

# 2022 Awards (for work done in 2021)

Awards were presented at the 41st Annual Simon Rockower Awards banquet held in conjunction with the [American Jewish Press Association's 2022 Annual Conference](#), June 27, 2022, in Atlanta, GA.

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

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Witness to witnesses,” “For one single soldier,” “Cheap shot” by Tehilla Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Mel Pearlman, Celebration, FL**

“Mr. Biden’s folly,” “Irresponsible Americans endanger American freedom,” “Who are the Jewish people?” published by Heritage Florida Jewish News

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The raging of cancel culture is a threat to us all,” “Welcome to Europe, American Jews,” “49 years after Munich massacre, Israeli athletes will march proudly at Tokyo Olympics” by Thane Rosenbaum

[Click here to view submission](#)

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### Division B. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines.

#### **First Place**

**Hamodia, Brooklyn, NY**

“The banality of evil imagery,” “The making of the ICC monster,” “A vaccine to be reckoned with” by Sara Lehmann

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“A small religious revolution,” “Did Biden pass his first Israel test?,” “Picking their poison” by Shmuel Rosner

[Click here to view submission](#)

[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**

“Joe Biden, Anne Neuberger and dual loyalty,” “Is Éric Zemmour the new Bruno Kreisky?,” “‘Jews always run away’: Fighting stereotypes in sports” by Ben Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“The changing of the guard in US-Israel relations,” “Red carpet, red lines and red flags: Israel’s race to the climate-change agenda,” “Lapid and Bennett officially on the clock to end Netanyahu’s tenure” by Alex Traiman

[Click here to view submission](#)

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### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Esther Horgen’s killer can count on Abbas,” “Eating Knesset candy and drinking the Kool-Aid,” “A pregnant pause to consider vaccine denial” by Ruthie Blum

[Click here to view submission](#)

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## 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**

“Thank you, progressive Jews, for defending Israel in difficult spaces” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“There isn’t always two sides to every issue, as the Holocaust demonstrates” by Stacey Newman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### Division B. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines.

#### **First Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“After Texas, we must confront misogynist, anti-sex theology” by Rabbi Arthur Waskow

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: “The theology of sex” is not usually part of abortion discussions. This well-crafted piece drives the reader into understanding that important context and offers an equally important call to action.*

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“The politics of ‘Jewface’” by Rebecca Pierce

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written, personal narrative that takes readers through social justice, antisemitism, and racism via the lens of “comedy,” while at the same time turning the camera on ourselves.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Does Chappelle get a free pass on hate?” by Marshall Weiss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The strong local connection makes this piece especially relevant while it encourages readers to think a little bit harder about what they say and do — and what others say and do.*

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

### **First Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Ignore Jonathan Pollard’s terrible advice” by Jonathan Tobin

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Is interrupting inherently Jewish (and inherently rude)?” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Honoring the departed” by David Suissa

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A nice reminder of what yahrzeit stands for — the time it gives us to reflect.*

#### **Second Place**

**The Reporter, Vestal, NY**

“Being a chaplain, not a theologian” by Rabbi Rachel Esserman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Found belief of chaplain role, so right and so respectful. This piece really moved me.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“How Stephen Sondheim helped me find my gay Jewish sensibility” by Rabbi Irwin Keller

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A beautiful piece.*

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“This is not a #YomHaShoah Instagram post” by Helen Betya Rubinstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Helen's piece stood out, both for its emotional impact and its creative and courageous writing. She powerfully conveyed the idea that the Holocaust, in its scale and horror, defies description and comprehension.*

### **Second Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“A best friends’ guide to communal grieving” by Ilana Kramer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Ilana invited us to look deeply into her interior as she processed grief. It's beautifully written from the first sentence on and bravely personal.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“My cousin Fritz was married to a Nazi” by Maxine Schur

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating, albeit disturbing, story in which Maxine recognized the power of her material and did what good nonfiction writers do in such cases: get out of the way.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“‘I’ll have what he’s having’: Told he had little time left, my rabbi-dad wanted a last meal at Katz’s deli” by Avi Dresner

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A wonderful personal journey through saying goodbye to his father. Well done.*

### **Second Place**

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

“‘The Torah is not a parenting manual’ — a mother of twins reflects on the Jacob-Esau story” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well done overall. Enjoyable little asides that do not lead the reader astray. A cool attitude throughout.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Aish Global, Jerusalem, Israel**

“A stranger amongst you: My life with Asperger’s” by Nechemia Coopersmith and Daniel Saunders

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Written clearly and a good explanation of a condition that is difficult for people to understand. Very relatable.*

## Category 4: Award for Excellence in Editorial Writing

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

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

“Trump has lost the right to govern,” “Kamala Harris’ silence,” “Defund the police’ right...so murderers won’t be caught” by Hillel Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written and well-argued editorials, with relevance to a local and to a Jewish audience.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Ethnic studies: A meaningful victory in a complicated fight,” “Ben & Jerry’s should have thought harder before starting their new ‘cold’ war,” “S.F. school board must prioritize reopening schools, not renaming them” by J. Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Strong reasoning and writing, with relevance to a Jewish audience.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Ideas worth the fight,” “Tragedy and cruelty,” “Antisemitism unleashed” by Pat Johnson, Basya Laye and Cynthia Ramsay

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Strong reasoning and writing, relevant to Jewish audience.*

## **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**

“Investigation: San Francisco museums may hold Nazi-looted art” by Gabriel Greschler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Terrific story — the reporter was resourceful in finding this story on Twitter and then did a great job of reporting, researching and storytelling.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Hamodia, New York, NY**

“17 Jewish girls twice kicked off plane in Amsterdam, spend Shabbos in Antwerp” by Reuvain Borchardt

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent investigative reporting, done in a timely way on a pandemic-related news story.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“An inconvenient genocide” by Tom Gjelten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a great story — terrific reporting and research and compelling storytelling. This is true excellent — a highly researched and reported investigative/enterprise story coupled with great writing.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“How the ADL’s Israel advocacy undermines its civil rights work” by Alex Kane and Jacob Hutt

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A deeply reported and researched and well-told story on an important and historic organization.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“How many monuments honor fascists, Nazis and murderers of Jews? You’ll be shocked.” by Lev Golinkin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: This comprehensive and timely story about the unbelievable number of monuments honoring Nazis, murderers and fascists represents the finest in journalism.*

### **Second Place**

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

“For Orthodox Brooklyn’s private police, a code of silence hides domestic abuse,” “25 years later, man sues bar mitzvah tutor, synagogue and day school for abuse,” “Reform rabbinic giant disciplined for inappropriate relationships now accused of ‘sexually predatory behavior,’” “Steven M. Cohen, shunned by academy after harassment allegations, makes stealthy comeback — and provokes uproar,” “For the Conservative movement, an audit of ethics policies might be overdue,” “‘This was no coverup’: Inside the investigation of Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman” by Dan Glaun, Hannah Dreyfus and Molly Boigon

[Click here to view submission](#)

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*Comment: This is an important, sensitive and well-reported and research story about the code of silence involving domestic and sex abuse. Excellent work.*

## **Category 6: Award for Excellence in Deadline/Breaking News Reporting**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Boston rabbi recovering after brazen stabbing outside of Jewish day school” by Steven Rosenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Outstanding coverage with details of the attack and response from the community and authorities.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Tech companies block Leila Khaled event at SFSU for a second time” by Gabriel Greschler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Nice work getting comments from various perspectives on a controversial topic.*



### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Sanders pushes Gaza aid in exchange for ‘yes’ vote on Iron Dome funds” by Alex Kane

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Fine political reporting.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Reform rabbinic giant disciplined for inappropriate relationships now accused of ‘sexually predatory behavior’” by Hannah Dreyfus

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Deadline stories on the latest sex scandal to engulf a religious leader are, sadly, not unusual. This one is set apart by the thoroughness, with multiple sources — including an exclusive with one of the victims — and historical context.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“‘There is no Kohen’: A minyan in the shadow of disaster mourns its losses” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The reporting and writing here really brings home how the loss from the Seaside condo collapse resonated painfully through the community.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘G-d bless the Capitol Police’: Far-right protesters storm U.S. Capitol amid antisemitic claims over election,” “A guide to the extremists and hate groups that invaded the Capitol,” “A dark day for democracy in America,” “What the ‘Camp Auschwitz’ sweatshirt tells us about alt-right aesthetics” by Arno Rosenfeld, Molly Boigon, Jordan Kutzik and Jodi Rudoren and Irene Katz Connelly

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The outrage and confusion that arose in the wake of the January 6th events are captured well here.*

## Category 7: Award for Excellence in News Story

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### First Place

##### **Jewish Link of New Jersey — Expanded Edition, Teaneck, NJ**

“‘Avowed Nazi sympathizer’ and military contractor charged in Capitol riot” by Debra Rubin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Great scoop and does a good job going beyond the surface and looking at the military angle too.*

#### Second Place

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

“What constitutes recruiting?” by Kevin Keystone

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### Honorable Mention

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

“A Carmel school refused to allow an inflatable menorah at a ‘holiday tree’ lighting. A Jewish parent filed a lawsuit.” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### Division B. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines.

#### First Place

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

“The complex reality of Black-Jewish coalitions in Georgia” by Mari Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This article pulls back the cover from the rosy picture some paint of Jewish-Black relations in Atlanta following the elections of Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock. It effectively delves into the sensitive tensions that still exist below the surface.*

#### Second Place

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

“Amidst dancing and ‘pure happiness,’ alumni saw tragedy unfold on Israel’s Mount Meron” by Keira Beller

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An impressive piece of work, especially by a student journalist. Through the eyes of school alumni who were at the scene, it tells a compelling story of the worst civil disaster in Israeli history. Using quotes and observations, the author puts you at the scene of the deadly Lag B’Omer celebration at Mount Meron.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Childhood abuse, adult reckoning” by Rahel Musleah

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The detailed reporting offers an uncomfortable look at a more than 40-year-old case of molestation by a nationally known cantor, what it took to shine a light on his dark past and how Jewish organizations finally acknowledged his actions and took steps to make sure his legacy reflected the man he really was.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“First Jew of color to lead an American Jewish museum resigns, citing gender and racial discrimination” by Asaf Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A challenging story to write, this was well written and balanced with excellent sourcing and use of documents.*

### **Second Place**

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

“In the cream cheese fiasco of 2021, a new suspect emerges — is it the water?” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A surprising look at a supply chain issue. Terrific writing and interesting details made this a standout.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Why the U wouldn’t change its Rosh Hashanah start date” by Lev Gringauz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This could have been a throw-off quick daily, but instead the reporter presented a detailed, “how the sausage is made” look inside university decisions.*

## **Category 8: 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**

“We have the obligation to help’: Married doctors recognized for life-saving work in Mali” by Dan Pine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: It was a pleasure to read this serious, informative and joyful story about the extraordinary couple who won the Charles Bronfman prize for their work improving healthcare delivery in Mali. Dan Pine deftly conveyed Jessica and Ari's personalities and passion, and an understanding of how Jewish learning and values inform their compassionate and righteous work. Bravo to the author and his subjects.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“An inconvenient genocide” by Tom Gjelten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Superb and formidable article on the crisis afflicting the Uyghur people of China that does a comprehensive, intelligent and compelling job of illuminating the maltreatment of the ethnic minority while mirroring how the crimes against the Uyghurs are comparable to the isolation, imprisonment, abuse and demonizing of Jews in the early years under Nazis. This article demonstrates extraordinary research and reporting as well as an insightful thematic conceptualizing of the crisis that touches on its international and geopolitical paradoxes. Tom Gjelten is a veteran professional journalist with a great pedigree as a reporter and writer and he brings all his story-telling talent and authoritativeness to bear in revealing why the suppression of the Uyghurs is inhumane yet likely insoluble. One of many perfect quotes is when Rayhan Asat — whose brother is a political prisoner in China — says: “If the leading democracies are all beholden to the Chinese government, what am I going to do? I have no power. I’m nobody. I’m just one individual against a very powerful Chinese government.” This is the gist of Gjelten's insightful and analytical work. His story transcends because he makes a broader point — that a globalized world economy and an increasingly authoritarian contempt for minorities is harming the rights of all individuals, as epitomized by the Uyghurs.*

## **Second Place**

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

“Portraits of resistance in Masafer Yatta,” “They want to kick us out of this land,” “Shabbat terror in the West Bank” by Emily Glick, Mari Cohen and Maya Rosen

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In this excellent assemblage of stories, photos and personal testimonials, what comes across is what one of the writers says toward the end of the series: "Mob violence functions as a core component of the settlers' strategy, advancing their ultimate goal of territorial expansion and control." This is a well-reported, afflicting and important project that offers strong and disturbing evidence of the inhumane treatment of Palestinians in occupied lands. It is timed very well as it coincides with an Israeli Supreme Court case that will decide the fate of these settlers. Excellent and intimate. Great citizen journalism with a mature and professional tone from promising young reporters.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **Diane Joy Schmidt, Albuquerque, NM**

“A conversation with a front-line radiologist and Sephardic ancestry seeker: Dr. Yvette Bailey” published by New Mexico Jewish Link

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Very informative and succinct interview with some disturbing facts and revelations. Dr. Bailey was clearly at the forefront of the battle against COVID at many levels and her experiences and insights show her to be a true humanitarian. Well done.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“‘Hiding in plain sight’: How a family lived at Shir Tikvah for 3 years” by Lonny Goldsmith

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The winner combined an inventive use of story structure by alternating between family's thoughts and event chronology. Extensive use of quoted sources added depth to what is both a humanitarian tale and a social justice topic, immigration. The story is very timely, given the political climate in the U.S. and the family's home country of Honduras.*

### **Second Place**

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

“He was sentenced to life in prison. Rescue dogs — and a rabbi — helped him find redemption” by Alix Wall

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The second-place finisher rose above the other features by showing how one man's story became a path for redemption for others. This mini-movement to help others qualifies the article for recognition.*

## **Category 9: Award for Excellence in Feature Writing**

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

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Exponent, Philadelphia, PA**

“A new commandment: Killing spotted lanternflies?” by Sasha Rogelberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Who would have imagined that a Jewish newspaper would publish a piece about an insect? But this fascinating article offers a unique take on the spotted lanternfly plague as it looks at the Halacha of killing the pests.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Why some right-leaning Jews are leaving California for redder pastures” by Andrew Esensten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: That Republicans are fleeing blue states for red has been covered in the mainstream press. Focusing on migrating Jewish Republicans, this story offers a more intimate look and gives the lie to the notion that all Jews are liberal.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Baltimore Jewish Times, Owings Mills, MD**

“Festival of freedom” by Baltimore Jewish Times Editorial Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Jewish holiday stories often focus on recipes because they're easy to report and write. This story takes the genre further by offering recipes in the context of the communities from which they came.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“The ghosts of Khan of Ajjur” by Arie O'Sullivan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I found this article to be extremely interesting and well written. It grabbed me from the beginning like a good feature should.*

## **Second Place**

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

"Israel's golden age of TV" by Dina Kraft

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: As a fan of Shtisel and Unorthodox, I found this article to be very informative and well written. A lot of good information here.*

## **Honorable Mention**

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

"Finally, a Star of David for Jewish heroes" by Rafael Medoff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I never knew that so many of our Jewish vets had crosses instead of Jewish stars on their graves. This article was very informative and very well written. An honorable mention that could have easily been a winner.*

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

## **First Place**

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

"An oral history of the most epic Jewish summer camp prank ever" by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: The very best feature stories delight, surprise and make the reader think — sometimes to the reader's surprise. This is one of the very best feature stories.*

## **Second Place**

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

"At a Jewish chicken farm, Sukkot is a time for homemade pesto, random dancing, and making friends with strangers" by Irene Katz Connelly

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: The writer adroitly takes the reader with her on this adventure.*

## **Honorable Mention**

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

"How Jewish is Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah?' A Forward investigation in 9 verses" by PJ Grisar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: "Exhaustive" doesn't do justice to this absorbing, deep dive into a song we've all heard too many times — but now will listen to more closely.*

## **Category 10: Award for Excellence in News and Features — Reporting (movie, theater, television, books, music, etc.)**

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

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“The Rabbi of Buchenwald” by Hillel Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Very powerful in scope and style.*

#### **Second Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Rockville, MD**

“Should a non-Jewish actor play a Jew?” by Ben Kahn

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Lays out a complex issue in multiple ways.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“We consecrate and we plunder” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Shows the depth of memory and its strange turns.*

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

#### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Visual moment — A biblical family torn asunder” by Frances Brent

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An insightful article that places George Segal's tableau of Abraham saying goodbye to Ishmael in the context of family dynamics.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Israel's golden age of TV” by Dina Kraft

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Many TV watchers know that American shows adapted from Israeli programs are seemingly everywhere. This roundup explains how and why in an interesting and readable story.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Entering the world of demons in Jewish folklore” by Larry Brook



[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Outside of the "Dybbuk" and the "Golem," Jewish demonology is not a fixture of the horror film genre. It was fascinating to learn how filmmaker/actor Dave Davis created the first horror film rooted in Jewish themes.*

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

### **First Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

"Jews were the creative forces behind 'West Side Story' decades ago and today. Should they be?"

by Jordyn Haime

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Hearing from a Puerto Rican Jew made this story extra compelling. The story set out to answer the questions it posed.*

### **Second Place**

**Judy Bolton-Fasman, Newton, MA**

"The art of making Torah visual" published by JewishBoston.com

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Good combination of visual details and the artist's inspiration.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JTA, New York, NY**

"This historian is preserving North African Jewish music from a bygone era" by Asaf Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Interesting profile and spotlight on an unsung chapter of musical history.*

## **Category 11: Award for Excellence in Arts — Review/Criticism (movie, theater, television, books, music, etc.)**

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

#### **First Place**

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

"African refugees in Israel, now actors, relive trauma in 'Asylum City'" by Esther D. Kustanowitz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I love Esther Kustanowitz's writing. She has a wonderful way of weaving commentary around the action and coming up with great insights. Glad to find her writing.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Children’s book combines the wisdom of the Talmud with the ancient poetry of Rumi” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great review of a book about the Talmud, the writer Rumi and a little Iranian Jewish girl. I don't have a child but you made me want to read to the next kid I see!*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘Squirrel Hill’ shows violence against Jews can happen anywhere” by Jonathan Kirsch

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Compelling writing about a book that covered a shocking massacre.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“That joke isn’t funny anymore” by Nathan Goldman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Lost and unfounded” by Judith Butler

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“America’s homegrown Jewish terrorist” by Robert Siegel

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

#### **Simi Horwitz, New York, NY**

“A Jewish prisoner. An SS Officer. A forbidden relationship. An absolutely stunning documentary” published by The Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“‘Licorice Pizza’ captures the moment when pop culture finally started to see Jewish women as beautiful” by Stephen Silver

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**Simi Horwitz, New York, NY**

“In the Oscar shorts category, stories of fraught relationships in Israel” published by The Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 12: 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**

“Mayim Bialik: Keeping her cool in Hollywood” by Kylie Ora Lobell

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Fascinating, timely subject. The writer does a fine job in getting out of the way and letting her tell a complex tale.*

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“‘Music should be a bridge’” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Everything about this guy's life is unexpected and the writer does excellent work making it flow. Well crafted.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“‘The unseen body’” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: This subject is fascinating, his travels and his introspection unpeel like an onion.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“David Duke abroad” by Liam Hoare

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: From its "mystery opening" to its exhaustive research, well-chosen anecdotes and first-person account of Duke's Austrian lair and surroundings we get to know Duke even without having the author interview him. All of it well organized and well-written.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Rabbi Berel Wein’s extraordinary contributions to Jewish life and learning” by David Olivestone

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Great opening, vivid description of a very extraordinary rabbi.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“For Jake Tapper, being the rabbi of TV news comes easy” by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: We think we know who our media celebrities are. This profile shows us what we didn't know about Jake Tapper and why his Jewish values are important. A compelling report.*

### **Second Place**

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

“What ultimate Frisbee can teach us about Jon Ossoff” by Talya Zax

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Who knew Jon Ossoff could kill a layout? Or why grace matters in Ultimate Frisbee or a U.S. senator. An engaging and eminently readable profile.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The Israeli scientist is searching for aliens – and he takes his job very seriously” by Benyamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A jaunty excursion into alien worlds. A pleasurable meander off the beaten path.*

## Category 13: Award for Excellence in Special Sections or Supplements

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“The pandemic issue — COVID’s collateral damage: Women” by Libby Barnea, Debra Nussbaum Cohen, Uriel Heilman, Sarah Yahr Tucker, Aayisha Ruby Gold, Carol Saline and Robert Goldblum  
[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Much has been written about the pandemic, and it might seem that an entire publication devoted to the topic would be overkill. However, Hadassah magazine’s multi-dimensional approach to the pandemic encompasses everything from warm personal perspectives on how individual lives have been impacted, to the science of the vaccine, to a women-centric focus targeted to the organization’s constituency. Excellent writing and diverse and comprehensive coverage.*

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“What is your favorite Jewish joke — and why?” by Moment Magazine Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Moment is known for presenting diverse (and often controversial) viewpoints from a wide range of individuals and experts in their respective fields. What I loved about this special section was that it was so entertaining to read, but also filled with valuable perspectives on where our Jewish jokes came from — and what makes it okay for us, as a People, to resort to “dark” humor. This entry is part fun, part history lesson and part residual trauma — all of which contribute heavily to the Jewish experience.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“The Almas 5781,” “The best Jewish television of 5781,” “The best Jewish movies of 5781,” “The best Jewish pop culture moment of 5781,” “The best Jewish athletes of 5781,” “The best Jewish books of 5781” by Alma Staff

[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](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This remarkable website encompasses so much about Jewish pop culture icons. It is attractive and fun, easy to navigate and well written. And, with its countless hot links, it invites readers to delve further into areas of special interest to them.*

## Category 14: Award for Excellence in Writing About Health Care

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### First Place

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

“Carrying your best friend’s baby: A modern Mother’s Day story” by Ellen Futterman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Warm, feel-good human-interest story about friendship without limits. Well-written and well-paced.*

#### Second Place

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

“A lost year: Teen mental health during the pandemic” by Gabriel Greschler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Author handles an important topic with skill and sensitivity, looking at teen struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic from multiple angles.*

#### Honorable Mention

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“Pittsburgh Jewish leaders are handed frontline role in mental health” by David Rullo and Chris Hedlin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Article shines a light on the difference between mental health counseling and pastoral counseling in a thoughtful, accessible way.*

### Divisions B and C. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines; Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.

#### First Place

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Vaccination under occupation” by Mairav Zonszein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is an important look at the multifaceted vaccine issue.*

#### Second Place

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“A rallying cry for menstrual justice” by Sarah Yahr Tucker

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This addresses an important issue facing women and is educational for male readers.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The girl in the photograph: The face of the polio vaccine trials battles another epidemic” by Sarah Breger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating look at history and contemporary vaccine issues. I wanted to keep reading.*

## **Category 15: Award for Journalistic Excellence in Covering Zionism, Aliyah and Israel**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Jewish electricity” by Hillel Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A short yet forceful piece, that makes its points clearly and powerfully. In a drumroll of terse, simple statements, it builds its case like a trial lawyer pounding home his argument. All in all, an impressive display of persuasive writing.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“When Israel’s prime minister lived in Teaneck” by Larry Yudelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A routine story made interesting by lively writing and thorough reporting.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A university with the potential to change all of Israel — Ben-Gurion U” by Larry Hankin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very detailed piece that lays out with extraordinary clarity an aspect of Israel's history that no longer gets the attention it should.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“The ghosts of the Khan of Ajjur” by Arie O’Sullivan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A touching and interesting story.*

## **Second Place**

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

“High court in the hot seat” by Eetta Prince-Gibson

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Honorable Mention**

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

“Israel under fire: Views of a war” by Keira Beller, Caroline Kboudi and Tali Liebenthal

[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**

“They lost pregnancies or infants. Now, Israeli parents want access to burials that have long been secret” by Michele Chabin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The loss of a child is heartbreaking for any parent and this story delves into a lesser-known aspect of this tragedy in Israel. Reporter Michele Chabin delves into this from all perspectives: how burial societies in Israel have been unregulated; how it works in the diaspora; and how rabbinical teachings have influenced practices. One can just imagine the difficult interviews with parents for this story. Top reporting and writing here that brings to light a topic that many would prefer to leave in the shadows.*

## **Second Place**

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

“Inside the debate over Judaism and Zionism that quietly roiled the University of Iowa” by Ben Sales

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: So much of what is happening on college campuses today and reported in the Jewish (and mainstream) media is about the BDS movement, so reporting on yet another campus conflict may not be likely to pique readers’ interests — despite the grave importance of the topic. However, Ben Sales reports here on a very different conflict occurring at the University of Iowa on the issue of giving Jewish students special representation on campus and within student government. This is a complex story, but Sales writes about it in an organized and clear way. The fact that this story at the university is more about conflict among the Jewish students on campus, rather than coming from non-Jewish students, provides a fascinating look into questions that extend beyond academia.*



## **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘Not a nation that forgets’: Israeli paratroopers jump to honor World War II heroine Hannah Senesh”  
by Yaakov Lappin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Most of us recall learning of the heroic Hannah Senesh as children in Hebrew School, so a story connecting her to a modern-day remembrance automatically resonates with warm remembrances. But this story by Yaakov Lappin puts us right there in the action as Israeli paratroopers honor Senesh in a commemoration in Slovenia. Highlighting the emotional journey of Col. Oran Bersano, whose own grandmother is a Holocaust survivor, makes this a powerful story.*

## **Category 16: Award for Excellence in Writing About Women**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“From Vietnamese refugee to Denverite” by Chris Leppak

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This riveting interview with a Vietnamese Jewish woman is the sort of story that opens our eyes to the diversity of the American Jewish community, the individual challenges we face, and the humanity that unites us. Chris Leppak's questions are sharp and engaging, and Nhi Aronheim's account of her escape from Vietnam and her journey to Judaism is unforgettable. The Q&A format doesn't always work well as a story-telling device; in this case, it's perfect.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“A rallying cry for menstrual justice” by Sarah Yahr Tucker

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An enlightening piece, an important cause here and around the world.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Judy Chicago’s revolutionary art” by Diane Bolz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Judy's work has been a prominent, major force in the art world and women's lives...similar to, say, Georgia O'Keefe. Well written and interesting to learn about her.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Breaking the taboo” by Anonymous

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I can just imagine how many middle-aged (and more) women can relate to at least the desire, if not following through with the action of taking a FWB. I'm glad it was aired in this magazine.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“My abortion story — because it’s true and we should not be afraid to talk about it” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Jodi deserves more than the first-place award in this category. She deserves a special honor for courage. Obviously, she has lived privately with her decisions for many years. But her resolve to detail her choices publicly is a type of bravery that 99.99% of us do not possess. I am sure Jodi agonized over every sentence. And hitting publish — knowing the judgment that would inevitably come her way — must have taken the courage of all our matriarchs combined. This is service journalism unlike anything else. Thank you, Jodi.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Eulogized for championing women, Reform leader now accused of abusing them” by Arno Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Arno tackled an incredibly fraught topic — and did so with top-notch reporting and writing. He did not leave out any angle. This could have been a simple story detailing a report about a deceased leader with a complicated past but Arno turned this into an investigative story and handled it with deft.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“12 new letters: Revamped aleph bet aims to recognize women and non-binary people” by Eetta Prince-Gibson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Eetta did an excellent job exploring all the sides and opinions regarding a gender-neutral Hebrew alphabet. She also dug deeper when it was required and transformed this story into a broader look at Jewish culture and Israeli society.*

## Category 17: Award for Excellence in Writing About Jewish Heritage and Jewish Peoplehood in Europe

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

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

“From Germany to America: A family’s legacy, preserved in porcelain” by Alix Wall

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A set of family dishes is an item that many families hold as sacred — a connection to their family’s past in something that was used for everything from joyous Shabbos dinners to fancy holiday dinners. Alix Wall’s story of the how the Lichtenstein family lost and then found their pre-Holocaust family dishes in Germany resonates because it is what we all hope to have: a deep and real connection with our family’s history and roots. While we have read many stories of lost (and recovered) Torah scrolls of pre-war communities, the twist here on the family china makes this unique. Writing about the family’s reconnection with their dishes being widely covered by German media is great example of the changing ways of modern Germany.*

### Division B. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines.

#### **First Place**

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

“The right to a history without lies” by Linda Kinstler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It’s been four years since the Poland government passed the controversial Holocaust bill that makes it a crime to implicate Poles or the Polish nation in anything related to the Nazis and the Shoah. Linda Kinstler’s excellent story on the guilty verdict of two prominent Holocaust historians helps readers understand the specific ways that this law is affecting how history will be written about the Jews in Poland when the Nazis exterminated millions. Kinstler’s excellent reporting puts this verdict into a larger perspective of how the ruling Law and Justice party in Poland put the law into place and how other historians are facing similar fears regarding their own historical writings. This is a strong, well-written, and very clear story that has implications far beyond the Polish courtroom. Our understanding of what truly happened in the Shoah in Poland is at stake.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“The eternal flame: The life, travels & martyrdom of Rav Elchonon Wasserman” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I was not familiar with the story of Rav Elchonon Wasserman, but after reading Dovi Safier’s terrific story, I feel as if I know him well. The head of a prominent yeshiva in Baranovich, Poland, Rav Wasserman traveled across the US in 1938 to raise money for his yeshiva. Along the way, he left an indelible mark on all whom he met. Safier’s story is much more than a magazine*

*story; it is practically a small book in both its length and its scope. There is an acknowledgement at the end of more than a dozen researchers and scholars who assisted in this story — and it really shows. Quite an accomplishment.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“We are on our own’: French Jews on why they are protesting over Sarah Halimi, in their own words,” “At the Sarah Halimi rally in Paris, I saw signs that French Jewry is nearing a breaking point,” “What’s going on with French Jews right now? What to know about the Sarah Halimi case and why it matters.,” “Infuriated by the Sarah Halimi ruling, French Jews decry the state’s handling of antisemitism,” “In protest rallies, tens of thousands of Jews in France and beyond demand ‘justice for Sarah Halimi’” by Cnaan Liphshiz

[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 series of articles about the Sarah Halimi ruling in France is simply remarkable. Cnaan Liphshiz does double-duty here. He reports on the shocking not-guilty verdict of the Muslim attacker on Halimi, the French doctor and kindergarten teacher who was brutally murdered, but then over the course of these five stories paints a deeper picture of the anguish of French Jewry. By taking us into a community that Liphshiz knows well, we have a much clearer sense of why this Muslim attack is different, and how French Jews find the judicial system lacking. It’s a delicate balance in this kind of writing, but Liphshiz manages to walk the line between opinion and news — giving readers both in the right ratio. It’s a story that invokes anger in this American reader to see that the country of the Dreyfus Affair is again unsupportive of its Jewish citizens. Great writing and reporting here by Liphshiz.*

### **Second Place**

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

“At long last, Babi Yar victims to receive the respect they deserve,” “Babi Yar art installations aim to connect visitors with a forgotten past,” “Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center publishes 159 names of Nazi soldiers who murdered Jews one by one” by Israel Kasnett

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The tragic story of the Holocaust killings at Babi Yar have again been in the news in recent weeks as Russian attacks occurred at this memorial in the Ukraine War. Whether the construction of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center — the focus of this powerful series of stories by Israel Kasnett and meant to be completed by 2025 — survived is unclear. But damage in the area has been massive. This makes reading these stories now even more poignant for what this*

*area was meant to become before being destroyed. But this award is not simply because of the war, but Kasnett's stories on the victims, the art installations, and the Nazi soldiers are a detailed and emotional look at the ways that these horrific killings can be memorialized. Powerful writing and reporting.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Is Serbia using a Holocaust film as nationalist propaganda?" by PJ Grisar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It's doubtful many people are interested in all of the foreign film submissions for the Academy Awards, so knowing that a Serbian film about the Holocaust is essentially Serbian nationalist propaganda is important. I can see this film appearing "harmlessly" on a variety of streaming services and attracting the attention of Jews and non-Jews alike with its story of a 10-year-old Serb girl who witnesses horrific acts of murder at a concentration camp. Kudos to PJ Grisar for reporting on how reviews on the IMDB website are an attempt to "goose" the film's rating. Using the Holocaust as a means of propaganda is shameful. Grisar does a good job here of explaining the Serbian government's motives and how art/politics collide.*

## **Category 18: Award for Excellence in North American Jewish History**

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

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

"What's in a name?" by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a refreshingly different take on Jewish history. Changing Jewish names is something people always talk about, and this explains the history of it.*

#### **Second Place**

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

"This S.F. Jew stood up to anti-Asian hate in 1885 — and got booed" by Gabriel Greschler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This story is deeply reported and well written, but it also makes an important and timely connection: Sigismund Danielewicz's support for Chinese immigrants in 1885 is relevant to anti-Asian sentiment — and those who stand up against it — today.*

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

### **First Place**

**Dovi Safier, New York, NY**

“When Zaidy was no longer young: The story of the home of the daughters of Jacob” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A warm, wonderful piece that tells the story of an era through the tales of some very colorful "characters" — many of whom were simply "ordinary" people, and yet defined an important aspect of the American Jewish experience.*

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Searching for Solomon Cohen” by Jason K. Friedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautifully written. A factual, sensitive piece that shares some lesser-known insights into Confederate-era Jewry and gives the reader much food for thought.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Hamodia Magazine, Brooklyn, NY**

“The last stanza: The arrival of Mirrer yeshivah in America 75 years ago — Part 1, Part 2” by Binyomin Zev Karman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written and visceral in its depiction of, not just a piece of history, but the profound impact on rabbis and their students as they struggled to bring Torah-true Judaism to an America becoming increasingly devoid of spirituality.*

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

### **First Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“The Confederate governor who loved Jews: A monument to Zebulon Vance is coming down in Asheville, NC” by Andrea Cooper

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“We’re here, we’re queer, we’re Yiddish: LGBTQ stories, and silences, in the Forward archives” by Chana Pollack

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The original ‘West Side Story’ was Jewish — would it have been a better musical?” by Eliya Smith

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 19: Award for Excellence in Photography**

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

### **First Place**

**Chabad.org, New York, NY**

“Shmurah matzah, made in Texas” by Ben Torres

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautiful available lighting. Nice photojournalism with storytelling photos. Excellent image quality.*

### **Second Place**

**Chabad.org, New York, NY**

“A small New Jersey town comes to grip with Ida’s devastating wake” by Mina Richler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent story and very good photography and effort.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Reflecting at the New Orleans Holocaust Memorial” by Larry Brook

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Love the captured moment and composition.*

## **Category 20: Award for Outstanding Digital Outreach**

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

### **First Place**

**JewishBoston.com, Boston, MA**

“JewishBoston.com: The Vibe of the Tribe” by Kali Foxman, Ashley Jacobs and Miriam Anzovin

[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: JewishBoston offers a remarkable range of ideas, people and programs with consistent*

quality across the multiple platforms. A smorgasbord can be a bunch of dull dishes or it can be an exciting array of engaging activities. JewishBoston is the latter.

### **Second Place**

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

“Forwarding the news” by Benyamin Cohen

[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: It is easy to want to follow the news as it is presented in this lively and idiosyncratic format. At a time when many news sites are bland because they take themselves too seriously, Forwarding the News invites engagement with a narrator who has a personality.*

## **Category 21: Award for Excellence in Interfaith Relations Reporting**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Outpouring of Jewish support follows S.F. mosque vandalism” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Mine, mine, all mine” by Marshall Breger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoughtful look at the complicated, interfaith politics of the Temple Mount.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Circle of friends unites Jews and Muslims for the holidays and beyond” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A nice story of people of different faiths coming together in the U.S.*



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

### **First Place**

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

“How one powerful song helped to heal ‘Crown Heights’” by Jeremy Kagan

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“This is not my ‘holiday season.’ Please leave me out of it.” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Ella Emhoff isn’t Jewish (and she doesn’t want to talk about it)” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 22: Award for Excellence in Writing About Food and Wine**

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

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Sweetness...far, far deeper” by Tehilla Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Exponent, Philadelphia, PA**

“Formidable fruits: Squeezing the most out of etrogim” by Sasha Rogelberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“The future? Meatless meat? Chickenless eggs? Cowless milk?” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“In search of kreplach: more than just Jewish ravioli” by Kenneth D. Ackerman and Alice Chezar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This wonderfully written piece has it all: Jewish history and tradition, a broader sense of the place of comfort foods in all cuisines, and a personal adventure: the arduous task of fine tuning the recipe and mastering the techniques of making kreplach. All told with humor and tremendous warmth.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Jewish Link of New Jersey — Wine Guide, Teaneck, NJ**

“The heat is on: California wines in 2020” by Gamliel Kronemer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece adeptly weaves together the impact of current events with the way science and art intersect in producing wine. It is timely and educational — and uplifting in its depiction of the resilience of winemakers in the midst of a year of natural disasters.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The horseradish chronicles” by Nadine Epstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Warmth, humor and family tradition interspersed with interesting centuries-old and modern history. An informative and fun piece to read.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“‘Jew cookies’ are a Dutch dessert staple. They’re getting a new name — and Dutch Jews are confused.” by Cnaan Liphshiz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Delicious twist on weighty subject of antisemitism.*

### **Second Place**

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

“The single most important statistic from the Pew Survey is about...food” by Rob Eshman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This was a fresh perspective on Pew survey and shows insight by the writer; I respect a reporter who bucks trends and doesn't chase the same story as everyone else.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Carol Ungar, Kiryat Yearim, Israel**

“The slow road to sanity” published by Tabletmag.com

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautifully written, captures a time and a place with poignant connections to a Holocaust survivor.*

## **Category 23: Award for Excellence in Writing About Sports**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“‘Battling Beauty’ of pro billiards gets nod from NorCal Jewish Sports Hall of Fame” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderful story in a sport that does not usually take center stage, enhanced by the subject's experiences as a teacher in a Jewish school, and having experienced what it is like for a Jewish athlete in less than friendly territory.*

#### **Second Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“#JewishEthics” by Chaim Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent analysis about how achievement at the highest level of pro sports — NBA MVP — is a reflection of Jewish values.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘Fun fact’ about Steph Curry’s Hebrew tattoo makes a splash on Twitter” by Andrew Esensten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Fun fact indeed!*

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

#### **First Place**

**Dovi Safier and Yehuda Geberer, New York, NY**

“Rav Meilech and the Miracle Mets” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The true genesis of the 1969 Miracle Mets! Great story!*

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

### **First Place**

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

“It’s a bad time to be great’: An oral history of Yeshiva University’s historic 36-game win streak” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent article about Yeshiva University basketball's win streak, what it means for a Jewish team to do so well and how it has been impacted by COVID, told in an appealing oral history style.*

### **Second Place**

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

“At 73, legendary NHL announcer Sam Rosen is still calling the plays” by Howard Blas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Legendary voice of the New York Rangers, Sam Rosen, has always balanced his work with his faith. This excellent profile goes back to his family's roots through his continuing work and family ties.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Is this really Y.U.?’ At Yeshiva U., students get used to their basketball team winning again and again” by Ben Sales

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Not all Yeshiva University students are on the basketball bandwagon, particularly women, who are unhappy with how the school handled serious allegations of abuse against the team. Well-balanced article stands in counterpoint to the story about the team's win streak.*

## **Category 24: Award for Excellence in Writing About Seniors**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“There’s something about Mary” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Writing in the first person, the author draws on her own life story to add color and contrast to bring her subject to life. By the end of this engaging profile, it felt like I had known Mary for years!*

#### **Second Place**

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

“What does retirement look like for St. Louis rabbis?” by Eric Berger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Article offers tips on meaningful post-pulpit life for retiring rabbis, drawing from real-life experiences.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“Single seniors, COVID-19 and the challenge of community engagement” by Adam Reinherz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Through positive profiles of community seniors, writer sensitively addresses the problem of loneliness exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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

### **First Place**

**Dovi Safier and Yehuda Geberer, New York, NY**

“Eyes that saw angels” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Part history, part memoir, this beautiful article helps preserve a Jewish golden age before the Second World War. Through loving treatment and outstanding graphics, personalities from multiple generations come to life.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“‘I’ll have what he’s having’: Told he had little time left, my rabbi-dad wanted a last meal at Katz’s deli” by Avi Dresner

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 25: Award for Excellence in Headline Writing**

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

### **First Place**

**Hamodia, Brooklyn, NY**

“Afgone, the never ending war: Withdrawal to end all in Afghanistan,” “At the speed of lie,” “Just around the corona: When will it end?” by Mordechai Schiller

[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: Some good, original headlines here. Challenging cover lines are well handled in terms of wording and display. "AfGone," for example. The best entries.*

### **Second Place**

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

"A tallit to dye for," "Raise your glass," "Riding chai" by Matt Samuels

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Some well-done headlines here. Writer succeeds in making puns work ("To Dye For"; "Riding Chai.")*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"He drew Leonard Cohen's life, death and underwear," "What does the Talmud say about Larry David spilling coffee on a Klansman's robe?" "William Shatner may be going to space (please alert space)" by PJ Grisar

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Some good headlines here — especially the William Shatner one.*

## **Category 26: Award for Excellence in Business Reporting — Trends**

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Coping with COVID: East Side Kosher Deli finds ways to sustain its service" by Chris Leppke

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Chris wrote a fantastic story about how a single Jewish business has done its best to stay afloat during the pandemic while trying to keep staff and customers safe. By examining one business in depth, Chris gave readers a better understanding of the intense decision-making that so many business owners have faced.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

"The economic toll of a pandemic" by Rachel Schwartzberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Multi-sourcing makes this entry stand out, and it is not just throwing lots of voices at the story. The sources are in positions to know and comment on the pandemic's profound yet widely varying toll. Well done.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“At Google, Jewish employees battling for influence clash over Israel” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Louis faced a labyrinth of issues with this extremely complicated, divisive topic, especially when interviewing employees whose careers may be on the line for speaking up. I am deeply impressed with his efforts to be thorough and fair.*

### **Second Place**

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

“The kosher cartel: Was this Cleveland butchery a front for money-laundering and illicit vape trade?”  
by Sheehan Hannan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This shocking article required tremendous amounts of reporting, digging and analyzing as the story unfolded. Sheehan did a remarkable job. I especially appreciate his decision to speak with customers, who could have easily been overlooked amid the mountains of criminal allegations and legal issues.*

## **Category 27: Award for Excellence in News Obituaries**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Iraqi survivor Ruth Pearl, 85, fostered harmony and understanding in memory of son Daniel Pearl”  
by Julie Gruenbaum Fax

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“Malachi Owens Jr., cantorial soloist at Temple Emanuel for more than 40 years, dies at 71” by Eric Berger

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“Remembering Helene Fortunoff” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“A bit more than ‘showbiz’” by Larry Brook

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This thoroughly researched article showcased an amazing person who made an enormous difference, fulfilling one of the judging criteria. The details of his legal accomplishments were meticulously described, it really took you through what he did for law, and it was readable and very interesting. Kudos!*

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

### **First Place**

#### **Chabad.org, New York, NY**

“Rabbi Gershon Mendel Garelik, 88, charismatic emissary who revived Italian Jewry” by Dovid Margolin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A beautiful, lyrical piece that truly captures the personality and vast achievements of a Jewish "superstar" and tells the story of the community he forever changed.*

### **Second Place**

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

“For over 40 years, this man bought millions of dollars of New York’s leavened bread products before Passover” by Ben Sales

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating piece that highlights the contributions of a uniquely devoted non-Jew to important Jewish laws and customs. Ben expertly manages a fine balance between details about the deceased and background and clarification (without becoming heavy handed) about the mitzvah he helped so many observe.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Remembering Rabbi Robert Marx, who marched with King, called on Jews to side with the oppressed” by Barbara Brotman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-researched and very well-written piece that weaves together a history of change in our nation and a man who was unafraid — and unapologetic — about advancing that change despite controversy and pushback from others.*



## Category 28: Award for Excellence in Writing About Politics/Government

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

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

“School district monitors may override elected board members’ vote” by Marc Gronich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A multifaceted look at a complex issue of educational equity, the reporter did a good job sourcing an important accountability story involving a Jewish-majority school board and minority students. The reader was given plenty of information to make an informed judgment.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Facing recall, Newsom wins support from Jewish caucus” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written survey of Jewish lawmaker opinion about the high-profile California governor's recall, highlighting anti-Jewish ties among opponents, but also including dissenting voices.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Schoen reflects on his Trump impeachment role” by Dave Schechter

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Humanistic profile of one of Donald Trump's lawyers, focusing on his Jewish practices that were visible to a nation.*

### Division B. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines.

#### **First Place**

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

“What’s the deal with Iran?” by Ellen Wexler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent series of interviews examining the important, controversial and timely Iran agreement, looking ahead towards next steps.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Debate for local Assembly seat finds differences on BDS, homelessness and other issues” by Talia Davoudian

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-told story exploring the candidates' views on important issues in a local Assembly race — an underreported story in these times. I was encouraged to see the reporter is a 9th-grader writing for a high school publication — the future of journalism is indeed in good shape!*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Report from Las Vegas: Some Jewish Republicans have Trump fatigue, but they just can’t quit him”  
by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Insightful and well-sourced analysis of Republican presidential hopefuls' appeals to conservative Jews. The forward — and backward — looking analysis provided a deep, skeptical but respectful first look for voters and readers.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Leading NYC mayoral candidates oppose BDS, would visit Israel,” “How ranked-choice voting might affect the historic influence of NYC’s Orthodox voting bloc,” “Andrew Yang on yeshiva education: ‘We shouldn’t interfere,’” “Why all American Jews should care about New York’s mayoral election,” “National Bagels & Lox Day: What the NYC mayoral candidates put on their favorite bagel,” “For Orthodox voters choosing the next mayor, it’s Adams or Yang — or both” by Jacob Kornbluh, Talya Zax and Ruth Messinger

[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](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Comprehensive coverage that pushed New York City mayoral candidates toward disclosing potentially risky stances on Israel and local Jewish education. Balanced sourcing and plenty of insight.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Netanyahu changed the way Americans view Israel — but not always in the way he wanted” by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Sweeping analysis that tracked the long, complicated relationship between the outgoing Israeli prime minister and U.S. Jewish voters. The depth painted a compelling historical picture, a great time capsule for future historians.*

## **Category 29: ORT Award for Excellence in Education Reporting**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“St. Louis Jewish community split on school choice tax credit program” by Eric Berger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Kudos to Eric Berger for a thoughtful, well-balanced examination of a controversial subject. His article presents multiple viewpoints without allowing inflammatory rhetoric to interfere with the narrative. The reader understands why parties support and oppose funding without knowing how Berger feels. That's how good journalism works.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“YSU’s Judaic, Holocaust studies center’s future in question” by Jane Kaufman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Jane Kaufman makes the reader feel like they are part of the story even if they are not connected in any way with Youngstown State University. She does so by enlarging the controversy to Jewish culture and history. The reader comes away informed and engaged, eager to learn what comes next.*

### **Divisions B and C. Monthly Newspapers and Magazines; Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.**

#### **First Place**

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

“The Christian Zionist group shaping Holocaust education in Florida” by Corey Sherman

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“Hillel reinvents itself to face dual challenges of pandemic and antisemitism” by Sean Savage

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 30: Award for Excellence in Writing About Black-Jewish Relationships**

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

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Bonai Shalom’s Stacey Aviva Flint: Interstitial voice” by Andrea Jacobs

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Teaching about race” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“Uncentering whiteness in Jewish life” by Larry Yudelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“In the shadow of the lynching memorial” by Nadine Epstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“The complex reality of Black-Jewish coalitions in Georgia” by Mari Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“From Minneapolis to Jerusalem: On Black-Palestinian solidarity” by Hannah Black

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**18Doors, Natick, MA**

“Kindness is paramount in our interfaith, interracial relationship,” “Kimberly + David: A Jewish,

Christian and Nigerian wedding on the ocean” by Kimberly Sara Kabonga, Lindsey Silken and Sophie Mortman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very charming love stories about gracious mixed couples. These intimate stories from 18Doors are taken altogether in awarding 18Doors first place. They offer revealing and uplifting details about couples who are embracing their mixed relationships with joy, optimism and gratitude. Good photo spreads as well. The idea of focusing on personal and marital relations is very appealing.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Amanda Gorman’s former mentor knows what drives her” by Rob Eshman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very fine article about Dinah Berland, the Jewish poet who first mentored Amanda Gorman, America's first National Youth Poet Laureate. Many great quotes and compelling details presented with clear, unobtrusive writing and excellent pacing by the writer, Rob Eshman. The story reveals a very interesting and unique Black-Jewish relationship and stands out from the rest.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A remarkable photo exhibit captures ‘a joyful moment’ of Black-Jewish unity in Miami Beach” by Jordan Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written and visually arresting article about a photography show on Miami Beach that featured captivating pictures and snapshots of Black-Jewish life there in the 1970s and 1980s. The topic is quite touching, and the writer does a very good job of presenting the backstory through the reminiscences of attendees at the show. The story tells of a sweet, all-too-brief time that highlights Jewish postwar embrace of Black Americans but does not play down the reality of racism and inequality that existed then and exists today.*

## **Category 31: Award for Excellence in Writing About Climate Change/Environmentalism**

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

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Groundswell Series” by Noach Phillips and Rachel Benaim-Abudarham

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Jewish winemakers press forward on a warming planet” by Maya Mirsky

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**Sharon Rosen Leib, Solana Beach, CA**

“Climate change tops agenda in Hazon-Pearlstone merger” published by the Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 32: Award for Excellence in Writing About Antisemitism**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“The time Iran sheltered Jews during the Holocaust” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent. Shines a light of a little-known (in America) yet fascinating moment in Jewish history.*

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“Teaneck’s sword-wielding Nazi fighter” by Larry Yudelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: What a surprisingly interesting piece, loaded with telling details, and which capture a fascinating woman.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Stanford therapists allege ‘hostile climate’ for Jews in the workplace” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Really interesting, nice full coverage, including all the nuances, of this disturbing and complex case.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“David Duke abroad” by Liam Hoare

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Terrific profile of Duke. Well researched, well written. Exhaustive work!*

### **Second Place**

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

“More education, more antisemitism” by Larry Brook

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written, compelling piece.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“How not to fight antisemitism” by Jewish Currents Editors

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written, also compelling piece.*

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

### **First Place**

#### **JTA**

“Young Zionist Jews say they’re fighting antisemitism on social media. What are they accomplishing?” by Ben Sales

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Social media may be the most important front in the war against antisemitism. This is a great presentation of challenges, perspectives, and opportunities the tool affords us.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Antisemitism rises among Hispanic Miami’s right wing” by Jordan Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: While a localized piece on antisemitism in Florida’s Hispanic community, its themes are universal and should be unsettling for all of us — and hopefully spark wider discussion and action.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“How to lie with statistics, antisemitism edition,” “Our hate crime reporting system is broken” by Laura E. Adkins

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It is not just a truism that you can't manage what you can't measure. These two pieces collectively remind us of the importance of measuring antisemitism, so we are better prepared to fight it.*

## **Category 33: Award for Excellence in Writing About Jewish Thought and Life**

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

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“She said, ‘I’ll stick with my shrimp” by Hillel Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Link of New Jersey — Expanded Edition, Teaneck, NJ**

“Grieving, mourning and comforting, for ourselves and for others” by Elizabeth Kratz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“What magic is ours?” by Emily Barth

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Something is happening” by Beth Kissileff

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**JTA, New York, NY**

“A year of loss: Orthodox Jewry reels as rabbis die during COVID-19 pandemic” by Shira Hanau

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This sad and moving story about the death of numerous Orthodox rabbis during the COVID pandemic captures the unique and important role these scholars played in perpetuating Jewish learning and linking the Jewish present to the lost world of pre-war European Jewry. After*



*two years of headlines about COVID-related casualties, Shira Hanau's story stood out for its sensitive exploration of the broader cultural significance of profoundly individual deaths.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Jews worldwide join Israel’s farm families for challenges and blessings of ‘shmita’ year” by Deborah Fineblum

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It is hard enough to be a farmer in Israel, but to practice the mitzvah of "shmita," or resting the land every seventh year, would seem to be ruinous. In this refreshingly original and well researched story, Deborah Fineblum explains why that's not the case — and sheds a welcome light on both a lesser-known and environmentally responsible religious practice and the institutions that have grown up to support it.*

## **Category 34: Wild Card Category: Award for Excellence in Writing About Jewish Summer Camps**

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

### **First Place**

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

“Returning to Webster,” “Camp & the COVID question,” “Restrictions bring program challenges, but creativity too,” “Staffing camp in a bubble,” “Four programs, nine cabins had positive COVID tests at Herzl” by Lonny Goldsmith

[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: There was so much competition in this category, but Lonny's series was the clear winner. Lonny did a stellar job of laying out all the preparations required to open Herzl Camp in Wisconsin last summer. All his stories were mesmerizing. His follow-up story written in late July was crushing, and I appreciate that he didn't try to sugar-coat the circumstances that led to the camp closing early.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Second summer of COVID challenges camp directors” by Eric Berger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Eric's excellent story laid out the difficult decisions that rested on the shoulders of camp leaders.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A summer of change” by Steve Lipman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Steve wrote a touching commentary on the power of camp. It really brought the message home.*

## **Category 35: Award for General Excellence — Best Graphic Artist**

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

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Standard, Teaneck, NJ**

“Jewish Standard” by Jerry Szubin

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The design of an expansive publication requires a wide range of skills, from the ability to utilize space effectively for news stories, to the creativity needed to develop distinctive designs where space allows. The Jewish Standard achieves a clean, consistent look to its pages filled with news, while creating an inviting and compelling look for its features. The imagery and bold use of design elements and color makes the full-page ads shine.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Baltimore Jewish Times, Owings Mills, 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: The diverse use of design elements, color and type in these samples demonstrates great talent and skill — from the bold shapes and hues of a cover for Purim, to the more restrained balance of images and complementary fonts in other designs.*

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

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

**Linda Matchan, New York, NY**

“A Boston Jewish leader earns high praise amid lawsuits and allegations of a ‘toxic culture,’” “Facing illness or death? Call Ron Hoffman, ‘the hippie ALS guy,’” “From Twisted Sister to the pulpit, a deaf rabbi finds his place in ‘a society not set up for you’” published by the Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Matchan's piece on Rabbi Marc Baker, the newish head of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, was the best hard-news investigation among the entries. She also showed a nice touch on more uplifting profiles involving an ALS advocate and a deaf rabbi. Impressive range and humanity.*

### **Second Place**

**Andrew Silverstein, New York, NY**

“How 770 Eastern Parkway became the world’s most-recognizable Jewish building,” “In the cream cheese fiasco of 2021, a new suspect emerges — is it the water?,” “Is the legend of Murray’s Cheese only a myth?” published by the Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Silverstein has a deft touch with cultural news, from a fascinating dive into a famous cheese store's myth-making to the very real environmental constraints behind a cream cheese shortage. Extremely readable and interesting.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Stav Ziv, New York, NY**

“After a house is destroyed in a fire, a Jewish artist finds a way to preserve its spirit,” “How one dance lover is preserving the Jewish history of ballet — one blog entry at a time,” “How these intimate family photos helped to bridge a Trump-era divide” published by the Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The story on a photographer's estrangement but professional engagement with her Trumper parents was one of the competition's best reads, while fascinating byways into the healing power of drawing and ballet were original and captivating.*

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

All entries competed in the same division.

### First Place

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Jewish Currents” by Seamus Holman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A clean layout that looks the same on multiple browsers, including Safari, invites the reader to read and read more. The designers offer nothing fancy with colors, no gimmicks to attract attention, just easy-to-read headlines and labels.*

### Second Place

**Atlanta Jewish Times, Atlanta, GA**

“Atlanta Jewish Times” by Kaylene Ladinsky and Diana Cole

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Large photos well-supported with a headline and summary invite the reader to click-through. The content mix is strong — news, arts, opinion — as one would expect in a market this size. In keeping with editorial mission, the site localizes international news.*

### Honorable Mention

**JTA, New York, NY**

“JTA” by JTA Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

## Category 38: Award for General Excellence — Best Magazine

All entries competed in the same division.

### First Place

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

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

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great content, great presentation. Edgy but digestible for the reader.*

### Second Place

**Jewish Currents, Brooklyn, NY**

“Jewish Currents” by Jewish Currents

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great graphic cartoons throughout and wonderful mini-magazine within the magazine.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Moment Magazine” by Nadine Epstein and Sarah Breger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Some very thought-provoking articles. The layout was crisp and the cover was great.*

## **Category 39: Award for General Excellence — Best Newspaper**

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

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

“Atlanta Jewish Times” by Kaylene Ladinsky and Michael Morris

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*Comment: The Atlanta Jewish Times is colorful, informative, provocative and fun. The community gets its content in a clean, uncluttered, easy-to-read format showcasing a variety of compelling writing and themed editions — like the World Series — that surprise and entertain readers.*

### **Second Place**

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

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

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*Comment: The cover stories of this publication comprise a solid foundation for the contents of each issue. Deep reporting informs these stories, whether it's examining if San Francisco museums own Nazi-looted art or looking at Jews of color working in local agencies. Beyond its news coverage, J. The Jewish News of Northern California offers readers robust Culture and "J. Life" sections for an effective balance of coverage.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The Jewish Journal of Greater LA” by David Suissa and Jonathan Fong

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*Comment: From the outset, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles engages readers with its cover stories: “Why Jews Laugh,” “How Will Synagogues Reinvent Themselves?,” “How Do We Bring Light to This Hanukkah?” The staff goes on to give readers a wide variety of content, from*

*Israeli and domestic news to community features, arts coverage and book reviews. Well-composed photos keep the reader engaged and tell stories in themselves.*