



The Journalist's Connection

Society of Professional Journalists

Improving and protecting journalism since 1909

January 2010

'Party with Pulitzers' at art center Jan. 22

Detroit SPJ invites area journalists to meet and mingle with their colleagues and honor Pulitzer prize-winning peers on Friday evening, Jan. 22, from 6 - 9 p.m. A dozen prestigious Pulitzers have been awarded to Detroit journalists since 1945, and all the winners are invited to this SPJ social event.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center offers a unique setting for journalists and guests to enjoy art while they eat, drink and mingle. It is at 1515 South Cranbrook in Birmingham, just north of 14 Mile Road, with free parking available.

"It will be an evening of fun, and we invite all journalists and friends of the media to join us," said Colleen Clement, Detroit SPJ president and WXYZ-TV executive producer.

Reservations can be made online at www.spjdetroit.org or by phone to (586) 306-2035. Price is \$25 per person, or \$20 for SPJ Detroit members, including refreshments and soft drinks. Beer and wine available at nominal cost.

The BBAC's studios, exhibitions and gallery shop will be open to SPJ visitors. As a regional art center, it presents over 25 exhibitions each year, and provides classes to more than 4,000 students of all ages from over 100 communities. See www.bbartcenter.org.

Join us ...

Here are some of the Pulitzer Prize winners who plan to attend:

David Ashenfelter for a 1982 public information series with Sydney P. Freedberg in the Detroit News. The series exposed the U.S. Navy's cover-up of circumstances surrounding the deaths of seamen aboard ship and led to significant reforms in naval procedures.

Sheryl James for a 1991 feature writing series for the St. Petersburg Times in Florida about a mother who abandoned her newborn child and how it affected her life and those of others.

Jeff Taylor for national reporting with Mike McGraw on the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was published in the Kansas City Star in 1992.

Eric Freedman for beat reporting with Jim Mitzelfeld in the Detroit News in 1994. The stories disclosed flagrant spending abuses at Michigan's House Fiscal Agency.

Angelo Henderson for his Wall Street Journal 1999 feature portrait of a drug-gist who was driven to violence by his encounters with armed robbery, illustrating the lasting effects of crime.

Charlie LeDuff for national reporting in the New York Times. To produce the 2001 series "How Race Is Lived in America," he covered the war in Iraq, crossed the desert with a group of migrant Mexicans and worked inside a North Carolina slaughterhouse.

Jim Schaefer for local reporting with M.L. Elrick and Free Press staff in 2009. The stories detailed a pattern of lies by Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

New categories for 'Excellence in Journalism' contest

Entry deadline is Jan. 22, use form inside or download at www.spjdetroit.org

SPJ Detroit has added three new categories for this year's Excellence in Journalism contest. There will be eight categories for broadcast journalists, 22 for print journalists and four for on-line journalists. New categories for on-line entries are:

Multimedia Feature Presentation

This category honors excellence in telling a story to an online audience using multimedia techniques, including interactive graphics, Flash, photography, audio and video. In addition to the quality of the journalism, emphasis will be placed on visual design and the artful blending of multiple media into a single presentation.

Online Topical Reporting/Blogging

This category honors ongoing topical ("beat") reporting by an individual or team. The work should display regular success at breaking news online, ongoing watchdog coverage and clear

evidence that a participatory, online community has coalesced around the topic. Creative use of the medium, especially in the areas of beat blogging, podcasting, vodcasting and aggregation, will be considered. A reporter or team's entry should consist of three to five sample columns, blog posts, articles, video podcasts etc.

Online Video Journalism

This category honors excellence in on-line video journalism crafted specifically for a web audience. Emphasis will be placed on compelling narrative, originality and creative use of the medium. Entries may consist of a single story or up to three examples from a series related to a single topic and may be integrated with other multimedia tools. Slideshows in a video format are not eligible.

In the past, the contest has included a category for overall

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SPJ, NABJ 'Show the Love'

Former Detroit News editor Luther "Badman" Keith performed at a Tuesday, Nov. 24, benefit for journalists who have lost their jobs. The Detroit chapters of the National Association of Black Journalists and the Society of Professional Journalists co-sponsored the "Show the Love" event at PJ's Lager House in downtown Detroit. If you are an out-of-work journalist who would like to be considered for a grant, check our website for a link to submit your information, www.spjdetroit.org.



Top: Journalists turned out to support colleagues who lost their jobs. Above, Jack Harned represented the SPJ board. Below, Luther Keith headlined the event.



SPJ Detroit sponsors essay contest for high school students

Why are free and independent news media important? That is the essay topic for students, grades 9-12, in the national SPJ scholarship competition.

SPJ Detroit is sponsoring the Michigan contest, with the winner advancing to national competition. Three national awards include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second, and \$300 for third place.

All students enrolled in public, private and home schools are eligible to enter. Deadline is March 5, 2010.

A link to the information is on the SPJ Detroit website, or contact Gloria Olman, gaolman@comcast.net.

New categories this year

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website and that option will be available as well.

The call for entries with a detailed list of categories is available at our website, www.spjdetroit.org. The site also has a link to entry forms, information about the Journalist of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year competition and an application form for the Laurain Scholarship.

There is no fee to submit a nomination for Journalist of the Year or Young Journalist of the Year. However, the entries require a completed entry form and letters of recommendation. Those who were 30 years or younger in 2009 qualify as a "Young Journalist."

Entries in all categories must have been published or produced in Southeastern Michigan between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.

You do not have to be a member of SPJ Detroit to enter the contest. Those who submit a new membership application will get a reduced rate of \$10 for one, single entry.

At a glance ...

- Call for entries will not be mailed this year. Download directions and forms from our web site, www.spjdetroit.org
- Deadline to submit entries is Friday, Jan. 22, 2010.
- Work must have been published between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.
- You do not need to be a member of SPJ Detroit to enter.
- Same, low entry fee of \$25 per entry.
- No entry fee for Journalist of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year entries.
- Questions? Call (586) 306-2035.

Entries will be judged by other chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists. Awards will be presented at the annual banquet on April 14.

Enter now, Excellence in Journalism deadline is Jan. 22

Complete rules and description of categories at www.spjdetroit.org. Copy this form, or download. Questions? Call (586) 306-2035.

SPJ Detroit 2010 Excellence in Journalism Entry Form

DEADLINE: Entries must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 22, 2010



Name _____
 Title _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Entry classification (select one)

- Broadcast – Radio
- Broadcast – TV
- On-line Media
- Print – Editorial/Photo – Class A
- Print – Editorial/Photo – Class B
- Print – Editorial/Photo – Class C

Entry category # _____

Print all names and titles as they should appear on the award:

Name of media outlet:

Date entry was aired or printed:

Entry notes: Working title of entry; your own description; corrections, clarifications; other judging notes for consideration; Web address and/or additional password information for on-line media entries. Use reverse side if more space is needed.

Entry fee: \$25 per entry. Make checks or money orders payable to Detroit SPJ.

Total number of entries submitted: _____ Total fees paid: _____

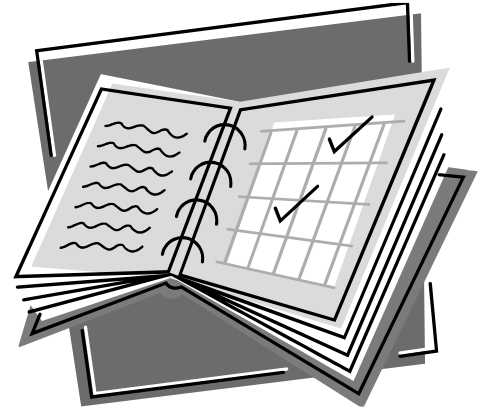
Mail or ship contest entries to: SPJ Detroit Contest Committee
73756 Franklin, PO 279
Armada, MI 48005

All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, Jan. 22, 2010.
Payment in full due with the entries.

Contest winners will be honored Wednesday, April 14, 2010

*at the SPJ/Detroit awards banquet at the San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Road, Troy
Call (586) 306-2035 for reservations.*

Mark your calendar ...



Friday, Jan. 15

Last day to submit nominations for the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. Nomination form available at www.spjdetroit.org.

Friday, Jan. 22

Party with the Pulitzers at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. Join SPJ Detroit for this special event honoring the best in journalism. Details on front page of this newsletter. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for others. Call (586) 306-2035.

Friday, Jan. 22

Last day to mail entries for SPJ De-

troit's Excellence in Journalism contest. Entry form inside this newsletter. Same, low fee: \$25 per entry. Nominations also due for Journalist of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year. Awards presented at the April 14 banquet.

Friday, Feb. 19

Deadline for students to apply for the Laurain Scholarship, offered each year by SPJ Detroit. See story below for details. Application available on-line at www.spjdetroit.org.

Monday, March 15

Last day to submit entries for the SPJ Detroit student essay competition. Story on page 2.

Wednesday, April 14

SPJ Detroit holds its annual awards banquet for broadcast, print and on-line journalists. Journalist of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year will be named. Event is held at the San Marino Club in Troy. Call (586) 306-2035 for information.

Apply now for Detroit SPJ's \$2,500 Laurain Scholarship

Each year, the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awards a \$2,500 Larry Laurain journalism grant to a Southeast Michigan area resident who is or will be a sophomore, junior or senior in 2009.

The award may be used at any four-year college in Michigan. Additional grants may be awarded.

The award honors the late Larry Laurain, former Detroit/SPJ chapter president and Oakland Press city edi-

tor. Applicants must intend to practice journalism, as evidenced by enrollment in journalism classes and by work from those classes, or clips as published in student or professional publications. Financial need is considered.

You can download a scholarship application and get more information on our website, www.spjdetroit.org.

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 19, 2010. Questions?

Call the scholarship committee at (248) 761-8204 or e-mail: patkci@aol.com.

Scholarship winners will be honored at the chapter's annual awards banquet, Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at the San Marino Club, 1685 East Big Beaver Road, Troy.

Tickets or table reservations for the awards banquet are available by calling Detroit SPJ at (586) 306-2035.