

eChaser

Society of Professional Journalists,
Fort Worth Professional Chapter

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INFORMING THE NORTH TEXAS JOURNALISM / COMMUNICATOR WORKFORCE



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Next at [Fort Worth SPJ](#): Covering religion

Donald Trump appeals to evangelicals despite a past that includes multiple marriages and alleged infidelities. The United Methodist Church, one of the nation's largest mainstream congregations, may split over how to handle gay and lesbian issues.

In Texas, state lawmakers are considering faith-based legislation, with one bill seeking to protect licensed professionals who deny services to the public because of their "sincerely held religious beliefs." **Franklin Graham**, a nationally known religious leader, tells **Pete Buttigieg**, an openly gay Democratic presidential candidate, to "repent" for his sins.

Clearly, the coverage of religion is as important today as it has ever been. But writing about this often touchy and always personal subject can be difficult — and controversial.

Fort Worth SPJ is hosting a panel May 22 where experienced reporters and editors will shed some light on how to do it right. Baptist Standard managing editor **Ken Camp**; **Mary Gladstone**, an editor with Religion News Service; **Elizabeth Souder-Philyaw**, Viewpoints editor at The Dallas Morning News; and **Mary Jacobs**, a freelance writer who has covered religion issues, will talk about what they've learned over the years.

Time & date: noshes and conversation 6:30 p.m., panel starts promptly at 7 Wednesday, May 22

Cost & place: free; The Dallas Morning News, 1954 Commerce St. ([map](#))

[RSVP](#)

ON CAMPUS

Texas Wesleyan University is considering creating a shadow program for its mass communication students, and public input is requested. The program, envisioned to start in the fall, would introduce freshmen and sophomores to the many areas of professional communication, including journalism, by their shadowing experts in the field. A student would work with a professional for half a day, then a full day (the days would not have to be consecutive). The goal would be to guide students in choosing an internship and better prepare them for the real world. They could get a feel for a job without an extreme time commitment. The school has built a survey to gather feedback. To weigh in, [take the survey](#).

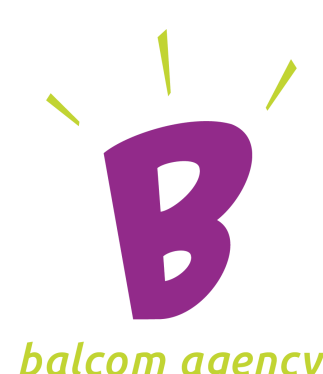
QUICK HITS

- Arlington Conservation Council monthly program, "Before Arlington: Indians, Militiamen, Pioneers and Traders," with Dr. **James Blackshear**, teacher of Texas and U.S. history at Collin College in Plano and UNT Dallas — 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, George V. Hawkes Central Library, 100 S. Center St., Arlington. [Info](#).
- GFW PRSA networking meeting, "Team Engagement: What Can I Do About It?" with **Kim Spears**, APR — 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, Colonial Country Club. [Info](#).
- Fort Worth Inc. Entrepreneur of Excellence Awards, with emcee Four Day Weekend — cocktails 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:30, program 7:30 Thursday, May 9, Cendera Center, 3600 Benbrook Highway, Fort Worth. [Info](#).
- BRIT Reads Book Club, "The Brother Gardeners" — noon-1 p.m. May 20 (every third Monday). [Info](#).
- Writers Guild of Texas monthly program, "Manuscript Development and Process," with seminary graduate/U.S. Navy flight deck veteran **Darren Sapp** — 7 p.m. Monday, May 20, Richardson Public Library. [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](#).
- 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.* ... The Department of Strategic Communication in TCU's Bob Schieffer College of Communication invites applications for multiple one-year full-time lecturer positions. Applicants should be able to teach introductory and upper-level courses in writing, PR, advertising, research, creative strategy, campaigns and other required courses in the major. Professional experience in advertising or PR, experience in undergraduate teaching, and evidence of a strong teaching record are preferred. Candidates must have a master's degree in a communication-related field. [Details](#). ... KXAN (Gatehouse) in Austin is hiring an experienced investigative reporter to join "KXAN Investigates," a nationally recognized, award-winning team of journalists. The station says that through tip-driven and enterprise reporting, it has helped change laws, recovered millions of dollars for viewers, revealed major safety shortfalls and exposed corruption among elected leaders. [Details](#). ... Sinclair Broadcast Group property KABB-TV in San Antonio seeks an enterprising and aggressive investigative data producer. [Details](#). ... Everybody wants an investigative reporter. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, too. [Details](#). ... The Dallas Business Journal seeks a reporter to cover private equity, commercial banking, family offices and M&A in one of the most dynamic markets in the country. [Details](#). ... The Texas Signal, a media start-up with a left-leaning political slant, is looking for a writer based in Houston. [Details](#).

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– Mark Birnbaum photos

COMING NEXT MONTH More of this from the 16th Annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet, plus images from the glorious UTA Shorthorn Centennial dinner and alumni reunion.

RED RIVER REPORT

THE SPJ REGION 8 BLOG

Welcome to the new [Region 8 blog](#). Send chapter news, photos and assorted tidbits to Region 8 coordinator **Kathryn Jones** at kathrynjones1956@gmail.com. Have a journalism issue you'd like to write about? Submit a column!

Mark of Excellence Awards were announced at the Region 8 Conference at Tarleton State University in March. See the winners list [here](#). Texas State University will host next year's event in San Marcos, and in April rather than March, due to conflicts with other conferences. Tentative dates are April 24-25.

[Early-bird registration](#) is open for the SPJ national convention, Excellence in Journalism 2019, in San Antonio. Do it now and save \$100. This year's specials include a 35-minute boat tour of the San Antonio Riverwalk (\$5) and a tour of the Alamo (\$20). Questions answered at convention@spj.org.

The play "AMON! The Ultimate Texan," about the legendary media mogul who dominated Texas for 50 years with his ownership of a newspaper and radio and TV stations, has its world premiere May 9 at Artisan Center Theater in Hurst, 444 E. Pipeline Road. Eleven performances are slated through May 25, including three shows added because it's almost sold out.



Kelvin Dilks stars as **Amon G. Carter**. Produced by **Rick Blair**. Directed by **Connie Sanchez**. Written by **Dave Lieber**. Get tickets at artisanCT.com (look for "Second Stage"). Get the hardcover book at davelieber.org/store/. Get the eBook on Amazon/Kindle. Get the audio book on audible.com.

"Amon is the **Alexander Hamilton** of our region," Lieber says. "He changed this place forever, but few know why. This play and its companion book will fix that." More at amonplay.com.

NONPROFIT COMMUNICATIONS

For its 11th year, the TCU Nonprofit Communicators Conference has adopted a workshop format to bring together the voices of nonprofit communicators and executives, academics, and social-good entrepreneurs and innovators. What happens when collective impact becomes a guiding principle? How can nonprofit communicators use innovation and authenticity to boost their mission and daily work? How can they tap in to best practices and lay the groundwork for change? • Following the conference, ComNetworkDFW invites attendees to stick around for strategic networking. The hosts will pose topics related to nonprofit marketing, and each table will have five minutes per topic to share best practices. One person from each table will report on something learned, then switch tables and repeat.

When: Friday, May 17

Where: TCU's Kelly Alumni & Visitors Center, 2820 Stadium Drive ([map](#))

Parking: free next door, or in the parking garage just north of the center; both lots are off Stadium Drive

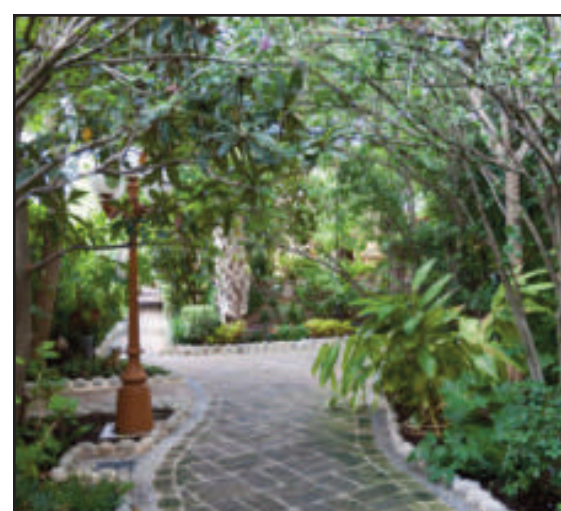
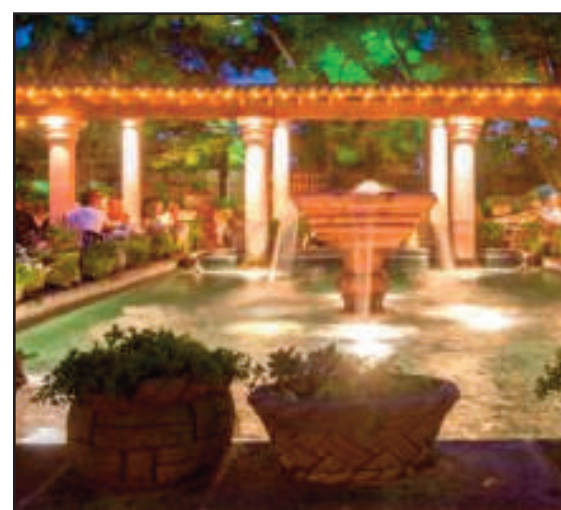
Cost: \$40 [Register](#) [Information](#)

Speakers:

- **Vanessa and Noel Bouche**, founders, Sahvera
- **Sean Caho**, Dallas Social Venture Partners
- **Lesla Engelthaler**, Victory Search Group
- **Sheryle Gillian**, CEO, Causelab
- **Kirsten Ham**, Presbyterian Night Shelter
- **Aliah Henry**, CEO, Henry Group (hosts talk show, "Charity Talk")
- **L. Michelle Smith**, CEO/founder, no silos communications
- **Keziah Stegemoeller**, Friends of Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy

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Plant to planet.



Fort Worth SPJ Member Spotlight

Don Buckman



retired from the Army Reserve, retired from Cantey Hanger
B.A. journalism, 1962: TCU

It's such a good feeling to return to the Fort Worth Professional Chapter of SPJ after a nearly 50-year hiatus. The warm welcome I received upon my reinstatement is genuinely appreciated.

In 1960, when I was a 19-year-old journalism student, about 10 other guys and I became charter members of the TCU chapter of Sigma Delta Chi. Before I graduated in 1962 with a B.A. in journalism I spent two summers interning at The Dallas Morning News. **Roy Eaton**, a superb mentor, hired me as an overnight reporter at KXOL, then Fort Worth's only 24-hour radio station. After I no longer was a student, I remained at KXOL and joined the SDX Fort Worth chapter, a lively group. With my first paycheck and some savings I bought a sturdy Olympia portable manual that still sees occasional use. (New ribbons are hard to find.)

Motivated mostly by the draft, I took Army ROTC in high school and college, and entered active duty just in time to experience the Cuban Missile Crisis in October '62. When President **Kennedy** was assassinated in November '63 I was a public information officer at Fort Hood, where one of my duties was officer in charge of the weekly newspaper. There I used the skills learned in school when I held various posts on three student newspapers: the Meadowbrook Junior High Meadowlark, the Poly High Parakeet and the Skiff at TCU. (My Star-Telegram experience was tangential, writing an occasional column about happenings at Poly High and, for two years in the '60s, before faxes and the internet, delivering copy from the Stock Show press room to the newsroom downtown. I caught a bad cold both years.)

My Army boss allowed me to job-hunt and schmooze at an SDX regional gathering in Oklahoma City, where **Felix McKnight** of the Dallas Times Herald invited me to visit when I finished my two-year Army hitch. I did exactly that, and he hired me in late '64. A slight pay cut from being a first lieutenant caused no complaint. I'd been liberated from almost all-male Fort Hood to Dallas, full of beautiful women – some my age!

Despite working in Big D and living in Irving, my roots remained in Fort Worth, where I continued attending SDX meetings although I had nothing against the Dallas folks. At first I wrote mostly obits, then advanced to general assignments and over the years covered transportation, military, city hall, science and my favorite, the federal beat. Covering criminal and civil trials in federal court sparked the idea that perhaps I could become a lawyer. **Bobby Kennedy's** assassination in '68, when I was on the city hall beat, brought my most memorable task: calling Mayor **Erik Jonsson** (who had given me his unlisted home number) before dawn, apologizing profusely for waking him, and informing him that another Kennedy had been shot and was not expected to live. Barely before the first deadline I turned in my hastily written report of Mr. Jonsson's stunned reaction to the second Kennedy assassination during his term as Dallas mayor.

The biggest story I missed and still regret came as a tip from a caller who said he worked in the federal office building at 1114 Commerce St. (the former Santa Fe Building), where federal employees were falling seriously ill as a result, he insisted, of bugs growing in the air conditioning system. I scoffed at his preposterous report. Much later when the ailment cropped up elsewhere it was given the name Legionnaires' Disease.

A mouth-watering help-wanted ad in Quill magazine led to Michigan and a nice pay raise when I was hired in 1969 as a science writer at the General Motors Research Laboratories in Warren. I wrote primarily for engineers and scientists throughout GM but also occasionally for the public. Still an SDX member, I attended meetings of the Detroit chapter. Northern winters disagreed with this homesick Texan, but the job was enjoyable and I learned a ton. A threatened strike against GM in 1970 triggered me, the newest hire and the most likely to be laid off, to bite the bullet and begin law school in Austin at the University of Texas. It was far from a breeze after being out of school for eight years, but my journalism experience prevented me from panicking (as many others did) at writing assignments and deadlines.

Soon after receiving my law license in 1972 I did something monumentally stupid: I resigned my life membership in SDX, which I had bought 10 years previously. I was positive that I had embarked on a totally different career and abjured all things journalistic. (Neither career field resembled my childhood ambition to be a bus driver or a garbageman.) After four years in Dallas and Fort Worth I practiced for 30 years with the Cantey Hanger firm in Fort Worth, where I concentrated on defending employment law disputes and federal civil rights cases. The experience of working under unrelenting deadline pressure at a daily newspaper while punishing a manual typewriter made me a far better lawyer. For one thing, I never asked a judge to extend a deadline for submitting a brief or any other written submission, just as when I worked at the Times Herald it was unthinkable to ask my city editor, **Jim Lehrer**, not to start the presses until I got around to turning in my copy. Moreover, years of interviewing people in all walks of life as a reporter made it easier later to deal with clients and identify their problems and how to resolve them. Even as a neophyte lawyer I comfortably cross-examined hostile witnesses in trial and addressed juries in final arguments. I invoked an inelegant but useful Army maxim: "Don't never assume nothin'." The journalistic corollary is always verify the spelling of the name, no matter how common it sounds. (This averts embarrassing missteps with such tricky spellings as composer **Richard Rodgers** and **Bob Hope's** wife, **Dolores**.) Every day as a lawyer my journalism experiences and facility with words helped put food on the family table.

Unaccustomed leisure time after I retired in 1992 from the Army Reserve (rank of colonel, 30 years of service) and in 2007 from the law presented the opportunity not only to do volunteer work (church, Junior Achievement, Catholic Charities) but also to return to the organization that had changed its name from SDX to SPJ. Fortunately the nice people in Indianapolis reinstated my lapsed life membership after my younger brother **Robert**, a retired j-prof and active SPJ member in Louisiana, greased the skids for me.

Remembering names is not my forte. Nevertheless, I'm eager to attend Fort Worth chapter meetings, meet members, hear their war stories and invigorate the remaining printer's ink in my veins after a protracted hibernation.

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

Hats off to UTA Student Publications director **Beth Francesco** and her crew for crafting an exquisite Shorthorn 100th anniversary celebration. The entire professional staff plus primo editor **John Ostdick** plus silent auction queen **Janet Neff** — so many worked so hard to fill the hall with happy. The place was crawling with memories. [Let Theo Carracino elaborate](#). Just a week earlier, **Kim Pewitt-Jones** and Fort Worth SPJ pulled off another elegant scholarships and awards bash. April was our month of merit. Watch for more photos in the June eChaser.

SPJ Factoids: [Data journalism](#), which brings stories to life by showing facts in a visual way, is a key in the fight against fake news. Working with news sites and publishers, Google is bringing that information front and center to consumers in its search results. ... Local journalism is suffering, but [what do the problems for local news look like on a broader level?](#) Only about 17 percent of the news stories provided to a community are truly local — that is, actually about or having taken place within the municipality. ... ["Even ethical journalism can have collateral damage."](#) An article in Columbia Journalism Review details the harm even careful reporting can cause.

Caught my eye. [60% of wild coffee species threatened with extinction](#). ... [Storing solar electricity as hot water: the Sunamp heat battery](#). ... [Simple, inexpensive method creates energy-harvesting wooden floors](#). ... [Salt pollution coaxed to 'bloom' from the ground for easy removal](#).

Closing words: "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." — **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, who also said, "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

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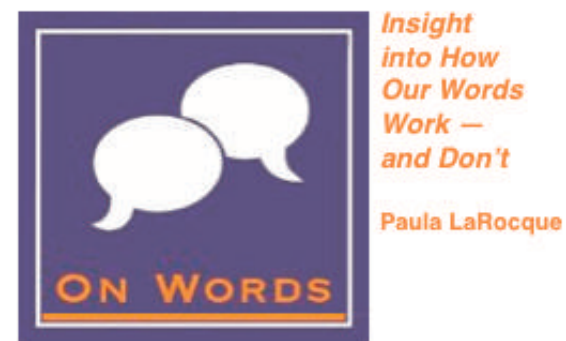
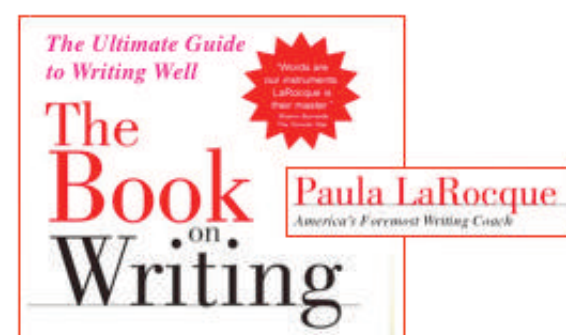
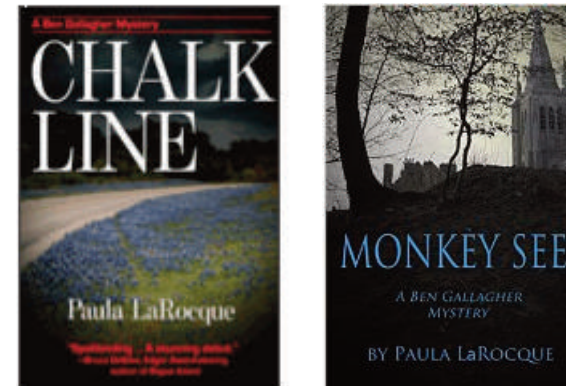
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