



## Presenters and workshop leaders

**Mindy Aronoff** is director of training and resources for the Bay Area Video Coalition. She leads the team that provides all adult training and technology education to digital media professionals, educators, artists and mediamakers, independent producers, vocational rehabilitation clients and job seekers. Previously the director of business development, she forged partnerships with corporations and government for BAVC, strategized marketing and public relations efforts, and planned for product development. Mindy came to BAVC in 1999 as industry outreach coordinator. She holds a B.A. in Design from UCLA and has over 17 years in commercial arts management.

**Tom Ballantyne** is a career and transition coach with more than 25 years of experience in helping people find their right livelihoods. His current coaching practice centers on successful transitions for job seekers and career changers in many fields, including media -- writers, editors, producers, reporters. Tom has worked as a senior consultant for Torchiana, Mastrov & Sapiro, the largest independent career management solutions firm in Northern California; as director of the Graduate Business Career Center at San Francisco State University, and as an executive search consultant and owner of Ballantyne & Associates, a retained search firm based in San Francisco.

**Claire Booth**'s book "The False Prophet: Conspiracy, Extortion and Murder in the Name of God" followed a decade of covering crime as a metro reporter. She has written about the Laci Peterson case and the San Francisco dog-mauling death of a young teacher. In False Prophet, she pursues a series of killings that shook the Bay Area. Convinced he had been chosen to usher in the second coming of Jesus Christ, Jason Helzer with the help of his brother Taylor attempted to finance his own apocalyptic cult through drug sales, prostitution, extortion, and murder. Booth has won awards for her writing from the Society of Professional Journalists, Florida Press Club and California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Yahoo! senior editor **Vera Chan** tracks trends, newsmakers and events that bubble up in the world's searches. A former entertainment and features reporter, Ms. Chan dissects the why on what's hot in blogs for Yahoo! properties such as Buzz Log, Movies, TV, News and more. She has served as lead editor for the Yahoo! Year in Review three years running—in 2009, the site pulled in 8.5 million page views and 875 million PR impressions. She also doubles as a Web trend analyst for print and broadcast media looking for behavioral insight into stories from apocalyptic concerns and who will win "American Idol" to birth trends and presidential contests.

**Frances Dinkelspiel** is the author of "Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California" (St. Martins Press; November 2008). A former general assignment reporter, Dinkelspiel has worked at papers ranging from the Syracuse Newspapers in upstate New York to the San Jose Mercury News in northern California. Her freelance work has appeared in the New York Times, People Magazine, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Miami Herald, the Detroit Free Press, and San Francisco Magazine. She has also taught at the Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. On a leave of absence from the Merc to write personal essays, Dinkelspiel discovered the amazing contributions of her great-great-grandfather to the development of California. "Towers of Gold" represents 10 years of research.

**Michele (Marcucci) Ellson** founded The Island, Alameda's online news source, after leaving the Oakland Tribune, where she covered social issues. An 18-year veteran her work has appeared in the San Jose Mercury News, the Oakland Tribune and the Contra Costa Times. She is the winner of several journalism awards, including a Sigma Delta Chi award for investigative reporting, Associated Press and James Madison Freedom of Information. She was also the publisher of her own monthly 'zine, sacred cow. She writes and edits most of the copy and oversees contributors at [www.TheIslandofAlameda.com](http://www.TheIslandofAlameda.com).



**Steve Fainaru**, managing editor of The Bay Citizen, has established a reputation as one of the country's top investigative reporters. Fainaru won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 2008 for his 10-part series on widespread abuses involving Blackwater and other private security contractors in Iraq. His work, the culmination of three years covering the Iraq war, led to major changes in the way private security companies are employed and managed by the U.S. government. Fainaru began his career with the San Jose Mercury News, where he covered sports. He later worked at the Boston Globe before moving to the Washington Post. He is the author of two books, "Big Boy Rules: American Mercenaries Fighting in Iraq" (Da Capo, 2008) and "The Duke of Havana: Baseball, Cuba and the Search for the American Dream" (Villard, 2000).

**Scot Hacker** is the webmaster for the Knight Digital Media Center and is also involved with web operations for the Graduate School of Journalism. He provides technical assistance in multimedia training courses, runs the webcast operation, and teaches a class in web development. Hacker is the author of O'Reilly's ["MP3: The Definitive Guide" (<http://bit.ly/yfNOW>), Peachpit's "The BeOS Bible" (<http://bit.ly/1031L2>), and dozens of articles for print- and web-based technology publications including PC Magazine, Byte.com, Windows Sources, MacWorld, and ZDNet, as well as television appearances and trade show gigs. On the side, Scot runs a web hosting company for independent journalists and artists.

**Tyche Hendricks** works as the governance editor for KQED public radio and teaches international reporting at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Her new book, "The Wind Doesn't Need a Passport: Stories from the U.S.-Mexico Border," will be published in June by UC Press. In her years at the San Francisco Chronicle, Hendricks reported extensively on the U.S.-Mexico border and covered immigration, demographic trends and the intersection of culture and politics. She has also worked as a freelance radio producer and for the Hearst-owned San Francisco Examiner, the San Jose Mercury News and the Seattle Times, winning a Best of the West prize and an NFCB Golden Reel. Hendricks has earned a BA from Wesleyan University as well as an MA in Latin American Studies and an MJ in Journalism, both from UC Berkeley.

**Kim Komenich** is an assistant professor for multimedia at his undergraduate alma mater San Jose State University. Komenich worked as a staff photographer and editor for the San Francisco Chronicle (2000-2009) and the San Francisco Examiner (1982-2000). He was awarded the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Spot News Photography for photographs of the Philippine Revolution he made while on assignment for the Examiner. Komenich has photographed the ramifications of conflict in the Philippines, Vietnam, Guyana, El Salvador, the former Soviet Union and most recently in Iraq, where photos from his three trips to the Sunni Triangle in 2005 earned him the Military Reporters and Editors' Association's 2006 Photography Award. A 2006-07 Dart Ochberg Fellow, he received his MA in Journalism from the University of Missouri where he studied the history and practice of multimedia photojournalism. Find examples of his visual journalism work at [www.kimkom.com](http://www.kimkom.com).

**Susan Kuchinskias** specializes in writing about the arcana of science and technology, uncovering the connections between business, technology and culture. Her work has appeared in Wired, Technology Review, Los Angeles Times and more. Her first book, "Going Mobile: A Guide to Business Applications that Work," was published in 2003. Last year, she came out with a second book, "Love Chemistry: How Oxytocin Lets Us Love, Trust, and Mate." Learn more about her at [www.Kuchinskias.com](http://www.Kuchinskias.com). Her blog, "Hug the Monkey," keeps readers up to date on the science involved in "Love Chemistry."

**Jessica Brandi Lifland** is a San Francisco-based photographer with almost 15 years of experience as a photojournalist working all over the United States and internationally in such places as Kosovo, Burma, Italy and most recently Jordan and Palestine. Her work appears nationally and internationally in publications including The New York Times, USA Today, The Toronto Star, Newsweek, Time, Forbes and Le Monde. She is represented by Polaris Images Agency. She is an instructor of photojournalism at San Francisco City College and also teaches with Panasonic's Digital Photo Academy. She is also the founder and director of San Francisco's popular monthly Photonight.



**Betsy Mason** is the science editor for Wired.com. Prior to coming to Wired, she was an award-winning science reporter at the Contra Costa Times in the San Francisco Bay Area. She completed the Science Communication Program at UC Santa Cruz and has written about science for Nature, Science, Discover and New Scientist. Before becoming a journalist, Mason was a geologist, and has a Master's degree in geology from Stanford University and an undergraduate degree in geology from Princeton University. Thousands of Twitter followers know her as a “geologist, beer snob, calm assertive pack leader.”

**Davia Nelson** is one half of The Kitchen Sisters, producers of the duPont-Columbia Award-winning NPR series Hidden Kitchens, as well as two Peabody Award-winning NPR collaborations, Lost & Found Sound and The Sonic Memorial Project, and the authors of Hidden Kitchens: Stories, Recipes, and More. The Kitchen Sisters are dedicated to creating intimate, provocative, and sound-rich documentaries that bring seldom-heard voices to the air, to mentoring young producers, and building community through storytelling. Their new NPR series, “The Hidden World of Girls--Girls and the Women they Become,” launched in March.

**Lanita Pace-Hinton** is the director of multimedia training programs for the Knight Digital Media Center at University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Since April 2000, she has been the associate director of the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, managing WKC seminars held at the UC Berkeley. She began her journalism career as a feature writer with Gannett News Service in Arlington, VA, and has written for the Detroit News and the Washington Post. Pace-Hinton joined The Press-Enterprise, in Riverside, CA as a reporter, and went on to serve as the assistant to the managing editor responsible for editorial recruitment, coordinating the paper's internship programs and community outreach. She later taught journalism and was the advisor to the student newspaper at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, CA. She received her Masters degree from the University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Education and Bachelor's of Arts degree in journalism from Howard University

**Richard C. Paddock** worked for a decade as a foreign correspondent for the Los Angeles Times. As the Times' Jakarta Bureau Chief and Moscow Bureau Chief, he reported from nearly 50 countries, including Iraq, Burma, Bosnia and East Timor. Stories included the Asian tsunami; the Bali bombing and the rise of Islamic terrorism; the return of headhunting to Borneo; and the threat of climate change to tiny Tuvalu. He also worked for the Los Angeles Times as a correspondent in San Francisco and Sacramento.

**Jane Richey's** photography portfolio is filled with sophisticated fashion imagery and black and white documentary studies; compelling shots of such musicians as John Lee Hooker and Robert Cray and portraits of contemporary leaders, including Bobby Kennedy Jr. and Gavin Newsom. The former photo editor at Red Herring, Jane now runs her own successful business. Though she has crafted a savvy presence on the web, she said she never relies on it for work; every freelancer must learn become a self-promoter, she said. Look for her on the web at [www.JaneRichey.com](http://www.JaneRichey.com).

**Brandon Scovill** was a full time interpreter of the Lao language at the Superior Court of Fresno County from 2003 to this year. He studied the Lao language as a missionary and has traveled throughout Laos. This year Brandon resigned his position as an interpreter and joined TNG/CWA to represent court interpreters in the California Federation of Interpreters. He still interprets part time to maintain his qualification as a California Registered Court Interpreter. Brandon has a Bachelor's degree in business and a Master's in Organizational Behavior.

**Jason Turbow** is the author of "The Baseball Codes: Beanballs, Sign Stealing and Bench-Clearing Brawls: The Unwritten Rules of America's Pastime" (Random House, March 2010). Turbow's work has appeared in The New York Times, SportsIllustrated.com, The Wall Street Journal, and Slam magazine. He is a regular contributor to Giants Magazine and Athletics, and for three years served as content director for “Giants Today,” a full-page supplement in the San Francisco Chronicle that was published in conjunction with every Giants home game.