New Jersey Chapter Society Of Professional Journalists Excellence In Journalism For 2007 Awards

The New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists announced today the winners of its 2008 Awards Contest.

Journalists reporting on or in New Jersey during 2007 were eligible for the contest. News organizations were able to submit as many entries in as many categories as desired. Individuals were allowed to submit a maximum of six entries independently. Writing teams also were allowed six entries, even if members of the team submitted other entries individually.

To be eligible, entries must have been published or broadcast during the calendar year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2007). The same entry (story, photo, etc.) could not be entered in more than one category. Foreign-language entries accompanied by an English translation were accepted.

The awards are going to outstanding journalists working for daily and weekly newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines, newsletters and online publications. The 34 award categories range from investigative reporting and spot news photography to editorial cartooning, informational graphics and enterprise broadcasting.

And the winners are:

THE 2007 STUART AND BEVERLEY AUSBREY AWARD

The Aubrey award winner for 2007 is Jack Fichter, Cape May Herald, for his fund—raising efforts and accompanying stories on behalf of the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum in Erma, N.J.
The judges couch the award in those terms because the entry makes it clear that “Jack Fichter came up with the idea for a unique project” & persuaded Herald management to publicize it.

While relatively small in scope, the judges felt his actions exemplify what the award intends to honor, civic journalism which produces tangible benefits for the community.

**THE 2007 TIM O’BRIEN AWARD**

For their reporting on the Somerset County Park Commission, The Star–Ledger team of Bev McCarron, Joe Tyrrell and Jeanette Rundquist are the winners of the Tim O’Brien Award for Best Investigative Reporting using the New Jersey Open Public Records Act.

Once a law firm hired by Somerset County freeholders issued a report detailing questionable spending by the park commission, The Star–Ledger team doggedly followed up on the findings. Using the report as a guide, the team used the state’s public records law to document the waste of taxpayer money on sweetheart rents, car allowances, parties and more.

The team’s reporting was relentless and resulted in four resignations from the park commission board and dramatic changes in Somerset County policies and practices. The county cut substantially the number of vehicles assigned to county employees and raised the curiously low rents some park employees were paying to live in park buildings.

The team is continuing to use open–records laws to peel this onion and more revealing stories are in the offing.

**THE 2007 WILSON BARTO AWARD (FIRST-YEAR REPORTER) - DAILY**


THE 2007 WILSON BARTO AWARD (FIRST-YEAR REPORTER) - WEEKLY


2. Madeline Friedman, The Hudson Reporter, Hoboken, NJ,“(several)”

3. Vincent Cavalier, North Jersey Media Group, “(several)”

This year’s winners in daily and weekly newspaper, design, photography, broadcast, magazine, newsletter and online categories:

DAILY AND WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Deadline Reporting – Daily (Category 1)

1. Philadelphia Inquirer staff, “Six Held in NJ Terror Plot”


3. Wayne Parry, The Associated Press, “Rain Brings Hope that South Jersey Wildfire can
Deadline Reporting – Weekly (1)


3. Robert Schmelter, Fort Lee Suburbanite, Hackensack, NJ, “Mayor Alter Dead At 79”

Feature Writing – Daily (2)


3. Erik Larsen, Asbury Park Press, “He’s Got No Home, But Clings to Hope”

Feature Writing – Weekly (2)

1. Lois Goldrich, The Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ, “Remembering Leo Frank”


3. Taressa Stovall, The Montclair Times, “From Father To Son”

Profile Writing – Daily (3)


2. Amy Rosenberg, Philadelphia Inquirer, “Ex–AC Mayor Got in Over his Head”

Profile Writing – Weekly (3)


**Business Reporting – Daily (4)**


2. Suzette Parmley, Philadelphia Inquirer, “A.C. Rides the Asian Tide”


**Business Reporting – Weekly (4)**


**Sports Reporting – Daily (5)**


3. Ian O’Connor, The Record, Hackensack, NJ, “The Boss To Torre: Win Or Else”

**Sports Reporting – Weekly (5)**

1. Brian Smith, Montclair Times, “Dashing Success”

2. Brian Smith, Montclair Times, “Timber”

3. Jose Ortiz, Verona–Cedar Grove Times, West Patterson, NJ, “Conquering The Hill”

**Health, Science Technology & Environmental Reporting – Daily (6)**


3. (tie) Mary Jo Layton, The Record, Hackensack, NJ, “Ripping Off Dr. America”


**Health, Science, Technology and Environmental Reporting – Weekly (6)**

1. Tanya Drobness, Montclair Times, “Going Green”


**Series Writing & Reporting – Daily (7)**

Roulette”


Series Writing And Reporting – Weekly (7)


Investigative Reporting – Daily (8)


2. Jean Mikle and Lauren O. Kidd, Asbury Park Press, “Undue Force In Seaside Park”

3. James W. Prado Roberts, Asbury Park Press, “Trauma In The Air”

Enterprise Reporting – Daily (9)


Year Later, 4 Atlantic City Prostitute Deaths Unsolved

Enterprise Reporting – Weekly (9)


Editorial Writing – Daily (10)


2. Clare McDowell, Asbury Park Press, “A New Outrage In The Abbotts”

3. Larry Benjamin, Asbury Park Press, “Finality At Last In LaSane Case”

Editorial Writing – Weekly (10)


2. P.C. Robinson, Randolph Reporter, Chester, NJ, “When Right Becomes a Wrong”

Column Writing – Daily (11)

1. Monica Yant Kinney, Philadelphia Inquirer, “These Parents Are Cowards”


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**Column Writing – Weekly (11)**

1. Harvey C. Fisher, New Jersey Lawyer, South Plainfield, NJ, “Trenton’s 3 R’s – Right Time, Right Place And Right Connections”

2. Phil Garber, Mt. Olive Chronicle, Chester, NJ, “A True Tale Of Medical Fantasy”


**Review Writing – Weekly (12)**


2. Thom Molyneaux, North Jersey Media Group Suburbanite, Cresskill, NJ, “Have The ‘Time Of Your Life’ In This Classic”

**Headline Writing –Daily (13)**

1. Joel Pisetzner, Star Ledger, “Heck, Yes, They Have a Chance for Five”

2. Joel Pisetzner, Star Ledger, “In Trash–Choked Naples, All Roads Lead to Aroma”


**Headline Writing – Weekly (13)**


2. Dan Prochilo, The Montclair Times, “Look Both Ways Before Crossing ... The Lawn?”

Editorial Cartooning – Daily (14)


Editorial Cartooning – Weekly (14)


Informational Graphics – Daily (15)

2. Tim Faherty, Krishna Mathias, Donald Wittkoski, Ben Fogletto, The Atlantic City Press, “How The Sands Will Fall”

Informational Graphics – Weekly (15)

1. Svetlana Levin, New Jersey Lawyer, South Plainfield, NJ, “Compensation For Trial Judges”

Front Page Layout – Daily (16)

2. Jerry Luciani, The Record, Hackensack, NJ,
Dec. 14th, 2007


Front–Page Layout – Weekly (16)


2. Darius Amos, Ed Virgin, Barbara Manning, Cliffside Park Citizen, Hackensack, NJ, “Relay For Life”


Feature Page Design – Daily (17)


Feature Page Design – Weekly (17)

1. Svetlana Levin, New Jersey Lawyer, South Plainfield, NJ, “NJ Supreme Court”


3. Jessica Gaitan, Holly Stewart, Joan Finn, Montclair Times, “Arts–Aug. 30th”

Spot News Photojournalism – Daily (18)


Spot News Photography – Weekly (18)


**Feature Photojournalism – Daily (19)**

1. Jose Moreno, Courier Post, Cherry Hill, NJ, “Cycling in the Snow”

2. Al Schell, Courier Post, Cherry Hill, NJ, “By a Nose”


**Feature Photojournalism – Weekly (19)**


**Feature Photojournalism – Magazine (19)**


**Sports Photojournalism – Daily (20)**


**Sports Photojournalism – Weekly (20)**


Television – News (21)


Television – Enterprise (22)


Radio – Enterprise (22)

1. Rachel V. Katz and Bliss Michelson, WWFM, “View and Voices”

2. Brian Kanady, Julia Giacoboni and Kelly Catania, Rowan Radio 89.7 WGLS FM, “Fading Farms and Saving Grace: Preserving The Garden State”

Magazine – Reporting (23)

1. Brett Avery, New Jersey Monthly, Morristown, NJ, “New Jersey ... And How It
Got That Way”


3. Christopher Zinsli and Ricardo Kaulessar, Jersey City Magazine, Hoboken, NJ, “Beyond The Boom”

**Magazine – Feature Writing (24)**


**Magazine – Profile Writing (25)**


**Magazine – Investigative (26)**


**Business Reporting – Magazine (28)**


**Newsletters (31)**

1. Best Week Staff, Best Week, Oldwick, NJ, April 23, 2007 Issue


**Essay (32)**

1. Michael Lewis, BigAppleSoccer.com, Ronkonkoma, NJ, Essays

**Blogs, Internet, Online (33)**


2. Rutgers Focus, New Brunswick, Dec. 12th issue

3. Phil Nardone and Jack Krug, Recorder Community Newspaper, Stirling, NJ, Madison Eagle web site

**Web Page Design (34)**


2. Charlie Cottone and Michael Lewis, BigAppleSoccer.com, Ronkonkoma, NJ, BigAppleSoccer.com

**Special Award, Book**

1. Deborah Yaffe, Princeton Junction, NJ, “Other People’s Children”