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, New Jersey Newsroom.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”
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
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"
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. Mrnarevic, 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, “Intaxicated”
- **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"
• **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 Cloley, 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 Cloley, The Non-Profit Times “Federal Two-Step “
• **Second Place**: Paul Cloley, The
Non-Profit Times “Right Message, Wrong Messenger”

RADIO

ENTERPRISE

- **First Place**: Rachel Katz, WWFM, The Classical Network “Views and Voices, January 24, 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 "Downashore"

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