

# NEWS *BREAK*

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## GREAT EXPECTATIONS: NEW TREND IN NEWS BIZ

By Chris Carl  
DPA Vice President, Programs

Todd Hallidy, broadcast editor for the Associated Press bureau in Baltimore, gathers, edits and provides news of state and local interest to 40 member radio and television stations in Delaware and Maryland.

Although Hallidy doesn't use a crystal ball, he says that "knowledge of events yet to come is proving to be a hot commodity in the news industry."

He will speak about this trend in "The Expectations Game: News Consumers and the Information Industry" at DPA's Annual Meeting and Communications Contest Awards Banquet at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington on April 28.

"One symptom of the accelerating pace of change in the information industry has been the shift from a focus on events that have happened to events that are expected to happen," he says.

Raised near Rochester, N.Y., Hallidy majored in American Studies at Hobart College. His career in news and public relations spans 16 years, beginning as a radio personality and a program director for contemporary radio stations in Johnstown and Altoona, Pa., and includes a lengthy tenure in Delaware as a radio news reporter, anchor



Todd Hallidy

and news director.

For more than a decade, he was on the air on three AM stations in Delaware —WAMS, WDEL and WILM — and was news director at WDEL for five of those years. He left radio to serve as

community relations coordinator in the Delaware Department of Justice and was the public information officer for Delaware Attorney General M. Jane Brady before getting back into the news business with the Associated Press.

For information on DPA's Annual Meeting and Communications Contest Awards Banquet, please see the Calendar of Events on the back page.

## WHO WE ARE

Delaware Press Association is an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women. Established in 1977, DPA is a network of communications professionals dedicated to the highest standards of excellence in communication and to protecting First Amendment freedoms.

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Author Lara M. Zeises (center) spoke at DPA's luncheon meeting in February. The topic: "10 Steps to Cracking the Young Adult Market."

Her third young adult book, *Anyone But You*, will be in stores in November.

Zeises is pictured with Chris Carl, vice president, programs, and Theresa Medoff, president.

Photo by Bridget Gillespie Paverd

## MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### RACHEL SIMON

By Tara Lynn Johnson  
NewsBreak Editor

May 1 is the official airdate of the movie "Riding the Bus with my Sister," adapted from DPA member Rachel Simon's book of the same name.

The Hallmark Hall of Fame production will air on CBS.

Rachel hasn't seen the final edited version yet. She visited the set during production, and is excited about the project finally coming to air.

"The whole experience has been quite moving and fascinating," Rachel said. "Of course, the film is an adaptation, so it differs in many ways from the book. But I'm happy about it on

many levels, and I hope you will be, too."

Rachel's memoir focuses on her relationship with her developmentally-disabled sister, Beth, who spends her days riding the buses in the city where she lives. In the process of researching the book and riding the bus, Rachel became closer to her sister and learned

lessons about life and love that transformed her own life.

Rachel also has published a novel, *The Magic Touch*; A book of short stories, *Little Nightmares*, *Little Dreams*; and an inspirational book for writers, *The Writer's Survival Guide*. She

teaches fiction and creative non-fiction writing at Bryn Mawr College.

Rachel hopes everyone will enjoy the ride on May 1.

Visit [www.rachelsimon.com](http://www.rachelsimon.com).

### ALLISON TAYLOR LEVINE

By Andrea Miller

Allison Taylor Levine has been named communications director by New Castle County Executive Christopher Coons. Her appointment fills the final cabinet-level position on his staff.

"Allison has a strong reputation for her ability to help communicate government activities and promote openness and transparency," Coons said.

Levine said she believes her background and values fit well with Coons' vision for county government.

"As a former newspaper reporter, I am a strong advocate for transparent government, an avid supporter of First Amendment rights and sunshine laws," she said.

Levine, 30, served as the communications director at the state's Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) for four years. Before that she was a community relations coordinator at the DHSS Division of Public Health and a journalist at *The News Journal* and at *Middlesex News* in Framingham, Mass.

She earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Delaware and holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The biggest challenge ahead will be to help restore the public's faith in county government, she said.

And although she has the greatest respect for Coons, Levine said she is not a "yes-man," nor is she afraid of telling politicians to do things differently because it is in the best interest of the public.

From the Greenville Community News.



(from left) Rachel Simon, Andie MacDowell (who plays "Rachel"), executive producer Larry Sanitsky, executive producer Rosie O'Donnell (who plays "Beth"), and director Anjelica Huston on the set of "Riding the Bus with My Sister," which was filmed in June and July 2004.

## NEWSBREAK

The Delaware Press Association newsletter is published quarterly.  
The deadline for the September issue is **August 15**.

Submit an article. Send your news and accomplishments.  
Help us to make your newsletter even better.

Submit editorial content to **Tara Lynn Johnson, Editor**  
(302) 290-7970 or [dpanewsbreak@yahoo.com](mailto:dpanewsbreak@yahoo.com).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT: THE JOURNALIST'S POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY

By Theresa Gawlas Medoff

Back when I was a reporter for my college newspaper, I made the egregious journalistic error of relying on just one source for an article about a controversy in student government. Not surprisingly, the whole thing blew up in my face.

In my naiveté, I never paused to consider that my source, who approached me with the story, might have an ax to grind. I accepted his statements as fact without checking, and I neglected to find out the other side of the story. It was a lesson I never will forget.

Two writing projects in recent weeks brought that episode to my mind again.

The first is an article on Sanford



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School's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary that I am writing for the school magazine. Arriving at the historical "truth" is challenging because some mistakes have been made in prior documentation and because the people I interview recall the past differently. They might, for example, forget the year something happened or the chronological order of events. They might misattribute credit for achievements. In some cases, they simply disagree about the importance of a person or deed.

However innocent such mistakes, they do matter.

In the decades to come, others will look to my magazine article to learn about the past, just as I have consulted old newspaper clippings, speeches and reports. I feel a responsibility to record history as accurately as I possibly can.

The second project is a more tradi-

tional news article for another publication. Because the topic involves controversy, however, I must contend not only with faulty recollections but also with evidence and statements that are presented in such a way as to support a particular interpretation or agenda. One person's assertions can directly contradict another's.

So, what do we journalists do?

We use many sources.

We check and recheck the facts, and we go back to the original source whenever possible.

We avoid presenting opinion as fact, and we reveal to our audience relationships or possible motivations that might color a person's views.

Above all, we remember that what we commit to paper (or tape or disk) may be relied on as truth now and in the future.

We have the awesome responsibility to get the story right.

## MEDIA MAVENS AND MAVERICKS

**Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt** has been accepted as a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA), the nation's leading organization of independent non-fiction writers. To qualify for membership, ASJA requires that applicants provide at least six full-length bylined magazine or newspaper articles in major publications or in non-fiction books published by established publishers. Sheri submitted the three young adult career books she has written for Lucent Books, the chapter she wrote on the Texas Motor Speedway for Mobil

Travel Guide's NASCAR Travel Planner, and her contributions to *Ripley's Believe It or Not! Planet Eccentric!* book. She also included her articles from *Ladies Home Journal*, *Family Circle*, and *HR Innovator* magazines. Sheri is honored to be recognized by her peers as a professional freelance writer and looks forward to taking advantage of the ASJA job board.

**Nancy Beasley**, of Virginia Press Women, who spoke about her book *Izzy's Fire: Finding Humanity in the Holocaust* at DPA's 2004 Holiday Luncheon, now has

a Web site for the book at [www.izzysfire.com](http://www.izzysfire.com). A photo of Nancy with Izzy's wife, Edna Ipson, whose picture graces the cover of the book, was taken just days before Mrs. Ipson's 93rd birthday last December and may be seen on the Web site's "Presentations" page.

Congratulations to freelance writer **Seema Nayyar** and her husband, Pankaj Patel, who welcomed their baby girl, Nina, on Dec. 15.

Send us your news!  
[dpanewsbreak@yahoo.com](mailto:dpanewsbreak@yahoo.com).

## WELCOME!

DPA welcomes these new members:

**Sharon Moore**, freelance writer and memoirist.

**April Crampton**, marketing assistant for the 436th Service Squadron at Dover Air Force Base.

For membership info, visit our Web site at [www.DelawarePressAssociation.org](http://www.DelawarePressAssociation.org).

## 'SOUND BYTES IN SEATTLE' A SOUND INVESTMENT

By Katherine Ward  
DPA Executive Director

The National Federation of Press Women's 2005 Communications Conference, "Sound Bytes in Seattle," will be held Sept. 8-10 at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, 515 Madison Street, in high-tech Seattle, Washington.

A variety of professional development sessions and some fascinating local and regional tours have been planned. And COAs and national communications contest award winners will be honored.

**Presenters include:** Heloise, keynote speaker, on syndication and tips on packing right; Sibyl Perkins, School of Visual Concepts, on the top 10 ways to improve your Web site; Nancy Juetten, Marketing Inc., "Helping Winning Companies Tell Their Stories"; Anu Garg, founder of Wordsmith; Larry Workman, award-winning photographer, "Digital Cameras"; Aida Kouyoumjian, "Iraq Yesterday and Today"; Joseph Janes, U of W, "Google: Navigating the Online Universe"; Jean Wiley Huyer, "From Stress to Bliss"; Matt Kelley, founder of MAVIN, the only magazine celebrating multiracial and transracially adopted people; Penny Sansevieri, Print on Demand, "Stay out of the Rejection Pile and Get Published Today"; George Smith, manager of WNPA, "Strong Editorial Pages Make Strong Communities; and Genie Dickerson "Getting Published using Writer's Market."

**Panel discussion topics include:** the First Amendment; women in democracy; women's rights; plagiarism; improving media coverage of trauma, conflict and tragedy; and alternative newspapers.

The conference registration fee remains at \$295, and the room rate is \$129 plus tax, single or double.

**Tours:** To reserve a spot for the following pre- or post-conference tours, contact 2005 conference director Barbara Nilson now as the tours are filling up fast. E-mail her at [NLBARBA@aol.com](mailto:NLBARBA@aol.com) or call (425) 228-5903.

**Whale watching:** Sept. 7 from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. View whales in the San Juan Islands and stop at Friday Harbor to visit the Whale Museum. All-day cruise. Includes pickup at the hotel and transfer to Mosquito Fleet boat in Everett. \$93.20. Group size: 30.

**Horseback riding:** Sept. 7 on Tiger Mountain for 2 to 3 hours. \$50, plus transportation. Limited to 6-8 horses.

**Tillicum Village on Blake Island:** Sept. 7 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Savor clams served in front of the longhouse; delicious Indian-style salmon feast complete with salad bar, rice, potatoes, warm Tillicum seven-grain bread, drinks, and a salmon-shaped chocolate for dessert. While dining, guests will be entertained by a live presentation of Native American dances. \$62 (includes ferry but not transportation from hotel to waterfront). Limited to 35.

**Post-conference tour around the Olympic Peninsula:** Leaves Sunday morning, Sept. 11, and returns to Seattle, Tuesday, Sept. 13, evening or late afternoon. Cost to be announced in April.

Contact Glennis McNeal, at [Glennis555@aol.com](mailto:Glennis555@aol.com) to reserve a spot for the pre-conference tour from Seattle to the Columbia River and Lewis and Clark sites. Tour begins Sept. 5, ends Sept. 7. Cost: \$350. Includes most meals, rooms, Columbia River sternwheeler, museum and national park entry fees, transportation and gratuities.

Plan to attend. You'll go home with lots of great new ideas and an enhanced national network of communications colleagues.

More info at [www.nfpw.org](http://www.nfpw.org). Click on "conference."

## CONTEST UPDATE

The 2005 DPA Communications Contest results are now available at [www.DelawarePressAssociation.org/contests/dpacomm.htm](http://www.DelawarePressAssociation.org/contests/dpacomm.htm). Click on "award winners."

Contest entrants and winners will be honored at DPA's Annual Meeting and Communications Contest Awards Banquet at the DuPont Country Club on April 28.

Winning entries will be displayed. Sweepstakes winners will be announced.

See the article on page 1 and the Calendar of Events on the back page for details.

Congratulations to one and all!

## IN MEMORIAM

Former DPA member Anna Jean Jackson, known as Jeannie, died on March 8. Jeannie did the layout and design for *NewsBreak* for several years.

Artist, illustrator, graphic designer and poet, Jeannie illustrated *Squizzy the Black Squirrel, A Fabulous Fable of Friendship*, a children's book by journalist and civil rights activist Chuck Stone. She designed the cover and interior of *The Journalist's Craft*, a book co-edited by her husband, Dennis Jackson, a University of Delaware professor, and John Sweeney, public editor for *The News Journal*.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Jeannie's family.

## RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR H.S. JOURNALISM CONTEST

By Barbara Roewe

Contest Director and DPA Vice President, Student Activities

A new record has been set for the number of schools participating in the 2005 First State High School Journalism Contest co-sponsored by Delaware Press Association and *The News Journal*.

Sixteen schools submitted 388 entries, another record-setting number.

Participating schools are Brandywine High School, Cape Henlopen High School, The Charter School of Wilmington, Concord High School, Glasgow High School, Hodgson Vocational Technical High School, Lake Forest High School, Middletown High School, Milford High School, St. Andrews School, Salesianum School, Sanford School, The Tatnall School, Towle Institute, Ursuline Academy, and Wilmington Christian School.

Contest winners will be honored at the annual High

School Journalism Contest Awards Luncheon on April 27 in the Bill Frank Conference Room of *The News Journal*, Basin Road, New Castle. Prior to the luncheon, students will participate in round-table discussions concerning ethics and editorial responsibility of high school newspapers. After lunch, students will be taken on a tour of the building.

Contest judges are: for features, Pat Lake, senior managing editor, *Delaware Today*; for columns, Gary Soulsman, reporter, *The News Journal*; for layout and graphics, Jerry DuPhily, publisher, *Out & About Magazine*, and editor, *The Softball News*; for cartooning, Jack Jurden, cartoonist, *The News Journal*; for news, Allan Loudell, 1450 WILM News-Radio program manager; for reviews, Sally Rinard, movie critic, *Out & About Magazine*; for photography, Lynn Troy Maniscalco, national award-winning photographer; for editorials, John Taylor, editorial page editor, *The News Journal*; for opinions, John Sweeney, public editor, *The News Journal*; for sports, Kevin Tresolini, reporter, *The News Journal*.

## REMEMBERING JOURNALIST HUNTER S. THOMPSON

By Katherine Ward

DPA Executive Director

Didn't you love him just a little bit when parodied as the slightly twisted Uncle Duke in Garry Trudeau's comic strip "Doodlesbury"? Did you ache when he was stomped by some of the bikers he rode with for more than a year but who didn't want him to publish his take on their world in *Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gang*? Perhaps you embraced his edgy, acid view of the U.S. in *Fear and Loathing in America: The Brutal Odyssey of an Outlaw Journalist*. Or maybe you nodded when he said the title of his recent memoir, *Kingdom of Fear*, "pretty well sums up the foul nature of life in the U.S.A. in these first few bloody years of the post-American century."

Whatever you thought of Hunter S. Thompson, the high priest of "gonzo" journalism, he broke the bounds of political journalism in the latter half of the 20th century and forever changed it by including the personal and the pathological in his reporting.

As Rita Katz Farrell, former Delaware bureau chief for Reuters and DPA's 2004 Communicator of Achievement, said when she spoke on gonzo journalism at the 1996 DPA Holiday Luncheon, Hunter Thompson was not afraid to tell his own sulfurous truth to power.

His death in February at 67, apparently by his own

hand, has engendered much commentary on his life, his work and his own brand of journalism, which he described as "a style of reporting based on William Faulkner's idea that the best fiction is far more true than any kind of journalism."

In "Fear and Loathing in New Castle," his "On the Bubble" column in the March 2 issue of the *Greenville Community News*, Reid Champagne paid tribute to Thompson's "manic, soaring rhetoric." Champagne said: "It's not that Thompson wrote truth — I don't think he gave a damn about whether anything he wrote was true . . . his clarity was to throw a laser-precise light at reality — revealing it in all its twisted, mysterious, threatening, exhilarating, straight ahead, illogical, satisfying and ultimately disturbing dimensions . . . and then just walk (or stumble) away, leaving us to figure out what the hell it all might mean."

Dedicated to freedom of the press, we understand Reid Champagne's final comment on the virtue of the provocative work of the "Great Gonzo," whose writing has been called hilarious, poetic and a "howling vortex of outrage and pain." "Thompson's search," he says, "was never for the honest man — why would you even undertake such a search when your abiding interest is politics? No, the light that was extinguished was a lighthouse: the light that tries to reveal with life-saving clarity where the foundering rocks—the foundering rocks of our Republic—truly lie."



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DPA membership dues are \$20/year  
\$5/year for students  
\$71.50 for DPA/NFPW joint membership

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

WWW.DELAWAREPRESSASSOCIATION.ORG

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**“Networking – A Way of Life.”** NetworkMasters (Barry Schlecker, Larry Nagengast, Joan Walsh, Bob Knoll) provide tips on networking/how to use online resources to strengthen your efforts. **7:30-9:00 a.m. April 12 or 26.** Kid Shelleen's, 14th and Scott streets, Wilmington. Cost: \$40, at the door \$50. Register, (302) 656-5555 or networkmasters@hotmail.com.

**Wilmington Writers' Workshop.** *The News Journal* and the Poynter Institute for Media Studies host the annual event with featured speaker Roy Peter Clark, a top writing coach, and writ-

ers and editors from around the country. **9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 16 and 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. April 17.** Doubletree Hotel, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington. Cost: \$80. Info/registration forms: www.delawareonline.com/workshop2005.

**DPA Annual Meeting and Communications Contest Awards Banquet.** Todd Hallidy, broadcast editor for the Associated Press bureau in Baltimore presents “The Expectations Game: News Consumers and the Information Industry” (see article, p. 1). Also, winning contest entries displayed. **Social gathering**

**with cash bar 5:45 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. April 28.** DuPont Country Club, Wedgwood Room. Rockland and Black Gates roads, Wilmington. Cost: \$30. Info: Sara Garrison, (302) 762-1984 or garrison@freelancewritingde.com.

Maryland–Delaware–D.C. Press Association Workshops: **News Writing** with Jim Stasiowski. **April 28.** Write more effective stories. **Advertising Sales Camp** with Tony Roselli. **May 19.** Gain the competitive edge. Both workshops in Georgetown. For more on these and other MDDC events, visit www.mddcpress.com.

**DPA Board Meeting. 6:30 p.m. May 24.** Methodist Country House, Sterling Conference Room, 4830 Kennett Pike, Wilmington. Light supper available at 5:45 p.m. Cost: \$8. To make a supper reservation: bcroewe@aol.com. All members welcome.

**Bethany Beach Writer's Workshop.** Poetry, fiction, and more at the day-long event. **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 20.** Sponsored by Delaware Literary Connection and the South Coastal Library, where the event will be held. Cost: FREE.

*Have a great Summer!*