toward on-air and off-air convention attendees, is taught by NBCU “professors,” and is designed for individuals at all levels of their careers to improve their writing skills. At the core of every good journalist is the desire to grow, develop, change and renew: It is in the fiber of our being to improve our craft and to advance our stories. As the media landscape alters with each successive year, so too do we reach new heights, growing beyond our limits. This year’s NBCUniversity will be all about the process of change, renewal and ultimate revitalization as journalists. Each individual journalist will leave with a new writing tools to bring back to their newsroom, and a renewed sense of why we got into this profession in the first place.
11:15am - 12:00pm
Lunch on your own

12:00pm - 1:15pm
A View From the Top Part 1: Gettin’ Printy with It
Moderator: Sharif Durhams
Panelists: Koa Beck, Greg Burton, Arlyn Gajilan, Shana Naomi Krochmal, Randy Lovely, Karen Pensiero Carolyn Ryan
As media professionals, we stand at an exciting crossroads. News consumption through traditional formats such as TV and print may be down, but the appetite for news is stronger than ever as Americans devour nonstop information through digital, mobile and podcasts. And while the U.S. president asserts that we are “fake,” “dirty” and have a “hate agenda,” journalism schools are logging record enrollment. Has this current climate ushered in a new golden age of investigative journalism and narratives that matter? There’s so much to cover we had to split it into two sessions! Come hear from leaders in print and wires who will examine today’s trends and reveal where the industry is headed.

1:30pm - 2:30pm
Breakout Sessions

Facebook for Journalism
Speaker: Lynn Walsh
From 360 and Live video to groups and search, learn how to best use Facebook as a journalist. The Facebook for Journalism is a partnership with the Facebook Journalism Project and the Society of Professional Journalists. The training covers best practices any content creator should know. We know the importance of using Facebook and know what we like to see as users, so let’s implement those best practices.

True Crime
Moderator: Senta Scarborough
Panelists: Johnny Dodd, Tod Goldberg, Melissa Gira Grant, Christine Pelisek, Donna Rossi, Jeff Truesdell
Go behind the crime tape and headlines to hear about what it takes to produce and investigate those heart-wrenching stories that transform us and become part of our popular culture. Whether through serial podcasts, TV series or the center of tabloid pages, these veteran producers and reporters provide their expertise on what makes a great story, series, a must-see interview or long-form investigations.

2:15pm - 3:00pm
Coffee Break Café
Sponsored by: TOYOTA
Join us for a quick break and a quick boost to keep you energized for the rest of the day!

Tweeting? Don’t forget to use #nlgja2018!
**THURSDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2018**

2:45pm - 3:45pm

**Breakout Sessions**

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**Why Sports Matter for LGBTQ Media**

Moderator: Christina Kahrl
Panelists: Katie Barnes, Israel Gutierrez, Steve Mason, Cyd Zeigler

With sports and LGBTQ issues becoming politicized more than ever before, where do the interests of LGBTQ audiences and sports fans intersect? When stories involving athletes coming out and competing at the highest levels in amateur and professional sports, what impact does that have on mainstream media coverage of sports events? How do those stories resonate with LGBTQ audiences? And how is that perspective different from how sports are seen through the lens of LGBTQ media?

Sponsored by: ESPN

**Trauma: Surviving the Tough Stories**

Moderator: Ken Miguel
Panelists: Jay Alpert, Nora Baladerian, Bruce Chambers, Kenneth Craig

Mass shootings, murder, kidnapping, terrorist attacks, wars and natural disasters — journalists see it all. But how do they deal with the psychological trauma of covering and surviving these terrible stories? This panel will explore what it’s like to cover these types of events and talk about the personal toll they take on journalists on the job. Most newsrooms have few to no resources available beyond employee assistance programs. This panel will help you better understand what trauma is, and give you advice on how to cope with it.

**Getting A Hed**

Speakers: Sharif Durhams, Eric Hegedüs

Words matter — especially in web heds, which should bolster readership and viewers without devolving into clickbait territory. This fun session won’t have a panel exchanging ideas about best practices. Instead, audience members will read published stories and then join in a freewheeling discussion (not unlike a news meeting) about what the web heds should be — before seeing how editors decided to top off the stories. Expect an engaging session where we’ll learn from each other and expand our minds with word-play possibilities.

**Better Branding**

Moderator: Senta Scarborough
Panelists: Lucio Bernal, Joseph Fenity, Ande Richards, C. Gregory Thompson

Come learn how to stand out and remain relevant in a chaotic sea of professionals through forward thinking branding. Panelists will discuss the dos and don’ts of better branding that keeps them at the forefront of the industry.

**Telling Hard Stories**

Moderator: Sarah Blazucki
Panelists: Valerie Boyd, Raphael Carranza, Peter Daut, Mira Lowe

How do you cover a story that is emotionally hard — for you, your newsroom or your community? How do you produce work with nuance and sensitivity when the story is close to home — and close to your heart? As we grapple with topics that make us uncomfortable and challenge our readers, how do we gain editor and community buy-in and face the difficult facts? A panel of experts will discuss the ways that they’ve told the tough stories, from covering violent, targeted attacks on people like them to covering government misdeeds, and how you can tell your own tough stories.

**Telling the Bisexual Story**

Panelists: Zamná Ávila, Denise Penn, Mike Szymanski

Journalists, public relations professionals and others who advocate for fair, inclusive media coverage will cover what journalists and other media professionals should know about the bisexual community and how to accurately represent them. Panelists will talk about what it means to be bisexual, positive and problematic media coverage of the bisexual community, health disparities and other issues that affect bisexual people, and upcoming opportunities to cover the bisexual community. A Q&A will follow so that attendees can ask panelists about bisexuality and covering the bisexual community.
Welcome to Palm Springs! Kick off the opening day of NLGJA 2018 with a special performance by the Palm Springs Gay Men’s Chorus, a special welcome from Scott White of the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau AND the Mayor and City Council of Palm Springs!

Sean Lewis

Your NLGJA 2018 Emcees

September 6-9, 2018 | Palm Springs, California

It’s always been the convention’s worst-kept secret. It’s time to roll out the red carpet and party in style.

Welcome to Palm Springs! Kick off the opening day of NLGJA 2018 with a special performance by the Palm Springs Gay Men’s Chorus, a special welcome from Scott White of the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau AND the Mayor and City Council of Palm Springs!

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Marshall McPeek

Your NLGJA 2018 Emcees
9:00am - 4:30pm  
Career & Community Expo  
Stop by and visit our exhibitors! Make sure to bring your résumé because your next job may be waiting!  
JOIN US IN THE EXPO HALL FOR A SERIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS

9:00am - 10:00am  
Expo Kickoff & Café  
Start the morning with a cup of coffee and visit the exhibitors early!

10:00am - 4:00pm  
Résumé, Reel & Social Media Profile Critique Stations  
You’ll get instant feedback from professionals in the field to help you put your best foot forward!

9:30am - 10:45am  
Woodstock 2  
That’s So Hollywood  
Moderator: Steve Holzer  
Panelists: Chris Azzopardi, AJ Gibson, Dr. Jon Paul Higgins, Shar Jossell  
It’s a city, a destination, a dream, an entity, a brand and, if you put it in quotes, it can pretty much denote anything in the world of entertainment. “Hollywood” goes well beyond just red carpets and klieg lights. From the rise of ET and TMZ, People and Perez Hilton, this panel will explore how covering Hollywood has evolved from a specialized field into mainstream and pop culture.

11:00am - 12:00pm  
Breakout Sessions  
Woodstock 3  
Family Caregiving in America  
Moderator: Greg Phillips  
Panelists: Rita Choula, Amy Goyer  
If you aren’t a family caregiver now, you likely will be … or you’ll need one. The nation’s 40 million family caregivers are all around us: They’re our colleagues, friends, neighbors and family members. Each has a story worth telling. With a rapidly aging population, smaller families, increased longevity and the expected tripling of Alzheimer’s cases by 2050, the need for caregivers is exploding. Where do people go for help? What types of caregiving will be needed? What’s being done to help family caregivers? Two family caregiving experts will tell you what their lives are like, how you can prepare and how you can tell these important stories.

Hands-On Fact Checking  
Panelists: Dustin Gardiner, Daniel Funke, Ken Schwenke  
Just in case this wasn’t clear, there are no such things as “alternative facts.” There are only facts, and in a world of “fake news” and social media overload, fact-checking is as important as ever. But when you’re on deadline or trying to uncover the real story, how do you go about verifying what is a fact and what is not? Our panel of experts will show you the tools they use to verify information quickly and reliably, and the work they’re doing to erase misinformation.

Fabulous Writing for the Rest of Us  
Panelists: Jay Alpert, Benoit Denizet-Lewis, Dr. Jon Paul Higgins, David McCabe, Lance Richardson  
Pulitzers, Peabodys and, yes, NLGJA awards—the best writers seem to get the best awards and all the glory, but often they also get the extra time to do it. But there are ways to write great copy on tighter deadlines. Hear from some of the best experts in the business share tips on how they make the magic happen, regardless of format and time constraints.
12:00pm - 1:00pm  
Lunch on your own

1:00pm - 2:15pm  
**Giving Us Voices: Lifting Up the Human Connection in the News**
Panelists: David Begnaud, Donna Rossi, Karl Schmid
LGBTQ people and journalists who are dedicated to social justice bring unique perspectives to every story. This varied group of panelists examine how their own personal experiences and commitments lead to better stories and better ways of informing others. Whether it is sharing our sexual or gender identity, our HIV status, our experience with race, language or class or just being determined to report on a story others have left behind or didn’t even see to begin with, these connections can make a big difference. When do you disclose? When don’t you? When do you stay with a story or let go? How do you handle labels of identity politics and bias? How do you manage the trolls and critics? Join us as we share ways you can put more of you into every story you cover.

2:15pm - 3:45pm  
**Authors Café 2018: Print, Podcast & Pastries**
Come hear from LGBTQ authors and podcasters as they share their latest and greatest with the opportunity to engage in intimate conversation and ask questions.

3:00pm - 4:15pm  
**Coffee Break Café**
Join us for a quick break and a quick boost to keep you energized for the rest of the day!

3:45pm - 4:45pm  
**Breakout Sessions**

**Keeping Newsrooms Educated With Social Media Changes**
Panelists: John Colucci, Luis Giraldo, Garrett Mitchell, Alex Morash
There’s no shortage of blogs, Facebook groups and conferences that inform journalists on what works and what doesn’t in regards to social media in the newsroom. It’s a lot to keep up with, so how can a journalist avoid being left behind? Hear from experts in managing this at scale explain how newsrooms (and journalists alone) can cut through the noise, find actionable advice and stay on top of the ever-changing state of social.

**Covering Queer Commerce**
Panelists: John Lake, Jonathan Lovitz, Patrick Manning, Cory Schouten
Every June we see a deluge of “Business of Pride” stories, but there are plenty of great LGBTQ business stories to tell in the 11 other months. Even if you don’t cover business on your daily beat, come to this session to learn from business experts and financial reporters and editors who can tell you about those hidden business story gems. They will also teach you how to frame them so your audience will want to pay attention. We’ll discuss the role of corporations in the equality movement, the impact of LGBTQ business owners on our economy and the untold stories of economic inequality within our own community. There is always a business case to be made for every story, and the LGBTQ business case adds an important dynamic to every piece. 
Sponsored by:

**Fun, Fast and With Sweet Prizes!: 25 HIV & AIDS Story Ideas for Any Beat or Platform**
Panelists: Maya Blackmun, Carl Eznor, Kristina Torres
Join us for a fast-paced, fun but substantive hour and you’ll come away with dozens of story ideas to cover HIV and AIDS for any beat or platform, along with sweet prizes! New Ways Palm Springs, part of NLGJA’s ongoig program aimed at increasing and enhancing coverage of HIV and AIDS, will include quick-hit as well as take-out story ideas in this interactive session. While the format will be engaging in a light-hearted way, the importance is serious as the news needs to get out on the multiple dimensions of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and stigma reduction, especially the impacts on marginalized communities. Come and you’ll be prepped to deliver great stories to your viewers, listeners and readers.
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Five distinct regions
127 miles of Overseas Highway
Hundreds of named islands
Thousands of stories

P R O U D T O
S U P P O R T T H E
N L G J A

The Florida Keys & Key West
fla-keys.com/media
Increasing Your It Factor
Moderator: Bob Bicknell
Panelists: David Begnaud, Kris Van Cleave
This session covers how to keep your scripts tight, how to build in memorable moments in interviews and how to avoid flowery language and clichés. We also explore creative stand ups and live shots. To cap it off, we talk about how broadcast journalists can polish their presentations.

“Dead Names” and Real Lives in Obituaries
Panelists: Koa Beck, Adam Bernstein, Dawn Ennis, Bethany Grace Howe, Meredith Morgoch
When an LGB or T person dies, how should the media report that death? From the front page to the obituary page, how to maintain the integrity of both a publication of record and the lives they record is becoming an increasingly contentious field of discussion. Should writers use someone’s “dead name”? What if that was still their legal name? And beyond just transgender identities, how should the media respect people who lived in the closet their whole life as LGB, yet never acknowledged it in public? From Liz Smith to James Beard to the transgender woman next door — their lives and deaths spark conversations about how media should respect who they were. On this panel, former and current obituary writers, as well as transgender members of the media, will try to find answers together.

Gay and Graying
Moderator: Lisa Middleton
Panelists: Nii-Quartelai Quartey, Jason Resendez
By 2035, the number of adults age 65 and older is projected to outnumber children under age 18 for the first time in U.S. history. Today, there are over 1 million LGBTQ seniors, a number that will double by 2030. What are some of the top concerns of older LGBTQ adults about their long-term care needs? What groups are at greater risk for social isolation? What can communities and the housing and health-care industries do now to prepare for an aging LGBTQ population? This roundtable will give you story ideas on some of the most important and urgent aging-related issues unique to LGBTQ audiences.

6:00pm - 7:30pm
Diversity Reception
Join us as NLGJA and Prudential Financial salute the value of diversity in newsrooms and America as a whole. We honor our partners in diversity who share our dedication to fair and accurate coverage of our communities and bring us together. Special welcome from Josh Stoffregen.

7:00pm - 10:00pm
Women’s Networking Dinner
Join us for an evening of fellowship out and about in Palm Springs. Fantastic food. Fantastic friends. Fantastic fun. A $50 ticket is required to attend. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be on sale at registration in the Woodstock Foyer through 5:00pm or until they are sold out.

8:30pm -11:00pm
Night Out: Palm Springs
Have a great night out with new and longtime NLGJA friends! Be sure to wear your NLGJA convention badge to get in and for a fun evening and some free special Stoli cocktails. It’s a great way to spend time together and meet some locals.
9:30am - 10:45am

**Michael Triplett Series: Matthew Shepard 20 Years Later**

**Moderator:** Cathy Renna

**Panelists:** Dennis & Judy Shepard, Beverly Tillery

October 2018 marks 20 years since the death of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard — a murder that gained international media attention and shined a light on hate crimes for the LGBTQ community. It also galvanized innumerable LGBTQ community members and allies and spawned the creation of influential works like “The Laramie Project” and the creation of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. After a decade of advocacy, a federal hate crimes bill finally passed, but the violence perpetrated against LGBTQ people has continued, and is increasing in a hostile political and cultural climate. Join Matthew’s parents and founders of the foundation, Judy and Dennis, along with antiviolence experts and advocates who have worked on related issues in a discussion of what this 20-year mark means and what is happening now: from antiviolence efforts to attempts to outlaw the so-called “gay panic” defense, to the work being done to educate law enforcement and the public.

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11:00am - 12:00pm

**Breakout Sessions**

**LGBTQ Entertainment Journalists: Modern Muckrakers**

**Moderator:** John Griffiths

**Panelists:** Diane Anderson-Minshall, Trish Bendix, Manny De La Rosa, Judy Wieder

With stars and producers rocked by allegations of sexual harassment of all kinds, Hollywood — and the journalists who cover it — has had to step up its game in addressing its culture of entitlement, intimidation and enabling. In the process, some writers are trading their casting-scoop hat for the dogged reporter’s notebook. Five members of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics discuss how our community’s “showbiz journos” are pressing celebrities and media companies for better representation in TV and film — and are uncovering wrongdoers in the land of lights, camera, action.

**Setting the Style: Ask the Experts**

**Panelists:** Anna Jo Bratton, David Brindley, Jeff McMillan

Think stylebooks are dusty reference books giving journalists guidance about the Oxford comma? Think again! Increasingly, stylebooks must provide journalists with context and background for all sorts of complex issues, from how to use the proper pronoun to whether an attack is “terrorism.” Join three of the nation’s top copy editors, including two AP Stylebook editors, to talk about the evolution of style, get tips and advice on how to formulate coverage guidance for your own newsroom and brainstorm how to find a middle ground on thorny issues you wouldn’t have had to confront even five years ago.

**Diversity and Intersection**

**Panelists:** Zamná Ávila, Andrea Castillo, Fernando Hurtado, Gene Kang, Rhonda Levaldo

This panel will discuss how LGBTQ journalists and newsrooms can become more inclusive in their storytelling by providing better coverage of diverse communities, including communities of color. We’ll share tools and unique perspectives on how to accurately report on different racial, ethnic and other often-ignored communities with greater sensitivity and understanding. The goal is to create thought-provoking dialogue that leads to change in our newsrooms when covering the intersecting LGBTQ and minority communities.

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12:00pm - 1:00pm

**Lunch on your own**
12:00pm - 1:15pm
A View from the Top Part 2: On the Air and Online 24/7
Moderator: Ina Fried
Panelists: Ramon Escobar, Michelle Garcia, Karen Hawkins, Mira Lowe, Martin Ortiz, Court Passant, Zach Stafford, Mitch West

Every year the news industry undergoes changes that make it almost unrecognizable from the early days of NLGJA. Two-thirds of Americans now say that they get their news not from television or newspapers, but from the same place they share cat videos: social media. And instead of on their big flat screens, most learn about the latest Trump news from their phones. Producing news continues to be a 24/7 task. New technology has brought incredible innovation. More marginalized voices are now being heard and niche publications are finding new audiences, but digital and broadcast platforms face new challenges as they search for ways to monetize the content and keep their audience from shrinking any further. Consolidation, branding, standing out in a flow of endless news, how can broadcast and digital outlets do what they do and do it even better? What will we see next?

2:30pm - 3:30pm
Breakout Sessions

Getting the Story Right: Religion Under Trump
Panelists: Trish Bendix, Mitchell Gold, Jaweed Kaleem, Michael O’Loughlin

In a time when the religious right has regained considerable power through its alliance with President Trump, it could seem like there’s a bigger divide between LGBTQ rights and religion than there has been in years. But the prominence of religion-tinged fights over same-sex marriage, cakes, bathroom access, who is allowed in the military and other issues only tell part of today’s story of religion, sexuality and gender identity in America. In this panel, journalists who cover the intersection of faith and LGBTQ issues will join artists and activists to unpack how to fully and accurately cover the story of religion and LGBTQ America.

Successfully Navigating Change in Your Newsroom
Panelists: Chad Graham, Marty Kaiser, Jason Knowles, Mira Lowe

New job duties. New technology. New competitive business pressures. The disruption in the media industry never ends. Newsrooms continue to undergo unprecedented change that can leave employees exhausted, frustrated and worried. Change may not always be easy or fun, but there are ways to make it a smoother process. In this interactive session guided by a change management consultant, participants will work on personal techniques to navigate uncertainty. Specific topics include mindfulness and meditation exercises, tools to assess your personal strengths and work style and how to better collaborate as part of a team. Participants will leave this session with a “change toolbox” to help others in their organizations.

Beyond the Newsroom
Panelists: Diane Anderson-Minshall, Sent Scarlettborough, Kristina Torres

More than half of the news industry’s jobs vanished between 2001 and 2016. But those 238,000 journalists are still out there, having moved from the newsroom to universities, nonprofits and their own start-up firms. We look at how journalism skills translate outside of newsrooms and what skills mid-career journalists need to hone and develop to tap into journalism’s evolving opportunities.

3:00pm - 3:45pm
Coffee Break Café
Sponsored by: TOYOTA
Join us for a quick break and a quick boost to keep you energized for the rest of the day!
Trans 101
Panelists: Ina Fried, Ryan McClendon, Jules Purnell, Brooke Sopelsa

Transgender representation in the news media is largely focused on big picture stories: Transgender military bans, trans representation in scripted television and advertising and stories about transgender children largely drive the coverage. But while transgender reporting is more visible today than ever before, it represents a small fraction of coverage in broadcast and print. In this cross-disciplinary session, transgender individuals from reporters to scholars will explore vital issues within the transgender community, from employment discrimination to income inequality to incarceration rates to basic health-care concerns.

Panelists: Andrew Bender, Randy Dotinga, Robin Rauzi, Shaun Spalding

Don’t sign a freelance contract or employment agreement until you’ve heard from our panel of experts about how to negotiate like a pro. Learn how to detect common contract traps, protect your rights and land the pay you deserve.

Podcasting Sampler: What Format Is Right for You?
Moderator: Jason DeRose
Panelists: Matt Baume, Alonso Duralde, Anjuli Sastry, Dave White

As podcasting technology has matured, so too has the wide variety of podcasting genres. This session gathers podcast producers who work in diverse show formats, from one-on-one interviews to roundtable discussions to reported features. We’ll share insights into the different production requirements and audience expectations among various podcast genres, and we’ll offer guidance to journalists seeking to reach new audiences, connect with valuable sources and strengthen their relationships with followers.

The Importance of Visuals
Panelists: Tanner Curtis, Amos Mac, Cody McCloy, Zachary Wade

Visuals attract and hold your audience; they are more than window dressing and should be considered as an integral part of the editorial process. We’ll discuss all aspects of imagery and the storytelling process from theory, sources, hiring photographers, photo selection, mobile and cross-platform considerations and anything else you can throw our way.

Write It!: Books and Screenplays
Moderator: Senta Scarborough
Panelists: Benoit Denizet-Lewis, Randy Dotinga, Daniel Vaillancourt

Journalists and producers tell many stories, but sometimes they don’t get to tell them in their own way. Talk to those journalists who have sat down and written the books, plays or screenplays they’ve always wanted, and learn what it takes to get the job done and get it released. Ever wanted to get into the entertainment industry or become an author? Come find out how you can use your journalism skills to make the leap.

Fellowships, Grants & Retreats for Journalists
Speakers: Michael Bolden, Michael Luongo

Deadlines and other pressures keep journalists from pursuing passion topics in depth. Fellowships, grants, writers-in-residence programs, retreats and other opportunities can be a remedy. Whether spending a semester at a major research university taking classes and looking at topics of interest in depth, or applying for grants to pursue investigative work or complete a book, to other forms of retreats for writers, a variety of opportunities abound for journalists to take a break from the pressure of deadlines. These methods of stepping back can help a writer go forward, leaving time to plan out a book, enter a new area of journalism or find ways to combine journalism with academia. These are the advantages; what are the pitfalls of time away from work or strain on family and partners?
7:00pm - 11:00pm
NLGJA 2018 Closing Reception
Visit with friends and colleagues. Have a beverage from the bar. Bid on some fabulous auction items. Relax and unwind after a full weekend of activities and learning. And dance the night away while making plans for next year. The NLGJA 2018 Closing Reception will cap off this year’s convention with the annual Auction and Awards Reception, where we will honor the best in the business, including NLGJA’s Journalist of the Year and the Sarah Pettit LGBTQ Journalist of the Year and inductees into the LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame.

Woodstock Ballroom

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

10:00am - 12:00pm
NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting

Woodstock 2

Your Evening’s Hosts:

Sean Lewis
Marshall McPeek

Sponsored by:

NLGJA 2019
NEW ORLEANS
AUG 29-SEPT 1, 2019
EXPERIENCE CANADA’S DOWNTOWN
TORONTO
PROUD HOST OF THE TRAVEL WRITERS CAUCUS RECEPTION

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SeeTorontoNow.com
JAY ALPERT is a veteran journalist with nearly 20 years of experience in communication. He is currently a writer/producer for ABC's “Good Morning America” in New York, which recently won its second Daytime Emmy in a row for Outstanding Morning Program. Alpert covers a wide variety of topics at GMA, ranging from politics to celebrity news. He graduated from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

CHRIS AZZOPARDI introduced weekly celebrity interviews to Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders, the author of four mystery novels from Bold Strokes Books and a memoir, Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders (which he penned with trans journalist Jacob Anderson-Minshall, her co-pilot of 27 years). He is the recipient of several awards from GLAAD, NLGJA, Western Publishing Association’s Maggies and more.

DAVID BEGNAUD is a CBS News correspondent based in Dallas. He joined CBS News in August 2015 as a Miami-based correspondent and was relocated to the Dallas bureau in January 2017. His reporting has been featured across CBS News broadcasts and platforms including “CBS This Morning,” “CBS Evening News,” “48 Hours,” “CBS Sunday Morning” and CBSN, CBS News’ 24/7 streaming news service. In summer 2017, Begnaud covered Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Hurricane Irma in Florida and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He reported in Puerto Rico for over 30 days, covering Hurricane Maria and its devastation. His reporting earned him the prestigious George Polk Award for public service, which recognizes intrepid, bold and influential work of reporters across all media. He began his journalism career in his home state of Louisiana at age 18 at KLKY-TV as a weekend anchor and reporter while still attending college. He graduated from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

BENDER writes the Seat 1A travel site for Forbes and articles and guide books for dozens of other publications from the Los Angeles Times to Lonely Planet. His coverage of Palm Springs and California’s deserts for Lonely Planet received the prestigious Eureka! Travel Writing Award from Visit California, and his annual Top 10 Food Trends and Gift Guide for Travelers articles for Forbes have become required reading in their industries. Yet another travel writer with an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, he is also a cross-cultural consultant, working with multinational businesses about overcoming cultural differences.

DIANE ANDERSON-MINSHALL is CEO/editorial director of Retrograde Communications, a Pride Media editorial partner, where she oversees editorial and production of The Advocate, Chill, Plus and Out Traveler magazines, as well as TinyLivingChic.com, Chill.us, and HIVPlusMag.com. She is executive producer of My Health, My Way, HIV Stops With Me, The T With Dr. D and I PuEPA. She also serves as president of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics. The author of four mystery novels from Bold Strokes Books and a memoir, Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders (which she penned with trans journalist Jacob Anderson-Minshall, her co-pilot of 27 years). She is the recipient of several awards from GLAAD, NLGJA, Western Publishing Association’s Maggies and more.

KATIE BARNES is a sports reporter for espnW and the 2017 winner of the NLGJA Journalist of the Year.

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Andrew Bender writes the Seat 1A travel site for Forbes and articles and guide books for dozens of other publications from the Los Angeles Times to Lonely Planet. His coverage of Palm Springs and California’s deserts for Lonely Planet received the prestigious Eureka! Travel Writing Award from Visit California, and his annual Top 10 Food Trends and Gift Guide for Travelers articles for Forbes have become required reading in their industries. Yet another travel writer with an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, he is also a cross-cultural consultant, working with multinational businesses about overcoming cultural differences.

TRISH BENDIX, a past board member of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics, is currently managing editor of INTO. Her work has been published in outlets such as Vogue.com, Cosmopolitan, Vulture, The Hollywood Reporter, NBC Out, Slate and BuzzFeed. Among her many essays is a piece for the nonfiction anthology “Opposing Viewpoints: Celebrity Culture.” The former editor-in-chief of both AfterEllen.com and GO Magazine, Bendix is the winner of the 2015 NLGJA Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBTQ Journalist of the Year. A member of the Television Critics Association as well, she has spoken on panels at SXSW, Q-Me Con, BlogHer and Creating Change and to classes at the University of Western Washington and Columbia College Chicago.
CONVENTION SPEAKERS

LUCIO BERNAL is a 20-year veteran of residential real estate, living in Palm Springs, California. Bernal is a full-time Realtor and an instructor with a national real estate training and marketing company. He has been very involved in his local Realtor association, serving as the 2018 past president, and his passion is educating his fellow colleagues to enhance and strengthen the real estate industry both locally and nationally so that we can better serve our clients.

ADAM BERNSTEIN has spent his career putting the “post” in The Washington Post, first as an obituary writer and then as editor. The American Society of Newspaper Editors recognized Bernstein’s ability to exhume “the small details and anecdotes that get at the essence of the person” and to write stories that are “complex yet stylish.” He is featured in Marilyn Johnson’s book about the obit-writing craft, “The Dead Beat.” Among the obituaries Bernstein has written, his favorites are those of Edward von Kloberg III, the lobbyist for dictators and despots and who embraced the slogan “shame is for sissies”; and the filmmaker Billy Wilder, who wooed his future wife with the line, “I’d worship the ground you walked on, if only you lived in a better neighborhood.”

BOB BICKNELL is the senior executive producer for CBS NewsPath, CBS News’ satellite news gathering organization, which provides news and information to 200 CBS affiliates nationwide and to broadcasters around the world. Previously, Bicknell was a senior producer and producer for NewsPath, writing and producing correspondent coverage of major breaking news, including the 2012 presidential campaigns and election night. He began his career at CBS writing, producing and editing for “Up to the Minute,” while concurrently filing daily as the nationally syndicated technology reporter for KYW-AM in Philadelphia. Prior to joining CBS, Bicknell was an executive producer at NY1 in Manhattan, and at WRGB-TV in Schenectady, New York. He began his broadcasting career at WTXF-TV in Philadelphia, where he worked his way up from assistant assignment editor to producer of the two-hour live morning broadcast, “Good Day Philadelphia.” Bicknell is a graduate of the University of Delaware.

MAYA BLACKMUN is the development and project director of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. Prior to joining NLGJA, Blackmun held development, leadership and communications positions for other journalism and LGBTQ nonprofit organizations after a 21-year career as a staff writer for The Oregonian. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and is a volunteer for the Asian American Journalists Association.

SARAH BLAZUCKI is the communications coordinator for a federal agency in Washington, D.C., where manages and edits publications, web content, responses to information requests, marketing and social media. Prior to her current position, Blazucki was the agency editor at the Peace Corps. There, she supported external communications across publications, marketing, public affairs and congressional relations. Previously, Blazucki was the editor of the Philadelphia Gay News, where she led staff to win more than 20 awards in less than 15 years of experience as a freelance résumé writer. In addition, Blazucki has edited a range of print and online publications, including books, magazines, newspapers, reports, press releases, web and social media content and marketing materials. She serves on several boards, including NLGJA, Unity: Journalists for Diversity and Youth Pride Alliance. Blazucki received her B.A. in mass communications, with a minor in women’s studies from Towson State University. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her lovely wife, Lisa, and their cute-but-sometimes-evil cat, Gloria Geraldine.

MICHAEL D. BOLDEN is the managing director, editorial and operations, for the John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships at Stanford University, an international program focused on entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership in journalism. Previously, Bolden served as the editorial director for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. For 13 years, he worked at The Washington Post, where he led the transportation and development reporting team and worked as an editor for The Washington Post Magazine, Style and Sunday Arts sections. In prior roles, Bolden worked for the Miami Herald, the Northwest Florida Daily News and The Times-Picayune. He is a Master of Liberal Arts student at Stanford University, was a fellow in the Maynard Media Academy’s entrepreneurial leadership and media management program at Harvard University and earned a bachelor of arts from the University of Alabama. Bolden serves on the board of directors for the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation, the philanthropy that supports the educational mission of the Society of Professional Journalists.

VALERIE BOYD is author of the critically acclaimed biography Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston, winner of the Southern Book Award and the American Library Association’s Notable Book Award. Wrapped in Rainbows was hailed by Alice Walker as “magnificent” and “extraordinary”; by the Boston Globe as “elegant and exhilarating”; and by the Denver Post as “a rich, rich read.” Formerly arts editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Boyd has written articles, essays and reviews for such publications as The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, Creative Nonfiction, The Oxford American, Paste, Ms., Essence, and Atlanta Magazine. She is a professor of journalism and the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer in Residence at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, where she founded and directs the law-residency MFA Program in Narrative Nonfiction. Boyd is currently curating and editing a collection of Alice Walker’s personal journals, which span more than 50 years. Simon & Schuster/37 Ink will publish Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker in 2019.

ANNA JO BRATTON has been a reporter, editor and manager at The Associated Press for more than a decade. She is currently the deputy director for newspapering in the AP’s West region, overseeing news coverage in all formats for a 13-state territory. She has been at the helm of some of the region’s most important stories, including the deadly warehouse fire in Oakland, California, in 2016; the Arizona wildfire that killed 19 firefighters in 2013; and the Colorado theater shooting in 2012. She also has played a lead role in the AP’s coverage of marijuana legalization and same-sex marriage, and serves on the AP Stylebook committee. She started her AP career in Nebraska, where she covered government, politics and the 2008 presidential race.

DAVID BRINDLEY is an editor, writer, researcher and strategic planner with more than 20 years’ experience in publishing. He is managing editor of National Geographic magazine and oversees production of the monthly publication with worldwide distribution of 8 million print copies and the largest digital subscription base of any magazine in North America. He joined the staff in 2002 and has led the research and fact-checking division, where he led the first never-copied book for the magazine and serves as chair of the National Geographic Style Committee. Previously he was a senior editor at Bon Appétit magazine, a reporter at U.S. News & World Report and a senior researcher at the Brookings Institution. Brindley graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and has a master’s degree from the London School of Economics. He lives in Washington, D.C., and frequently performs as a cast member for the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center.
Raúl Castro Cervantes, executive director of the Desert Sun in Palm Springs and a regional editor for the USA TODAY Network, was named executive editor of The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com, 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning newsroom and western flagship for the network.

John Colucci is the social media director for Sinclair Broadcast Group, overseeing social media strategy, education, partnerships, projects and curation and creation of content for all of the company’s TV stations and digital properties. In addition to his leadership role, Colucci is an on-camera personality, appearing as a social media reporter for KOMO-TV in Seattle and other Sinclair stations and previously was a regular contributor to Huff Post Live. He has also spoken at conferences such as SXSW and National Association of Black Journalists. Colucci leaped into the world of social media in 2011 while then in a project management role at Virgin America, and lead numerous creative marketing initiatives for the fledgling airline.

Kenneth Craig joined CBS News as a correspondent in June 2015 and is based in New York City. He has reported from the frontlines of the biggest breaking news stories in the U.S. and abroad, including the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels and the Pulse nightclub massacre. Craig has also covered the health crisis in rural Appalachia and its long history as a byproduct of systemic discrimination. Earlier this year, she contributed to a four-part series that intimately illustrated how the Trump administration’s immigration policies have affected residents of one neighborhood in east Los Angeles. She grew up in Seattle and attended Washington State University.

Tanner Curtis is a photo editor at The New York Times focusing on politics and government in the Trump era. Since November 2016, he has worked with the Washington bureau of The Times to manage day-to-day coverage of the White House and Congress. Curtis joined The Times in 2014 and worked on the National desk, coordinating coverage of major news events like the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, the aftermath of Michael Brown’s killing in Ferguson, Missouri and the Supreme Court’s historic decision legalizing same-sex marriage. Before joining The Times, he was an associate photo editor at Time.com focusing on U.S. news, politics and sports. He studied photojournalism at Western Kentucky University and is a native of the Bluegrass state.

Multi-EmmY-Award-winning journalist Peter Daut joined CBS2 and KCAL9 as a weekend anchor and reporter in September 2014. During his tenure in Los Angeles, Daut has served as the lead reporter on several major stories, including the Pulse nightclub shooting massacre in Orlando. Prior to joining CBS2 and KCAL9, Daut was a morning anchor and investigative reporter at WSOCTV in Charlotte. Daut also worked at KDFW-TV in Dallas, where he won an Emmy for his report on the shooting massacre at Fort Hood. Daut graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California, where he received dual degrees in broadcast journalism and political science. Born in Torrance, and having grown up in Placentia, Daut always dreamed of covering the news in Southern California.

Estate and newspaper photographer, Daut enjoys spending time with his family, working out and cheering on the USC Trojans. Growing up in Placentia, Daut always dreamed of covering the news in Southern California.

Brace Chambers completed a 35-year career as a photojournalist in 2014, when he left journalism to become a full-time psychotherapist. Chambers is currently a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Brea, California, working with clients struggling with relationship problems, depression, anxiety and trauma. Chambers was a daily newspaper photographer for five newspapers as a general assignment photojournalist, covering sports, local news and features. Among his assignments were four Olympic Games, the plight of refugees in Central America, the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia, the consequences of poor radioactive waste management in Russia and the emergency/ rescue response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Bruce Chambers completed a 35-year career as a photojournalist in 2014, when he left journalism to become a full-time psychotherapist. Chambers is currently a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Brea, California, working with clients struggling with relationship problems, depression, anxiety and trauma. Chambers was a daily newspaper photographer for five newspapers as a general assignment photojournalist, covering sports, local news and features. Among his assignments were four Olympic Games, the plight of refugees in Central America, the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia, the consequences of poor radioactive waste management in Russia and the emergency/ rescue response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Rita Choula is senior advisor in AARP Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. She manages and provides content expertise on family caregiving initiatives with a specific focus on multicultural family caregivers and those providing complex care. Choula bridges policy to practice by collaborating with internal and external partners to equip health-care professionals and social workers with the resources necessary to recognize and support family caregivers. She is married with two small children and is the primary caregiver for her mother.

Jen Christensen is a producer and editor for CNN’s medical unit, where she produces investigative stories and documentaries for Dr. Sanjay Gupta and does data analysis for CNN.com. Christensen has earned the highest award in broadcasting — the Peabody and DuPont — producing Christiane Amanpour’s “God’s (Jewish) Warriors.” She produced several other award-winning documentaries, including “MLK’s Words That Changed a Nation”; “Black in America” and “Obama Revealed.” Prior to CNN, Christensen ran WSOC-TV and WTVQ-TV’s investigative units and managed WXIN-TV’s weekend newsroom. Prior to journalism, Christensen was a public policy analyst at Chicago’s Board of Elections and at NATO (London) working on nuclear nonproliferation. She co-authored two books, “Women Public Speakers” and “Women Confronting Retirement.” Since 2013, she has served as president of NLGJA, having previously served as vice president for broadcast. She was president of the Georgia and Carolinas chapters, and was the founding president of the Kentucky chapter. Christensen graduated from Butler University and studied at London School of Economics.

Manny de la Rosa, also known as Manny the Movie Guy, is an Emmy-winning TV entertainment reporter and film critic. He currently presents his movie reviews and feature stories on NBC’s Palm Springs affiliate KMIR, and sidelines for The Filipino Channel (ABS-CBN). He also contributes reviews and showbiz reports to the Coachella Valley radio station MIX 100.5. In addition to being a member of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics, he is a voting member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association. Note: Manny the Movie Guy is a proud immigrant.
CONVENTION SPEAKERS

BENOIT DENIZET-LEWIS is an associate professor at Emerson College, a longtime writer with the New York Times Magazine, and the author of three books, including the New York Times bestseller “Travels With Casey.” Denizet-Lewis has received awards from GLAAD and NLGJA and was named one of the 50 Most Influential LGBT media members by The Advocate. His 2011 profile of ex-gay activist Michael Glatze was turned into a film (“I Am Michael”) starring James Franco and Zachary Quinto. At Emerson College, Denizet-Lewis teaches courses in publishing, journalism and gender and sexuality studies.

JASON DeROSE is western bureau chief and senior editor for NPR News. He oversees news coverage from reporters and freelancers in the 13 Western states, where nearly one-third of NPR’s listeners live. These pieces air nationally on “Morning Edition,” “All Things Considered” and “Weekend Edition.” Before his current position, DeRose was a business and economics editor at NPR News, and earlier edited the midday news magazine “Day to Day.” Prior to joining NPR, he was an editor, host, reporter and producer at member stations in Chicago, Seattle, Minneapolis and Tampa. He has taught journalism ethics, radio reporting, documentary production, multimedia storytelling and religion reporting at DePaul University in Chicago and at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. DeRose graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, with majors in religion and English. He holds a master’s degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School and studied at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

JOHNNY DODD is a staff writer for People, deployed in the trenches of pop culture. He also writes nonfiction books about true crime stories. Dodd appears in Investigation Discovery’s hit true crime series, “People Magazine Investigates,” now in its third season. The series draws upon original reporting from People’s award-winning true crime editorial team, delving into extraordinary tales of ordinary people thrust into the national spotlight.

RANDY DOTINGA is former president of the American Society of Journalists & Authors, a 1,200-member nonprofit association that serves as a voice and resource for independent writers. He has been a full-time freelance journalist for nearly 20 years.

ALONSO DURBALDE is the film reviews editor at TheWrap and co-host of the “Linoleum Knife” and “Who Shot Ya?” podcasts. He also appears on “What the Flick?” on the TYP Network and has hosted segments on FilmStruck. He is the author of two books: “Have Yourself a Movie Little Christmas” and “101 Must-See Movies for Gay Men.”

SHARIF DURHAMS is a senior editor for news and alerting for CNN Digital, where he oversees daily planning decisions for CNN’s desktop homepage and mobile alerts. Durhams was previously a homepage editor at The Washington Post where he helped structure coverage of the 2016 Olympics and election and directed homepage breaking news planning after the shooting of four police officers in Dallas and the announcement of Fidel Castro’s death. His team helped The Washington Post surpass The New York Times in digital traffic for the first time. The Post won the Online News Association’s General Excellence in Online Journalism award in 2015.

DAWN ENNIS is an award-winning journalist, a blogger at lifeafterdawn.com, HuffPost and Medium, and hosts a talk show on YouTube: “RiseUp With Dawn Ennis.” In June, she was honored by the organizers of the 2018 New York City Pride March as a community hero, standing alongside Emma Gonzalez, Tiq Milan and icons from the Stonewall Riots on the lead float. Ennis was America’s first transgender journalist in a TV network newsroom when she came out five years since. Since then, she’s spoken as an advocate for transgender rights at national media, religious and civil rights conventions, as well as on TV and on NPR. She now reports for NBC News, The Daily Beast, The Advocate, NewNowNext, INTO, GO Magazine and OutQ News. In addition, she was the assistant editor at LGBTQ Nation and the news editor at The Advocate, serving in both positions as the first out transgender editor on staff. Before moving to online journalism, she was a network news writer, producer and assignment editor as well as an executive producer at TV stations across the country. She got her start in New York City, landing a job at CNN in her sophomore year of college. Ennis is one of the founders of New York 1 News, 28 Tampa Bay News and Verizon Fios1 News. She also worked at CBS, NBC, ABC News and Politico, where she was an executive producer during the 2008 election. She is also a widow who does the job of mom for three children who call her “Dad.” Ennis and her family reside in Connecticut.

RAMON ESCOBAR is vice president of diversity and inclusion for CNN Worldwide. A media veteran with 25 years of experience in news and entertainment in local, cable and network television as well as digital/new media, Escobar has the unique perspective of having worked in both English and Spanish-language media. He developed expertise in both the U.S. Hispanic market and Latin America having traveled extensively throughout Latin America working with international media companies around the globe. Escobar came to CNN from Telemundo where he was the head of the news division. Prior to his time at Telemundo, Escobar was vice president of consulting at Sucherman Group where he worked closely with a cross-section of news and entertainment networks on programming, news and digital media strategy.

JOSEPH FENITY has an answer for everything. Many times when a question hasn’t even been asked! He landed his first on-air radio gig at just 17 near his hometown of Austin, Texas. A decade later that same town honored him with “Joseph Fenity Day” for his achievements in ushering in new and innovative ways to deliver news and other digital content. The San Francisco Bay Guardian called him a “podcast pioneer” when they gave his groundbreaking podcast a “Best of the Bay” Award way back in 2006. Fenity later went on to report for SiriusXM’s first LGBTQ station, OutQ News. More recently, he has worked worked at CBS Los Angeles and was also published in Rolling Stone earlier this year. Fenity has always been much more interested in news and networking rather than network news.

INA FRIED is chief technology correspondent for Axios and author of its daily tech newsletter. Before joining Axios in February 2017, she was a senior editor at Recode, covering mobile, and produced the Code/Mobile series of conferences. Her road to becoming the woman she is today has been a long one. Before helping launch Recode, Fried covered mobile at All Things Digital. Prior to that she spent a decade at CNET where she covered, among other things, Microsoft and Apple. Her reporting spanned several continents, two genders and included chronicling the Hewlett Packard-Compaq merger, Bill Gates’ transition from software giant to philanthropist and the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. She is also a former vice president and national board member for NLGJA and a member of the LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame.
JOE FRYER is a correspondent for NBC News based in Los Angeles. He joined the network in 2013 and reports for “NBC Nightly News,” “Today Show” and MSNBC. Since joining the network, Fryer has covered some of the country’s biggest stories, including mass shootings in Las Vegas and Orlando, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the fatal mudslide in Washington state and deadly wildfires in California’s wine country. Before joining NBC, Fryer spent three years as a special projects reporter at KING 5 News in Seattle, where he covered some of the Northwest’s most important stories. Fryer came to the Northwest from Minnesota, his home state. He spent six years at KARE-TV, and was the first reporter from his station on the scene of the 35W Bridge collapse in 2007. Before moving to Minnesota, Fryer in Nashville, Green Bay, Wisconsin and Lexington, Kentucky. He’s a proud graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. In all, Fryer has received four national Edward R. Murrow Awards, including the prestigious Writing Murrow in 2006. His awards shelf also includes 11 Regional Murrows, 19 Regional Emmys, two National Headliner Awards and one Sigma Delta Chi Award. His reporting and writing have been recognized by the National Press Photographers Association, NLGJA, The Associated Press and Association of Health Care Journalists. Fryer is a proud member of the NPPA and serves on the faculty of the NPPA’s Advanced Storytelling Workshop in San Marcos, Texas.

DANIEL FUNKE covers fact-checking, online misinformation and fake news for the International Fact-Checking Network at The Poynter Institute. He previously reported for Poynter as a Google News Lab Fellow and has worked for the Los Angeles Times, USA Today and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. When he’s not chasing down online hoaxes, the recent University of Georgia graduate can be found at your local brewery.

ARLYN GAJILAN is the deputy managing editor for operations at Reuters. Previously, Gajilan was deputy editor for professional news in New York where she helped steer the legal news team and oversee the delivery of Reuters content to Westlaw and the former Intellectual Property & Science division. She’s been a senior editor at Newsweek, Forbes.com, Conde Nast Portfolio, Time and Fortune.

PATRIK GALLINEAUX has worked with Stoli since 2010 and is currently the North American LGBT manager and ambassador for Stoli Group USA. He has over 25 years’ experience in the spirits, nightlife and hospitality industries and has enjoyed careers as a musical theatre stage performer/actor and professional ballroom dancer and instructor. He has served as a columnist for GLOSS Magazine and is a board member of the Richmond-Ermet Aid Foundation of Northern California with a mission to help those in need due to hunger, homelessness and the problems caused by HIV/AIDS. He is producer and host of the Stoli Key West Cocktail Classic, which also celebrates the unique legacy of LGBT bars as original community centers and safe spaces. Gallineaux also acts as host of the “Heroes of Diversity” video series at www.HeroesRaisingtheBar.com, which highlights unique individuals who by living their lives proudly and authentically inspire others to make positive change.

MICHELLE GARCIA is the senior editor for race and identities at Vox.com, focusing on race, gender, sexuality and religion. Garcia’s work has been honored by the Western Publishers Association, NLGJA, and the New York Press Association. Previously, Garcia was an editor at Mic.com and The Advocate magazine. She lives with her family in Brooklyn.

DUSTIN GARDINER covers state politics for The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com, with a focus on the Arizona Legislature, state agencies and the statewide elections system. Gardiner has wanted to be a political reporter since 10th grade, when he started writing for his high school newspaper, The Brighton BARB, in suburban Salt Lake City. Gardiner quickly realized he loved telling people’s stories and uncovering mysteries. After graduating from the University of Utah (go Utes!) in 2009, Gardiner moved to Arizona to work as a reporter. In 2017, Gardiner received the “Story of the Year” award from the Arizona Newspapers Association for his coverage of the city’s land ownership practices.

From his small town Ohio upbringing to his fast-paced L.A. life, AJ GIBSON has experienced it all! Since entertaining viewers as a contestant on ABC’s “Expedition Impossible” in 2011 and being singled out as “What to Watch” by TV Guide magazine, Gibson has turned his 15 minutes in the spotlight into a successful career as a television host and public speaker. Gibson spent time as the host of “Hollywood Today Live” on Fox, has filled in as a guest co-host on “Access Hollywood Live” and has appeared regularly on Southern California’s iconic morning chat fest “Good Day LA!” From time to time, you can also catch Gibson chatting with the ladies of The Talk on CBS, giving viewers the “Inside Scoop” on “The Wendy Williams Show” and interviewing the world’s biggest stars on the entertainment industry’s flashiest red carpets!
LUIS GIRALDO is an associate producer at “48 Hours” and a digital producer for CBS News. He contributes content to CBSNews.com and leads the promotion strategy on all digital and social platforms for special programming by CBS News such as “Change and Challenge: The Inauguration of Donald Trump” and “Royal Romance: The Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.” Giraldo also produced the “48 Hours” 30th season podcast “The Widow” and is currently developing a new interactive audio program with correspondents Erin Moriarty and Peter Van Sant. Giraldo was born in Bogota, Colombia, and moved to the U.S. at age 9, where he settled in Fort Myers, Florida. He obtained his degrees in telecommunications, violin performance and Spanish at the University of Florida, where he reported for NPR and PBS affiliates in the region.

MITCHELL GOLD, co-founder and chairman of Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, is a different kind of man running a very different kind of business. In every aspect of his personal and business life, he strives to make a difference. Founded in 1989, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams based its manufacturing in Taylorsville, North Carolina, with a modern factory, complete with an education-based daycare center first in the residential furniture industry) for employees and local community members and a health-conscious gourmet café run by the company’s corporate chef. The company also provides health fairs, an onsite nurse and college scholarships for children of employees. In addition to running a multimillion-dollar company, Gold serves on the board of directors for The Tyler Clementi Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to ending online and offline bullying in schools, workplaces and faith communities. He also served on the board of the Human Rights Campaign for seven years and as a speaker and consultant, writer and speaker, she serves as a columnist for AARP and has served as a reporter and/or editor for The Advocate magazine, the Des Moines Register, Associated Press and Hollywood Reporter.

MELISSA GIRA GRANT is a journalist, author and senior staff reporter at The Appeal. She has been a contributing writer at the Village Voice and Pacific Standard, covering criminal justice, LGBTQ and women’s rights, sex workers’ rights, HIV/AIDS and human trafficking. Her most recent book, “Playing the Whore: The Work of Sex Work,” has been translated into six languages.

JOHN GRIFFITHS, founder and executive director of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics and its Dorian Awards for film and TV, is a veteran entertainment journalist. After 13-plus years as Us Weekly’s sole television critic (2003-17), he now freelances as a celebrity interviewer or TV critic/reporter for TV Guide, Emmy magazine and AARP.

JOEL GROVER is the investigative reporter for NBC4 Los Angeles. He has won nearly every major award for investigative reporting, including the Peabody, the DuPont-Columbia, numerous Emmys, six National Edward R. Murrow Awards and two IRE Medals. He is nationally known for his undercover investigations, which have resulted in millions of dollars in refunds to consumers, changed laws and sent people to prison.

ISRAEL GUTIERREZ is a sports reporter for ESPN, known nationally for his appearances on ESPN “First Take,” “The Sports Reporters” and “Around the Horn.” He co-hosts the radio show “Izzy and Spain” with espnW’s Sarah Spain.

DOUG HADDIX is executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors. His 20-year newspaper career included a decade as investigative projects editor at The Columbus Dispatch and stints as city editor of daily newspapers in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Danville, Illinois. Before returning to IRE, where he previously worked as a training director, Haddix served as an assistant vice president at Ohio State University and director of the Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism.

KAREN HAWKINS is the founder and rebelle in chief of Rebellious Magazine for Women. She is an award-winning reporter and editor whose journalism background includes positions with The Associated Press, the Winds City Times, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Palm Beach Post. She is also the former director of communications for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Karen wants to thank her former boss for naming the online magazine she’s always wanted to start when he called her “Rebellious” for taking too many weekends off. When she isn’t instigating a media Rebellion, she’s thanking her lucky starlets she gets to do whatever she wants on weekends.

ERIC HEGEDÜS is a web producer, designer and writer at the New York Post, where he has worked since 2005. He previously was a designer and photo editor at The Philadelphia Inquirer and, prior to that, a photo editor and photographer for Gannett publications. Hegedüs, a current NLGJA national board member and past president, is co-chair of NLGJA’s annual Headlines & Headliners New York benefit.
DR. JON PAUL HIGGINS is a speaker, writer and social justice defender. They are both a Lambda Literary and Maynard 200 fellow and writes regularly for Presence. IO. Their work has been included on sites like The Root, Blavity, INTO, Efniks, Talkspace, Bitch Media and more notably, Them. Dr. Higgins is committed to using their voice to highlight and bring focus to the issues that affect both the Black and LGBTQ communities. In September 2016, they launched a YouTube channel where they posts weekly videos about race and identity issues and began sharing pieces of their mini-documentary highlighting stories related to their life as a queer Black non-binary person growing up in the inner city of San Bernardino, California. Dr. Higgins continues to lecture all over the country on topics related to intersectionality, race, gender and sexuality and has gained attention from websites including Attn: and Vox. Dr. Higgins completed their Educational Doctorate of Leadership in Justice from the University of Redlands where they wrote their dissertation on the first-year experiences of queer men of color in higher education.

STEVE HOLZER is an award-winning journalist and producer whose dynamic 25-year career spans both print and broadcast journalism as well as entertainment television programming. Most recently, Holzer served as executive producer of “Hollywood Today LIVE,” a nationally syndicated entertainment talk show that ran for two seasons on Fox and Media General affiliates. Prior to that, Holzer spent four years as the executive producer of Original Programming at the cable network REELZ, where he directly oversaw the production of more than 500 hours of programming annually. Holzer began his journalism career at the Associated Press in Denver, where his bylines appeared in major newspapers around the country like the Los Angeles Times and the Boston Globe. Making the transition to television, Holzer spent five years as a newscast producer at KCNC-TV in Denver before moving to KNBC-TV in Los Angeles, where he produced the station’s newscast and later oversaw the station’s entertainment news coverage.

BETHANY GRACE HOWE is a former high school teacher, hotel manager, performer and media manager for Disney on Ice, and Major League Baseball mascot. In 2002, Howe is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oregon, graduating with a degree in broadcast and digital journalism. In 2016, they launched a YouTube channel where they posts weekly videos about race and identity issues and began sharing pieces of their mini-documentary highlighting stories related to their life as a queer Black non-binary person growing up in the inner city of San Bernardino, California. Dr. Higgins continues to lecture all over the country on topics related to intersectionality, race, gender and sexuality and has gained attention from websites including Attn: and Vox. Dr. Higgins completed their Educational Doctorate of Leadership in Justice from the University of Redlands where they wrote their dissertation on the first-year experiences of queer men of color in higher education.

GENE KANG is thrilled to live his dream as a TV reporter for NBC4 Los Angeles/KNBC-TV. He previously worked for CBS News 8 in San Diego and received an Emmy Award for breaking news coverage of the Cocos wildfires and an Associated Press Award for Best Reporter. Kang began his broadcast journalism career at NBC5 in Chicago as an assignment editor and field producer. He previously served on the boards of Asian American Journalists Association, San Diego and AAJA-Chicago as marketing director and vice president of broadcast. He’s also a champion of LGBTQ and human rights as an openly gay man and a Buddhist. Kang married his best friend, Dan Nevez, in June 2014. They’ve been together for 20 years. When he’s not reporting, he is an active volunteer Buddhist leader with Soka Gakkai International-USA. He also volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

SHAR JOSSELL is a freelance entertainment reporter and media personality. Aside from co-hosting the “Kiss and Tell Radio” podcast, she also hosts pop culture news rundown on her “Shar Says So” YouTube channel. Jossell has been featured on Buzzfeed, TMZ, Us Weekly and Love B. Scott. She also previously served as a panelist on AfterBuzz TV and Black Hollywood Live, quickly becoming one of their most sought after personalities.

CHRISTINA KAHRL is a senior editor covering Major League Baseball for ESPN.com, and is a 10-year member of the Baseball Writers Association of America. She is also a co-founder of the Baseball Prospectus (a research think tank), and has served on the boards of Equality Illinois and GLAAD before joining the board of NLGJA.

MARTY KAISER is a senior fellow for the Democracy Fund Public Square Program. He is a nationally recognized media consultant specializing in leadership, digital innovation, ethics, investigative reporting, and editing. He has worked in the United States, Canada and Europe. He was editor/senior vice president of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel from 1997 to 2015. Under his leadership, the Journal Sentinel earned a national reputation for its journalism and digital innovation. Kaiser’s newsroom won Pulitzer Prizes in 2008, 2010, and 2011 and was honored as a finalist six other times from 2003 through 2014. While he was editor, the Journal Sentinel won awards in almost every major U.S. journalism contest. Columbia Journalism Review wrote that the Journal Sentinel had one of the most acclaimed watchdog teams in the country, period.

JAWEED KALEEM is the national race and justice correspondent at the Los Angeles Times, where he writes about how race and ethnicity shape our evolving understanding of what it means to be American. He frequently reports on policing, civil rights, immigration, prisons and religion. Before joining The Times, Kaleem was the senior religion reporter at HuffPost for five years, where he wrote extensively on LGBT rights, the Roman Catholic Church, evangelical Christians, the Mormon church and Muslims. From 2007-11, he was a religion and general assignment reporter for the Miami Herald. He attended Emerson College in Boston and grew up in Northern Virginia.

FERNANDO HURTADO is a producer at Circa, a national digital video news outlet. At Circa, he’s written, shot and edited stories on everything from pregnant moms who smoke marijuana to the air pollution crisis in communities of color. Prior to that, he was a freelance social video producer for Fusion Media Group and USA Today. He graduated from the University of Southern California in 2016 with a degree in broadcast and digital journalism. He’s originally from Chicago and currently lives in Los Angeles.
JASON KNOWLES was promoted to consumer investigative reporter at ABC7 Chicago in January 2014, becoming a member of the station’s prestigious I-team investigative unit. His strong and incisive investigative reporting background, and his in-depth segments as special projects producer at ABC 7, made him the perfect fit for consumer investigative work. He joined ABC 7 Eyewitness News as a reporter in February 2009, and has covered countless breaking stories which have made national headlines. Knowles first came to ABC 7 in 2000 as a special projects producer. Before joining ABC 7 as a producer, Knowles spent eight years on the air as a reporter at various stations including WTVG-TV, the ABC-owned station in Toledo, Ohio, where he was their investigative reporter and consumer troubleshooter. He also worked as a reporter and anchor at WKAG-TV in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

SHANA NAOMI KROCHMAL is a writer, producer and shameless enthusiast who is the digital director for Entertainment Weekly. She was previously the editor-in-chief for Entertainment Tonight online and is a long-time contributing editor and former staffer at OUT magazine. She has also worked at Al Jazeera America, Current TV, and POZ magazine. Her commentary has been featured on NPR’s “All Things Considered,” “The Young Turks” and many other entertainment and news outlets. As a press secretary and communications strategist, she worked at and advised advocacy and community organizations including GLAAD and San Francisco’s STOP AIDS Project. She and her wife and their dog live in Los Angeles.

JOHN LAKE is vice president, multicultural strategy and LGBTQ segment leader for Wells Fargo. In that role he develops and drives national multicultural marketing efforts across Wells Fargo’s multiple regions and lines of business, with a special focus on LGBTQ initiatives. Prior to Wells Fargo, he served for eight years as corporate development director for the Human Rights Campaign, America’s largest LGBTQ advocacy organization. At HRC, he led their national corporate sponsorship program, developing strategic partnerships to bridge some of the world’s biggest brands with the LGBTQ community. Before moving to the nonprofit side, Lake ran his own company, Open Door Marketing, and headed client services at the Isosceles Group. A California native, he currently lives in San Francisco with husband, Chris, and dog, Rocky, and serves on the board of directors for Muttville, a rescue organization dedicated to finding homes for senior dogs.

MAYA LAU is a reporter for the Los Angeles Times covering the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department, one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the U.S. Her stories have revealed secret evidence of officer misconduct and spurred a district attorney to review past criminal convictions that relied on the testimony of those officers. In 2015, she was the lead writer on a series that won an IRE award for uncovering the business dealings of a USA Today reporter. Since 2012, Lau has covered police brutality and justice issues in Los Angeles. In 2015, she was the lead writer on a series that won an IRE award for uncovering the business dealings of a USA Today reporter. Since 2012, Lau has covered police brutality and justice issues in Los Angeles.

RHONDA LeVALDO, a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. She teaches media communications classes, is an adviser to the school newspaper, The Indian Leader, and writes freelance stories for National Native News. LeValdo also hosts Native Spirit Radio 90.1 FM-KKFI in Kansas City and is a past president of the Native American Journalists Association.
MICHAEL LUONGO’s travels from Buenos Aires to Baghdad have been a source of juicy gossip for the New York Post’s Page Six. He chairs the NLGJA Travel Writers Caucus and has written for publications as varied as The New York Times, National Geographic Traveler, Out Traveler, the Christian Science Monitor and many others. He is the author or editor of 16 books, mostly on travel. He was the 2013 NLGJA Journalist of the Year, the 2011 NLGJA Sarah Pettit Memorial Award Recipient and twice the Grand Prize Winner in Travel Journalism for the North American Travel Journalists Association, in 2010 and 2014. He has been to 100 countries and all seven continents, specializing in Latin America and the Middle East. Luongo was a 2016 University of Michigan Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellow researching the role of travel media in tourism rebuilding in conflict zones and urban areas in transition, and has taught at the University of Michigan, New York University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and will be a writer-in-residence at Hong Kong’s Lingnan University in fall 2018.

AMOS MAC is a writer and artist living in Los Angeles. In 2009, he founded and became editor-in-chief of Original Plumbing, the seminal print magazine documenting the culture of trans men. He was a producer for the Emmy-nominated documentary series “Gaycation (VICELAND),” has been honored on TOLT 100, TRANS 100, and featured in the HBO film “The Trans List.” “The Original Plumbing Anthology,” featuring the best of all 20 issues, will be published by the Feminist Press in 2019. He was named a 2018 Lambda Literary Fellow for Emerging LGBTQ Voices, for his forthcoming young adult novel about a trans teen in the late 1990s.

PATRICK MANNING serves as a field producer for CNBC. He covers a wide scope of business news stories for the network, from retail to banking. Manning is based out of the network’s headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, and is active with the station’s LGBT network, Our@NBCUniversal, and is a member of NLGJA. The stories he produces also appear on MSNBC, NBC affiliates, CNBC digital and “Nightly Business Report” on PBS. Manning joined CNBC in 2017. He previously worked as a field producer for Fox News Channel and Fox Business, based out of New York City. The story that has had the most profound impact on him was covering the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. Prior to working as a field producer, Manning was in the inaugural class of multimedia reporters for the network, based in El Paso, Texas. There he covered the Mexican drug war, border and immigration, as well as the 2016 presidential race. He resides in New York City.

STEVE MASON is an American broadcast personality based in Southern California since 1982. He is co-host with John Ireland of the “Mason and Ireland” weekday show on ESPN Los Angeles 710 KSPN and hosts the pregame show for the stations broadcasts of the University of Southern California Trojans football team.

DAVID McCABE covers the collision of technology with policy and politics for Axios. Recently, his reporting has focused on the groundswell of policymaker skepticism toward Silicon Valley, the trial over the AT&T-Time Warner merger and high-profile debates at the Republican-controlled Federal Communications Commission. A native New Yorker now based in Washington, D.C., he has been on the tech policy beat since 2015.

RYAN McCLENDON is a video producer with “AndreaMitchell Reports” on MSNBC. Before joining MSNBC in January 2013, he was deputy video editor at NewsCore, the internal wire service of NewsCorp and was a regular contributing producer with The Associated Press (APTN). He was the winner of the Leroy F. Aarons Scholarship in 2009.

CODY McCLOY started at CNN.com in 1996, after graduating from the University of Missouri, focused on broadcast journalism. At first he was hand tagging HTML for the site, then moved up to a video editor and helped create interactives. Currently he is a long-serving member of the small, but dedicated Photo desk at CNN Digital, where he works to create a strong visual presence across all of CNN's digital platforms.

JEFF McMLLAN is the Eastern U.S. enterprise editor for The Associated Press, overseeing efforts to cultivate and execute high-end enterprise, investigative journalism and cross-format storytelling for 10 states from Ohio to Maine. He is also a member of the AP Stylebook team and helped lead the creation of sections on gender and addiction. He previously was the breaking-news manager for the AP’s East region, a supervisor on the AP’s former national desk, a copy and graphics editor at Newsday and a copy editor in Philadelphia.

MARIA MERCADER, currently the director of talent strategy, has been with CBS News for over 25 years. Prior to this position she worked as a producer at CBS News Foreign Desk. Mercader is proud that she has grown up at CBS as she started in the company as a page. Through the years, she has also has worked at Newsphat, the National Desk and “Sunday Morning.” In 2004, she won a Business Emmy with David Pogue and Doug Smith for the “CBS News Sunday Morning” piece on computer spam.

LISA MIDDLETON was elected to the Palm Springs City Council in November 2017. Prior to her election, Middleton served as a member of the Palm Springs Planning Commission and as chairwoman of the Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs. She is a member of the boards of directors of Neighborhoods USA, the Equality California Institute and the Desert LGBTQ Center. Middleton retired after 36 years with the State Compensation Insurance Fund. Middleton is a graduate of University of California Los Angeles holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. She has also completed the UCLA LGBT Leadership Institute. Middleton is the first transgender person elected to a nonjudicial office in the state of California. After 13 years together, Middleton and her wife Cheryl were married in July 2013. She is the proud parent of two accomplished educators.

KEN MIGUEL is a multiple Emmy Award-winning special projects producer at KGO-TV in San Francisco. In his 20-plus years at the station, he has done just about every job in the newsroom. He currently shoots, writes and edits the stories he produces and runs the station’s drone program. Miguel is a former NLGJA chapter president for the Northern California Chapter, served as a national board member and is currently the treasurer. He also runs the organization’s Rapid Response Task Force, addressing unfair and inaccurate coverage of the LGBTQ community.

GARRETT MITCHELL covers entertainment and events for The Arizona Republic in Phoenix. A southern Arizona-bred writer, Mitchell first began his career writing at the Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review while studying journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Mitchell has worked at The Republic since 2015 and covered breaking news, crime and courts before joining the features staff in 2017. In his spare time, he enjoys making animated GIFs of delightfully bad 70s flicks and “Real Housewives,” reading trashy celebrity memoirs and mastering cocktail recipes.
CONVENTION SPEAKERS

ALEX MORASH is a writer based in Washington, D.C., who occasionally causes trouble on Twitter. Morash started to build a following when he was writing for Media Matters. He also has bylines in The Advocate, The Washington Blade, Salon, AlterNet and The National Memo. His social media commentary has been picked up by dozens of news outlets including The Washington Post, Time, BET, CNN and Rawstory. Currently, he serves as the spokesperson for the National LGBTQ Task Force.

MEREDITH MORGOCCH is a second-year mass media studies Ph.D. student at the University of Oregon, earned her bachelor's in public relations from Appalachian State University and her master's in communication, technology and society from Clemson University. Her master's thesis focused on the strategic messages employed by a Facebook community during a natural disaster, and she is interested in pursuing further research related to digital strategic communication in the health realm. She is a member of the University of Oregon chapter of NLGJA, along with serving as co-executive publisher of "Melody's Stories: The Enduring Identity Project."

MICHAEL J. O’LOUGHLIN is a Chicago-based religion journalist and author of “The Tweetable Pope: A Spiritual Revolution in 140 Characters.” He writes regularly about contemporary religion issues, including religion and politics, Catholic young adults, the role of religion in the public square and more. O’Loughlin writes for America magazine and he was previously a staff writer for The Boston Globe, where he wrote about the Catholic Church. He has also been published in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy and The Advocate, and he has been interviewed by a number of media outlets, including NPR, The BBC, ABC, CBS, Fox News and MSNBC. He frequently gives talks on a range of Catholic issues and he is currently working on a project about the Catholic Church’s response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1980s and ’90s.

MARTIN ORTIZ is an executive producer at KGO-TV/ABC7 in San Francisco. That’s where he oversees “ABC7 Mornings,” the station’s two-and-a-half-hour-long morning broadcast. In addition, Ortiz helps manage digital content for the station’s website, app and social media pages. Prior to this management position, Ortiz served as a producer for several newcasts at KGO, including the weekday 11 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 a.m. newscasts. Ortiz started his career as an assignment editor and producer at KFSN-TV, the ABC owned station in Fresno, California. He’s a native of Parlier, California, and a proud graduate of California State University, Fresno.

COURT PASSANT works with the teams at CBS Affiliate Relations and CBS Television Networks Distribution and manages the relationships with CBS affiliates, multichannel video programming distributors and Over the Top distributors of CBS programming. He is a veteran of CBS and CBS News, where he has worked since 1992. His CBS journey includes producing the overnight news broadcast “Up to the Minute” on the CBS Television Network and managing CBS NewsPath, the company’s affiliate news service. Prior to becoming vice president of affiliate marketing, he was executive director of broadcast marketing at CBS News. He is also the founder and executive producer of CBS News on Logo. He is married to Joseph Vasquez, a kindergarten teacher in the New York City Public Schools.

ADAM K. PAWLUS is executive director of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. Prior to joining NLGJA, Pawlus served the Physicians for Social Responsibility as its director of operations and at the Voluntary Protections Programs Participants’ Association as the deputy executive director and director of communications and outreach. Pawlus is an active member of many nonprofit organizations in the Washington, D.C., area. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and speech communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Arts in journalism and mass communications from the University of Georgia at Athens.

CHRISTINE PELISEK is an award-winning crime reporter who has been covering the beat, most recently for People, for more than 15 years. She also covered crime and national news as a reporter for “20/20” and the Daily Beast. While at the Daily Beast, she wrote about almost every national news story including the Aurora movie theater shooting and Newtown/Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting. Prior to that, Pelisek worked at the LA Weekly as an investigative crime reporter. In 2008, during her tenure there, she broke the story that a serial killer who murdered women in South Los Angeles for decades had struck again in 2007, and she dubbed the killer the Grim Sleeper. She received a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Los Angeles for her work on the case.

DENISE PENN is a Southern California-based journalist who has covered issues for the LGBT and HIV-affected community for over two decades. Her experience included 10 years as editor-in-chief of Bi Magazine. She has contributed to the Blade Newsmagazine, In Los Angeles Magazine, EDGE, Sex Vibe and many others. She was the news editor for the Lesbian News for 10 years. She also produced and hosted an award-winning LGBT community television program in Long Beach for 12 years. She is a past president of BiNetUSA.

KAREN MILLER PENSIERO is managing editor of The Wall Street Journal. In this role, she is responsible for all newsroom operations, training, budgets and people and for ensuring the Journal has a world-class, talent-driven and diverse newsroom. She was appointed to this position in September 2017. Ms. Pensiero is a more than 30-year veteran of the Journal and parent company Dow Jones and has held numerous roles in her career, most recently as Editor for Newsroom Standards for four years where she served as a member of the Journal’s elevated standards of reporting and editing. Prior to that, she held a variety of positions, including director of corporate communications for Dow Jones. Ms. Pensiero is a lecturer and panelist on journalism ethics and standards, serves as a judge for the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication, is an advisory board member of Press Forward, and a board member of the Missourian Publishing Association and the Dow Jones News Fund. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

GREG PHILLIPS leads media relations efforts on health-care policy at AARP national headquarters in Washington, D.C. His portfolio also includes family caregiving and LGBT issues. Prior to joining AARP, he was director of media relations and communications at The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, where he led national media outreach for the ob-gyn specialty. At ACOG, he was also deputy editor-in-chief of the award-winning magazine for peri-menopausal and menopausal women. A native of Wilmington, Delaware, he received his undergraduate degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.
IQBAL PITLALWALA is a public information officer at the University of California, Riverside, where he covers the School of Medicine as well as a handful of departments in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. He worked for a few years at University of California Irvine, too. He enjoys writing about science, health and medicine; he writes fiction in his dwindling spare time. He was instrumental in getting a group started at UCR for LGBTQIA faculty and staff; the group meets monthly, in an informal setting on campus, to discuss issues of relevance to the academic LGBTQIA community. He launched a similar group at UC Irvine.

JULES PURNELL is a sexuality educator, writer, speaker, facilitator and curriculum developer. They specialize in discussing complex and sensitive subjects in a nonjudgmental, compassionate and factual manner appropriate for professionals and laypersons alike. They are a graduate at Widener University’s Center for Human Sexuality Studies, as well as teen council coordinator with Planned Parenthood of Delaware.

NII-QUARTELAI QUARTEY is senior adviser and national LGBT liaison at AARP headquarters in Washington, D.C. As strategic adviser in multicultural leadership at AARP, he is charged with deepening community engagement with LGBT organizations to better meet the needs of AARP’s LGBT members. Prior to joining AARP, he was at the American Heart Association leading an innovative national childhood obesity initiative in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Quartey is a past board president of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and a current National Foster Youth Institute board member. A native of California, he received his doctor of education from Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology.

ROBIN RAUZI is a freelance editor specializing in nonfiction, particularly op-eds and other forms of persuasive writing. She was a full-time writer and editor at the Los Angeles Times for 13 years, during which time she worked on entertainment, travel and opinion desks. Her last position was articles editor for the Op Ed page, which meant collaborating with activists, academics, politicians and other subject matter experts to craft lively and convincing essays. She started Get Rauzi Editorial Services in 2009 to provide line editing to companies, nonprofits, writers and publications. (She continues to provide temporary vacation-relief editing for the Times.) In mid-2017, she launched a online personal writing program called 40 Days & 40 Writes, which you can read about at birdsinabarrel.com. Rauzi has a bachelor’s in screenwriting from University of Southern California and a master’s degree in journalism from Ohio University.

CATHY RENNA is the principal of Target Cue, a premier public relations and communications firm that focuses on LGBT and HIV-related issues and events and provides media training, strategic and crisis communications services to diverse nonprofit organizations. While working for GLAAD in 1998, she was dispatched to Laramie, Wyoming, immediately following the attack on Matthew Shepard and worked with journalists and community on the ground through the aftermath of his death, the trials and community impact. She has also worked with the Tectonic Theater Project on media and education related to “The Laramie Project.”
CONVENTION SPEAKERS

JASON RESENDEZ is chief of staff of UsAgainstAlzheimer’s and executive director of the Latinos Against Alzheimer’s Coalition. He directs UsAgainstAlzheimer’s coalition building, strategic convening and patient advocacy in the Latino community. He has nearly a decade of experience developing social impact strategies and campaigns for national multicultural organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens, UnidosUS and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

ANDE RICHARDS has worked extensively in licensing and merchandising at 20th Century Fox and at Saban Entertainment, where she contributed to the phenomenal success of “The Simpsons” and the “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” properties. She has also worked as a publicist for Markham/Novell Public Relations as an account executive for the renowned Jim Henson Company, where she created and implemented a highly successful campaign for Miss Piggy’s special edition fragrance “Moi.” She serves as NLGJA LA Chapter co-president and is a member of the local chapters of AAJA and NABJ.

LANCE RICHARDSON has written for numerous publications, including The Guardian, New York, The Atlantic, Slate, The New Yorker (online), The Sydney Morning Herald and several international iterations of GQ. He holds a master’s degree in longform journalism from the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, NYU. Originally from Australia, he now lives in New York.

DONNA ROSSI is a five-time Emmy Award-winning reporter who has logged three decades covering and uncovering some of the most high-profile stories in the state of Arizona. She started her professional journalism career at KNAZ-TV in Flagstaff, Arizona, while still attending Northern Arizona University. She then moved to the CBS affiliate in Tucson, Arizona, and joined CBS 5 News in Phoenix. She is a past president of the Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences and continues to serve on the Board of Governors. In fall 2018, Rossi will be inducted into the Arizona Broadcasters’ Association Hall of Fame and will become an adjunct instructor at the prestigious Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University.

CAROLYN RYAN is the assistant managing editor at The New York Times. She oversees the recruiting of journalists to The Times. Before she was named senior editor for politics in September 2015, Ryan oversaw coverage of Washington as politics editor and Washington bureau chief. Ryan has also served as the newspaper’s Metro editor and helped run its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the fall of Eliot Spitzer, then the governor of New York.

NORBERTO SANTANA JR. is an award-winning investigative reporter with more than two decades’ reporting experience, largely focused on local government across Southern California. He’s worked as a staff writer for the Orange County Register, the San Diego Union Tribune, the San Bernardino County Sun, the Virgin Islands Daily News and Congressional Quarterly. Since 2009, he’s led the digital nonprofit newsroom, Voice of OC, covering civic life in Orange County, California.

ANJULI SASTRY co-produces NPR’s podcast and radio show “It’s Been A Minute with Sam Sanders”. The radio show airs on stations nationwide, while the podcast airs biweekly; the show is a wrap of the news and culture of the week. Previously, Sastry was a producer for NPR’s flagship evening newsmagazine, “All Things Considered,” working predominantly with Kelly McEvers at NPR West in Culver City, California. She is committed to promoting diversity at NPR and co-founded a women of color mentorship program at the network. Sastry is a proud Indian-American born and raised in the Bay Area, and is an alumna of the University of California, Berkeley, and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

SENTA SCARBOROUGH is an award-winning journalist and Emmy-nominated producer. She is the founder of Sentamatic Media focusing primarily on screenwriting, journalism and nonfiction projects. Her work has appeared in Adweek, INTO, USA Today, E! News, Us Weekly Magazine and The Asheville Poetry Review, among others. She currently serves on the NLGJA board of directors. She holds her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts from the University of California Riverside/Palm Desert. She lives in Los Angeles with her wife, Katie, and their dog, Sadie.

CORY SCHOUTEN, a former president of the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing (SABEW), is senior newsletter editor at The Wall Street Journal. Previously, he was a senior editor at Columbia Journalism Review and managing editor at Indianapolis Business Journal.

JUDY & DENNIS SHEPARD lost their 21-year-old son, Matthew, to a murder motivated by anti-gay hate in October 1998. Matthew’s death moved many thousands of people around the world to attend vigils and rallies in his memory. Determined to prevent others from suffering their son’s fate, the Shepards decided to turn their grief into action and established the Matthew Shepard Foundation to carry on Matthew’s legacy. The foundation is dedicated to working toward social justice; diversity awareness and education; and equality for LGBTQ people. As president of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Mrs. Shepard travels across the nation speaking to audiences about what they can do as individuals and communities to make this world a more accepting place for everyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation. The Shepards continue to live in Casper, Wyoming.

Australian born television Host and Producer KARL SCHMID has been busy on American, Canadian and British televisions for the last 9 years. Most recently, Southern Californian audiences know him as the face of ABC’s informative SoCal Spotlight segments. Whether he’s been covering the Academy Awards and entertainment news and red carpets for ABC with ‘On The Red Carpet’, or the Royal Wedding live from London for TLC, or taking television viewers on an emotional journey as the host of Logo’s ‘Operation Vacation’ for two seasons, Karl Schmid has become one of Australia’s most sought after hosts abroad. His latest producing credits include ‘Cover Story: Meghan Markle, The Prince and the Game Show Model’ for GSN, the Barry Humphries presented ‘Passions; The Music Hitler Banned’ for Sky Arts in the UK and ‘Rich & Acquitted’ for REELZ.
BROOKE SOPELSA is the editorial manager of NBC Out, the LGBTQ digital destination launched by NBC News in June 2016. Under Sopelsa's leadership, NBCOut.com seeks to both enlighten and entertain by showcasing content about and of interest to the LGBTQ community. Prior to her return to the NBC family, Sopelsa was a producer at the Huffington Post, where she developed and produced live news and lifestyle segments. She co-produced, shot and edited the documentary “Queer Streets,” a film about LGBTQ homeless youth, which aired on MTV's LOGO channel from 2008-11. Sopelsa started her career in journalism as a production assistant and shortly thereafter an on-air reporter at Time Warner Cable Channel 10 News in Bergen County, New Jersey.

SHAUN SPALDING is an intellectual property attorney specializing in digital entertainment transactions/licensing and assistant director of New Media Rights, a San Diego-based nonprofit that represents creators and startups working on educational or innovative projects who may not otherwise be able to afford legal services. He is also a professor at California Western School of Law.

ZACH STAFFORD is the editor-in-chief of INTO, a new digital lifestyle magazine launched by Grindr in 2017. At INTO, he and Trish Bendix oversee day-to-day operations and are responsible for the overall direction and content of the publication. Prior to this role, Stafford served editor at large of OUT Magazine and as an award-winning investigative reporter at The Guardian where he covered justice, violence and social issues in both his column and long-form features. He regularly provides commentary on radio, podcasts and has appeared on the BBC, CNN and “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah.” He also is the co-editor of the bestselling book “Boys, An Anthology,” as well as his latest photo-essay book, “When Dogs Heal.”

MIZELL STEWART III is a lifelong journalist and community servant with a passion for transforming organizations and lives for the better. Today, he is a news executive for Gannett and the USA TODAY Network and an adjunct faculty member at The Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Previously, he was the managing director and chief content officer for Journal Media Group and vice president/content for the newspaper division of The E.W. Scripps Company.

JOSH STOFFREGEN is a vice president and head of global communications strategy and media relations for Prudential Retirement's people, products and services, including defined contribution, defined benefit, guaranteed retirement income, structured settlements, executive benefits and pension risk transfer. He also directs and manages PR agency teams in the U.S. and the U.K. He oversees employee engagement campaigns both at the enterprise and business level. Stoffregen is also in charge of social media initiatives and news media events for Prudential Retirement.

MIKE SZYMANSKI came out as bisexual in a cover story of Genre magazine, which resulted in more than 50 television appearances, including “Ricky Lake,” “Phil Donahue Show” and “2020.” Szynamski won the Lambda Literary Award in 2007 for co-authoring an informative humor book “The Bisexual’s Guide to the Universe: Quips, Tips and Lists for Those Who Go Both Ways.” He has written about bisexual issues since 1998 and has one of the longest-running regular bisexual columns as the National Bisexuality Examiner, and he also served as assistant editor of Bi Magazine.

RICH TARPENING began his news career in 1984, where he was a radio/TV broadcaster in the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed overseas for four years before deciding to move back to California to find a job in the commercial world of TV broadcasting. He landed his first job at KMIR-TV in 1990 and began as a master control operator before transitioning into the news department as a photographer. He spent 15 years with KMIR-TV and during that time, he was KMIR’s first full time news producer and started KMIR-TV’s first morning show. In 2006 he began working for the Palm Springs Pavilion Theatre as the marketing and PR director until the theatre closed. In 2007 he decided to go back to work in local television and was hired by KESQ-TV as their assignment manager. He been awarded with six Emmy Awards and one Golden Mic Award for coverage of Coachella Valley news.

C. GREGORY THOMPSON, a Pushcart Prize nominee, lives in Los Angeles, where he writes fiction, nonfiction, plays and memoir. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in Storgy Magazine, Writers Resist, Five:2:One, Cowboy Jamboree, Full Grown People, The Offbeat, Printers Row Journal and Reunion: The Dallas Review. Four of his short stories were included in the “2017 New Short Fiction Series.” He was named a finalist in the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival’s 2015 Fiction Contest. His short play “Cherry” won two playwriting awards. He earned a master’s in creative writing and writing for the performing arts at the University of California, Riverside/Palm Desert. He has recently completed his first short story collection and is working on a novel. He is the founder of Pen & Paper Writing Workshops.

BEVERLY TILLERY is the executive director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project, an organization that empowers LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities and allies to end all forms of violence through organizing and education and supports survivors through counseling and advocacy. She is an experienced thought leader, advocate and national organizer with nearly three decades of experience working in social justice movements. Most recently, she was a deputy director of education and public affairs in charge of community education, advocacy and inclusion at Lambda Legal, an organization dedicated to achieving full recognition of the rights of LGBTQ people and people living with HIV. There, she led national educational and advocacy campaigns and community-based research projects aimed at changing policies as well as hearts and minds. Prior to Lambda Legal, she worked as an organizer, popular educator, strategist and staff leader at Amnesty International, Service Employees International Union and ACORN. Beverly lives in Harlem with her partner and their 12-year-old daughter.

KRISTINA TORRES is the leadership communications manager for the University System of Georgia, a position she began in 2017 after a 24-year career working at newspapers and media companies in South Carolina, Minnesota and Georgia. Called one of “the best state capitol reporters in America” by The Washington Post, Torres during her career spent more than a decade as an education beat writer for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where she worked on the Pulitzer Prize-nominated team that exposed the nation’s biggest test cheating scandal. She is also a member of the NLGJA national board of directors. A Colorado native, Torres graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

JEFF TRUESDELL is a staff writer for People magazine, where he covers breaking news and true crime from cold-case mysteries to mass shootings. He contributes to the Investigation Discovery series “People Magazine Investigates” and executive produced the 2017 documentary “For Ahkeem” on themes of juvenile justice and the school-to-prison pipeline. He is an NLGJA national board member.

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KRIS VAN CLEAVE was appointed CBS News transportation correspondent in September 2015 and is based in Washington, D.C. He previously served as a correspondent for CBS News, the Network’s 24-hour television news gathering service for CBS stations and broadcasters around the world. Since joining CBS News in 2014, Van Cleave has covered a number of breaking news stories, including the deadly derailment of Amtrak train 188; the Boston Marathon bombing trial and the crash of Germanwings 9525. Prior to joining CBS News, Van Cleave served as a reporter and anchor for nearly eight years at WUSA-TV and NewsChannel 9 in Washington, D.C. He began his television career as the producer of KTLA-TV/Tribune’s nationally syndicated “CyberGuy Report.” Van Cleave has earned 12 regional Emmy Awards, nine regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and was part of ABC’s team of reporters honored with the 2010 and 2014 National Edward R. Murrow Awards for breaking news coverage.

DANIEL VAILLANCOURT is a native French Canadian, Southern California-based journalist who has contributed not only to a self-created syndicate of more than 50 regional LGBTQ publications through the U.S. and Canada but to The Advocate, Huffington Post and the Los Angeles Times, among dozens of other publications. He’s also served as a medical writer for CBSHealthWatch.com and Gayheath.com. As a screenwriter with husband David A. Lee, Vaillancourt was on staff for the final season of GLAAD Media Award-winning daily dramaed “MtV’s Undressed,” and has sold a handful of TV pilots and features that have yet to be produced. Currently in development for the couple are a biopic of Barbra Streisand based on biographer William J. Mann’s best-selling “Hello Gorgeous: Becoming Barbra Streisand,” and “Sex-Crime Panic,” based on gay historian Neil Miller’s nonfiction book of the same name. Vaillancourt is a member of both the Writers Guild of America and the Writers Guild of Canada and served as co-vice chair of the WGAs LGBTQ Writers Committee from 2006-2016.

NICOLE VAP is the director of investigative journalism at 9NEWS in Denver, and TEGNA Inc. Vap leads a team of award-winning reporters and producers in Denver, and coordinates joint projects and training company wide. Her team are winners of a 2018 National Edward R. Murrow award, a 2017 Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service in Television Journalism, a 2011 DuPont Silver Baton for excellence in Broadcast journalism, multiple regional Edward R. Murrow and Emmy awards as well as being named a finalist for the IRE Freedom of Information award. She has also worked at television stations in Arizona, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Kansas.

ZACHARY WADE is a senior producer for mobile programming at CNN Digital. As a journalist, he builds voice and arresting frames into the day’s top headlines. As a technologist, he helps create new and better ways to tell big stories on small screens. Wade works with his team daily to pair news instinct with data insight to craft mobile homepages that resonate brilliantly and engage users honestly. In 2017, he guided the editorial direction for the CNN core mobile app relaunch and continues to steer future iterations of the CNN app and mobile websites. Before CNN, Wade produced apps for local TV news station KMNO in St. Louis and developed features for other stations across the U.S. He has degrees in political science, economics and journalism from the University of Missouri.

LYNN WALSH is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who has worked in investigative, data and TV journalism at the national level as well as locally in California, Ohio, Texas and Florida. Currently, she is a freelance journalist and the project manager for the Trusting News project, where she works to help rebuild trust between journalists and the public by working with newsrooms to be more transparent about how they do their jobs. Walsh is a digital explorer and an international speaker and trainer, working to encourage transparency, media engagement, digital innovation and free expression rights for all.

MITH WEST has spent his life in sales. He is an established advertising professional with more than 18 years of planning, buying and selling experience. The son of an entrepreneur, West’s dad had him selling storm windows and doors at age 10. His background prepared him to understand the needs and challenges of local small and medium-sized businesses. His career in TV began in 1993, as a reporter for Armed Forces News attached with the 82nd Airborne Division in U.S. Army Special Operations. West is also a former paratrooper with that division. In his current role, he oversees the digital operations of 38 TV stations and digital channels in 15 markets for Nexstar Media Group.

DAVE WHITE is the co-host of the “Linoleum Knife” podcast, a film critic for TheWrap.com and the author of Exile in Guyville. His work has appeared in The Advocate, Slate, LA Weekly and Movies.com.

SCOTT WHITE is the president and CEO of the Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau, the tourism sales and marketing organization for the Coachella Valley. White came to the CVB in 2010 following four years as the executive director of the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau and eight years at the Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau. He began his hospitality career in Monterey, California in the hotel industry, including nine years with Renaissance Hotels. Scott serves on the Governing Board for the Desert Regional Medical Center, the Board of Trustees for the California Travel Political Action Committee, the Chairman’s Circle for the U.S. Travel Association and is immediate past chairman of the California Travel Association.

JUDY WIEDER, who sits on the advisory board of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics Board, is a Grammy-winning songwriter turned award-winning journalist. Early in her career, she toured with bands as a writer and editor for Creem and other music magazines. In 1992, Wieder became the editor of Genre magazine for a year before joining The Advocate as arts and entertainment editor. Over a period of four years she rose through the ranks to become the first female editor-in-chief in the then-35-year history of the publication. After steering the magazine through the diverse challenges of the mid-and late-’90s equal rights movement, Wieder was named editorial director of OUT magazine, The Advocate, Advocate.com, Alyson Books and The OutTraveler from 2002-06. Wieder’s personal accomplishments include the “Outstanding Leadership” award from the Human Rights Campaign and the “Leadership Award” from the National LGBTQ Task Force. Her memoir, “Random Events Tend To Cluster,” was released earlier this year.

CYD ZEIGLER is co-founder of Outsports.com and one of the world’s leading experts on LGBTQ issues in sports. He has written about LGBTQ athletes, homophobia and trans inclusion in sports for almost 20 years. He is a former NLGJA award winner.
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