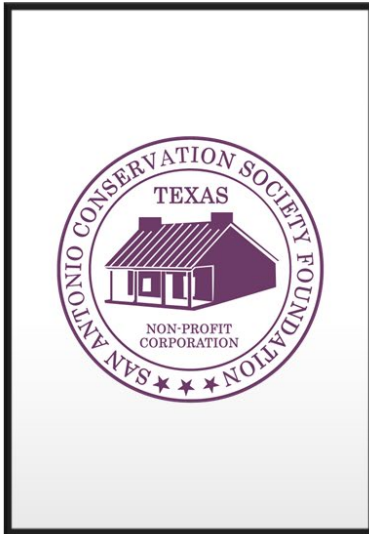
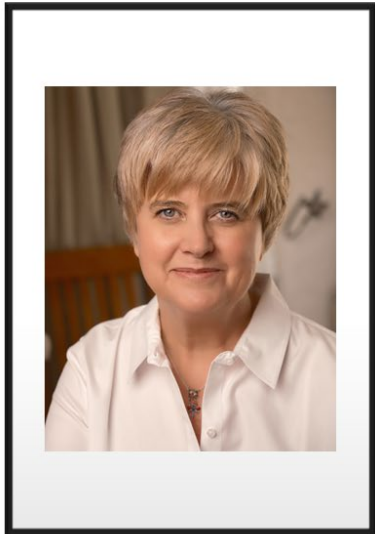


2025 Publication Award Winner – Jo Scott-Coe
Unheard Witness: The Life and Death of Kathy Leissner Whitman



Jo Scott-Coe is a professor of English at Riverside City College, where she teaches composition, literature, and creative writing. She serves as assistant chair of the Department of English & Media Studies and as co-advisory editor of *MUSE Literary Journal*. She is also president of Academic Senate. In 2017, Scott-Coe was named Riverside Community College District’s 57th Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for her archival research in histories of mass violence and abuse.

Unheard Witness: The Life and Death of Kathy Leissner Whitman is Scott-Coe’s third book. Her previous works of literary nonfiction are *Teacher at Point Blank* and *MASS: A Sniper, a Father, and a Priest*, a first-time exploration of the relationship between the 1966 UT Austin sniper and his priest mentor, Rev. Joseph “Gil” Leduc. Nine months after *MASS* was published, Leduc was listed as “credibly accused” of sexual abuse by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Scott-Coe’s essays on intersections of public-private violence have been published widely for general as well as academic audiences, appearing in *TIME*, *Salon*, *The Press-Enterprise*, *American Studies Journal*, *Tahoma Literary Review*, *Catapult*, *Pacific Coast Philology*, *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*, and many other venues.

Her nonfiction has received three Notable listings in *Best American Essays* and two Pushcart Special Mentions. In 2020, *MASS* was awarded the silver medal for biography from eLit Awards.

Scott-Coe has a new essay forthcoming in *The White Picket Fence*, an anthology from FlowerSong Press, and she is percolating on a fourth book. When she is not writing or teaching, she enjoys reading, experimenting with recipes, biking, and traveling with her husband. She occasionally facilitates community writing workshops for the Inlandia Institute in Southern California.