

TOM FIELDS-MEYER

EXPERIENCE

Writer, Editor, and Consultant | LOS ANGELES | 2007 - PRESENT

- Wrote and edited materials including books, articles, website content, blog posts, and development materials for a wide range of individuals and organizations.
- Assisted clients in developing nonfiction book ideas and crafting successful book proposals.
- Published articles in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other publications and websites.

Instructor | **UCLA Extension Writers' Program** | LOS ANGELES | 2011 - PRESENT

- Taught memoir writing in nation's largest university continuing-education writing program. Guided adult learners in the art, craft, and discipline of narrative nonfiction. Helped students to find and develop their unique writing voices, identify and develop stories, and overcome obstacles to writing.

Senior Writer, Associate Editor | **People Magazine** | NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES | 1995 - 2007

- Wrote human-interest stories, medical articles, breaking news, high-profile crime pieces, profiles of celebrities and newsmakers, major obituaries, and inspirational hero stories.
- Collaborated with other editors in directing coverage of major stories, supervising teams of reporters, and guiding stories through the editorial process.

Freelance Journalist | LOS ANGELES & PORTLAND, OR | 1988 - 1995

- Wrote features on the arts, education, and popular culture for publications including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Los Angeles Times Magazine*.

Staff Writer | **Dallas Morning News** | DALLAS, TX | 1986 - 1988

- Reported on crime, medicine, politics, and general news for major regional newspaper.

Senior Editor | **Chronicle of Higher Education** | WASHINGTON, D.C. | 1984 - 1986

- Wrote news and features, and oversaw student-life coverage for national weekly newspaper.

BOOKS

American Dreamer: How I Escaped Communist Vietnam and Built a Successful Life in America. Coauthored with Tim Tran (Pacific University Press, 2020). Inspiring memoir recounting Tran's colorful childhood in Vietnam, his dramatic and harrowing refugee experience, and how he rebuilt his life and found success as a corporate executive.

Nomadic Soul: My Journey from the Libyan Sahara to a Jewish Life in Los Angeles.

Coauthored with Ed Elhaderi (Luminare Press, 2019). Memoir documenting Elhaderi's lifelong journey from his remote Libyan village to America, where he experienced a life-changing spiritual transformation, embracing Judaism and becoming active in his synagogue and community.

We the Resilient: Wisdom for America from Women Born Before Suffrage. Coedited with Sarah Bunin Benor (Luminare Press, 2017). An outgrowth of the viral website IWaited96Years.com, presents wisdom from women born before the Nineteenth Amendment.

Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism, coauthored with Barry Prizant, Ph.D. (Simon & Schuster, 2015). A reframing of autism, depicting it not as a disease to be cured but as a different way of being human. Amazon bestseller and 2017 winner of Autism Society of America's Dr. Temple Grandin Award for Outstanding Literary Work of the Year. Ranked No. 1 on Book Authority's "75 Best Autism Books of All Time."

Following Ezra: What One Father Learned About Gumby, Otters, Autism, and Love from His Extraordinary Son (NAL/Penguin, 2011). Entertaining and emotionally rich memoir of raising an autistic son, from diagnosis to one-of-a-kind bar mitzvah. *People* called it “a heart- and mind-altering experience...unexpectedly uplifting.” National Jewish Book Award Finalist.

Business Mensch: Timeless Wisdom for Today’s Entrepreneur. Coauthored with Noah Alper (Wolfeboro Press, 2009). Part spiritual memoir, part business guidebook by the Noah’s Bagels founder. *Publisher’s Weekly*: “This earnest book shines with Alper’s conviction, business savvy and decency.” Axiom Business Book Award Silver Medal.

If You Save One Life: A Survivor’s Memoir. Coauthored with Eva Brown (Upper Story Press, 2007). Inspiring memoir of Holocaust survivor and popular speaker. Simon Wiesenthal Center director Rabbi Marvin Hier called it “significant and meaningful... a reminder to future generations that championing tolerance, justice and social change is everyone’s obligation.”

EDUCATION

Harvard University (1984) A.B. Degree in English & American Literature and Language.

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SAMPLING OF CLIENTS (2007-2019)

Publications

The New York Times Magazine
Los Angeles Times
The Wall Street Journal
The Washington Post
The Forward
The Jewish Journal (Los Angeles)
The Jewish Week (New York)
Huffington Post
Kveller

Nonprofits

Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Camp Ramah in California
Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles
Milken Community Schools
Pacific University
U Magazine (formerly UCLA Health)
Wilshire Boulevard Temple

Healthcare Professionals

Mona Delahooke, Ph.D., child psychologist; Arcadia, CA
Albert Fuchs, M.D., internist; Beverly Hills, CA
Barry Prizant, Ph.D, autism specialist; Providence, RI

Miscellaneous

Berenbaum Group (international consultant for museums)
Troika (Los Angeles branding and marketing agency)
Small Batch Books (independent publisher)

Individuals

Noah Alper, founder of Noah's Bagels; Berkeley, CA (memoir)
Eva Brown, Holocaust survivor and educator; Los Angeles, CA (memoir)
Ed Elhaderi, Los Angeles, CA (memoir)
Beth Goldsmith, non-profit executive; Los Angeles, CA (memoir)
Alice Schoenfeld, Holocaust survivor; Beverly Hills, CA (memoir)
Barry Weintraub, Holocaust survivor and entrepreneur; Calabasas, CA (memoir)