### Publications by John Boykin

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### Books

[*One Brief Miracle: The Diplomat, the Zealot, and the Wild Blundering Siege*](http://onebriefmiracle.com/) (declassified tale of how legendary American diplomat Philip Habib worked out a peaceful end to Israel’s 1982 siege of Beirut), foreword by George Shultz. Won American Academy of Diplomacy Book Award (for hardback edition, then titled *Cursed is the Peacemaker*). Has been translated into Arabic.

*The Gospel of Coincidence,* Zondervan (a way to help people make sense of their circumstances without resorting to superstition). Has been translated into Chinese.

### Health booklets

*[All published by Krames. All have been translated into Spanish. Each is based on hundreds of pages of medical research and hour-long interviews with 10-12 healthcare providers.]*

[“Understanding Heart Valve Surgery”](http://wayfind.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/heartValveComplete.pdf)

[“Your Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy Journey”](http://wayfind.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/TAJourneyComplete.pdf) (comic book for parents to read to their 4-year-olds before surgery)

[“Quit Smoking: This Time for Sure”](http://wayfind.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/smokingComplete.pdf)

“Managing Heart Disease and Preventing Stroke”

“Elbow Owners Manual: Treating and Preventing Common Elbow Problems”

“Treatment Options for Damaged and Missing Teeth”

“Treating Erectile Dysfunction: Help for a Common Problem”

“Depression”

“Stroke Recovery: A Caregiver’s Guide”

“Snoring and Sleep Apnea”

“What You Need to Know about Tuberculosis”

“What You Need to Know about Chlamydia”

“What You Need to Know about HIV/AIDS”

“Get Walking! For Better Health at Any Age”

**Radio Commentary**

“[Free Christ from Christmas](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4199821),” National Public Radio, *All Things Considered* (a bit of heresy)

**Magazine articles: User experience (UX)**

*[All* UX Magazine. *User experience is the practice of designing websites, mobile apps, and other products to delight the people who use them.]*

[Simplicity: It’s Complicated](http://uxmag.com/articles/simplicity-its-complicated) (the ultimate UX virtue is not simplicity, but ease)

[Everything I Really Need to Know about User Experience I Learned in Sunday School](http://uxmag.com/articles/simplicity-its-complicated) (good design treats people right)

[UX Haikus](http://uxmag.com/articles/ux-haikus) (30 bits of design advice in 17 syllables apiece)

[Stop Helping Me](http://uxmag.com/articles/stop-helping-me-google-calendar-autosuggest-wtfux) (Google Calendar’s overeagerness to help does more harm than good)

[Probability: A UX Designer’s Second-Best Friend](http://uxmag.com/articles/probability-a-ux-designers-second-best-friend) (ways a strong sense of probability improves design)

[The Entrance Is the Exit… Obviously](http://uxmag.com/articles/the-entrance-is-the-exit-obviously-wtfux) (confusing signage at a medical clinic)

[Half-Math and That Gushing Hole in Your Bucket](http://uxmag.com/articles/half-math-and-that-gushing-hole-in-your-bucket) (why e-commerce sites should kill their intercept at checkout)

### Magazine articles: Politics & public affairs

*[All* Stanford Magazine]

“Abortion: Which Life? Whose Choice?” (a presentation of each side’s case, with point-by-point replies from the other side)

“The Great Budget Balancing Act” (interview with Michael Boskin, chairman of the first President Bush’s Council of Economic Advisers)

“Making Sense of South Africa” (origins and evolution of apartheid) reprinted in *Writing Through the Humanities*, a college anthology of writing models, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

“Still Changing After All These Years” (U.S. Constitution, the unwritten constitution, comparisons with other constitutions, the notion of rights, judicial activism)

“Communism: Seeing Red” (what is really the enemy—an idea called communism or a nation called the Soviet Union?)

“Gorbachev: The Visit” (a skeptical account of Mikhail Gorbachev’s photo op visit to Stanford)

“With a Small Stick, Loudly” (do economic sanctions work? If not, why are they our preferred weapon of foreign policy?)

“Making Sense of the Middle East” (ghostwritten, based on interviews; Part One on who the players are, Part Two on Arab-Israeli conflict) used by Knight-Ridder News Service to educate their reporters

“Why Do We Have a President?” (comparison of the parliamentary and presidential systems of government)

“Philip Habib: Whatever it Takes” (rare on-record, substantive interview with the diplomat)

### Magazine articles: Science, medicine, technology

*[All* Stanford Magazine, *except where noted]*

“The Heart Facts” (primer on cholesterol)

“Amazon: The River and the Rainforest” (based on a trip there)

“On Call with Life Flight” (day in the life of Stanford Hospital’s emergency helicopter service)

“Monterey Bay Aquarium” (how it was designed, built; includes rare interview with industrialist David Packard)

“Buying a Computer for the Real World” (what’s important, what’s not, setting priorities, criteria)

“Surgery Without Scalpel—or Cure,” *Science 83* (story of a magician and physician who expose the fraud of psychic surgery)

“Enclave of the Castaways” (based on a visit to the Galapagos Islands off South America to write about their extraordinary animals)

“Liquid Life: The Water Beneath Us” (the geology, economics, management, politics, and pollution of groundwater)

“Going for the Gaps” (interview with Nobel Prize-winning physicist Arthur Schawlow,   
co-inventor of the laser)

### Magazine articles: Arts and humanities

“The Editor as Photographer,” *Folio* (three-part series on photo equipment, film and light, and taking the picture)

“Building ’em Like They Used To,” *Stanford Magazine* (how craftsmen hand-built and tuned Stanford’s Renaissance organ)

“Without a Word,” *San Francisco Focus* (review of performance by mime Marcel Marceau)

“Marcel Marceau Speaks,” *Dramatics Magazine* (freewheeling conversation with the mime)

“Welcome Aboard the Sea Cloud,” *San Jose Mercury News* (history and spirit of a remarkable tall ship)

“International Eisteddfod: The Welsh Song of Peace,” *World’s Fair* (first-person account of singing in this Welsh music festival)

### Magazine articles: Profiles

“A Ride to Remember,” *Stanford Magazine* (profile of astronaut Sally Ride, based on exclusive interview)

“Creative Wars,” *Women’s Sports* (story of Dana Kramer-Rolls, one of the first female fighters in the Society for Creative Anachronism, which stages battles using medieval weapons and armor)

“Be, Maybe Not Be, Which Decision Better?” *Dramatics Magazine* (profile of a man who signs theater—onstage, among the actors—for the deaf)

### White paper

“[Accessible Websites: The People and Their Tools](http://wayfind.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/AccessiblityPaper.pdf)” (how visually impaired people use the Web and how best to accommodate them)