

In these times when journalists are disrespected, condemned, ridiculed, assaulted and constantly face layoffs, pay cuts and worse, let it be known that we honor and support journalists and journalism. Keep at it. Your work is important to the people and essential to democracy itself. - Roger Summers

INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



to subscribe or to submit items — events, photos, new hires, promotions, job openings, industry changes, personalities — e- john@xdycus.com

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OPEN GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION Two important open government measures won final approval May 23 in the Texas Senate, which concurred with House amendments on Senate Bill 943, the Public Information Act contracting transparency bill, and Senate Bill 1640, which updates the Texas Open Meetings Act. Both pieces of legislation next head to Gov. **Greg Abbott**. The proposals were among the top initiatives of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas in the just-concluded legislative session. • Sen. **Kirk Watson**, D-Austin, and Rep. **Giovanni Capriglione**, R-Southlake, worked together on the contracting bill. It plugs holes in the Public Information Act created when the Texas Supreme Court issued rulings in 2015 blocking much of the public’s access to government contracts with private companies and nonprofits. The bill specifies key information in contracts that must be revealed to the public. • Watson and Rep. **Dade Phelan**, R-Beaumont, worked together to pass the Open Meetings Act bill in response to a Court of Criminal Appeals ruling declaring the “walking quorum” provision in the law unconstitutional. The legislation makes the law’s language more specific. [More here.](#)

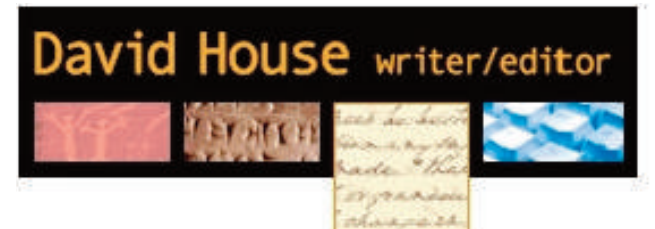
QUICK HITS

- Hispanic Communicators DFW workshop, “Video Production for Communicators” — 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 1, The Dallas Morning News, 1954 Commerce St. [Info.](#)
- BRIT GROWing Together, “Family Exploration Saturday” — 10 a.m. June 1 (every Saturday). [Info.](#)
- Arlington Conservation Council monthly program, “Friends of the Arlington Parks” — 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, Fielder House Museum, Fielder Road at Abram Street, Arlington. [Info.](#)
- GFW PRSA networking meeting, “Finding the Hidden Consumer in Your Workforce,” with **Crystal Forester**, GM Financial — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, Colonial Country Club. [Info.](#)
- Fort Worth Magazine’s annual Best Of party — 6 p.m. VIP, 6:30 general admission Friday, June 14, River Ranch Stockyards, 500 N.E. 23rd St. [Info.](#)
- BRIT Reads Book Club, “Becoming Native to This Place” — noon June 17 (every third Monday). [Info.](#)
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, “Speak Up! I Can’t Hear You Talk,” with American Christian Fiction Writers chaplain **Joy Massenburge**, a crafter of love stories of pastors and their kids — 7 p.m. Monday, June 17, Richardson Public Library. [Info.](#)
- Texas Center for Community Journalism free workshop, “Revenue Strategies: Tactics That Work for Texas Community Newspapers,” sponsored with the Texas Press Association and funded by a grant from the Texas Newspaper Foundation, featuring pinpoint presenters **Ryan Dohrn**, **Jake Batsell** (SMU), and **Mike and Debbie Anders** — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, June 21, Hangar Hotel in Fredericksburg; come the day before (optional) and play in the Robert Burns Memorial Golf Tournament. [Info.](#)
- Meetups: [North Texas Editors](#) ... [Bedford Science Fiction Writing](#) ... [DFW Self-Publishing Group](#) ... [GFW Writers](#) ... [Writers Anonymous – Support and Education](#) ... [Fort Worth Chapter – Nonfiction Authors Association](#) ... [Kidlit Critique](#) ... [Trinity Arts Writers Workshop](#) ... [The Writer’s Critique](#) ... [Lonestar Sci Fi, Horror, and Fantasy Fans](#) ... [20BooksTo50k - Michael Anderle](#) ... [Fort Worth Area Journalists Meetup](#) ... [The DFW Bloggers Classroom](#)

IN THE WORKPLACE: GET A JOB *Listings in [journalismjobs.com](#) and [dfwcommunicators.com](#) appear in this report.* ... Texas A&M University seeks a speechwriter to draft speeches, event remarks, presentations and correspondence in collaboration with the president and his senior leadership team. [Details.](#) ... Dallas-based Cowboys & Indians magazine seeks a fashion writer/editor to uphold the 25-year tradition of covering the American West with stories and visuals that reach an international print readership of more than 850,000 and millions, the magazine says, online. [Details.](#) ... The Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals in the Dallas Design District seeks someone to coordinate digital marketing and social media activities for several industry-related creative competitions. [Details.](#) ... Meeting Professionals International has an opening on its media team for an innovative digital editor to create and oversee blog posts, e-newsletters and videos. MPI is the largest meeting and event industry association in the world — “the association for people who bring people together.” [Details.](#) ... The Javelin Agency uses data to uncover insights to create ideas that make people feel something so they’ll do something. And it measures everything. It seeks a triple threat — writer, strategist, digital producer — communications director. [Details.](#)

[more eChaser on p. 2](#)

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— photos by Mark Birnbaum and Karen Gavis

Max Baker, Mary Jacobs, Elizabeth Souder-Philyaw, Ken Camp, Mary Gladstone

‘Because of the motivating factor of religion, it’s worth our resources. It’s worth our attention.’

— Ken Camp, managing editor, Baptist Standard



Region 8 rallies freelancers

Freelancers, unite. Whether you freelance by choice, to keep working after a layoff or to reinvent yourself, SPJ can help you get discovered by editors and connect with other freelancers. Contact SPJ Region 8 coordinator **Kathryn Jones** (kathrynjones1956@gmail.com) to join the new SPJ Region 8 Freelancers Network.

Jones teaches journalism at Tarleton State University but is herself a longtime freelancer. She was among a group of independent journalists affiliated with the Association for Women Journalists who created a successful Fort Worth-Dallas freelance network in the early '90s.

“We met for lunch each month, discussed opportunities and challenges, shared industry news and enjoyed a sense of camaraderie,” she recalls. “We also referred assignments to each other — if an editor needed a specific person for an assignment and contacted a freelance journalist who wasn’t available or interested, that journalist could refer someone in the network for the job. Some people got magazine assignments that way. One person even got a book deal.”

The idea is to reprise the network under the auspices of SPJ and expand it throughout Texas and Oklahoma. At the Region 8 Conference in March, several people expressed interest. For SPJ members there’s no cost.

The network will evolve, but it starts with compiling a list of freelance journalists (writers, graphic artists, videographers, photographers), their contact information, skills and kind of assignments preferred.

“We’ll create our own regional freelance directory and message list,” Jones said. “The more people who sign up, the more we can help each other.”

Freelancers represent one of SPJ’s largest constituencies, so resources already are available at the national level, including the [SPJ Freelance Community](#) website page and the [SPJ Freelance Community Facebook group](#). “The Independent Journalist” [blog](#) also covers topics of interest.

The SPJ Freelance Community’s guide to freelance writing is available online, as is an events calendar and on-demand sessions on getting work and personal branding. You also can create an entry in the national SPJ freelance directory to connect with editors and colleagues.

ON CAMPUS

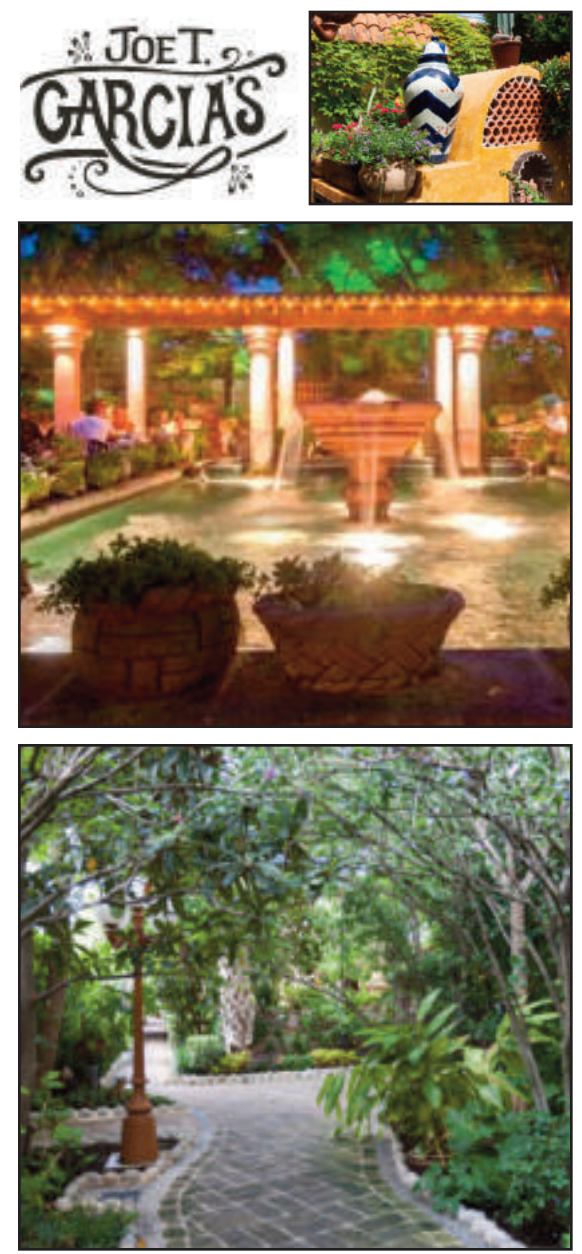
The UT Arlington newspaper, The Shorthorn, was named Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper in SPJ’s national 2018 Mark of Excellence Awards. The Shorthorn prints one broadsheet issue a week, augmented by online and updated coverage 24/7.

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM 2019 Early registration ends June 27 for EIJ19, the national SPJ convention, this year in San Antonio, Sept. 5-7, at the Grand Hyatt downtown. Workshops and breakout sessions will explore freelancing and grants, becoming a better data sleuth, telling climate stories, minimizing harm while reporting on suicide, staying safe when covering natural disasters and civic unrest, and managing newsroom stress.

- One of the sessions spotlights a development in Region 8 — how NPR and Texas public radio stations are building a prototype “regional news hub” with the Texas Standard and other collaborations. The session is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- ABC News anchor and San Antonio native **John Quiñones** will receive this year’s RTDNA John F. Hogan Award. Other highlights include two excursions, a 35-minute boat tour of the Riverwalk and a tour of the Alamo. Details and register [here](#) and [here](#).

[more eChaser on p. 3](#)

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— photos by Bob Booth and Mark Birnbaum

Dallas Morning News city columnist **Robert Wilonsky** received the Open Doors Award; 11 area journalism students were presented \$17,500 in scholarships; and exceptional journalism in Texas and Oklahoma — SPJ Region 8 — was lauded at the 16th annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet, April 19, 2019, at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel. The Open Doors is Fort Worth SPJ's highest honor. **ALL THINGS BANQUET**



OVER & OUT | [John Dycus](#), Fort Worth SPJ

Okay, it's gratitude day. To **Roger Summers** for his position statement on journalists and journalism. It's so good, it proclaims its impassioned truth from high atop p. 1. And to the UTA Shorthorn, which SPJ named the *2018 best non-daily student paper in America*. Emphasis added. try to Emphasis earned. And to **Kathryn Jones** for breathing life into the SPJ Region 8 Freelancers Network. And to **Tommy Thomason** at the Texas Center for Community Journalism for collaborating with the Texas Press Association and the Texas Newspaper Foundation to offer, free to you and me, a series of timely, outside-the-box workshops. And to the student-run ad agency Roxo, dynamic business outreach with a purple TCU hue. And to the Wedgwood/Ridglea/Cityview Shopping News, for 56 years a colorful, 25,000-circulation thread linking west-side neighborhoods and merchants. Burdened by tariffs and tornadoes and temper-tantrum "leaders" who would first punish us, then destroy us, I feel the need more and more to try to calm down and force the happy. Accomplishment and compassion and positive energy — they're all around. In my life. In your life, too. The list of people who inspire me, elevate me and give me hope way exceeds the space here. What do you want to bet you're on it?

The owner of the life-sized replica of Noah's Ark in northern Kentucky has sued its insurers for refusing to cover rain damage.

SPJ factoids: Freelance journalist and videographer **Brian Carmody** will get back the equipment seized in the raid by the San Francisco police after a court hearing; however, issues around the officers' conduct and search warrants remain. A date has been set to hear requests to unseal affidavits and revoke search warrants. SPJ national was among 60 groups that submitted a supportive amicus letter to the court. ... A Trump effect at journalism schools? Colleges see a surge in admissions, but **Donald Trump** is almost certainly not the only factor. New journalism students are drawn to the reporting and storytelling power of social media and other technological developments. ... The Democrat-Reporter in Linden, Ala., is making news yet again. **Goodloe Sutton**, the publisher who called for a return of the Ku Klux Klan, has apparently sold the paper to a man with possible ties to the KKK. ... Teen-age investigative reporters are taking on corruption in Kyrgyzstan. Kloop, a youth news organization, "has long been pushing the technological boundaries of what journalism means, employing drones, machine learning and 3D printing in its pursuit of truth," reports **James Watkins** of Global Investigative Journalism Network.

Caught my eye. The best eco-friendly resolutions for 2019. ... Military leaders around the world are uniting to fight climate change. ... 626 organizations back legislation to address climate change. ... Colorado could save \$2.5 billion from shutting down coal. ... Analysis of Wikipedia searches reveals high wildlife conservation trends. ... 10 species at risk of extinction under the Trump administration.

Closing words: "I can write better than anybody who can write faster, and I can write faster than anybody who can write better." — war correspondent **A.J. Liebling**, who also said, "Cynicism is often the shamefaced product of inexperience."

[back to p. 1](#)
[back to p. 2](#)

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Get the new GFW Media Directory!

Cowcatcher Magazine

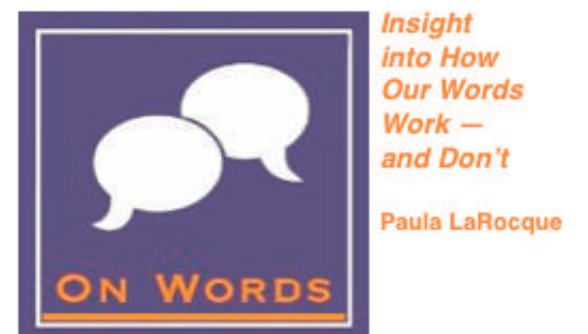
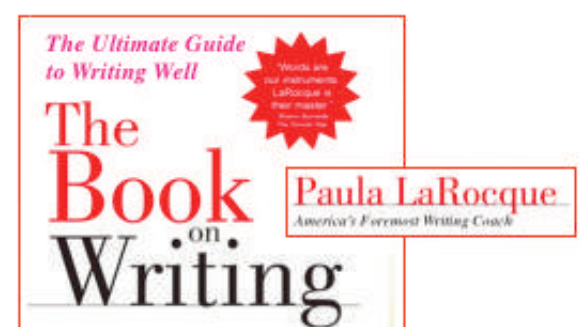
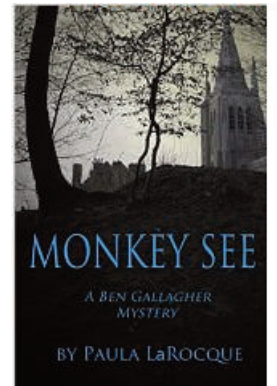
All about the community of model railroading and rail enthusiasm in the Midwest and Southwest

"There is no greater agony than carrying an untold story."
 — Maya Angelou



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the LaRocque Family catalog ...



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- organizations
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