

# 2023 Awards (for work done in 2022)

Awards were presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Simon Rockower Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the [American Jewish Press Association's 2023 Annual Conference](#), July 11, 2023, in New Orleans, LA.

## Category 1: The Louis Rapoport Award for Excellence in Commentary

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### First Place

##### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

"The antidote to erasing Jewish identity: Making it concrete," "Why the news can't make us happy," "Jewish wisdom is also Jewish power" by David Suissa

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### Second Place

##### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

"Ho-Hum Holocaust Day," "The duplicity and violence of Al-Quds Day," "The kind of atonement that can't be fasted away" by Thane Rosenbaum

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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#### Honorable Mention

##### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

"Why teachers can't be activists," "The curse of false choices and how they undermine critical thinking," "The magic of Jewish LA" by Monica Osborne

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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### Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.

#### First Place

##### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

"A Jewish state but what kind?," "The case of the praying coach," "Not your grandfather's Saudi Arabia" by Marshall Breger

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Hamodia — Magazine, Brooklyn, NY**

“Going through a phrase: To life,” “Going through a phrase: That doesn’t mean what you think it means,” “Going through a phrase: Gruntled, gusted, and graced” by Mordechai Schiller

[Click here to view submission](#)

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## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“What’s wrong with Jews embracing anti-racism?,” “Trump’s Jewish supporters must condemn and disavow him,” “Can US Jews love the real Israel — or only the fantasy version?” by Jonathan Tobin

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Kanye West’s antisemitism is playing right into white supremacists’ hands,” “I’m glad Coach Kennedy can pray at the 50-yard line,” “AIPAC’s endorsements risk irreparably damaging the U.S.-Israel relationship” by Laura E. Adkins

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 2: Award for Excellence in Single Commentary**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Want to be Pro-Israel? Support Iranians” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

#### **The Jewish Journal (of Greater Boston), Salem, MA**

“The tragedy of Jan. 6 and the American Jewish experience” by David Shribman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, NY**

“The Torah is not a political football” by Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Sinensky

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“I used to love H.I.M.” by Marcella White Campbell

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Love how this piece makes the point that sometimes we just want to be entertained without paying attention to the messenger who goes from problematic to dangerous. We learn that lesson along with her.*

### **Second Place**

#### **B’nai B’rith Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Students tackle issue of modern anti-semitism with 2022 None Shall Be Afraid Essay Contest” by Adrian Weiss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The writer makes good points about people’s blindness to antisemitism and the need to do better.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Jewish tradition’s nuanced approach to abortion” by Rabbanit Adena Berkowitz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Good explanation and commentary on a very nuanced stance on abortion by several Jewish scholars.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“It’s about to get a lot harder for American Jews to explain Israel” by Michael Koplow

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“It’s time to talk seriously about a Confederation of Israel and Palestine” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Unpacking Kanye and Kyrie: Condemn antisemitic acts, but don’t destroy Black men” by Robin Washington

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 3: Award for Excellence in Personal Essay**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“This is Israel calling...” by David Rullo

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Appreciated both the visual and emotional commentary. Very insightful and well done.*

#### **Second Place**

**St. Louis Jewish Light, St. Louis, MO**

“Fleeing Putin’s Russia: Tatiana Glezer’s story” by Tatiana Glezer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A story of strength and determination.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Rabbi Jonathan Gewirtz, Monsey, NY**

“I rest my case” published by The Front Page

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Bela’s pilgrim” by Bela Shayevich

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

#### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Moment Memoir: Certify me normal” by Miriam Davis

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“What my mother’s ashes revealed” by Julia Silverberg Németh

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“I went to Ukraine to find my roots. The KGB found me first” by Howard Fineman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A timely, well-written and compelling piece that spans decades and the globe. It gives the writer’s personal experiences a much broader scope and greater meaning.*

### **Second Place**

#### **JTA, New York, NY**

“I left Israel to give my kids the American dream. Is this it?” by Lior Zaltzman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A beautiful and bittersweet piece that manages to take a firm political stand that could be heavy-handed — if not for the writer’s well-expressed personal insights. Her experiences are truly relatable to Jewish readers, especially those who have visited Israel.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“On sitting shiva and watching ‘Back to the Future’” by Benyamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A thoughtful and insightful piece that draws meaning from its reflections on a childhood trauma and that experience’s enduring impact.*

## **Category 4: Award for Excellence in Editorial Writing**

**All entries competed in the same division.**

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Independent, Vancouver, BC**

“Every person has a voice,” “Extremism not helpful,” “New era in U.S. politics” by Pat Johnson, Basya Laye and Cynthia Ramsay

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: These pieces are good examples of what editorials should be — thoughtful examination of pressing issues, using clear reasoning in looking at both sides, then coming to a well-reasoned conclusion. Local tie-ins strengthen opinions.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Southern Jewish Life Magazine, Birmingham, AL**

“You are the enemy,” “Say goodbye to the Presbyterian Church (USA),” “Now what, ADL?” by Larry Brook

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-reasoned and well-written arguments on good choice of topics.*

## **Category 5: The Boris Smolar Award for Excellence in Enterprise or Investigative Reporting**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“‘Goyim TV’ flyers claiming Covid is Jewish plot land in San Francisco’s Pacific Heights,” “‘Thanks Jews, for the publicity’: Is Goyim TV succeeding?,” “Berkeley yoga instructor fired for links to ‘Goyim TV’,” “Polish police arrest Minadeo during white supremacist tour of Europe,” “Goyim TV, America’s most prolific antisemitic propaganda group, has left the Bay Area for Florida” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is great work — comprehensive and courageous reporting and compelling storytelling.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Atlanta Jewish Times, Atlanta, GA**

“Incident at Cobb school horrifies Jewish community,” “East Side Elementary’s new logo disturbs community,” “Cobb Middle School students get Holocaust lesson” by Jan Jaben-Eilon

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **B’nai B’rith Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Stolen silver: Nazi plunder and the unfinished quest for restitution” by Dina Gold

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent research and compelling storytelling.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Crime or crisis: Disentangling mental illness and antisemitic violence” by Noah Phillips

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“What it’s really like to be Jewish on a campus ‘hotspot’ of antisemitism” by Arno Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent, clear and balanced reporting on a timely topic.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“The Great Resignation is fueling a rabbinic hiring crisis” by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A timely and surprising story, comprehensive research, clearly told.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **The Times of Israel, New York, NY**

“Jewish communities grapple with addiction as fentanyl crisis ravages US,” “Narcan inventor developing new overdose treatment to combat fentanyl scourge” by Luke Tress

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 6: Award for Excellence in News Reporting**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Devastation” by Steve Mark

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Absolutely fantastic reporting, capturing the full breadth of the pain and devastation of a tragic natural disaster just a week later.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“Pittsburgh synagogue shooting survivors have mixed emotions about trial date” by David Rullo

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great work taking a “court process story” and bringing home the very powerful and important emotions of those affected.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Sierra Club cancels trips to Israel at urging of progressive and anti-Zionist groups” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Nice work exposing the ideological conflict inside an important environmental group and showing its real-world impact.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Internal ADL memo recommended ending police delegations to Israel amid backlash” by Alex Kane and Sam Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This rare glimpse into the internal thought-process of a major Jewish organization brings to light important and timely political, social, and international issues. The Jewish community was rewarded by the effort it took to publish it and the important conversations that hopefully resulted.*



## **Second Place**

### **The Boiling Point, Los Angeles, CA**

“Post Roe, states’ laws may say no when halacha says yes” by Molly Menashe

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-reported and well-written article with high news value and interest. Bringing these conversations to light, especially in the Orthodox media and with multiple knowledgeable sources, underscores the importance of the interplay between government and religion.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **The Jewish Observer of Nashville, Nashville, TN**

“Adoption lawsuit raises questions of government funded discrimination” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thank you, Jewish Observer of Nashville, for forging ahead to produce this piece despite opposition, and ensuring readers — and, ultimately, anyone involved in Jewish adoptions — understands a significant challenge. Today it’s Tennessee’s issue, but soon it could impact us all.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

## **First Place**

### **The Times of Israel, New York, NY**

“Paying the penalties: The stranger-than-fiction rise and fall of Beitar Jerusalem” by Amy Spiro

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Something for everyone in this piece: great research and writing, important issues, personality profiles and a very compelling story. I don’t even like the sport and, yet, I was captivated throughout this article.*

## **Second Place**

### **JTA, New York, NY**

“Jewish feminist group in turmoil after Orthodox sex guru Bat Sheva Marcus, a founder, is accused of harassment” by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An important and controversial issue (or, in fact, several of them), well-researched and well-written. Walks a fine line to skillfully maintain balance among the insights and points of view of many people involved in these events.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Inside the last days of a small-town synagogue” by Dina Gachman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece, with warmth and compassion, puts faces to the all-too-common story of how changing demographics are resulting in synagogues having to close their doors after many decades*

*of being the center of Jewish life for congregants. The sense of loss of “family” and long-held traditions is palpable.*

## **Category 7: Award for Excellence in Writing about Social Justice and Humanitarian Work**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Through reparations, education and land statements, local Jewish activists are standing with Bay Area Indigenous people” by Andrew Esensten

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

##### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Eli Beer: Saving the world, one emergency at a time” by Kylie Ora Lobell

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, NY**

“A new Chinese *Tehillim* — As oppression in China continues” by Baruch Lytle

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Welcoming the stranger, literally” by Rahel Musleah

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent story about Jews who take in and assist refugees around the nation, including a good and sensitive interview with a resettled Syrian family. Thorough reporting on how others can help the refugee crisis and good human interest. Fits the category perfectly.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

“Supporting the solo parent” by Aviva Engel

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a very enlightening and helpful article about divorced Jewish parents trying to cope with the pain and stigma that accompanies a split-up. The story offers many ideas for helping people in this plight and presents organizations that can welcome and support both divorced women*

*and men. The three profiles are very rich and affecting as we hear and feel the pain and difficulties divorced Jews face.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Bringing light into darkness” by Rahel Musleah

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent and moving profile of a remarkable and inspiring woman. Filled with interesting details.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“Jewish summer camp veterans are opening a camp for trans kids. It was filled within weeks.” by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Jewfolk Media, Minneapolis, MN**

“‘We won’t go back’: Thousands march on Capitol for abortion rights, access” by Lonny Goldsmith

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 8: Award for Excellence in Feature Writing**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“The legacy of Private Belmont” by Sasha Rogelberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The many, many articles and documentaries on Jewish servicemen in World War II suggest that a fresh angle to their participation cannot be found. This story does find it and thus changes the way readers will view any U.S. military cemetery either in person or in photos and videos.*

### **Second Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Munich 50 years later” by Steve Mark

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Given the amount of press coverage given to the murders at the Munich Olympics over*

*the decades, how does one make a 50th-anniversary story memorable? The writer uses the words of those most affected to give the reader the feeling of living through it all over again.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Jewish Journal (of Greater Boston), Salem, MA**

“Lawrence’s last shul prepares to close” by Steven A. Rosenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This moving, well-written tale of a temple in its last days stood out because the building became a character in the story. Its history and that of the town were well-summarized and used to explain the synagogue’s reasons for closing.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“What my mother’s ashes revealed” by Julia Silverberg Németh

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Told with a quiet urgency, this story takes the reader on a journey that touches on many subtle yet crucial aspects of Jewish identity.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Israel’s take on abortion” by Dina Kraft

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Moving and personal, this story gazes through an Israel lens to contrast what is a divisive and controversial issue here in America.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Dayton Jewish Observer, Dayton, OH**

“U.S. and the Holocaust documentary brings local survivor face-to-face with her mother” by Marshall Weiss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Powerfully written, and skillfully told. The first paragraph is masterful.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewfolk Media, Minneapolis, MN**

“Jewish geography gone wild’: How an informal network of Russian-speaking Jews is helping Ukrainians” by Lev Gringauz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An inspiring story, built around hope and the extraordinary efforts of the otherwise ordinary people who are all around us.*

### **Second Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Can an all-Mormon cast pull off ‘Fiddler on the Roof’? We traveled to Utah to find out.” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The writer effortlessly inserts herself into this well-done piece — a technique that actually requires great effort. And along the way provides a bounty of provocative food for thought.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“It was the most successful Jewish ad campaign of all time — but who was the model?” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoroughly reported and thoroughly enjoyable. And the writer solves the mystery for us.*

## **Category 9: Award for Excellence in Arts News and Features — Reporting**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“Jewish ‘Mass’ returns to its Washington source” by Lisa Traiger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent retro piece. Love how the Jewishness of “Mass” is brought out.*

#### **Second Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“Who owns Anne Frank?” by Lisa Traiger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great on the different iterations of Anne Frank or as Dara Horne calls her “St. Anne”.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“World War II revisionism at the Jewish Museum” by Michael Casper

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Courageous and brilliant.*

**Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Visual Moment: The subversive art of Philip Guston” by Frances Brent

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

**The Boiling Point, Los Angeles, CA**

“Larger than life, portraits in undulating colors now brighten hallways” by Olivia Fishman

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

**First Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“Deeply Jewish comedy is having a moment, even as antisemitism rocks pop culture” by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Timely and well-executed. Good context and expressive quotes on what it means to be a Jewish performer.*

**Second Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Can an all-Mormon cast pull off ‘Fiddler on the Roof’? We traveled to Utah to find out.” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Didn't shy away from plumbing sensitive topics. Also, I liked how the writer posed questions and answered them.*

**Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Jewish, Asian and taking over Broadway: Meet the next great musical star-in-the-making” by Nora Berman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written and interesting profile of an articulate young actor.*

**Category 10: Award for Excellence in Arts — Review/Criticism**

**Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Haunting story collection provides portrait of Jewish life in postwar Poland” by Howard Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written, compelling book review. Feature lede hooks reader, adds depth.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Esther Kustanowitz, Los Angeles, CA**

“‘Undone’ imagines reversing intergenerational trauma in a Mexican-Jewish-American family” published by J. The Jewish News of Northern California

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: TV show review manages to be both wide-ranging and detail-specific. Interesting discussion of philosophical/moral questions posed by the series.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“How are we here?” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Comprehensive documentary film review, with interview of director. Excellent integration of local angle.*

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Under the hood” by Zoé Samudzi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoroughly contextualized, alive and important perspective.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Mama lives on” by Ilana Kurshan

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Studying Talmud with Beruriah” by Maggie Anton

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Embracing Trump’s politics, David Mamet has become the Kanye West of American letters” by Jackson Arn

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Mourning a failed escape from history for assimilated Jews” by Jonathan Tobin

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“‘The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel’ undercuts its own feminist and Jewish identity” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 11: The David Frank Award for Excellence in Personality Profiles**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Bill Maher is sticking to his beliefs — whether you like it or not” by Kylie Ora Lobell

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fine read that explores how Bill Maher separates himself from knee-jerk partisanship. If you think you know Maher, read this.*

#### **Second Place**

**The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, NY**

“Christian Assemblywoman ponders Jewish conversion” by Marc Gronich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Political figures can be real people too, as this nicely constructed account of a New York State Assemblywoman reveals.*



### **Honorable Mention**

#### **St. Louis Jewish Light, St. Louis, MO**

“A life well-lived: Award-winning journalist and friend extraordinaire Susan Fadem dies at 73” by Ellen Futterman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The profound love the author had for her colleague shines through this life-affirming account.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Deborah Lipstadt vs. ‘The Oldest Hatred’” by Mari Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Extremely well-crafted piece that draws on extensive research and multiple diverse voices to paint a portrait of an influential person in an influential position. The context it creates helps the reader understand her, her work, and her impact.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Susannah Heschel: The rabbi’s daughter” by Manya Brachear Pashman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoughtful and in-depth approach that weaves details about the subject’s life with that of her father, trends and developments in American Jewry, and the Jewish teachings that underpin her life’s work.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Our oligarch” by David Klion

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A great piece that pulls back the curtain on the Russian oligarchy and one man in particular, and creates some context for Jewish life in Russia. It also raises key questions about Jewish philanthropy that reach far beyond the subject of the profile.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“This private, on-demand ‘hot rabbi’ may soon be the star of her own reality TV show” by Julia Gergely

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A compelling portrait of someone’s work and life that elevates the conversation about*

*important trends in modern American Jewry. A great personality profile certainly, but also a profile of our times.*

### **Second Place**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“This punk rock legend survived the Holocaust — and she’s still singing and fighting” by Jim Sullivan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: What a great slice of history, rock and roll, and one woman’s journey that provides lessons and inspiration for us all.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“At 95, this visionary Jewish artist can’t stop painting — and painting and painting” by Alan Teller

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: How fortunate that getting to know a neighbor resulted in such a colorful and refreshing profile!*

## **Category 12: Award for Excellence in Special Sections or Supplements**

**All entries competed in the same division.**

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“The Soviet Jewry movement, revisited” by Tova Benjamin, Hadas Binyamini, Jonathan Dekel-Chen, Olesya Shayduk-Immerman and Anna Shternshis

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent reporting and writing on a fascinating topic that is of both historical and current relevance. Nicely designed and presented. Overall, a very thoughtful project that stands apart in a large field of strong entries.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“50 years of women in the rabbinate” by Debra Nussbaum Cohen, Rahel Musleah, Michele Chabin, Lisa Hostein, Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Rabbi Sally Priesand, Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Rabbi Amy Eilberg and Rabbi Sara Hurwitz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A lot of planning and hard work clearly went into this celebration of women on the bimah. Impressive, attractively presented and interesting. Very well done.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“The choices they made...the ones they couldn’t make” by Racelle Rosett, Carolivia Herron, Jamie Zabinsky, Shira Gorelick, Judith Rubin Golub and Barbara Mende

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This entry was deeply moving and timely. I’m touched by the courage of those who participated in its creation.*

## **Category 13: Award for Excellence in Writing about Health Care**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Jewish housing crisis: Aging parents fear for their special-needs kids” by Emma Goss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written and well sourced, with excellent examples. It does exactly what journalism should do — give voice to people we don’t often hear about.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **St. Louis Jewish Light, St. Louis, MO**

“Family caregiving 101” by Bill Motchan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece represents a challenge most children will face, through the first-person angle of the author. I particularly liked the checklist for readers.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“At the other end of the line” by Andrea F. Siegel

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very well written piece about the people picking up the phone on the other end of a mental health hotline.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

“Unplugging the digital generation: How tech is affecting our kids and what we are doing about it” by Rachel Schwartzberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent article that identifies a timely social issue and offers a number of real life solutions.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Southern Jewish Life Magazine, Birmingham, AL**

“Fighting for their lives” by Richard Friedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: How Tikkun Olam impelled one doctor in Alabama to fight for and treat transgender teens, with personal sidebar about one of her patients. Great read.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

“Habits of emotionally strong families” by Steve Lipman, Leah R. Lightman and Sandy Eller

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Practical ways Jewish parents can support the mental health of their children.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

#### **JNS, Allston, MA**

“Magen David Adom builds world’s first subterranean blood bank” by Josh Hasten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Clear, well-written article about Israel’s new state-of-the-art blood bank and its capabilities.*

## **Category 14: Award for Journalistic Excellence in Covering Zionism, Aliyah and Israel**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Two Israeli narratives: One dark, one bright” by David Suissa

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Relatively short but hard hitting, this story illuminates an important, perhaps the most important, issue in the Jewish world today. In short, why do so many hate us (and the only Jewish country in the world).*

### **Second Place**

#### **Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Golan Heights — taking yes for an answer” by Hillel Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Powerful and persuasive piece, well-written with the emotion backed up with facts.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Jewish Independent, Vancouver, BC**

“Immigration challenges” by Adina Horwich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Extremely readable story, that skillfully explores from a personal perspective the nitty gritty of making Aliyah.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Breaching the wall” by Emily Rose

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Interesting story with a different take.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Faces of flight” by Anna Lukashevsky

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Neat story. Uncovered an interesting piece of history.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Jewish Observer of Nashville, Nashville, TN**

“Ethiopian National Project is making an impact from Israel to Nashville” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An unusual story from an unusual place.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“LGBTQ Israelis fear setbacks as homophobic parties win a place in Netanyahu’s coalition,” “For some Americans who moved to Israel, this week’s election results are conjuring 2016 déjà vu,” “As Israelis head to the polls, American Jewish leaders quietly fret about how they’ll respond to the results,” “They united to oppose an extremist party entering Israel’s government in 2019. This time, leading US Jewish groups are staying quiet.,” “Israel’s election today and its high stakes for democracy, explained” by Orly Halpern, Deborah Danan, Ron Kampeas, Philissa Cramer and Gabe Friedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This submission of five different articles about this year's Israeli election does a great job of putting this story into a wider context by reporting on concerns within the LGBTQ+ community in Israel, within the American immigrant community to Israel, and among American Jewish and political leaders. Love the varied perspectives from these different groups. Well done series by all of these different JTA reporters!*

### **Second Place**

**Judy Lash Balint, Jerusalem, Israel**

"Innovation thrives on Israel's southern border" published by JNS

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Unique story, actually. You don't expect hi tech in the Negev. Judy Lash Balint gives readers a unique look into a part of Israel where you don't normally equate with high tech — the Negev desert. The look into the GrooveTech technology center and the Yedid Harush dairy farm (with its high-performing cows) is great.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

"Of secret hookups and chocolate ice cream: Inside the Israel teen-tour COVID hotel" by Elijah Marche

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Elijah Marche, a 16-year-old high school student from Toronto, gives readers a terrific, first-person, behind-the-scenes glimpse into his experience having to stay at an Israeli "COVID Hotel" when his summer youth group trip is interrupted after he tests positive. Really enjoyed the details about chocolate-ice-cream girl and his own feelings about really doing nothing while traveling. We'll be looking for more stories from you in the future, Elijah!*

## **Category 15: Award for Excellence in Writing about Women**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

"The Rabbi Replies — Rabbi Emily Hyatt," "The Rabbi Replies — Rabbi Iah Pillsbury," "The Mountain Rabbi Replies — Rabbi Jamie Korngold," "The Rabbi Replies — Rabbi Sara Gilbert" by Steve Mark

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Sharp interviews and snappy writing distinguish these lively profiles of four female Colorado rabbis, part of a larger series of rabbinic profiles aptly titled The Rabbi Speaks. Author*

*Steve Marks manages to capture each rabbi's personality, delineate her priorities, and describe what make her congregation unique. In so doing, he creates a beautiful tapestry of Jewish life throughout Colorado. I am looking forward to reading the rest of this Intermountain Jewish News series.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Cleveland Jewish News, Cleveland, OH**

"A dare and a dream" by CJN Staff and Jane Kaufman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Jane Kaufman's profile of Cleveland-area native Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained as a rabbi in America, is a joy to read and a fitting testament to the rabbi's enduring mark on American Judaism. Readers will come away feeling they know Rabbi Priesand, and they will surely understand why she chose to be a trailblazer, and why she remains a role model to so many women in the rabbinate.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

"Susannah Heschel: The Rabbi's daughter" by Manya Brachear Pashman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written profile. I like how it debunks myths and legends about the Heschel family.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

"The single parent family" by Aviva Engel, Steve Lipman and Tova Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Honest take on an important topic that is seldom discussed in observant communities.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

"Democratizing pleasure in the frum bedroom" by Arielle Silver-Willner

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

"Orthodox women built businesses and friendships online. They're being told to sign off." by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a fascinating, well-written, well-reported story. The reporter did a terrific job of navigating the nuances of the topic, finding multiple sources with diverse points of view and bringing the story to life. This article is an excellent example of Jewish journalism at its best.*

### **Second Place**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“How the Jewish community woke up to abortion rights” by Arno Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This story offered an amazing behind-the-scenes look at how the fall of Roe has transformed Jewish organizing, and how Jewish organizing can impact the post-Roe landscape. I learned so much from this story. I am sure it had and will continue to have an impact on the organized Jewish world.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **JNS, Allston, MA**

“The strength of modesty: Women’s powerlifting in Israel” by Eliana Rudee

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This story wowed me for several reasons. It never occurred to me that observant women would want to powerlift, apparently because my imagination is small. I loved learning more about the interior lives of observant women and how all women’s struggles, desires and joys are universal. I found this story inspirational because it focused on real women seeking personal growth, regardless of outside circumstances.*

## **Category 16: Award for Excellence in Writing about Jewish Heritage and Jewish Peoplehood in Europe**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

#### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Lithuania’s family secret” by Blake Flayton

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: While perhaps one of the most documented historical atrocities, new and fascinating (horrific) stories continue to appear nonetheless. Blake Flayton’s feature on The Nazi’s Granddaughter sheds light on this book’s shattering story of the Lithuanian war hero who was actually a Nazi collaborator responsible for the deportation and extermination of up to 15,000 Lithuanian Jews. In particular, Flayton’s emphasis on the backlash that is faced when a critical Holocaust story is written by a non-Jew about their native land. When Flayton writes about his conversation with the author about his own Lithuanian heritage, this “normal” feature story suddenly gets more personal — a nice way to make this more heartfelt for readers.*



## **Second Place**

### **Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“A talk on the wild side” by Larry Yudelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Jewish occultism seems like a heavy topic for a lecture outside academia, and writing a preview for such a talk would seem just as daunting. But Larry Yudelson tackles this obscure topic with relish, delving deep into the world of séances and psychics in a small corner of the pre-WWII Jewish intellectual world. Certainly, this is heavy and complex to write about, but Yudelson gives those looking to really sink their teeth into this topic a meaty portion to devour. A challenging story done well.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **Jewish Independent, Vancouver, BC**

“Oasis in the Caucasus” by Pat Johnson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A terrific look into the Jewish community of Azerbaijan that most of us, unfortunately, don't have on our “Must-Go Places to Visit.” Pat Johnson's very nice story strongly suggests otherwise. Johnson paints a wonderful picture of this tucked-away “shtetl” where the residents say they have never faced antisemitism. If only we could feel so lucky here in the United States! And while most of us do well playing “Jewish geography,” actual world geography is often more of a challenge. Having Johnson admit having to google Azerbaijan before traveling there to report this story added a nice touch that connects with readers who may also be unfamiliar with the country — but now more knowledgeable thanks to this feature.*

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

## **First Place**

### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Can Malmö solve its antisemitism problem?” by Liam Hoare

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Second Place**

### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“After Corbyn's exit, is the Labour Party safe for UK's Jews?” by Liam Hoare

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Honorable Mention**

### **Dovi Safier, New York, NY**

“A head of his time: The life & legacy of the Meitscheter Illui, Rav Shlomo Polachek” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

#### **JTA, New York, NY**

“Major figure in German Jewry ensnared in harassment scandal at liberal rabbinical school,”

“Investigations and resignations pile up amid mounting scandal within German liberal Judaism,”

“Prominent rabbi abused power but can still teach, German university investigation concludes,”

“Prominent German rabbi exits leadership roles as report confirms allegations against him,” “Battle lines deepen in bruising fight for control of Germany’s liberal Jewish institutions” by Toby Axelrod

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: So many stories of Jewish Central Europe focus on the “long-ago” times, but the active Jewish communities there face their own challenges. Toby Axelrod does a terrific job in a span of five stories over seven months to explain a sexual harassment scandal within the liberal Jewish German community. While some editors and reporters may say that we should not be reporting on “embarrassments” that put the Jewish community in a bad light (either here in the United States or abroad), there is tremendous value in shining a light on injustice and wrongdoing — even when (particularly when) it involves a rabbi. Important reporting by Axelrod, and kudos for following this story from the very beginning to its ultimate resolution.*

### **Second Place**

#### **JNS, Allston, MA**

“Annual Holocaust march faces major challenge as survivors pass away,” “Transmitting the torch:

March of Living inspires new generation as survivors fade away,” “In groundbreaking step, Muslim

delegation participates in 2022 March of the Living” by David Isaac

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The March of the Living is a well-known event that occurs each year. As such, finding something new to report regarding it can be a challenge. But David Isaac was on the ground in Poland for several days to cover the 2022 march — the first since Covid — and that perspective of being there for an extended period yielded a well-done three-part series. Isaac was able to cover the march from multiple perspectives and gave a fresh take on this important event.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“This Amsterdam neighborhood was once inhabited by Jews. None are left to celebrate its centennial” by Ellen Himelfarb

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: When most of us think about Jewish Amsterdam, we think Anne Frank. But Ellen Himelfarb tells a darker story here — that 75% of Dutch Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, far more than in many of its neighboring countries. And that the Netherlands has been slow to acknowledge this fact with memorials or recognition. Good reporting here for a poignant story.*

## **Category 17: Award for Excellence in North American Jewish History**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Cleveland Jewish News, Cleveland, OH**

“Remembering David Mark Berger — 50 years after the Munich massacre” by CJNI Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent and timely retrospective on the all too brief life of a Cleveland area Jewish athlete, David Mark Berger, who was killed during the 1972 Munich Olympics terrorist murders. Touching interviews with his siblings who honor his memory 50 years on and good roundup of memorials. This is a tragic moment in Jewish history that is duly remembered by a good writer.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Car wash buys Lake Steam Baths. What will be?” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: One would not imagine that a lengthy article about long-shuttered Jewish steam baths in Denver would offer up so much touching nostalgia and fine sentiment, but that’s the case with this excellent, expansive, and well-reported feature about the wonderful bit of Jewish culture known as the “svitz.” The writer, who has a knack for telling stories about Jewish life in the West during the 1800s and early 1900s, makes this a very readable and historically resonant account.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Was there anything redeemable about Jewish gangsters?” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: “You’d be surprised how many Jewish mobsters attended Shabbat or Yom Kippur services, or hosted Passover seders...or davened before performing hits...”. That is the theme of this engagingly written and informative meditation on the ambivalence felt toward Jewish gangsters from the 20s and 30s. Very interesting and thoughtful first-person piece that asks a good question about the American Jewish past.*

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Henry ‘Scoop’ Jackson and the Jewish cold warriors,” “How Jewish Currents covered the Soviet Jewry movement,” “The ambivalent émigrés,” “Introduction: The Soviet Jewry movement, revisited” by Hadas Binyamini, Lawrence Bush, Anna Shternshis and Tova Benjamin

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-researched and well-written account of a formative period of American-Jewish history. The series also challenged the conventional narrative about the movement.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“The sanitizing of conservative Judaism” by Allen Lipson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Eye-opening piece about the origins of the Conservative movement and its place in American-Jewish history.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Amid antisemitism, Jewish Montanans seek to buy back historic synagogue” by Dan Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Jews in Montana? Who knew? Readers are educated about a little-known aspect of American-Jewish history.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

#### **Faygie Holt, Livingston, NJ**

“How a spate of synagogue bombings in the 1950s is impacting us today” published by Aish Global

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An excellent, well-written story giving historical context to 2020s-era antisemitism, a topic high on the minds of American Jews in 2022.*

### **Second Place**

#### **JTA, New York, NY**

“An Iowa farm girl’s pen pal was Anne Frank. A tiny museum remembers their brief correspondence” by Dave Schechter

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Who knew that Anne Frank had been a pen pal of an Iowa family? This article provided solid treatment of the story behind the pen pals, and a new layer to one of most widely known stories about the Holocaust.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Introducing the Forward 125: The American Jews who shaped our world” by Beth Harpaz, Jodi Rudoren and Matthew Litman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The Forward’s list of 125 prominent Jews throughout the publication’s history is an instant learning tool and conversation starter. Well done!*

## **Category 18: Award for Excellence in Photography**

**All entries competed in the same division.**

### **First Place**

**Chabad.org, Brooklyn, NY**

“Bronx Jews respond to tragic high-rise fire with meals and encouragement” by Menachem Posner

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Strong moments, use of light and composition during an important breaking news story aftermath. Good job getting in close and filling the frame.*

### **Second Place**

**J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Jews join Bay Area abortion rights protests in force” by Brooke Anderson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Nice variety of images from a protest. Strong moments and good composition.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston, TX**

“Wet & wild: Community celebrates Shavuot with fun and games” by Hagit Bibi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fun moment with nice composition, good energy telling the story of a fun day.*

## Category 19: Award for Outstanding Digital Storytelling

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

**American Jewish Committee, New York, NY**

“The forgotten exodus: Iraq” by Manya Brachear Pashman, CucHuong Do, Atara Lakritz, Sean Savage and Jon Schweitzer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An intelligently conceived, skillfully executed, and deeply moving reminder of what happened to the 800,000 Jews uprooted from Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, and Iran 75 years ago. The voices of displaced families give this podcast a singular emotional power. A great match of medium and message.*

### **Second Place**

**Cleveland Jewish News, Cleveland, OH**

“‘The Horseshoe’ celebrates century of winning, tradition” by CJN Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The Jewish contribution to the creation of Ohio State’s Horseshoe stadium is told effectively in words, photos and graphics.*

## Category 20: Award for Excellence in Interfaith Relations Reporting

**Divisions A and B. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers, Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

**Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston, TX**

“Houston rabbis working with multi-faith group to repair world” by Judy Bluestein Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A lesson for the world about respectful dialogue/friendship and good, detailed writing about their friendship.*

### **Second Place**

**Jewish Exponent, Melrose Park, PA**

“‘This is spiritual work’: Religious leaders lay blueprint for reparations” by Sasha Rogelberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Good story on how white Jews need to think about reparations and then do something*

*about it. Love the addition of the Quakers to make it clear that this is a multi-religious American problem.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“Non-Jewish members contribute heartily to synagogue life” by David Rullo

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: There are so many ways that we all connect. This story was a good illustration of that.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“This Jewish temple is providing a home for a historic church in the Village” by Jacob Henry

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Lovely article; beautifully written and uplifting.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“‘Mercenaries for Jesus’: Christmas is a busy time for Jews who sing in churches” by Jacob Henry

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Lots of fun!*

### **Category 21: Award for Excellence in Writing about Food and Wine**

#### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Barcelona dreaming — kosher chicken paella” by Sharon Gomperts and Rachel Emquies Sheff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Infusing interesting family stories to a Jewish food perspective.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, NY**

“Grapes galore — kosher wineries move into high gear” by Marc Gronich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great behind the scenes story. Where does kosher wine come from? This story tells you.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Bay Area delis and Jewish markets of yore — gone but not forgotten” by Maya Mirsky

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A story being told in cities across the country. We miss the deli.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

“The future of food: Trends that are shaping the kashrut of tomorrow” by Merri Ukraincik and Barbara Bensoussan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating, well-researched and well-written piece that delves into the benefits of technology in supervising and producing kosher foods, as well as the challenges — practical, financial, and halachic — of feeding a growing world population, in particular those who observe the laws of kashrut.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Maayan Hoffman, Jerusalem, Israel**

“The spirit of Israel: Countering wine-washing with wine” published by The Jerusalem Post

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An extremely informative piece that encompasses, not just the techniques of wine making in Israel, but the spirit, history and politics informing and surrounding this flourishing industry. Something for everyone in this well-written and researched piece.*

### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

“Keeping kosher, becoming American” by Dr. Rafael Medoff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This well-written piece chronicles the journey of the Orthodox Union’s kashrut operation from its modest beginnings, with a group of determined Jewish homemakers pioneering efforts to expand the kosher market for consumers, to the OU’s current sophisticated kashrut supervision. A very readable and compelling story.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Does pastrami come from New York or Texas?” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The judge is a vegan, but I couldn’t overlook the excellent writing and in-depth reporting,*



*both of which stood out in this category. This reader now knows far more about pastrami than he ever thought he would.*

### **Second Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“A New York synagogue banned lox. That’s not as crazy as it sounds” by Rob Eshman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Humorous but still thoughtful examination of the pitfalls facing synagogues as they make ethical food choices.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Can a Jew cook Palestinian food without getting all political?” by Rob Eshman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A nuanced examination of the possibilities and limitations of using food as a bridge between communities in conflict.*

## **Category 22: Award for Excellence in Writing about Sports**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“When Mick said ‘Wow’ to me” by Mark Schiff

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“A dream come true for basketball player Ryan Turell” by Harvey Farr

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Link — Expanded Edition, Teaneck, NJ**

“Ryan Turell and the challenge of Modern Orthodoxy” by Michael Feldstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Southern Jewish Life Magazine, Birmingham, AL**

“From the Plains to the Promised Land: Auburn basketball in Israel” by Larry Brook

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Maayan Hoffman, Jerusalem, Israel**

“Muslim NBA star Enes Kanter Freedom’s slam dunk for Mideast peace” published by The Jerusalem Post

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

**Chabad.org, Brooklyn, NY**

“An observant Jew makes for an uncommon Texas A&M football player” by Selah Maya Zigelboim

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Meet Mia Raskin: A Shomer Shabbat college basketball player at Binghamton” by Howard Blas

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Meet the Orthodox Jewish artist designing custom cleats for MLB stars” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 23: Award for Excellence in Writing about Seniors**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“At 83, Hebrew lessons and a wondrous bat mitzvah” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Sensitive portrayal of one family’s connections to Judaism and each other.*

#### **Second Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Greeley’s voices of the Holocaust” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Feature article about husband and wife who fled the Nazis as children and see echoes of the 1930’s today.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Two Holocaust survivors celebrate long-delayed b’nai mitzvah in San Mateo” by Dan Pine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Author wisely lets his subjects do most of the talking.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“My mother, the imposter” by Joy Peskin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautifully written article about a mother’s cognitive decline and its impact on a loving daughter.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewfolk Media, Minneapolis, MN**

“Nursing homes will fail without state help, Sholom says” by Lev Gringauz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent, extensive treatment of a crucial issue facing seniors, through the experiences of a Jewish long-term health organization in Minnesota.*

## **Category 24: Award for Excellence in Business Reporting — Trends**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Link — Expanded Edition, Teaneck, NJ**

“Morningstar’s ‘modified limited hangout’” by Scott A. Shay

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An important technical explanatory piece that provides important insight and understanding — not just about Jewish matters but about the underpinnings of global finance. And it resulted in meaningful change. Well done.*

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Action (Orthodox Union), New York, NY**

“The future of food: Trends that are shaping the kashrut of tomorrow” by Merri Ukraincik and Barbara Bensoussan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: You can't go wrong with food. This piece is an excellent blend of business and everyday Jewish culture. It is a well-reported, well-rounded and well-written trend piece, providing information on a topic that will interest any member of its audience. An excellent and deserving entry.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

#### **JTA, New York, NY**

“Is finance giant Morningstar boycotting Israel? A new BDS battlefield emerges in investing world” by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece demonstrates solid reporting, meaningful analysis, and clear writing even for readers who don't follow financial news. But it had another factor that helped it rise above some other well-reported entries in this category: its massive impact on financial markets around the world.*

## **Category 25: Award for Excellence in News Obituaries**

## **Divisions A and B. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers, Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, NY**

“Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a political powerhouse in New York, dies at 77” by Marc Gronich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The writer's ability to enable readers to focus on Mr. Silver's accomplishments — not how his career ended — shows great skill, thorough reporting and compassion. A challenge faced head-on with aplomb.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Remembering Edward Mosberg” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: With a great deal of background information, both about Mr. Mosberg and, in particular,*

*his early years, the writer showed tremendous skill in organizing details and making the reading manageable and compelling. Mr. Mosberg's character and bravery showed through at every turn.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

"Judah Samet, survivor of Holocaust and Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, has died at 84" by Justin Vellucci

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written obituary makes the reader wish he'd known the individual who has passed. This piece succeeds in doing so by representing Mr. Samet's warmth, good nature and love of life and learning.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Chabad.org, Brooklyn, NY**

"Legendary Rebbetzin Chave Hecht, 95, life-long woman of action" by Mendel Super

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

"Remembering Rabbi Steven Sager, a 'leader, mentor, poet' in North Carolina and beyond" by Philissa Cramer

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Chabad.org, Brooklyn, NY**

"Reb Michel Raskin, 92, Brooklyn grocer embodied Chassidic values" by Yehuda Mayteles

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Category 26: Award for Excellence in Writing about Politics/Government**

#### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Hamodia, Brooklyn, NY**

"Impeachment Prosecutor Dan Goldman looks to make jump to Congress in NY-10," "Carlina Rivera is leading Congressional candidate for open seat in NY-10" by Reuvain Borchardt

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A profile with pushback, even getting the candidate to backtrack during the interview, the author allows space for the candidate to define, and occasionally undermine, himself.*

## **Second Place**

### **Hamodia, Brooklyn, NY**

“A red pocket grows in Brooklyn” by Reuvain Borchardt

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: By weaving together interviews with three unusual winners, the author underlines and explains the New York GOP surge in Jewish districts without becoming a cheerleader.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **Jewish Exponent, Melrose Park, PA**

“Josh Shapiro versus Doug Mastriano” by Jarrad Saffren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Shoe-leather reporting from the campaign trail gives readers an entertaining but sober look at an extremist GOP candidate’s backers contrasting with mainstream Jewish Democrat’s.*

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

## **First Place**

### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“What the fossil fuel industry learned from anti-BDS laws” by Alex Kane

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This sweeping analysis masterfully links anti-Boycott, Divestment & Sanction tactics to fossil fuel companies fighting divestment, showing how big polluters learned from a Jewish moral struggle.*

## **Second Place**

### **Hamodia — Magazine, Brooklyn, NY**

“Yoram Hazony: A new conservative brand and the man behind it” by Rafael Hoffman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Illuminating look at the right-wing’s influence on Israel policy, allowing the subject the space to make the case so readers can see how argument and influence works.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Winners and losers in the boycott wars,” “Dispatch from Colleyville: Making sense of the synagogue attack,” “Biden tried to go easy on Bennett. It wasn’t enough,” “Your pro-Israel dollars at work,” “Can the government save America from antisemitism?” by Nathan Guttman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A strong series on political controversies that smartly evaluates impacts; readers benefit from a sustained focus.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Congressman-elect George Santos lied about grandparents fleeing anti-Jewish persecution during WWII” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Impressive and resourceful reporting on one of the biggest political stories of the year.*

### **Second Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“Congressman-elect George Santos campaigned as a Jewish Republican. Was he lying?” by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Another exclusive involving George Santos and his legacy of lies.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Why are AIPAC and J Street endorsing the same candidates?” by Arno Rosenfeld and Jacob Kornbluh

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 27: Award for Excellence in Education Reporting**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“Ethnic studies debate comes to UC system with proposed admission requirement” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Requiring ethnic studies in high school is, in theory, a good idea. But turning it into a political issue with a curriculum that excludes Jews is not. This well-reported story makes that clear.*

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Independent, Vancouver, BC**

“Maus not too graphic” by Pat Johnson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Lots of people laughed when a Tennessee school board pulled "Maus" from the curriculum because of the drawing of a naked cat. That was too much for board members and they banished the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel. Viewing the book through the eyes of five students at a Jewish high school subtly portrays the board decision's absurdity.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“YULA boys high school students buy their teacher a car” by Debra Eckerling

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Sometimes an award-winning story is just plain cute — and a giant mitzvah. This story of a bunch of yeshiva boys raising money to buy a (non-Jewish) teacher a car so he had time to spend with his family is one of those.*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“The state of Holocaust education in America” by Dan Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A timely, meaningful retrospective of Holocaust education efforts through the decades.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“In internal memo, American Jewish Committee blasts op-ed on ‘Jewish-free zones’ at Berkeley Law” by Mari Cohen and Alex Kane

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A smart look at how the American Jewish Committee dealt with a controversy including Jewish life at University of California Berkeley School of Law.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“Jewish day school asks teacher to leave after she was outed as trans” by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: With rhetoric surrounding LGBTQ+ issues at a high pitch, writing about anything related to gender identity has become difficult. Jackie Hajdenberg navigated the narrow channel between pro and con to produce an article whose bias exists only in the mind of the reader. She is to be commended for developing sources that that added clarity to a story that was developing.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“Hebrew Union College could stop ordaining Reform rabbis in Cincinnati after 147 years” by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Why did Hebrew Union College open in Cincinnati and why is it closing now? Andrew Lapin answers both questions in engaging detail. With seven named sources and detail that came*



*from extensive research, he crafted a story that felt human, not academic or administrative. That is remarkable given that the article is, well, about a college. The strength of the writing made this entry a very, very close second.*

## **Category 28: Award for Excellence in Writing about Black-Jewish Relationships**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Retrospective: My life in the 1960’s in the south with milk” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Reinventing the narratives of Blacks and Jews” by Larry Yudelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“A jazz concert relives a dream” by Karen Lehrman Bloch

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“The passion of 964 Park Place” by Ari M. Brostoff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A thoroughly reported account of how a defrauded Black homeowner won a welcome victory with the help of Jewish neighbors. A well-told tale that neither moralizes nor over-generalizes.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Growing up, as a mixed race child, with survivor grandparents” by Kyla Kupferstein Torres

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a highly personal, well-told story about a Jew of Color’s Jewish journey. And it’s a window into some of the strands of American Jewish life in the 1970s and ‘80s.*

### **Second Place**

**Faygie Holt, Livingston, NJ**

“This Black rapper is spreading Holocaust awareness” published by Aish Global

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Dave Chappelle and normalizing black antisemitism” by Jonathan Tobin

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 29: Award for Excellence in Writing about Antisemitism**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“A new anxious age: American Jews face open antisemitism in a tense political era” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Really well-written article. Great round up of events of the day with good commentary. Clear, concise.*

#### **Second Place**

**The Jewish Journal (of Greater Boston), Salem, MA**

“She has Jewish relatives. And she’s the state’s Holocaust denier-in-chief” by Steve Marantz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Terrific topic. Well-written and extremely well researched.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“The new Jew hatred” by Gil Troy

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: What a great op-ed!*

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Battling antisemitism on campus” by Rahel Musleah

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderfully researched, very thoughtful article.*

## **Second Place**

### **Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“A place at the diversity table” by Hilary Danailova

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Difficult choice between first place winner and second place winner — both were so well written, thoughtful and eloquent.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“What are sayanim?,” “What antisemitic conspiracy theorists believe about vaccines,” “Trayon White is running for DC Mayor. Has the city forgiven his antisemitic comments?,” “Crime or crisis: Disentangling mental illness and antisemitic violence” by Noah Phillips and Ellen Wexler

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very interesting articles! Amazing topics, well researched!*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

## **First Place**

### **The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“In London, an antisemitism scandal has sparked a play about antisemitism. Is it helping?” by Talya Zax

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Talya Zaks displays her gifts as a stylish writer, sophisticated story teller, and compelling critic in this probing look at a British play about Jewish experience and the entrenched nature of British antisemitism. This is cultural commentary at its best — a pleasure to read and uncomfortable to digest.*

## **Second Place**

### **JTA, New York, NY**

“Kanye West’s vow to ‘go death con 3’ on Jews and his antisemitism controversy, explained,” “The Nazi history of Adidas, the sportswear giant that took weeks to drop Kanye West over antisemitism,” “‘How are you supposed to enjoy music by somebody that hates you?’: Jewish fans press pause on Ye’s songs,” “‘Black people are actually Jew[s]’: The historical origins of Kanye West’s inflammatory comments,” “How many Hebrew Israelites are there, and how worried should Jews be?” by Philissa Cramer, Ron Kampeas, Andrew Lapin and Andrew Esensten

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Kanye West's antisemitic outbursts got a lot of ink last year in the Jewish press, and deservedly so. In this well researched series, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency covered the story from every conceivable angle, offering an eye-opening look at the Nazi background of the founders of Adidas, which took a bit too long to sever commercial ties with Ye, and the history of the Black Hebrew Israelite movement referenced in his comments. The JTA's deep dive highlighted effectively the particular horror of Ye's words and the broader context from which his antisemitism derives.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

"Is Kanye's antisemitic vitriol seeping into our schools and streets?" by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Antisemitism is hardly confined to celebrities like Kanye West. As Jodi Rudoren illustrates in this hard-hitting essay, it has infiltrated our schools and communities in insidious ways that some refuse to identify and others are reluctant to root out. Rudoren's outrage is well placed and her writing deserves to be widely read.*

## **Category 30: Award for Excellence in Writing about Jewish Thought and Life**

### **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

"The anxious and the pious" by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

"On becoming a shofar" by David Suissa

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

"Most-decorated women" by Mirushe Zylali

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Second Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Mama lives on” by Ilana Kurshan

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“What if Ruth didn’t convert?” by Rabbi Shira Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

**First Place**

**Shalom Hartman Institute, New York, NY**

“Communal rebuilding after sexual abuse: Beyond the limits of teshuvah” by Meirav Jones, Joshua Ladon, Elana Stein Hain, Claire Sufrin and Sarah Wolf

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent panel. Good overview of sources and engaging with them for a very important subject.*

**Second Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“Who counts as a Jew? A pioneering yeshiva fumbles admissions criteria, renewing debate” by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very fraught in today’s environment. Good overview of the situation.*

**Honorable Mention**

**Shalom Hartman Institute, New York, NY**

“Variations on the Shema” by Samuel Fleischacker, Claire Sufrin, Justus Baird and Jan Greenfield

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very good as a subjective piece.*

**Category 31: Award for Excellence in Writing about Young Families/People**

**Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“Survivors of mass shootings: Three stories, as shared by their mothers” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This powerful story about Jewish school-shooting survivors was written in the wake of the Uvalde attack. The story makes an important point by approaching the subject sideways, via interviews with the mothers and rabbi of survivors. Through her sensitive interviews and graceful writing, Tabby Refael reminds us that there are too many victims, among the living and the dead, of this terrible national scourge.*

### **Second Place**

#### **The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“A blossoming love story” by Mark Schiff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This was my first introduction to Mark Schiff; he has found a devoted fan. Humor often is the best way into serious subjects, and Schiff masters the strategy in this deceptively easygoing essay about loving and admiring our grown-up children. Bravo!*

## **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

#### **Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“A new generation of Jewish farmers returns to the land” by Noah Phillips

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I will never understand that call to the land, but after reading this, I'm fascinated to know what that call is like, that many are doing it, and that again, the Jewish people are involved with their wisdom and perseverance. Great story.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Jewish matchmaking? There's an app for that” by Arielle Kaplan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Loved this story for what it explains and for the hope it offered in this time and place.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **St. Louis Jewish Light Magazine, St. Louis, MO**

“Olivette teens take goal of ‘tikkun olam’ into their own hands” by Ellen Futterman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I'm sure it happens much more than we know, but spotlights on creative and charitable deeds by youth are heartwarming and hopeful. These boys deserve to have the world know what they did. Especially with trees. Trees last on through generations and help the world.*

## **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

### **First Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“My generation of parents is ruining sleep-away camp” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A refreshingly honest piece that dares to challenge the status quo with humor, irony and just plain great writing.*

### **Second Place**

**Esther Kustanowitz, Los Angeles, CA**

“A Jewish farm in SoCal offers salts, honey — and a space for adults with disabilities” published by eJewishPhilanthropy

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written and informative piece that simultaneously explores the issues of inclusion and sustainability with great compassion.*

## **Category 32: Wild Card Category: Award for Excellence in Writing about the War in Ukraine**

## **Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.**

### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Inside a war: They’re coming; They’re staying,” “Inside: Peace, Outside: Boom! Boom!”, “‘Ukraine transport’ 2022”, “Volunteer in refugee crisis” by Steve Lipman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**The Jewish Journal of Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA**

“My visit to the border of hell and hope” by Rabbi Noah Farkas

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“A Purim like none before it,” “How do Ukrainian refugees get medical care? From ‘Medcase’ — free — in Romania, Poland,” “Refugee seders in Poland: ‘Next year in Ukraine’,” “Ukrainian refugee seders in Slovakia” by Steve Lipman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.**

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Faces of flight” by Anna Lukashevsky

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Fantastic work, blending great writing, art, research and first-person perspective. Also explains a key point about the problems faced by Ukrainian refugees seeking the right of return.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Our oligarch” by David Klion

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A sober and important look at a towering figure in world Jewry.*

### **Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

##### **JTA, New York, NY**

“In Hungary, a palace tied to political scandal becomes Jewish refugee camp,” “A TikTok rabbi helps Jewish Ukrainian refugees feel comfortable in Moldova shelters,” “Ukrainian children are finding refuge in an Israeli town and its school for Russian speakers,” “In a Romanian resort town, Jewish children from Odessa celebrate Purim as refugees” by Cnaan Liphshiz, Jacob Judah and Marcel Gascón Barberá

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a well-conceived package of stories, covering Ukrainian refugees in four different settings. More relatable than the typical all-in-one refugee story.*



## **Second Place**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“Our city is totally destroyed’: One refugee’s story as she crosses the border from Ukraine,” “Meet Israel Sabag, the man finding shelter for Ukrainian refugees in Romania — and their pets,” “Purim in Wartime: Bucharest celebration brings haunting past into present,” “Jewish blood helps’: In Ukraine, what once held people back now speeds them to safety” by Larry Cohler-Esses

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It can be tough to write first-person essays about other people. Larry Cohler-Esses brings his decades of experience to a series describing scenes of Ukrainian displacement through the eyes of the displaced and his own.*

## **Honorable Mention**

**The Forward Association, Inc., New York, NY**

“As Putin lays siege to Ukraine, memories of life between wars” by Anya Ulinich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A beautifully written and touching first-person essay that gives readers a look at Ukraine before the war through the eyes of a writer who lived it as a girl. Kudos to both the writer and The Forward editor who ran with a story about childhood, not bombs.*

## **Category 33: Award for General Excellence — Best Graphic Artist**

**All entries competed in the same division.**

### **First Place**

**Baltimore Jewish Times, Columbia, MD**

“Baltimore Jewish Times” by Ebony Brown

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Distinct designs that show diversity in skill and vision. Great use of color and shape that doesn’t overwhelm the viewer’s eye.*

### **Second Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“Washington Jewish Week” by Frank Wagner

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderful use of color, imagery and font styles. Enables the viewer to focus on each component without visual conflict.*

## **Category 34: Award for General Excellence — Best Freelancer**

**All entries competed in the same division.**

### **First Place**

**Andrew Silverstein, New York, NY**

“It was the most successful Jewish ad campaign of all time — but who was the model?,”

“Congressman-elect George Santos lied about grandparents fleeing anti-Jewish persecution during WWII,” “In the rarified world of Jewish letters, a mind-boggling font of Jewish history” published by The Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Investigatory breadth — political and cultural, breaking and historical — that is clearly written with excellent analysis.*

### **Second Place**

**Dave Schechter, Atlanta, GA**

“An Iowa farm girl’s pen pal was Anne Frank. A tiny museum remembers their brief correspondence” published by JTA, “The Southern Israelite and the Holocaust,” “Ukraine and Jewish ties that bind” published by Atlanta Jewish Times

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Impressive range, from Iowa farm fields to Ukraine and the depths of his own paper’s archives, each story has a lovely narrative flow but with purpose and empathy.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Dovi Safier, New York, NY**

“With fire in his eyes: The burning mission of Rav Aharon Kotler,” “Man of action: The life & times of Rabbi Leo Jung,” “A kingdom rebuilt: How Rav Aharon Rokeach brought postwar Belz back to life” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Almost book-length portraits of Jewish legends and leaders, the effort and care to sustain history is notable.*

## Category 35: Award for General Excellence — Best Website

All entries competed in the same division.

### First Place

#### **Atlanta Jewish Times, Atlanta, GA**

“Atlanta Jewish Times” by Kaylene Ladinsky, Sasha Heller and Michael Morris

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The Atlanta Jewish Times has a polished, modern website. It is easy to navigate and follows many principles of good web design. Its social media, newsletter and subscription links are displayed at the top, as they should be. Its latest news section includes timestamps, which is important for showing that the site is fresh. The events section includes two types of formats to attract reader interest, and the section of Passover messages from community members helps connect readers to familiar faces and names.*

## Category 36: Award for General Excellence — Best Magazine

All entries competed in the same division.

### First Place

#### **B'nai B'rith Magazine, Washington, DC**

“B'nai B'rith Magazine” by Eugene L. Meyer, Sharon Bender, Amanda Spiwak, Simeon Montesa and Cheryl Kempler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent diversity of stories and content. Readable stories and nice features.*

### Second Place

#### **Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston, TX**

“Jewish Herald-Voice” by Matt Samuels, Judy Bluestein Levin, Daniel Bissonnet and Aaron Howard

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Interesting array of stories and content with a local perspective.*

### Honorable Mention

#### **Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Lilith Magazine” by Susan Weidman Schneider, Sarah Seltzer, Rebecca Katz, Arielle Silver-Willner and Lindsay Barnett

*Hard copy only*

*Comment: This magazine's content presents an important voice and viewpoint on women's issues with a Jewish perspective. Edgy content handled with a nice touch.*

## Category 37: Award for General Excellence — Best Newspaper

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

#### **J. The Jewish News of Northern California, San Francisco, CA**

“J. The Jewish News of Northern California” by J. Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

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*Comment: J. is the paper where I would have worked when I began my career as a reporter four decades ago. I wanted to be a Jewish journalist, I wanted to cover the Jewish “establishment” the way I would cover City Hall. I couldn’t do it back then. Almost all papers were subsidized by the establishment I wanted to cover. So, I decided I would probably reach more Jews in the secular press and punctuated my work as a political and investigative reporter with deep dives into Jewish life. J. The Jewish News of Northern California does what I wanted to do back then. It features political and serious community news based on original reporting, not press releases. It publishes off-the-beaten-track features not intended to promote big givers. It offers opinion, but not as its main focus and it’s laid out and designed beautifully. To riff on a lyric from “Fiddler on the Roof” — “If I was a young man...”.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“Washington Jewish Week” by Washington Jewish Week Staff

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*Comment: The Washington Jewish Week is a fine newspaper covering its community in the long tradition of the Jewish press. It absolutely stands out from the rest.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Jewish Observer of Central New York, DeWitt, NY**

“Jewish Observer of Central New York” by Barbara Davis

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*Comment: The Jewish Observer is a publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York and does what a federation-sponsored organization should do — it covers the community from the perspective of Jewish organizational life. But it punches above its weight when it publishes cover stories like “What Color Are Jews?”. With the headline superimposed on a rainbow flag, the piece*

*addresses a contemporary issue deeply and sensitively. Impressive for a publication required to draw readers from all segments of the political spectrum.*