

RELIGION | NEWSWRITERS

# 2007 RNA CONFERENCE



SAN ANTONIO ★ SEPT. 27-30, 2007 ★ THE MENGER HOTEL



# WELCOME!

**Welcome to San Antonio and to the 58th Annual Conference of the Religion Newswriters Association.** These are challenging days for journalists, and our program reflects that. In addition to sessions on megachurches and end-times theology, we have panels on blogging and multimedia. We even have a digital petting zoo where you can try out some of the latest audio-visual gadgets. We hope this lineup will help prepare you for today's media landscape. We also hope you have fun. There's a silent auction, good eats and lots of opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We're here to serve you. Please let us know what you think of our conference and how we can raise the bar on religion coverage. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yonat Shimron'.

**Yonat Shimron**

RNA President

Religion Reporter, The News & Observer



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This program was made possible by a generous grant to the Religion Newswriters Foundation from the John Templeton Foundation.

Conference Coordinators: Charles Honey & Ann Rodgers

Program Editors: Debra Mason, Charles Honey & Ann Rodgers

Program Layout & Design: Tiffany McCallen

Program Assistants: Katie Beverly & Judith Holbrook



# SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

A detailed schedule is listed on pp. 6–13.

## Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007

8 a.m.–5 p.m.	Registration desk open	Lobby & Prefunction Area
8–9 a.m.	Breakfast for hotel guests	Patio
12–8 p.m.	Exhibitor setup	Ballroom C & Prefunction
1–5 p.m.	Pre-conference programming	Minuet & Patio
4–10 p.m.	RNA board meeting & dinner	Sam Houston Boardroom
6–8 p.m.	CFAFF Dinner	Ballroom B
8–9 p.m.	Mentoring (New Media)	Lobby

## Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

7 a.m.–6 p.m.	Registration desk open	Prefunction Area
7–9 a.m.	Breakfast for hotel guests	Ballroom C & Prefunction
8 a.m.–Noon	Exhibitor setup	Ballroom C & Prefunction
8–11:30 a.m.	Pre-conference programming	Minuet & Patio
12–1 p.m.	Max Lucado luncheon	Minuet
12–6 p.m.	Exhibitor rooms open	Ballroom C & Prefunction
1–2:30 p.m.	Digital Petting Zoo	Patio
2:45–4 p.m.	Courting the Religious Vote	Ballroom A & B
4:15–5:30 p.m.	John Green	Ballroom A & B
6:30–7:45 p.m.	Reception & Alamo Tours	Alamo Hall, Alamo Complex
7:45–9 p.m.	Address: Michael Quintanilla	Ballroom A & B
9–11 p.m.	Movie screening: VeggieTales	Ballroom A & B

## Friday, Sept. 28, 2007

8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Registration desk open	Prefunction Area
8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Exhibitor rooms open	Ballroom C & Prefunction
8–9 a.m.	Breakfast for hotel guests	Ballroom C & Prefunction
8–9 a.m.	New Active Breakfast (invite only)	Patio
9–10 a.m.	Address: Michael Lindsey	Ballroom A & B
10 a.m.–Noon	Panel: Spooks & Spiritualists	Ballroom A & B
12:10–1:35 p.m.	Fetzer luncheon	Mi Tierra Café & Bakery
2–3:20 p.m.	Panel: End Times	Ballroom A & B
3:40–5 p.m.	Panel: Multimedia	Ballroom A & B
6–8 p.m.	HarperOne Reception	Institute of Texan Cultures
8 p.m.	Dinner on your own	

## Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007

8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Registration desk open	Prefunction Area
8 a.m.–3 p.m.	Exhibitor rooms open	Ballroom C & Prefunction
8–9 a.m.	Breakfast for hotel guests	Ballroom C & Prefunction
8–9 a.m.	Donor breakfast (invite only)	Patio
9–10:20 a.m.	Panel: Immigration	Ballroom A & B
10:40 a.m.–12:20 p.m.	Panel: Megachurches	Ballroom A & B
12:25–1:45 p.m.	Donald Kraybill luncheon	Buckhorn Saloon & Museum
2–3:20 p.m.	Option 1: Panel: Culture Wars	Ballroom A & B
	Option 2: Spanish Mission Tour	Missions Park
	Option 3: Free time	
3:20–5 p.m.	Option 1: Panel: Blogging	Ballroom A & B
	Option 2: Spanish Mission Tour	Missions Park
	Option 3: Free time	
6–7:30 p.m.	Reception & Silent Auction	Minuet
7:30–10 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Ballroom A & B
10–11 p.m.	Dessert Reception	Minuet

## Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007

8–9 a.m.	Breakfast of Champions	Minuet
9–11 a.m.	Active members meeting	Patio
11 a.m.–Noon	RNA board meeting	Patio
Noon–1:30 p.m.	RNA & RNF board lunch	Minuet
1:30–6 p.m.	RNF board meeting	Sam Houston Boardroom



# HOTEL & EVENT MAP

## **RNA Annual Conference**

RNA Registration Desk	Ballroom Prefunction Area
Exhibitor Rooms	Ballroom C & Prefunction Area
Digital Petting Zoo	Patio Room
General Session Panels	Ballroom A & B
Breakfast for hotel guests	Ballroom C & Prefunction Area / Minuet Room
Thursday Luncheon	Minuet Room
“VeggieTales” Movie Screening	Ballroom A & B
New Active Member Breakfast	Patio Room
Donor Breakfast	Patio Room
Silent Auction/Sat. Receptions	Minuet Room
Awards Banquet	Ballroom A & B
Breakfast of Champions	Minuet Room
Active Members’ Meeting	Patio Room
RNA Board Meeting	Sam Houston Boardroom
RNF Board Meeting	Sam Houston Boardroom

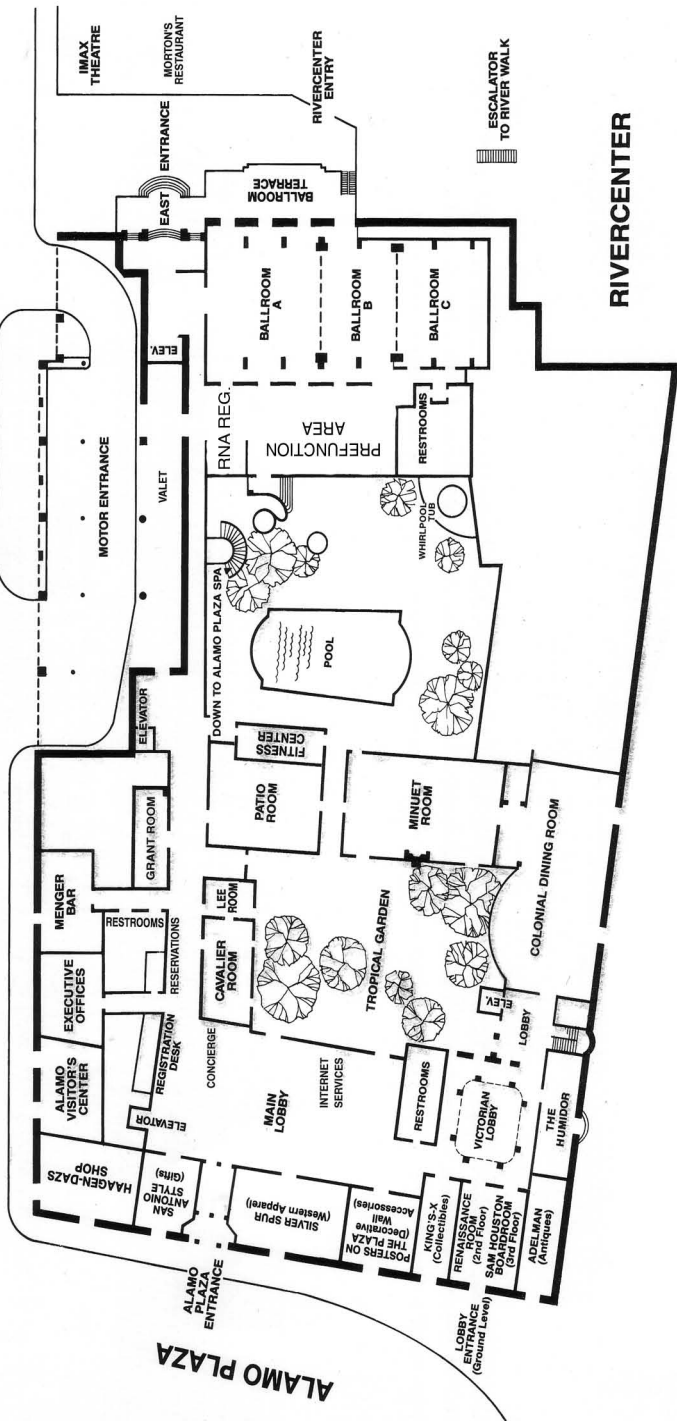
## **Fellowship/Pre-conference Programs**

RNA Registration Desk	Ballroom Prefunction Area
New Media Program	Patio Room
Politics Program	Minuet Room
Wednesday Dinner (Both)	Ballroom B
Thursday Luncheon (Both)	Minuet Room

**THE ALAMO**

**CROCKETT STREET**

**RIVERCENTER**





# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ★ GENERAL SESSION
- ★ BREAKOUT SESSION
- ★ SPECIAL EVENT
- ☆ SPONSORED EVENT
- ☆ TICKET REQUIRED

## WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2007

8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Lobby & Ballroom Prefunction Area  
Registration desk open

12–8 p.m.

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area  
Exhibitor setup

1–5 p.m.

Minuet & Patio ★

**Pre-conference programming**

(Advance registration required)

- New Media Meets Religion
- God, the Presidency & Politics

1–2:45 p.m.

Patio Room ★

(New Media Meets Religion)

**Reinvent Yourself: Thriving In the New Media Environment**

1–2:45 p.m.

Minuet Room ★

(God, the Presidency & Politics)

**The Rhetoric of Politics:  
Decoding Political Godspeak**

3–5 p.m.

Patio Room ★

(New Media Meets Religion)

**Practical Magic: Demystifying  
the Tools of New Media**

3–5 p.m.

Patio Room ★

(God, the Presidency & Politics)

**From Macro to Micro: How the  
Big Issues Play In Your Hometown**

4–10 p.m.

Sam Houston Boardroom

RNA board meeting & dinner

6–8 p.m.

Ballroom B ☆

**Dinner**, sponsored by

Council for America's First Freedom

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 2007

7 a.m.–6 p.m.

Ballroom Prefunction Area

Registration desk open



**7–9 a.m.**

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

**Continental breakfast** for hotel guests

**8 a.m.–Noon**

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

Exhibitor setup

**8–11:30 a.m.**

Minuet & Patio Rooms ★

**Pre-conference programming**

**8–9:30 a.m.**

Patio Room ★

(New Media Meets Religion)

**A Thousand Voices: Religion and Interactive Journalism**

**8–9:30 a.m.**

Minuet Room ★

(God, the Presidency & Politics)

**The Scorecard: Telling the Players Apart**

**9:45–11:30 a.m.**

Patio Room ★

(New Media Meets Religion)

**Writing About Religion In the New Media Environment**

**9:45–11:30 a.m.**

Minuet Room ★

(God, the Presidency & Politics)

**The Big Picture: Scoping the Lay of the '08 Land**



**Noon**

**RNA CONFERENCE OPENS**

**12–6 p.m.**

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

Exhibitor rooms open

**12–1 p.m.**

Minuet Room ☆ ☆

**Luncheon**, sponsored by Thomas Nelson. Featuring best-selling author and pastor **Max Lucado**, and his book, "Every Day Deserves a Chance."

**1–2:30 p.m.**

Patio Room ★

**Digital Petting Zoo**

Here's your chance to lay hands on the cameras and recorders you can afford and use quickly to enhance your versatility and value to your media outlets. Experts will talk about inexpensive ways to maximize your technology for multi-media story-telling.

**2:45–4 p.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★

**Courting the Religious Vote**

Strategists for both Democratic and Republican parties share how each side believes they can win the "values voters." Moderated by Marcia Z. Nelson, ReligionLink/Freelancer.

Panelists include:

- **Tamara Scott**, Concerned Women for America
- **Mara Vanderslice**, Common Good Strategies

**4:15–5:30 p.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★

**The Faith Factor: Understanding the Religious Vote**

The nation's top pollster of religion



and presidential politics tells us what trends to watch over the next year as the nation chooses a president in 2008. Moderated by Laurie Goodstein, *The New York Times*.

Presenter:

- **John Green**, University of Akron

**6:30–7:45 p.m.**

Alamo Hall, Alamo Complex ★☆☆

**Appetizer reception  
& guided tours of the Alamo**

Includes remarks by **Archbishop Jose H. Gomez**, Archdiocese of San Antonio. Sponsored by San Antonio Express-News. The Alamo grounds are adjacent to the west side of The Menger Hotel (where valet parking is located). Cross E. Crockett Street. Alamo Hall is on the back side of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library just as you enter the complex.

**7:45–9 p.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★★

**Opening speaker:  
Michael Quintanilla**

Pulitzer Prize-winner, senior features editor, San Antonio Express-News. Moderated by Arthur Santana, San Antonio Express-News.

**9–11 p.m.**

Ballroom A ☆

**Movie screening**

Sponsored by: The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 28, 2007**

**8 a.m.–6 p.m.**

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

Registration desk  
& exhibitor rooms open

**8–9 a.m.** ☆

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

**Breakfast** for hotel guests, sponsored by Religion & Culture: Meeting the Challenge of Pluralism.

**8–9 a.m.**

Patio Room ★

**New Active Member Breakfast**

By invitation only—Three longtime RNAers will reminisce about their years on the religion beat as well as their latest adventures in publishing.

Panelists include:

- **Janice Law**
- **Dick Ostling**
- **Russ Chandler**

**9–10:10 a.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★★

**Address:**

**Michael Lindsay**

Assistant director of the Center on Race, Religion & Urban Life at Rice University and author of the book, "Faith In the Halls of Power." Moderated by Cathy Grossman, USA TODAY.

**10:30 a.m.–Noon**

Ballroom A & B ★

## Spooks, Spiritualists and Things That Go Bump In Our Hotel

For some people, ghost-hunting is a hobby, for others it's a faith called Spiritualism. For those who believe in ghosts, how does their presumed existence relate to beliefs about heaven, hell and saints? We hear from a religion journalist who has written a book on Spiritualism, from an academic who looks for scientific evidence of ghosts and from a San Antonio ghost hunter who can tell us about some of the Menger's dead denizens. Moderated by Michelle Bearden, The Tampa Tribune.

Panelists include:

- **Christine Wicker**, author, "Lily Dale"
- **Guillermo Fuentes**, San Antonio Paranormal Investigations
- **Rhett Rushing**, University of Texas, San Antonio, Institute of Texan Cultures

12:10–1:35 p.m.

Mi Tierra Café ☆ ☆

**Luncheon**, sponsored by the Fetzer Institute's Campaign for Love & Forgiveness. Meet in the lobby at 12:10 p.m. to board buses. Buses will depart Mi Tierra at 1:35 p.m. to return to The Menger.

2–3:20 p.m.

Ballroom A & B ★

## Reporting the End of the World

Don't be left behind on this story. What evangelical Christians believe about Jesus' return affects everything from Middle East politics to social activism to the bestseller lists. But not all evangelicals subscribe to the same scenario. This panel will feature a premillennial dispensationalist and an evangelical with a different reading of the book of Revelation. Also, a Jewish leader will talk about the uneasy alliance between the Jewish community and the Christians who support Israel as they await Jesus' return. Moderated by Jeff Sheler, contributing editor, U.S. News & World Report.

Panelists include:

- **Darrell Bock**, Dallas Theological Seminary
- **Warren Gage**, Knox Theological Seminary
- **Rabbi Samuel Stahl**, Temple Beth-El

3:40–5 p.m.

Ballroom A & B ★

## Multimedia Goes Mainstream

Journalistic success is now measured in clicks. What's the secret to making your story the most e-mailed story of the





day at your paper? (There's a secret, and we'll reveal it). What the heck is an RSS feed and why should you care? We'll have something for everyone from the most tech-savvy recent J-school grad to the boomer who failed to master the tape recorder before it went obsolete. Didn't know it was obsolete? You really need this panel. Moderated by Gary Stern, The Journal News.

Panelists include:

- **Chuck Rose**, USAT.com art director (USA TODAY)
- **Jeff Weiss**, The Dallas Morning News

**6–8 p.m.**

**Institute of Texan Cultures** ☆ ☆

**Reception**, sponsored by: HarperOne, featuring RNAers and authors Don Lattin and Dick Ostling and their new books. Meet in the lobby at 6 p.m. to board buses. Buses will depart the reception at 8 p.m. to return to The Menger.

**8 p.m.**

**Dinner** on your own

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, 2007**

**8 a.m.–6 p.m.**

Ballroom Prefunction Area

Registration desk open

**8 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

Exhibitor rooms open

**8–9 a.m.**

Ballroom C & Prefunction Area

**Breakfast** for hotel guests, sponsored by the Austin American-Statesman.

**8–9 a.m.** ☆

Patio Room

**Donor Breakfast** (invite only)

**9–10:20 a.m.** ★

Ballroom A & B

**Can We Sing That In Español, Por Favor?**

There is an intense rivalry between the Catholic Church and evangelicals/Pentecostals for the allegiance of Hispanic immigrants. A Catholic and an evangelical who are each involved in outreach to Hispanic immigrants join a scholar who has studied religious affiliation among the same group to discuss the strategies, successes, failures and tensions of this work.





Moderated by Abe Levy, San Antonio Express-News.

Panelists include:

- **Father Virgilio Elizondo**, University of Notre Dame
- **The Rev. Samuel Rodriguez**, National Hispanic Association of Evangelicals
- **Sister Maria Elena Gonzalez**, Mexican-American Cultural Center

**10:40 a.m.–12:20 p.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★

### **They Grow 'em Big In Texas (And Elsewhere). Keeping Up With Megachurches**

Super-sized congregations are popping up almost everywhere with five-figure memberships and budgets that support diverse programs in the church and community alike. But how do they provide the personal pastoral care that smaller churches do? How do you govern a church the size of a small city? And why do they keep growing when so many seek intimate spiritual venues? Moderated by Adelle Banks, Religion News Service.

Panelists include:

- **Mark Tidwell**, Oak Hills Church

- **Scott Thumma**, Hartford Institute for Religion Research
- **The Rev. Rickey D. Hill**, Friendship-West Baptist Church

**12:25–1:45 p.m.**

The Buckhorn Saloon & Museum ☆☆☆

**Luncheon**, sponsored by Jossey-Bass, featuring author Donald Kraybill and his book, "Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy." Meet in the lobby at 12:25 to walk to the Buckhorn. Directions: Go out the front doors of the hotel. Turn right on Alamo Plaza. Walk one block, and turn left onto E. Houston St. The Buckhorn is located on the left, 318 E. Houston St.

**2–3:20 p.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★

### **Option 1**

### **New Frontiers In the Culture Wars: Sharp Stories, Cutting-Edge Ethics**

Same-sex marriage and abortion have dominated headlines for a generation, but new and significant cultural battles are brewing. Four experts will offer guidance on developing issues in bioethics, politics, criminal justice, religion and social services. Moderated by Michael Paulson, The Boston Globe.



Panelists include:

- **Byron Johnson**,  
Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion
- **Dawn H. Seery**,  
Bioethics Committee for Methodist  
Healthcare System of San Antonio
- **Michael Emerson**,  
Center on Race, Religion and Urban  
Life at Rice University in Houston

### Option 2

Missions National Historic Park ★  
**Spanish Mission Tour**

Make your own arrangements for a free tour at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. There are tours at 2 and 3 p.m. (40–50 minutes long). To get there, take VIA Bus 42 from downtown. It will take you within two blocks of Mission San Jose. You can also grab a cab for the 10-mile trip.

### Option 3

**Free time** ★

3:40 p.m.–5 pm.

Ballroom A & B ★

### Option 1

**Working With Bloggers**

So much news seems to originate with blogs, but who has time to read them all? We've brought in two must-read religion bloggers to talk about what they do, how they do it and how they relate to the world of daily journalism. Moderated by Kim Lawton, Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly.

Panelists include:

- **Rocco Palmo**, Whispers in the Loggia
- **Ted Olsen**, Christianity Today

### Option 2

Missions National Historic Park ★  
**Spanish Mission Tour continued**

### Option 3

**Free time** ★

6–7:30 p.m.

Minuet Room ★ ☆ ☆

**Reception & Silent Auction**

Auction proceeds benefit RNA Conference Scholarships. Reception sponsored by Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly.



**7:30–10 p.m.**

Ballroom A & B ★ ☆

**2007 RNA Annual Contest Awards Banquet**

The winners of RNA's annual religion reporting contests and lifetime achievement award will be honored. Grant support by the John Templeton Foundation.

**10–11 p.m.**

Minuet Room ★ ☆ ☆

**Dessert Reception**

A sampling of delectable desserts will be served. Auction items are available for pickup at this time. Sponsored by the movie Flywheel.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 30, 2007**

**8–9 a.m.**

Minuet Room ★

**Breakfast of Champions**

Hear from some of the folks you saw pick up awards on Saturday about what makes a story above and beyond the ordinary. Where do they get their ideas? What are their favorite writing tips? How did they convince their editors to give them the time needed to produce award-winning copy? Come and find out!

**9–11 a.m.**

Patio Room ★

**Active Members Meeting**

Active RNA members are encouraged to attend this important business meeting. On the agenda: Contest discussion, RNA & RNF bylaw changes and more. Only Active RNA Members are eligible to vote.

**11 a.m.–Noon**

Patio Room ★

**RNA board meeting**

**Noon–1:30 p.m.**

Minuet Room

**RNA & RNF board lunch**

**1:30–6 p.m.**

Sam Houston Boardroom

**RNF board meeting**

**JOIN US IN 2008!**

Mark your calendar for RNA's 2008 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., Sept. 25–28, at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza on 14th. Details to be posted online soon at [www.RNA.org](http://www.RNA.org). ★





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## **Our deepest appreciation goes to:**

Conference planners Charles Honey and Ann Rodgers and the 2007 RNA Annual Conference Committee, who devoted significant time and energy developing the panels and events.

The RNA and RNF boards for carrying out a myriad of tasks throughout the conference and for their ongoing leadership.

The John Templeton Foundation for a grant supporting the printing of this program, contest prizes, online posting of the meeting's content and the awards banquet.

The Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation and the Scripps Foundation for grants providing annual conference scholarships.

The Lilly Endowment, Inc., for a grant to fund fellowships for reporters new to the religion beat to attend the pre-conference programs.

The Belo Foundation for a grant to support the conference programming.

This year's conference sponsors, whose contributions enhance every attendee's experience.

The many participants and speakers who paid their own expenses to attend.

Cathy Grossman and Ruth Sternberg Portnoy, for their instrumental roll in soliciting donations and setting up the silent auction. We also thank the dozens of people who generously donated and purchased auction items.





Brian Peat and Harry Peat for recording this conference.

RNA members who served as moderators and speakers for this year's conference.

Cathy Grossman and Kate Fox, who diligently planned panels and secured support for the Digital Petting Zoo.

Kate Fox and Marcia Z. Nelson, who were instrumental in developing the pre-conference programming. ★

## Conference Quips

**"The conference moved me from being a reporter who types stories to a writer who wants her articles to help readers see beyond the mundane. Thank you so much for this opportunity..."**

**—Carey King,  
The Sylva Herald**

**"The RNA has always been, for me, that group of people who has kept me inspired all these years, keeping up my spirits at times when, without the RNA, I would have felt discouraged or alone. I generally return from the RNA Conference with renewed enthusiasm and with a determination to keep going."**

**—Richard Dujardin,  
The Providence Journal**

**"The convention was interesting, illuminating, enlightening ... The networking opportunity at the convention was invaluable. I truly appreciate the scholarship to attend the convention and the attention you and your staff paid to a new member from a regional paper who covers religion part-time. "**

**—Judy L. Harrison,  
Bangor Daily News**



# ABOUT RNA

## Religion Newswriters Association

RNA was founded in 1949. Of its more than 560 members and subscribers, more than 300 are journalists covering religion in the non-religious news media. As a member-focused organization, RNA's primary programs include annual contests in religion reporting, an Annual Conference, an annual Top 10 survey of religion stories and a member listserv.

Our mission is to promote excellence in religion reporting in the news media. RNA achieves its mission by providing education and other resources for its members and by raising awareness of the importance of religion coverage in the mainstream media.

## Religion Newswriters Foundation

RNF was founded in 1999. RNF's major programs include ReligionLink, RNA Annual Conference scholarships, Lilly Scholarships in Religion for Journalists, fellowships for reporters new to the beat, a primer for religion journalists, a religion stylebook, workshops and a resource Web site, [www.RNA.org](http://www.RNA.org).

Our mission is to improve the public's understanding of religion by strengthening and encouraging religion reporting in the news media. RNF shall accomplish its mission by supporting and funding the work of the RNA and through its own programs to promote excellence in religion reporting.

## Recent Accomplishments

We published a religion stylebook that details correct usages, spellings and pronunciations of religion-related terminology. Free print and online versions are available at [www.religionstylebook.org](http://www.religionstylebook.org).

We posted online world religions guides about public issues that intersect matters of faith. Our latest source guides include politics, Islam, Hinduism and bioethics.

Scholarships were awarded to 11 reporters this summer to take college religion courses, thanks to support from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Since 2004, we've awarded 122 scholarships totaling more than \$200,000.

This year we received a record number

of reporting contest entries. Submissions totaled 331, which included nearly 1,300 religion stories and sections from print, radio and television media.

The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation awarded \$4,000 for our pre-conference program for reporters new to the beat.

The Scripps Howard Foundation gave \$5,000 to fund annual conference scholarships for minority journalists.

The Belo Foundation gave \$5,000 to fund scholarships for journalists to attend our annual conference.

### **2006–2007 Presenters**

Thanks to the following people, RNA reached thousands of journalists through national and regional events in the last fiscal year (ending July 1).

#### **APME NewsTrain, Charlotte, N.C.**

Marcia Z. Nelson, Freelancer

#### **The Columbus Metropolitan Club**

Ruth Sternberg, Religion Newswriters

#### **AEJMC 2006 Convention**

Don Lattin, Freelancer

#### **Journalism Education Association**

Marcia Z. Nelson, ReligionLink

#### **Knight Seminar**

Diane Connolly, ReligionLink

#### **RNA 2006 Columbus Workshop**

Marcia Z. Nelson, Freelancer

#### **RNA 2006 Boston Workshop**

G. Jeffrey MacDonald, Freelancer

#### **SEMO Press Association**

Debra L. Mason, Religion Newswriters

#### **SPJ 2006 Convention**

- Marcia Z. Nelson, ReligionLink
- Jason DeRose, Chicago Public Radio
- Cathleen Falsani, Chicago Sun-Times
- Sheila B. Lalwani, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

#### **SAJA 2006 Annual Conference**

Deborah Caldwell, Beliefnet.com

#### **Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Traveling Campuses**

- Kristen Campbell, The Press-Register
- Marcia Z. Nelson, ReligionLink
- Cecile Holmes, USC College of Journalism
- Frank Lockwood, Lexington Herald-Leader
- David Waters, The Commercial Appeal
- Diane Connolly, ReligionLink
- Ken Garfield, Myers Park United Methodist Church
- Tara Dooley, Houston Chronicle ★





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## RNA Board of Directors



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David Shribman  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pamela Thompson  
John Templeton Foundation





# STAFF MEMBERS

## Religion Newswriters Staff

Religion Newswriters shares two full-time employees, Associate Director Tiffany McCallen and Development Director Ruth Sternberg. Seven other individuals, including Executive Director Debra Mason, work part time at Religion Newswriters' office in Columbus, Ohio, and from other regions of the country. In addition, eight people produce ReligionLink under the leadership of Editor Diane Connolly.

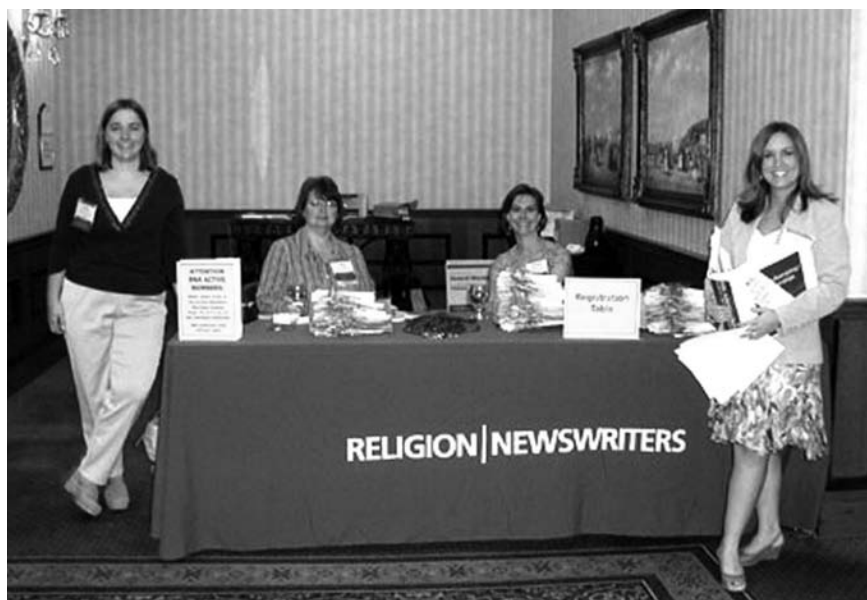
## Staff

Debra Mason  
Executive Director

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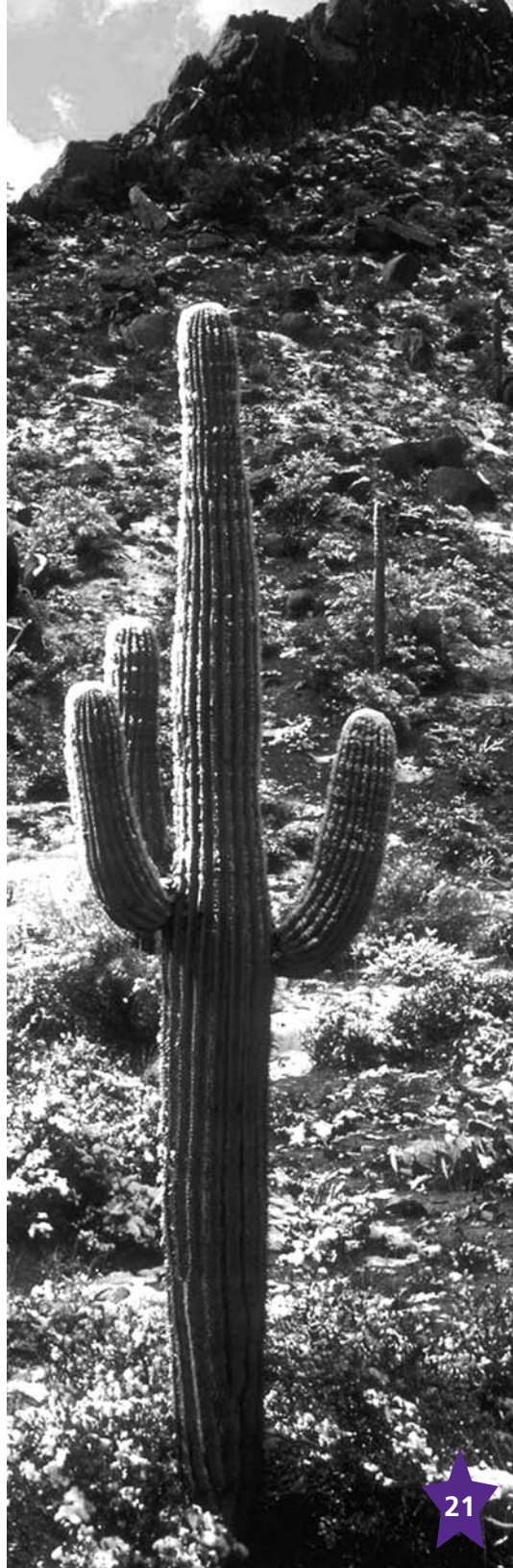
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Darrell L. Bock is research professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary and past president of the Evangelical Theological Society. An editor at large for Christianity Today, he has written for numerous publications, and supplied background for ABC News, "Today Show," "NBC Nightly News," and "Dateline," "Good Morning America," "20/20," CNN, "Anderson Cooper 360," "The O'Reilly Factor," "Mad Money," Ted Koppel's Special on the "Jesus Tomb: A Critical Look," NPR News, the BBC, and the Australian Broadcasting Company. His book, "Breaking the Da Vinci Code" made the New York Times Best-seller List in nonfiction in 2004 and was a Retailers' Choice Winner in nonfiction for 2005 at the Christian Booksellers Association.

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The Rev. Virgilio Elizondo is professor of pastoral and Hispanic theology at the University of Notre Dame. His scholarly interests are in the areas of theology, evangelization, faith/spirituality, culture and public ritual. Elizondo's latest books, "A God of Incredible Surprises," "Latino Religions and Civic Activism in the United States" and "San Fernando Cathedral: Soul of the City," break new ground both in religious and secular studies. As the author of 11 other books, he's recognized as the father of U.S. Latino religious thought. His writings interplay between culture and religion, namely "Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise," "The Future is Mestizo: Life Where Cultures Meet" and "Guadalupe: Mother of the New Creation" and are widely used in

major universities around the country. He has edited *Concilium* (published in seven languages). Elizondo is considered the leading interpreter of U.S. Latino religion by national and international media (TV and video). In 1997, he received the Laetare Medal, the highest honor of the University of Notre Dame.

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Michael Emerson is director of the Center on Race, Religion and Urban life at Rice University. His book "Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America" (Oxford University Press, 2000) was named the 2001 Distinguished Book of the Year by the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. This was followed by "United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race" (Oxford University Press, 2003). He is directing the Lilly-funded Panel Study of American Religion and Ethnicity, which will follow 3,450 people over the course of their lives.

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Guillermo Fuentes is founder and director of San Antonio Paranormal Investigations (SAPI).

Fuentes has devoted seven years to investigate, study and document paranormal manifestations associated with life after-death and human consciousness after physical departure. After one year investigating for the Institute of Paranormal Investigations in San Antonio, Texas, Fuentes decided to explore new horizons by founding SAPI in 2000. Since then, Fuentes has coordinated more than 400 private/public onsite investigations in San Antonio and nearby cities. Fuentes became interested in life after-death at the age of 17, when he became a victim of poltergeist phenomena; he witnessed the levitation of objects, voices coming from empty rooms, disembodied footsteps, physical touches, unexplained temperature fluctuations and shutting and opening of doors. Fuentes has developed techniques and methods with video cameras, photographic cameras and psychics, in order to compile evidence strongly related to ghost/spirit manifestations.

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Warren A. Gage is assistant professor of Old Testament at Knox Theological Seminary in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. A former trial attorney with



expertise in philosophy, history and law, his publications include "The Gospel of Genesis: Studies in Protology and Eschatology" and "The Story of Joseph and Judah." He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University (B.A. and J.D.), Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and wrote his doctoral dissertation on Revelation titled "St. John's Vision of the Heavenly City" for the University of Dallas (M.A., Ph.D.). He lives with his wife, Betty, and their two children in Fort Lauderdale.

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Archbishop Jose Gomez has led the Archdiocese of San Antonio since February 2005, and had served as auxiliary bishop of Denver.

He has previously served as president

and executive director of the National Association of Hispanic Priests. In 2005 he was named one of TIME Magazine's 25 most influential Hispanics in the United States. Currently he serves the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as chair of the ad-hoc committee on the Spanish language Bible and as a member of the committees on doctrine, Hispanic affairs and catechesis.

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Sister María Elena González, has been president of the Mexican American Cultural Center since 1993. A

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The Rev. Rickey D. Hill is pastor of administration/ chief operations officer at Friendship-West Baptist

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Byron Johnson is professor of sociology, co-director of the Institute for Studies of Religion and director of the Program on Prosocial

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Sociologist D. Michael Lindsay, who teaches at Rice University, recently completed the nation's largest and most comprehensive study on people of faith who are public leaders. That survey is the basis for his book "Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite," published Sept. 14 by Oxford University Press. Lindsay formerly worked with pollster George Gallup Jr.

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Ted Olsen is managing editor for news and online journalism at Christianity Today magazine. In addition to managing the magazine's news functions and Web site, he compiles the CT Weblog, a comprehensive news digest and one of the Web's longest-running religion blogs.

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Rocco Palmo is U.S. correspondent for the London-based weekly The Tablet and the author of "Whispers in the Loggia," a daily blog covering the internal life of the Catholic world. He has been a commentator on the church's political scene for the BBC, The New York Times, The Associated Press, National Public Radio, the San Francisco Chronicle, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Washington Post and Religion News Service. Palmo is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science. In between covering church events from the road, he resides in his native Philadelphia.

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Rodriguez frequently consults with members of Congress and participates in White House meetings on social justice, Latino and values issues. Founding pastor of Third Day Worship Centers, he serves on several boards including the National Association of Evangelicals and World Relief. He has written in publications such as Ministries Today and has been widely quoted in media including The New York Times, Christianity Today and CNN. He resides in California with his wife, Eva, an Assemblies of God minister.

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Chuck Rose has been deputy managing editor of design for USA TODAY.com since 1997. He has created editorial graphics, sales and

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J. Rhett Rushing is staff folklorist for the Institute of Texan Cultures at the University of Texas at San Antonio. A longtime member and former president of the Texas Folklore Society, he has taught folklore at Indiana University and Southwest Texas State University. The native Texan also taught a course on popular Catholicism at Southwest Texas State and taught junior high for five years. Rushing has a B.A. in English from Texas A&M University, an M.A. in folk studies from Western Kentucky University and has done doctoral work in folklore and religious studies at

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Tamara Scott is a political consultant, frequent radio talk show host and a contributing columnist for Worldview Christian Network. She serves on the Iowa Department of Human Services Governor's Fatherhood Initiative Task Force and lobbies for pro-family, pro-life, and faith-friendly legislation at the State House. Scott also serves on the Educational Resource Council and Leadership Development Committee for the Iowa Family Policy Center, and is the Iowa state director of Concerned Women for America. A one-time candidate for state representative in 2004, she was Iowa co-chair of Social Conservatives for President Bush. She is the married mother of four children.

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Scott Thumma is a professor of sociology of religion at Hartford Seminary and conducts research for the Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research. Co-author

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Mark Tidwell is the senior executive minister of ministries at Oak Hills Church of San Antonio. He provides leadership and

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Mara Vanderslice is founder and senior partner at Common Good Strategies, a Washington, D.C., area firm working with

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Jeffrey Weiss has been a religion reporter for The Dallas Morning News since 1996. Since then he has written about pretty much

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## Christine Wicker

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Best-selling author Christine Wicker worked for 17 years at The Dallas Morning News as a feature writer, columnist and

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## Conference Quips

"I can easily point to the RNA conference for vaulting my religion reporting career to a new level. It helped me focus on priorities, cultivate more sophisticated sources and broadened my overall knowledge of the beat."

—Abe Levy,  
San Antonio Express-News

"Thanks for a wonderful conference. I'm refueled and energized! The speakers and specific story ideas were wonderful. I equally enjoyed meeting other religion writers and swapping ideas."

—Pamela Podger,  
The Roanoke Times

"As a reporter new to the religion beat, I found my batteries recharged both by my first conference and by the fellowship program. The in-depth time with colleagues gave me a sheaf of story ideas and an illuminating window into how religion is covered at a variety of papers."

—Laura Lynn Brown,  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette



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Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
The Hartford Courant  
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Daytona Beach News-Journal  
The Columbus Dispatch  
Houston Chronicle  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Friendship-West Baptist Church of Dallas  
Freelancer  
The Oklahoman  
Center for Inquiry  
USC Mass Communications & Info Studies  
Natl Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is  
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The Columbus Dispatch  
The Morning News  
San Antonio Express-News  
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Lovell-Fairchild Communications  
Religion News Service  
Islamica Magazine

## Name

Beatrice Marovich  
Michele Marr  
Stephanie Martin  
Heather Mascarello  
Debra Mason  
Dana Massing  
Steve Maynard  
Tiffany McCallen  
Scott McConnell  
George McHendry  
Ian McIlraith  
Hannah McMahan  
David Miller  
Keith Mirror  
John Moynihan  
Neil Munro  
Marcia Nelson  
Nicole Neroulias  
Mary Nevans-Pederson  
Barbara Newhall  
Erica Noonan  
Kelly O'Keefe  
Ted Olsen  
David O'Reilly  
Roger Ochoa  
Helen Osman  
Joan Ostling  
Richard Ostling

## Employer

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Religion Newswriters Assn. & Fnd.  
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The News Tribune  
Religion Newswriters Assn. & Fnd.  
LifeWay Research  
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H. E. Butt Foundation  
Voice of the Faithful  
National Journal  
Freelancer  
Freelancer  
Telegraph Herald  
Freelancer  
The Boston Globe  
Council for America's First Freedom  
Christianity Today  
The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Daily Record  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Author  
Retiree



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J. Michael Parker  
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Harry Peat  
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Dee Pierce  
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Medill School of Journalism  
Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly  
The Sage Colleges  
Catholic Relief Services  
Freelancer  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
The Wichita Eagle  
National Hispanic Association of Evangelicals  
USA TODAY  
Council for America's First Freedom  
Waco Tribune-Herald  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
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The Washington Post  
San Antonio Express-News  
Religion Newswriters Assn. & Fnd.  
Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly  
Concerned Women for America  
The Associated Press  
Methodist Healthcare System of San Antonio  
Council for America's First Freedom  
Columbia University  
Journalist  
Tulsa World  
The News & Observer  
Paraclete Press  
Jossey-Bass  
Retired  
The Courier-Journal



## **Name**

Sheila Smith  
Susan Snider  
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Gustav Spohn  
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Rabbi Samuel Stahl  
Ruth Sternberg  
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Religion Newswriters Assn. & Fnd.  
The Journal News  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
The Brooklyn Daily Eagle  
The Advocate  
Hartford Seminary  
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Freelance Journalist  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Student  
Knights of Columbus  
Institute on Religion and Democracy  
Pontifical University of the Holy Cross  
The Dallas Morning News  
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good  
Center on Religion and the Professions  
Author  
Freelancer  
American Theological Library Association  
The Blade



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Former RNA President Russell Chandler wins 2007 William A. Reed / RNS Lifetime Achievement Award

By Kevin Eckstrom  
Religion News Service

**W**hen Russell Chandler was trying to track Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in the early 1980s for the Los Angeles Times, he headed up to eastern Oregon and started chatting up the local court clerks, wondering what they knew.

One mentioned a mysterious land purchase of some 120,000 acres and Chandler's ears perked up. He said the owners were all wearing orange robes.

"That's all I needed," Chandler said, before heading out to a lake near the compound, fishing pole in hand, orange shirt on his back. It wasn't long before he was discovered.

"They had the choice of treating me nice or kicking me out," Chandler said, "They decided to try to butter me up to see if they could get a good story, or convince me not to do the story. But they couldn't do that."

That brand of on-the-street reporting for the Los Angeles Times, Christianity Today and the Modesto Bee,

coupled with years of personal service to the religion beat and the RNA, has earned Russell Chandler the 2007 William A. Reed/Religion News Service Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chandler, who turned 75 a few weeks before the RNA annual conference, was a pioneer on the modern religion beat, helping to set the standards for professionalism, respect and seriousness that are now taken for granted among RNA members.

"Between his own work at the Los Angeles Times and his selfless leadership in the RNA, he's one of a small number of reporters who early on made covering religion one of the most sought-after beats in journalism," said his LA Times colleague, Larry Stammer.

Chandler has also personally invested in the beat—he and his wife, ML, started the Chandler Student Religion Reporter of the Year award in 2003. The couple has given \$27,700 to date and has pledged another \$15,400 over the next two years to recognize outstanding religion coverage among college students.

"There are many people who are equally or better qualified," Chandler said with his trademark gentleness. "I'm just glad it doesn't have to be posthumous."

Chandler retired from the Los Angeles Times in 1992 after nearly 18 years at the paper. He has earned three Templeton Awards—including the first ever, in 1984—and three Supple Awards from the RNA. He served as RNA president from 1982–1984.

"Russ had a fairness of spirit and a pleasant manner that drew out reluctant sources, and all that aided his notable investigative edge," said Dick Ostling, the 2006 Lifetime Achievement winner, who recruited Chandler to succeed him at Christianity Today in 1969.

"He was a dedicated evangelical and an ordained Presbyterian ... but always strived to be non-partisan in religion coverage, and thus represented the very best of what our guild stands for."

Prior to his career at the Los Angeles Times, Chandler worked at the Union Democrat in Sonora, Calif., from 1972–1974; was news editor at Christianity Today from 1969–1971; was religion editor at the now-defunct Washington Star from 1968–1969; and held his first job at the Modesto Bee.

Prior to entering the Fourth Estate, Chandler worked for a higher one, as an ordained Presbyterian minister.

"I never heard Russ preach from the pulpit ... but in the newsroom, he was the consummate journalist—calm under pressure, fair to a fault, competitive and courageous in his coverage of difficult stories," Stammer said.

Chandler was serving churches in California's Central Valley when he got a new calling to write, as he said, "for a different audience."

"I always kept thinking that somehow I'd like to be doing more writing, and I couldn't project myself forward to being a pastor until I was 65, so I thought maybe I could marry the two greatest interests and experiences of my life—church and theology, and writing—so I started doing a few freelance pieces."

He later married the greatest love of his life, ML, in 1978. That's "342 months and counting," he says, in case anyone was keeping track.

Chandler had actually dabbled in journalism much earlier, at the tender age of 10 when he created and distributed a mimeographed newsletter to friends and family serving in World War II. The venture, however, didn't last very long.

"The circulation didn't grow, and the advertising base wasn't there," he said.

Chandler has covered the big names—Billy Graham is one that sticks out—but says he found the greatest joy in documenting the lives of "unsung heroes and heroines, people who weren't in the limelight and who were unselfishly doing things for their love of doing them, to make the world a better place, to serve their God."

But it's the Chandlers' personal investment in the future of RNA—and indeed, the religion beat itself—that has won Russ and ML the thanks of the RNA board and its members.

"You get a lot more kick out of something if you can do something for people and be able to see the benefits yourself," Chandler said. "It isn't a memorial scholarship; it's fun to have a living person who can present the award." ★



# 2007 SPONSORS

## Thanks to the following 2007 RNA Conference sponsors:

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Religion & Culture:  
Meeting the Challenge of Pluralism

### Friday Luncheon

Fetzer Institute:  
The Campaign for Love & Forgiveness

### Friday Reception

HarperOne

### Saturday Breakfast

Austin American-Statesman

### Saturday Luncheon

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### Saturday Pre-Banquet Reception

Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly

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## 2008 Sponsorship Information

If you'd like to sponsor an event for the 2008 RNA Annual Conference in

Washington D.C., contact Associate Director Tiffany McCallen by March 1, 2008, at [McCallen@RNA.org](mailto:McCallen@RNA.org) or at 614-891-9001, ext. 2#.

## Ad Guides

Advertising and sponsorship guides will be available for download Feb. 1, 2008, on RNA's Web site at [www.RNA.org/advertise.php](http://www.RNA.org/advertise.php).

# SPONSOR LISTINGS

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## Austin American-Statesman

[statesman.com](http://statesman.com)

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The **Austin American-Statesman**, a Cox Newspaper, is published every morning from offices in Austin, Texas. The Statesman reaches two out of three Central Texas adults weekly with its print and online versions.



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**Beliefnet** is the largest online magazine and community focused on spirituality, inspiration, and faith, with an audience of 3 million unique visitors monthly. Founded in 1999, the site is independent of any spiritual movement. Winner of the 2007 National Magazine Award for General Excellence Online and a 2007 Webby Honoree for Best Practices, the site provides a wide variety of resources—video, articles, quizzes, devotionals, sacred text searches, community, prayer circles, photo galleries and more.

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## THE BELO FOUNDATION

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Established in 1952, **The Belo Foundation** has awarded more than \$20 million in grants. Belo takes seriously its responsibility to further public dialogue and improve life through philanthropic efforts. The Foundation concentrates its financial support on urban public parks and college-level journalism education. Among The Belo Foundation's recent efforts is the development of an applied journalism program in partnership with Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The Foundation has contributed \$5 million to this initiative, financing the creation of a state-of-the-art digital newsroom, television studio and Web site for the program, and funding the endowment of the Belo Distinguished Chair in Journalism.

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## The Center on Religion & the Professions

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**The Center on Religion & the Professions** works to improve religious literacy among professionals to help them serve a diverse public. We believe that as America grows more religiously diverse, professionals need to better understand the religious traditions and beliefs of the public they serve. Our interdisciplinary, practical and applied work centers on that mission. Founded in 2003 with a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Center is one of Pew's 10 Centers of Excellence.

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**The Council for America's First Freedom** is a politically and religiously neutral 501(c)(3) organization. It provides educational outreach programs

that encourage audiences worldwide to examine their own consciences, to understand the beliefs of others and to respect the right of religious freedom for all. The mission of the Council for America's First Freedom is to increase understanding and respect for religious freedom in diverse communities worldwide through education about this core human value: the freedom of thought, conscience and belief.

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With a mission to foster awareness of the power of love and forgiveness, the **Fetzer Institute** believes efforts to address the critical issues facing the world must go beyond political, social, and economic strategies to their psychological and spiritual roots. Its programs strive to bring love and forgiveness to the center of individual, organizational and community life. Launched in 2006, the Institute's **Campaign for Love & Forgiveness** combines public television programming, community activities and events, and online discussions to encourage conversation about how love and forgiveness can effect meaningful change in individuals and society.

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Sherwood Baptist's movie with its all-volunteer cast, "Facing the Giants," showed in 1,010 theaters; since

January, it's sold more than 1 million videos and 6,000 church packages. Before "Giants" Sherwood produced "Flywheel" on an even smaller budget—60,000 videos sold. A re-mastered "Flywheel, The Director's Cut" hits the market this fall. In the tradition of Sherwood's masterful storytelling, "Fireproof" (Sherwood Pictures and Carmel Entertainment, in association with Provident Films and Sony Pictures Home Entertainment) releases in fall 2008. Sherwood keeps proving that a good story—even a Christian story—does what large budgets and star names can't guarantee.



HarperOne

**HarperOne**, a division of HarperCollins Publishers since 1977, strives to be the preeminent publisher of the most important books and authors across the full spectrum of religion, spirituality, and personal growth literature, adding to the wealth of the world's wisdom by stirring the waters of reflection on the primary questions of life, while respecting all traditions. In 2006 and 2007 HarperOne had 19 New York Times bestsellers and many more national and regional bestsellers. Our books have offered new pathways, broken down barriers and have served as valued sources of inspiration and information for millions of readers.



The mission of the **John Templeton Foundation** is to serve as a philanthropic catalyst for discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions. These questions range from explorations into the laws of nature and the universe to questions on the nature of love, gratitude, forgiveness, and creativity. Our vision is derived from John Templeton's commitment to rigorous scientific research and related scholarship. The Foundation's motto "How little we know, how eager to learn" exemplifies our support for open-minded inquiry and our hope for advancing human progress through breakthrough discoveries.

**JOSSEY-BASS™**  
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**Jossey-Bass** presents Don Kraybill, co-author of "Amish Grace" and Dr. Scott Thumma, co-author of "Beyond MegaChurch Myths." Don Kraybill is senior fellow at the Young Center of Elizabethtown College. Kraybill's commentary on the Nickel Mines killing was featured in broadcast and print media including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Newsweek, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, NPR and BBC Radio. Thumma is a researcher in the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and a faculty member of Hartford Seminary. Thumma regularly teaches on megachurches and on religion in America and conducts wide-ranging research on a variety of topics.



The characters of C.S. Lewis's timeless fantasy come to life once again in this newest installment of the "Chronicles of Narnia" series—**Narnia: Prince Caspian**—in which the Pevensie siblings are magically transported back from England to the world of Narnia, where a thrilling, perilous new adventure and an even greater test of their faith and courage awaits them. The film is directed once again by Andrew Adamson, screenplay by Adamson, Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely. Produced by Mark Johnson, Adamson and Philip Steuer, the film reunites the original cast and creative team behind the blockbuster first film in the series.



This winter, the biggest theatrical release for kids and the big people who bring them is "**The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything—A VeggieTales Movie,**" a high seas adventure starring three wannabe pirates (Larry The Cucumber, Pa Grape and Mr. Lunt) who learn that heroes don't have to be tall, strong, handsome . . . or even human. RNA's screening of Big Idea, Inc., and Universal Pictures' advanced work-in-progress includes a Q&A with Phil Vischer, who founded Big Idea, wrote the film's screenplay and voices

several characters. As the Big Idea tag-line goes: "Sunday morning values. Saturday morning fun."



**RadioShack Corporation** (NYSE: RSH) is one of the nation's most experienced and trusted consumer electronics specialty retailers. The company has a presence through more than 6,000 company-operated stores and dealer outlets in the United States. RadioShack's dedicated force of knowledgeable and helpful sales associates has been consistently recognized by independent groups as providing the best customer service in the consumer electronics and wireless industries.



**Religion and Culture: Meeting the Challenge of Pluralism** is an initiative of the Ford Foundation, and explores the role of religious traditions in helping to shape social values and institutions. The initiative has funded a variety of clergy, scholars of religion and activists in an effort to amplify unique voices in the public debate on religion and society. These experts, including The Rev. Welton Gaddy, Elaine Pagels and Diana Eck—are available to offer fresh and insightful interpretations of current events and the role of religion in shaping our lives, culture and response to problems. For more information, please see: <http://religionandpluralism.org>.





**Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly** is the only show of its kind that provides national audiences with a unique perspective and analysis of the top news stories and events in the world of religion and ethics. Through news reports, profiles, special features and discussions with newsmakers and scholars, host Bob Abernethy and an experienced team of correspondents explore the role of religion in shaping both national and international events, and examine difficult ethical issues impacting the faith community. In addition, the program serves as a resource for viewers searching for ways to explore the spiritual experience and enhance their understanding of American religious life.



The **San Antonio Express-News** has a longstanding commitment to religion news coverage, recognizing the unique role of faith in the founding of this South Texas urban center. One of the largest Catholic areas in the nation,

San Antonio is home to the highest-ranking Hispanic bishop in the U.S. Catholic Church. The city also has a diverse religious landscape of Protestant, Jewish and Muslim communities, among others. The newspaper produces a weekly religion section and regularly generates religion stories within its pages from across Texas and elsewhere, highlighted last year with award-winning coverage of a San Antonio-based ministry treating AIDS-infected babies in Zambia.



Founded in 1798 in Edinburgh, Scotland, **Thomas Nelson** is the world's largest publisher of Bibles and the sixth-largest trade publisher, releasing hundreds of books every year that represent a Christian worldview. Thomas Nelson is home to some of the biggest names in publishing, including Max Lucado, William J. Bennett, John Maxwell, Dave Ramsey, Robin McGraw, John MacArthur, John Eldredge and Donald Miller, many of whom appear regularly on national bestseller lists. Committed to international growth, it has offices in China and Brazil, as well as a Spanish language group. ★





# 2007 EXHIBITORS



The **Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA)** provides free access to data on religion and now includes information on American

and international religion. The newest features are QuickStats and National Profiles. With QuickStats you can choose a topic and generate instant religion statistics, graphs and trend lines (when available). The statistics are taken from the Baylor Survey, the General Social Survey and other recent national surveys. National Profiles provides statistics on religious freedom and religious adherents for virtually all nations. Visit the redesigned Web site at [www.TheARDA.com](http://www.TheARDA.com).

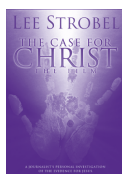


## BAHÁ'Í FAITH

The newest of the world's independent, monotheistic religions, the

**Bahá'i Faith** is now the second-most geographically widespread religion, with more than 5 million adherents residing in virtually every nation on earth. The Founder of the Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah, taught that all the world religions are part of a single, progressive process through which God

reveals His will to humanity. Baha'is promote the oneness of humanity with a focus on human rights, the status of women, sustainable development and strong moral foundations for a world civilization. Contact us at: [communications@bahai.us](mailto:communications@bahai.us), or visit us online at: [www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)



From his bestselling book of the same name, "**The Case for Christ**" DVD, released Sept. 14, builds on the investigative work of former Chicago

Tribune reporter Lee Strobel. The one-time atheist began work to discredit Christian claims when his wife began a spiritual transformation. Eventually his own transformation began. In this first of a series, Lee interviews scientists, geologists, theologians and other experts from the sharpened view of a doubter-turned-believer on the centuries-old debate. "The Case" aims to inform nonbelievers and to reaffirm for Christians the confidence that rocketed a small movement in Galilee around the world and through more than 2,000 years.



The **Center for Inquiry/Transnational**, is a nonprofit, educational, advocacy and research-based think tank based in Amherst, N.Y. Its main focus is critical inquiry into issues surrounding the intersection of religion, ethics and society. The Center wishes to develop an appreciation in the public at large for science, critical thinking and secular humanism. The Center is home to the Council for Secular Humanism, founded in 1980 and publisher of **FREE INQUIRY** magazine and the Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion (CSER) founded in 1983. The Center's Web site can be found at [www.centerforinquiry.net](http://www.centerforinquiry.net).

**Center for the Study of Law and Religion**  
at Emory University



The **Center for the Study of Law and Religion** brings together scholars and

students, policymakers and the public to explore the interaction of law and religion. This convergence builds new bridges of dialogue among the finest existing and emerging minds, establishes new libraries of knowledge and forums of public discussion, and generates objective information and reasoned opinions on contentious public policy issues. We offer: four joint degree programs (JD/MDiv, JD/MTS, JD/MA, JD/PhD); 15 cross-listed courses; eight major research projects; six to nine annual public forums; 300+ published volumes; Visiting fellows program; 1,600 scholarly affiliates from around the world.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** is a Christian faith with over 13 million members throughout the world. Common ground with other Christian faiths includes a belief in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, the holy Bible and humanitarian service programs for the needy. However, the Church holds a unique place in the Christian world as restored New Testament Christianity. The church also uses other scriptures, including the "Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ." The best way to get to know the Church is to spend time with our members.



*Cooperative Baptist*  
**FELLOWSHIP**

Founded in 1991, **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** (CBF) is a fellowship of Baptist Christians

and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. Headquartered in Atlanta, the Fellowship's mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission. Supported by more than 1,800 churches and an additional 3,500 individuals, the Fellowship has appointed about 150 global missions field personnel to serve around the world, partnered with 15 theology schools and endorsed more than 560 chaplains and pastoral counselors.

**Continued...**



The **Council for America's First Freedom** is a politically and religiously neutral 501(c)(3)

organization that provides educational outreach programs that encourage audiences worldwide to examine their own consciences, to understand the beliefs of others, and to respect the right of religious freedom for all. The mission of the Council for America's First Freedom is to increase understanding and respect for religious freedom in diverse communities worldwide through education about this core human value: the freedom of thought, conscience and belief.



**Duke Divinity School**, a world leader in theological education, is one of seven professional schools at Duke University. The divinity school enrolls more

than 500 students representing 30 denominations. The esteemed faculty publishes books and articles read by academic, church-related and general audiences worldwide. Duke Divinity's strengths include racial reconciliation, end-of-life care, history and interpretation of Scripture, theology and medicine, ethics, pastoral leadership and the Wesleyan tradition.



**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary** ([www.gordonconwell.edu](http://www.gordonconwell.edu)) is a multi-denominational evangelical Protestant graduate school serving

more than 2,200 students on campuses in South Hamilton and Boston, Mass., Charlotte, N.C., and an extension site in Jacksonville, Fla. Fifth-largest among all ATS-accredited seminaries in the U.S. and Canada, Gordon-Conwell is known internationally for leading faculty in biblical studies, theology and ministry. Students represent 107 denominations and 45 foreign countries. The Boston campus offers urban ministry training in six languages to a diverse student body. The Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary provides comprehensive trend data online at no cost to media at [www.globalchristianity.org](http://www.globalchristianity.org).



Begun in 1908 at **Graymoor** in Garrison, N.Y., the Church Unity Octave is now observed worldwide as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

(Jan. 18–25, 2008). It is endorsed by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches. Resource materials are available from the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute, a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. For information, visit [www.weekofprayer2008.org](http://www.weekofprayer2008.org).



The **Hindu American Foundation** (HAF) is a human rights group whose

purpose is to provide a voice for the 2 million strong Hindu American

community. HAF interacts with and educates government, media, think tanks, academia and public fora about Hinduism and issues of concern to Hindus locally and globally. Promoting the Hindu and American ideals of understanding, tolerance and pluralism, HAF stands strong against hate, discrimination, defamation and terror. The Hindu American Foundation is not affiliated with any religious or political organizations or entities. HAF seeks to serve Hindu Americans across all sampradayas (Hindu religious traditions).



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**The Humane Society of the United States** is the nation's largest animal protection

organization—backed by 10 million Americans, or one of every 30. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty—on the Web at [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org).



**InSites**  
Into American Religion

**InSites into American Religion** is a quarterly

e-newsletter dedicated to promoting the work and research of more than 20 Web sites of religion institutes, programs and projects related to the Initiatives in Religion of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The free newsletter is designed to educate the public and press about Web resources that cover religion in the United States. To subscribe, e-mail [InSites@hartsem.edu](mailto:InSites@hartsem.edu) or to view past issues, visit [www.resourcingchristianity.org](http://www.resourcingchristianity.org)



**The Institute on Religion and Democracy** is an ecumenical alliance of U.S. Christians working to reform their churches' social

witness, in accord with biblical and historic Christian teachings, thereby contributing to the renewal of democratic society at home and abroad. The IRD is a respected part of the Washington, D.C., policy institute world. It works to restore the role of religion in giving moral definition and direction to public life and public policy by bringing a well-reasoned, well-researched Christian perspective to bear on the issues that face our nation and the world.



**Islamica Magazine** ([www.IslamicaMagazine.com](http://www.IslamicaMagazine.com)) is a full-color, 128-page glossy quarterly international magazine headquartered in Chicago, Ill., with editorial offices located in

**Continued...**



Amman, Jordan, Cambridge, Mass. and Washington, D.C. Islamica aims to broaden perspectives on Islam and to provide a voice for Muslims to articulate their concerns while establishing cross-cultural relations between Muslims and their neighbors and co-religionists. The majority of our readership is in North America, however we have a significant presence in the UK and Europe and are distributed in more than 20 countries around the world.



**Jossey-Bass** presents Don Kraybill, co-author of “Amish Grace” and Dr. Scott Thumma, co-author of “Beyond MegaChurch Myths.” Don Kraybill is senior fellow at the Young Center of Elizabethtown College. Kraybill’s commentary on the Nickel Mines killing was featured in dozens of broadcast and print media sources including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Newsweek, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, NPR, and BBC Radio. Thumma is a researcher in the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and a faculty member of Hartford Seminary. Thumma regularly teaches on megachurches and on religion in America and conducts wide-ranging research on a variety of topics.



**The Knights of Columbus**, the world’s largest lay Catholic organization, marked its 125th anniversary March 29, 2007.

Founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Conn., the group has grown to an international

organization of 1.7 million members. The K of C is also one of the most successful fraternal benefit societies in American history, providing life insurance and other financial products for families. The organization has not only remained true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity, but it now includes patriotism as well. Its affiliates, known as councils, are often parish-based and provide support to their local church and community. In 2006 the K of C donated more than \$143 million to charitable causes, and members provided more than 68 million hours of volunteer service.



**LifeWay Research** seeks to define current

realities within churches and the American culture by conducting quantitative and qualitative primary research with church leaders, laity and the unchurched. LifeWay Research is the research arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Recent national studies have researched belief in private prayer language, protestant church switchers, American teen views on eternity and young adult Protestant church dropouts. Each study is released with an objective news release, as well as access to a report, Podcast analysis of the findings and graphs of key findings.



**The New Baptist Covenant** is an informal alliance

of more than 30 racially, geographically and theologically diverse Baptist organizations from throughout North

America that claim more than 20 million members. Representatives of these Baptist organizations have reaffirmed traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality, as well as their obligations as Christians to fulfill the biblical mandate to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and the marginalized, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.



**Paraclete Press** is proud to be the publisher of many experts on a variety of religious topics. Ranging

from New Testament theology (Scot McKnight) to the Emerging Church (Tony Jones, Peter Rollins) and from Judaism (Rabbi Sandy Sasso, Lauren Winner) to Marian spirituality (Jon Sweeney, Frederica Mathewes-Green, Mary Ford-Grabowsky) our authors have something to say. This fall our experts will include: Kathleen Norris, Scott Cairns and Richard John Neuhaus on rediscovering the meaning of Christmas, and from the author of the first faith-based diet program, Carol Showalter, and nutritionist expert Maggie Davis discussing "Your Whole Life."



The **Pontifical University of the Holy Cross**, chartered by the Holy See in 1984, was conceived in the heart of a saint

and born through the vision of John Paul II. The youngest of Rome's principal Pontifical universities, it arose from Saint Josemaria's

([www.josemariaescriva.info/](http://www.josemariaescriva.info/)) desire to establish a university in the heart of Rome dedicated to research and formation in the ecclesiastical sciences, in the service of the entire Church. more than 1,600 students from 73 countries and 60+ congregations. Degree programs from bachelors through doctoral levels are offered through four schools—theology, Canon law, philosophy and institutional communications.

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**Rev! Magazine** is the only national magazine

designed to equip pastors and their leadership teams. Each issue delivers reliable insight and inspiration to lead a healthy church. Rev! is packed with innovative, problem-solving ideas for more than a dozen ministry tasks, roles, and positions, plus, practical coaching



and a challenging perspective for life-changing ministry and spiritual growth. Rev! is published six times a year by Group, the little outfit in Loveland, Colo., that also serves up Children's Ministry Magazine, the leading resource for those who serve children in the church, and Group Magazine, the world's most-read youth ministry resource.



### SkyLight Paths and Jewish Lights

Publishing create a place where people of different traditions come together for challenge and inspiration. Our principal goal is to stimulate thought and help people learn from their own faith, as well as from other faith traditions and to practice in new ways. Our books are designed to welcome the reader and then to engage, stimulate and inspire. We judge our success not only by whether or not our books are beautiful and commercially

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**International-USA** is an American Buddhist association that promotes individual happiness and world peace through the practical application of Nichiren Buddhist principles. As lay believers and engaged Buddhists, Soka Gakkai International's 12 million members worldwide strive to improve their lives by living with confidence, creating value and contributing to the well-being of their families, friends and communities. Soka Gakkai International-USA has more than 80 centers located throughout the United States and its territories. For more information about Soka Gakkai International-USA, go to its Web site at [www.sgi-usa.org](http://www.sgi-usa.org).



### Voice of the Faithful

(VOTF) is an organization formed in Jan. 2002, in response to the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. VOTF has more than 32,000 registered supporters throughout 50 states and 40 countries worldwide, as well as more than 150 affiliates. VOTF has three goals: (1) To support those who have been abused (2) To support priests of integrity (3) To shape structural change within the Church. Our Mission statement: "To provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church."



**Westminster John Knox Press** is the academic and trade imprint of Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, which publishes approximately 75 titles each year and maintains a backlist of more than 1,500 titles around the world. With a publishing tradition of more than 165 years, PPC maintains its commitment to publishing resources that “advance religious scholarship, stimulate conversation about moral values and inspire faithful living.” For more information about its books and resources, call 800-523-1631, visit [www.ppcbooks.com](http://www.ppcbooks.com), fax 800-541-5113, or e-mail [publicity@wjkbbooks.com](mailto:publicity@wjkbbooks.com). ★

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“RNA helps me manage my beat by keeping current about religion issues, trends, ideas and events. The annual conference plays a big part in shaping my approach to the beat. It not only provides a national perspective about issues of faith and values, it gives me some precious time to think about coverage and check in with colleagues about their religion beats. As a relatively new reporter (I’ve been in the field for a little more than three years), these resources truly help me do my job.”

—Jean Gordon,  
The Clarion Ledger

“When I came back to work the next week, I felt incredibly prepared to do my job. I use the resources from the fellowship and conference all the time. And I use the RNA Web site as my homepage.”

—Magin McKenna,  
formerly with The News-Star



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We affirm the uniqueness of the American Jewish experience, and celebrate the vital role Jews have played in the founding and building of our nation and the development of its democratic ideals. We embrace our rights and civic obligations as engaged, contributing members of our community and as responsible citizens of the United States.

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The State of Israel has deep significance for the Jewish experience. As the birthplace of our faith, and a refuge for many Jews who have suffered persecution and oppression in other places, Israel has special meaning for us. However, that relationship is a spiritual, historical and humanitarian one - it is not a political tie. As American Jews, we affirm a broad range of opinion on our relationship to Israel and the policies of its government. We share the hope for the security and well being of the State of Israel, living in peace and justice with its neighbors.

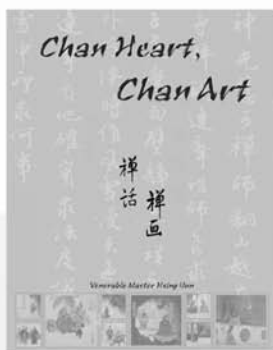
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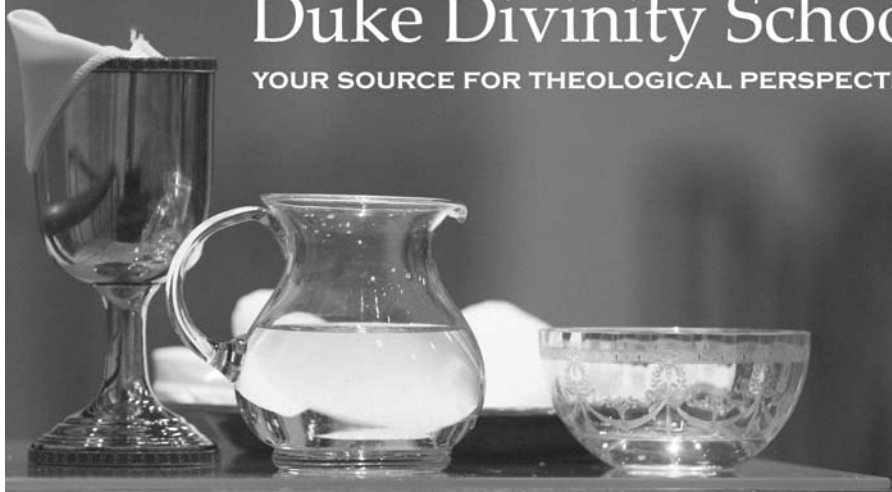


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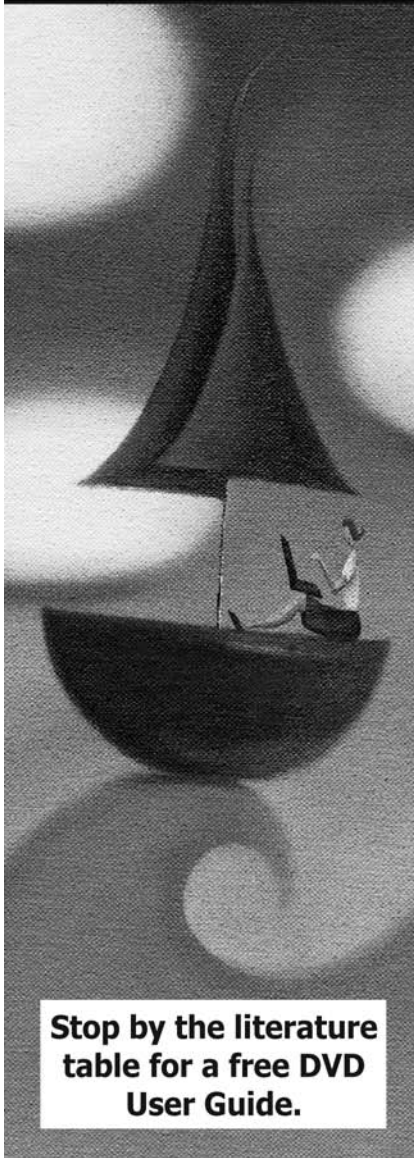
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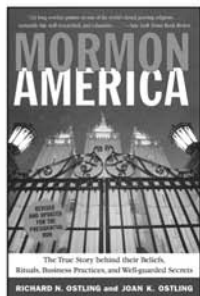


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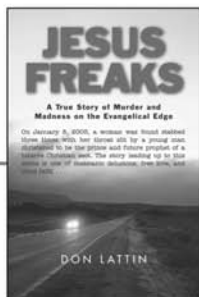
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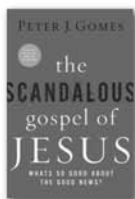


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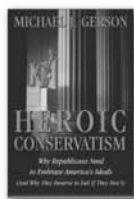
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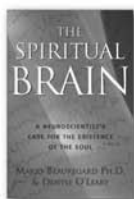
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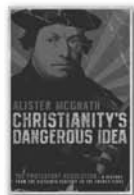
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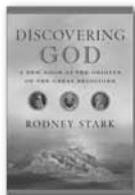
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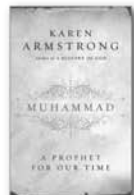
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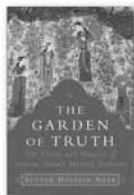
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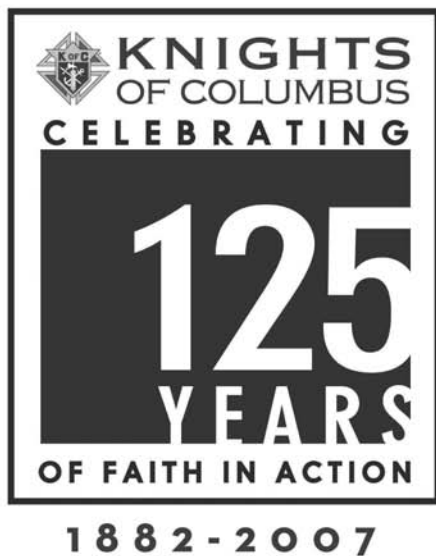
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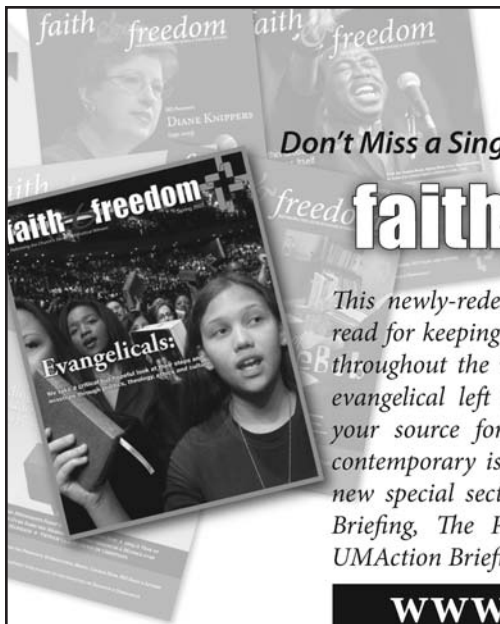


## March 29, 1882

The Knights of Columbus, a new fraternal benefit society, is chartered by the state of Connecticut with 11 founding members. Inspired by a New Haven Catholic priest's concern for the plight of widows, orphans and others in need, the organization quickly spreads throughout the state and beyond.

## March 29, 2007

The 700 employees at the New Haven headquarters of the Knights of Columbus serve more than 1.7 million Knights in 13,000 councils on four continents. With \$62 billion of life insurance in force, it provides rock-solid security for members and their families, who in turn donated more than \$139 million and 64 million hours of volunteer service to charity last year.



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# DEFINING MORMONS

With Mormons in the United States becoming more visible, including some who are currently holding or seeking high political office, journalists have taken a sudden interest in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its beliefs. The Church is strictly neutral when it comes to partisan politics; however, the current presidential race has placed the faith in the spotlight as never before. The greatest challenge for the Church, apart from keeping out of the political debate, is defining itself and its doctrines rather than being defined by others.

## **Mormonism has much common ground with other Christian churches:**

- Mormons believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and their personal Savior.
- Mormons also believe in the Holy Bible, which includes both the Old and New Testaments.
- The Church regularly joins with people of many faiths to provide humanitarian aid and give other types of service around the world.

## **Mormonism also has many differences:**

- The Church is not Catholic or Protestant but holds a unique place in the Christian world as “restored New Testament Christianity.”
- In addition to the Bible, the Church uses other scriptures, including the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said His followers would be known by their “fruits.” The best way to get to know the Mormons is to spend time with some. We invite you to stop by the Church’s booth to learn more.

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*Dr. Jaerock Lee's*

# The MESSAGE of the CROSS

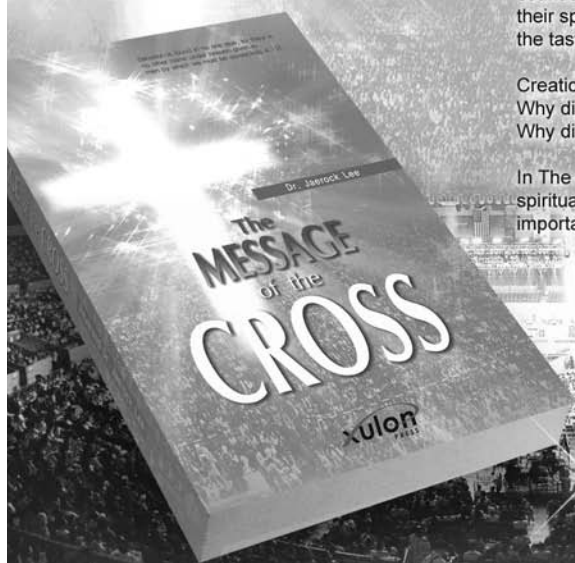
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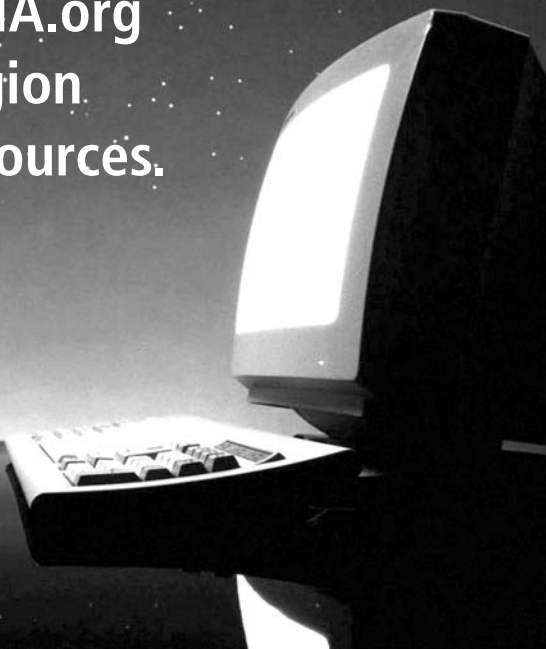
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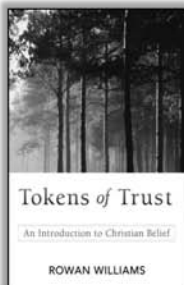
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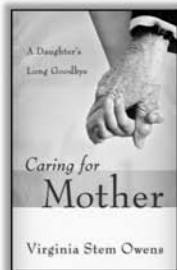
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to God, we do not "own" land. Rather, land  
use it responsibly and justly. March goes  
relationship between Israel and the Palest  
history of that relationship and how it has

W. Eugene March is A. B. Rhodes Profe  
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"Through essays as incisive and insightful as  
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ration. . . . Owens offers not self-help but ho  
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Virginia Stem Owens gives a clear and realis  
loved one. Along the way, Owens notes the  
tered, not the least of which included fear of  
book will be a helpful companion to those w  
of caregiver, helping them anticipate some o  
encounter along the way.

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reviews. She is a member of the editorial bc

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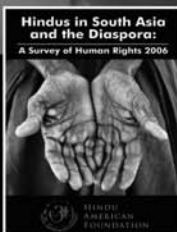
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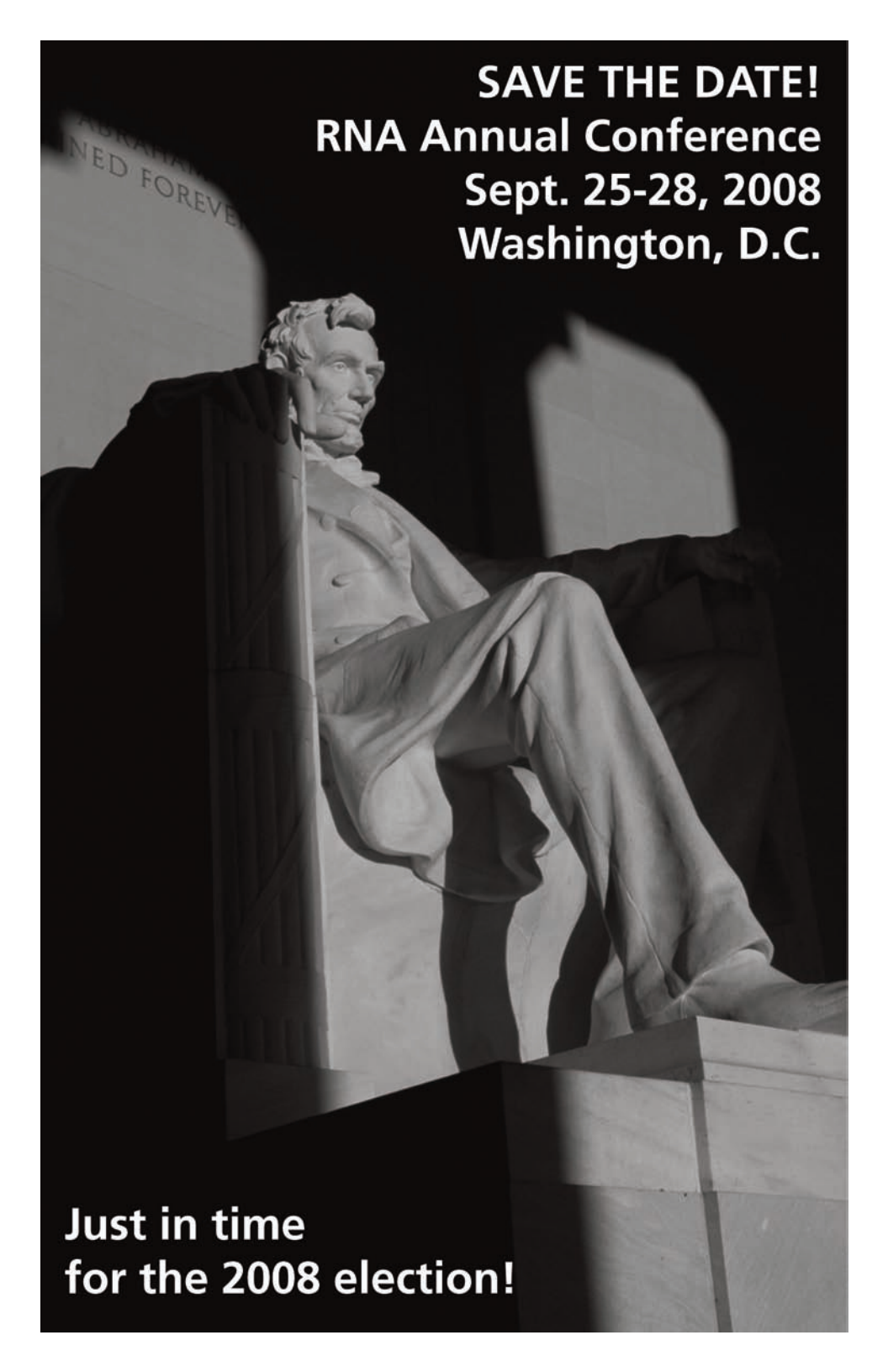
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