

250 words Maura Stephens short bio/eclectic (indy media focus)

Maura Stephens is a journalism educator and independent journalist whose editorial home is Truthout.org. As associate director of the Park Center for Independent Media, she mentors young journalists, tracks journalism trends, offers workshops, programs events, and advises indy news outlets.

Following a long career as researcher, writer, and editor at *Newsweek* and *Newsweek International*, she was CEO and editor of an early e-zine and later publishing editor of *ICView*, the magazine of Ithaca College.

She has written for many print, online, and multimedia indy outlets, including Altnet, Common Dreams, Counterpunch, openDemocracy, and *Yes!*

Founder and former codirector of Iraqi Refugees Assistance Connection, she worked from 2002 to 2009 on human rights issues in Iraq and with Iraqi asylees. She was U.S. spokesperson and chief political strategist with the International Campaign for Freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma, and former national speakers bureau member of EPIC (Education for Peace in Iraq Center) and TheocracyWatch.

She's been writing *Frack Attack: Fighting Back* for five years while simultaneously fighting corporate control and the expansion of fossil-fuel exploitation and related industries and infrastructure projects. She's a cofounder of the grassroots [Coalition to Protect New York](#) and [FrackBustersNY](#), among other groups.

A professionally trained actor and director and MFA-holding playwright, she was also for many years an organic farmer who grew or traded with neighbors for almost all her family's food. During a brief city exile she helped establish Bronx Green-Up, which became a model for urban gardening projects nationwide.

More at www.maurastephens.com.