

**New Jersey Chapter Society
Of Professional Journalists
Excellence In Journalism
Awards For 2009**

Please join us at the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists [NJSPJ] Excellence in Journalism Awards program, which will be held Sunday, June 13, 3 p.m., at the Theatre Square Grill, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street- Newark, New Jersey. There will be a cash bar. Wendy S. Ruderman, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the Philadelphia Daily News, will be the keynote speaker. She will talk about her work as an investigative reporter.

The cost is \$20 per person. Please RSVP to Sue Livio [Slivio@starledger.com] by June 5 to let us know whether you plan to attend, and if so, whether you will be bringing guests. Send a check made payable to NJ-SPJ to Jane Primerano, our Treasurer, at PO Box 511, Hope, NJ 07844.

Entries must have been published or broadcast during the calendar year of January 1 to December 31, 2009.

**WILSON BARTO AWARDS FOR
FIRST YEAR REPORTERS**

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

- **First Place:** Jake Remaly, Daily Record
- **Second Place:** Sarah Rahman, The Jersey Journal

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- **First Place:** Jason Braff, Town News
- **Second Place:** Lina Khouri, The Montclair Times
- **Third Place:** Jacob Kamaras, Eliyahu Publications

THE 2009 STUART AND BEVERLEY AWBREY AWARD

Given for Community Weekly Newspaper Journalism

- The News Transcript, Greater Media Newspapers "Greater Media Benefit Aids Local Food Pantry " Writer: Amy Rosen
- **Honorable Mention:** South Bergenite, Rutherford, NJ For a series about fire dangers on playgrounds. Writer: Jaimie Winters

THE 2007 TIM O' BRIEN AWARD

Given for best investigative reporting using the NJ Open Public Records Act [OPRA]

- The Montclair Times "Where's Your Money Going? " Reporter: Terrence T. McDonald

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

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

DEADLINE REPORTING

- **First Place:** The Record Staff "Greed, Betrayal, Shame "
- **Second Place:** Oshrat Carmiel,

Dunstan McNichol, Pat Wechsler,
Bloomberg News “Dwek Laundered
\$3 million in FBI Sweep Ensnaring
Hoboken Mayor ”

- **Third Place:** The Record Staff
“Miracle on the Hudson ”

SERIES WRITING AND REPORTING

- **First Place:** Carolyn Davis, The
Philadelphia Inquirer “The Hidden
Home Front: The Impact of War on
Military Families ”
- **Second Place:** Todd B. Bates,
Asbury Park Press “Is it worth going
green? ”
- **Third Place:** John R.D. Celock,
Westfield Patch “Society for Work
Group ”

ENTERPRISE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Abbott Koloff, Daily
Record “In the Minority ”
- **Second Place:** Mark Mueller,
Tomas Dinges, The Star-Ledger
“The Wounds Within: Suicide in the
Military ”
- **Third Place:** Meredith Mandell,
Leslie Barbaro, The Record.
“Desperation Street ”

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Peter Sampson, Mike
Kelly, The Record “Hal Turner -
FBI’s extremist insider ”
- **Second Place:** Matt Katz, The
Philadelphia Inquirer “The promise
and the price: How the state
takeover failed Camden ”

BUSINESS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Terrence Dopp, Bloomberg News “N.J. leads municipal bond downgrades as aid shrinks ”
- **Second Place:** Kevin G. DeMarrais, The Record “Harvesting Tourism Dollars ”
- **Third Place:** Erik Ortiz, Press of Atlantic City “Shore home sales show signs of life ”

EDITORIAL WRITING

- **First Place:** Josh Gohlke, The Philadelphia Inquirer “On New Jersey Nonsense ”
- **Second Place:** Alfred P. Doblin, The Record “Guilty as Charged ”

FEATURE WRITING

- **First Place:** Wayne Parry, Associated Press “After dodging Saddam & bombs, Iraqi metal band is rockin’ in the free world ”
- **Second Place: TIE** – Matt Katz, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Recipe for Responsibility ”
Second Place: Leslie Kwoh, The Star-Ledger, “Winston Trumpet, Jersey City businessman, refocuses a once-blurry life to help others ”
- **Third Place:** Amy Rosenberg, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Pool of rock ”

BEST REGION/STATE NEWS

- **First Place:** George Anastasia, The Philadelphia Inquirer “A Shore Tradition: Wiseguys’ Summer Getaways ”

- **Second Place:** Dunstan McNichol, Bloomberg News “New Jersey Pays Goldman Sachs for Swaps on Nonexistent Bonds ”
- **Third Place:** Jonathan Tamari, The Philadelphia Inquirer “No Pedicure, No Wax ”

HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

- **First Place:** Todd B. Bates, Asbury Park Press “Water pollution signs sought ”
- **Second Place:** Wayne Parry, Associated Press “Science collides with ‘Flipper factor’ in debate over whether to move NJ’s river dolphins ”
- **Third Place:** Joe Tyrrell, NewJerseyNewsroom.com “U.S. no longer The Leader in solar power ”

EDITORIAL CARTOONING

- **First Place:** Mike Scott, NewJerseyNewsroom.com “Corzine’s Undertaking ”
- **Second Place:** Jimmy Margulies, The Record “Tiger Woods Please Be Seated ”
- **Third Place:** Mike Scott, NewJerseyNewsroom.com “Dick Cheney’s Executive Bathroom ”

COLUMN WRITING

- **First Place:** Annette John-Hall, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Weak response to beatings at high school ”
- **Second Place:** Monica Yant Kinney, The Philadelphia Inquirer “For

gambling addict, New Jersey's list is a loser ”

- **Third Place:** Monica Yant Kinney, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Camden, at last, on cusp of great riverfront potential ”

PROFILE WRITING

- **First Place:** Mike Daigle, Daily Record “Something Bigger ”
- **Second Place:** Cynthia Burton, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Christie Enjoys a Good Argument ”
- **Third Place:** Jason Nark, Philadelphia Daily News “Rocky & The Kid ”

SPORTS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Kathleen Carroll and Jeff Roberts, The Record “Sports gear scam hits high schools ”
- **Second Place:** Aaron Kuriloff, Bloomberg News “Cowboys under 60-yard-long HDTV signaling player-pay showdown ”
- **Third Place:** Manish Mehta, The Star- Ledger “His own man ”

BEST LOCAL NEWS

- **First Place:** Jan Hefler, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Ex-Owner Knew Daycare Was Contaminated ”
- **Second Place:** Matt Katz, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Office By Day, Refuge By Night ”
- **Third Place:** Todd Bates, Asbury Park Press “Home Rule A Hurdle For Tax-Cutters ”

OPINION WRITING

- **First Place:** Joe Mysak, Bloomberg News “Nobody Gets Fired Except Governors in Recessions ”

REVIEW WRITING

- **First Place:** David Patrick Stearns, The Philadelphia Inquirer “The high – and low – notes of opera in South Jersey ”
- **Second Place:** David Patrick Stearns, The Philadelphia Inquirer “A foray into Baroque ”
- **Third Place:** William Westhoven, Daily Record, “History was never so enjoyable as in ‘1776’ ”

HEADLINE WRITING

- **First Place:** Mariam Tarver, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Top shelf meets bottom line ”
- **Second Place:** Addam Schwartz, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Beneath it all, optimism ”
- **Third Place:** Bob Caughron, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Her crusts are definitely upper ”

ESSAYS

- **First Place:** Jennifer V. Hughes, The Record, “A Valentine’s Day Essay on (very) Young Love. ”

DAILY FEATURE PAGE DESIGN

- **First Place:** Lisa Dalie, The Record “Travel Section Feature Page ”
- **Second Place:** Elaine Isaacson, The Record “Front Page Better

Living ”

FRONT PAGE LAYOUT

- **First Place:** Robert Townsend and Bill Becerra, The Record
- **Second Place:** Kevin Davis, Daily Record
- **Third Place:** Scott Sturgis, The Philadelphia Inquirer

INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC

- **First Place:** Bill Becerra and R.L. Rebach, The Record “Sports page Graphic--Yankee Stadium ”

SPORTS PHOTO

- **First Place:** Ron Cortes, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Two-out lightning ”
- **Second Place:** Chris Pedota, The Record “Monkey off his back/Legends of the fall ”
- **Third Place:** Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Surfer Dude ”

FEATURE PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **First Place:** Leslie Barbaro, The Record, “Desperation Street ”
- **Second Place:** Michael S. Wirtz, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Peco’s Aerial Line School ”
- **Third Place:** Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Connecting ”

PHOTOJOURNALISM SPOT NEWS

- No award given.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

BUSINESS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Martin C. Daks, NJBIZ
“The Cost of Corruption: \$1B ”
- **Second Place:** Meghan O’Connell,
Suburban News “A Growth Industry:
One hand feeds another in
northwest Bergen County ”
- **Third Place:** Beth Fitzgerald, NJBIZ
“Tapping Jobless Pay to Start a
Business ”

PROFILE WRITING

- **First Place:** Josh Lipowsky, The
Jewish Standard “A Hidden Child No
More ”
- **Second Place:** Jamie Saxon, US 1
Newspaper, “Emily Mann ”
- **Third Place:** John Soltes, The
Leader “Honor, Duty, Fidelity ”

ENTERPRISE REPORTING

- **First Place:** John Soltes, The
Leader “Williams Center...A phoenix
rising ”
- **Second Place:** Phillip DeVencentis,
Suburban News “Missions adapt to
fluctuating flocks ”
- **Third Place:** Josh Lipowsky, The
Jewish Standard “Day School Daze
”

FEATURE WRITING

- **First Place:** Jaimie Julia Winters,
South Bergenite “Recalling
Woodstock: 40 Years Later ”

- **Second Place:** Lois Goldrich, The Jewish Standard “Untangling the Knot ”
- **Third Place:** Al Sullivan, Bayonne Community News “Eight Brothers Served, One Never Came Back ”

LOCAL NEWS

- **First Place:** Lois Goldrich and Josh Lipowsky, The Jewish Standard “Libya in our backyard? ”
- **Second Place:** Staff, Verona-Cedar Grove Times “A Century on Call: 100 Years of the Verona Fire Department ”
- **Third Place:** Harry Trumbore, Andrea Hughes and Erin Patricia Griffiths, The Item of Millburn and Short Hills “High School Parking Lot Assault Case ”

REVIEW WRITING

- **First Place:** John Soltes, The Montclair Times “Mamet Uses Ultimate Four-Letter Word ”
- **Second Place:** Mark S. Porter, The Montclair Times “Inscribed With A Poison Pen: It’s Noose to Me ”
- **Third Place:** Miriam Rinn, The Jewish Standard “Play Captures Kaye’s ‘Signature Charm’ “

SPORTS REPORTING

- **First Place:** rian Smith, The Montclair Times “A Hull of a First Year ”
- **Second Place:** Bill Alden, Town Topics “PU Crew Coach Jordan Rides Off Into the Sunset ”
- **Third Place:** Brian Farrell, The

Ridgewood News "Brotherly Impact "

HEALTH, SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

- **First Place:** Meghan O'Connell, Suburban News "Reservoir Purchase Leads to Watershed of Woes "
- **Second Place:** Dan Prochilo, The Montclair Times, "All Charged Up "
- **Third Place:** Dan Prochilo, The Montclair Times, "Hawk Nearly Nabs Tiny Dog "

SERIES WRITING AND REPORTING

- **First Place:** Meghan O'Connell, Christina Hernandez and Marsha Stoltz, Franklin Lake/Oakland Park Suburban News "Special Report: Your Library at Work "
- **Second Place:** Mark J. Bonamo, Hackensack Chronicle "Hackensack Police Turmoil "
- **Third Place:** Daniel O'Keefe, Michael Lamendola, Brian Anderson, D.R. Foster, and Corey Klein, South Bergenite "A Week in the Life " Series

REGIONAL OR STATE NEWS

- **First Place:** Lois Goldrich, The Jewish Standard "Jewish Women and Politics: Perfect Together "
- **Second Place:** Christina Hernandez, Suburban News "In the Schools: Virtual Studies are 'Here to Stay' "
- **Third Place:** Corey Klein, South Bergenite "EnCap's Insurance Comes Through for Landfills Closure

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Al Sullivan, Bayonne Community News “Chiappone Probe Goes to Grand Jury ”
- **Second Place:** John Soltes, Susan C. Moeller and Alexis Tarrazi, The Leader “Dirty Diner Deal ”
- **Third Place:** Seth Mandel, Eliyahu Publications “Fifth Avenue Terror Funders Have NJ Ties ”

EDITORIAL CARTOONING

- **First Place:** .E. Cohen, The Montclair Times “Never Forget ”
- **Second Place:** John Rosa, The Leader “Happy Halloween! ”
- **Third Place:** John Rosa, The Leader “You Don’t Have to Go Home, But You Can’t Stay Here ”

COLUMN WRITING

- **First Place:** Seth Mandel, Eliyahu Publications “A Better Way for Palestine ”
- **Second Place:** Mike Daly, Ridgewood News “Stuck in Park, In Need of a Jump-Start ”
- **Third Place:** Darius Amos, Hackensack Chronicle “McKnight’s Tale of Success ”

EDITORIAL

- **First Place:** John Soltes, The Leader “ ‘Dirty’ Was the Right Word to Use ”
- **Second Place:** Mark S. Porter, The Montclair Times “Skin Color ”

- **Third Place:** Rebecca Boroson, The Jewish Standard “You Cannot Legislate Loyalty ”

DEADLINE REPORTING

- **First Place:** John Soltes, Alexis Tarrazi and Susan C. Moeller, The Leader “Feds Crack Down on ‘Corruption’ in Meadowlands ”
- **Second Place:** Karen F. Mmnarevic, Pascack Valley Community Life “40 Weapons Seized From Resident’s Home ”
- **Third Place:** Megan Burrow, Pascack Valley Community Life “Public Hearing Draws Hundreds ”

INFO GRAPHICS

- **First Place:** Meghan Shapiro, Joe St. Arney, NJBIZ, “Making The Grade ”
- **Second Place:** Corey Klein, South Bergenite “What \$100 Will Get You at Xanadu ”

FRONT PAGE LAYOUT

- **First Place:** John Soltes and Winie Varillas, The Leader “Earth Day Issue ”
- **Second Place:** Jennifer Webber and Meghan Shapiro, NJBIZ “Business and the Back Alley ”
- **Third Place:** Jerry Szubin, The Jewish Standard “The Richard Wagner Problem ”

FEATURE PAGE DESIGN

- **First Place:** Joe St. Arney, NJBIZ, “Intoxicated ”

- **Second Place:** Joan Finn, The Montclair Times “The World is a Wondrous Place ”
- **Third Place:** Kathryn A. Burger and Christina Scotti, Pascack Valley Community Life “First Grade Geometry = Shape Creatures ”

SPOT NEWS PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **First Place:** Scott D. Longfield, Two Rivers Times “Memory Lanes--Just A Memory! ”
- **Second Place:** Nick Messina, The Gazette “Hawthorne Blaze on February 6 ”
- **Third Place:** Adam Anik, Verona-Cedar Groves Times “An Entire Community Grieves A Fallen Friend ”

FEATURE PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **First Place:** Al Sullivan, Bayonne Community News “Autism: A Lot to be Thankful For ”
- **Second Place:** Colleen Reynolds, The Leader “Stretching It Out ”
- **Third Place:** John Soltes, The Leader “Crucifix in Lisbon, Portugal ”

SPORTS PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **First Place:** W.L. Bill Allen Jr., The Leader “The Boxer ”
- **Second Place:** Sean M. Simmons, The The Two River Times “Haskell at Monmouth Park ”

HEADLINE WRITING

- **First Place:** John Soltes, The Leader “Inspecting Cracks in the

Glass Ceiling ”

- **Second Place:** Joe St. Arney, NJBIZ “Silent Nights in Store ”
- **Third Place:** Brett Freeman, Town Journal “Of Ice and Men ”

MAGAZINES

REPORTING

- **First Place:** Nyier Abdou, Inside Jersey “Medical Marijuana ”
- **Second Place:** Mark Mueller, Inside Jersey “Death by Train ”
- **Third Place:** 2009 Mark Hrywna, Craig Causer, Paul Clolery, The Nonprofit Times “The Nonprofit Times 100 ”

BUSINESS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Mark Hrywna, The Nonprofit Times “Special Report: 2009 salary survey ”
- **Second Place:** Karl Vilacoba, InTransition Magazine “Reinventing the Wheel ”
- **Third Place:** Ron Panko, A.M. Best Co. “What’s Your Agency Worth? ”

FEATURE & PROFILE WRITING

- **First Place:** Christopher Hann, Drew Magazine “On the Inside ”
- **Second Place:** John T. Ward, Drew Magazine “The day she should have died ”

OPINION WRITING

- **First Place:** Paul Clolery, The Non-Profit Times “Federal Two-Step ”
- **Second Place:** Paul Clolery, The

Non-Profit Times "Right Message,
Wrong Messenger "

RADIO

ENTERPRISE

- **First Place:** Rachel Katz, WWFM, The Classical Network "Views and Voices, January 24, 2009 "
- **Second Place:** Rachel Katz, WWFM, The Classical Network "Views and Voices, July 11, 2009 "

TELEVISION

NEWS

- **First Place:** Walt Kane, Anthony Cocco, News 12 New Jersey "College Drinking "
- **Second Place:** Walt Kane, Anthony Cocco, News 12 New Jersey "Church Conflict "
- **Third Place:** Roxanne Evans, News 12 New Jersey "Health Barn "

ENTERPRISE

- **First Place:** Marie DeNoia Aronsohn, Peggy George Micucci, Briana Vannozzi, Mark DiPietro and Kirk Sohr, New Jersey Network "Springsteen at 60 "
- **Second Place:** Sandra King, New Jersey Network "Due Process: Crisis in the Cellblock "
- **Third Place:** Walt Kane, Anthony Cocco, News 12 New Jersey, "Transparency Test "

NEWSLETTER

- **First Place:** Greg Trevor, Carla Cantor, John Chadwick, Karen Smith, Rutgers Today
- **Second Place:** Caroline Saucer, Best Week “AIG Effect—A year later and beyond ”
- **Third Place:** Tony Mottola, Linda Lobdell, Mitchell Seidel, Jersey Jazz

INTERNET

MEDIA-AFFILIATED BLOGS

- **First Place:** Amy Rosenberg, The Philadelphia Inquirer “Downshore ”
- **Second Place:** Michael Lewis, Big Apple Soccer.com “Offside Remarks ”

INDEPENDENT BLOGS

- **First Place:** Geoffrey Wertime, “Gay in Public ”

INTERNET PAGE DESIGN

- **First Place:** The Jewish Standard
- **Second Place:** Michael Lewis, Charlie Cuttone and Linda Cuttone, BigAppleSoccer.com “Red Bulls Coverage ”
- **Third Place:** Trish Russoniello, Redbankgreen.com “Redbankgreen 2009 ”

INTERNET PUBLICATION, NEWS COVERAGE

- **First Place:** John T. Ward, Redbankgreen.com “Redbankgreen.com ”
- **Second Place:** Charlie Cuttone, Big AppleSoccer.com “Big

AppleSoccer.com ”

- **Third Place:** Paul Clolery and Mary Hrywna, The Non-Profit News
“Turmoil at the DMA ”