

# 2025 Awards (For Work Done in 2024)

Awards were presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Simon Rockower Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the [American Jewish Press Association's 2025 Annual Conference](#), on June 23, 2025, in Pittsburgh, PA.

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

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

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

"The morning after: What did campus Gaza protests accomplish?," "Why political activism in local schools keeps crashing into Gaza," "Escalating protests for Gaza complicate 'threat nexus' for American Jews" by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

"The screams in the thicket," "The arrival of the zombie apocalypse," "Israel lives" by Kathleen Hayes

[Click here to view submission](#)

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#### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Hersh and a story of love," "Yes, it's our homeland," "Are we going to stop for lunch?" by Chaim Steinmetz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“The tyranny of unity,” “Is antisemitism eternal?,” “Yes, context matters” by Marshall Breger

[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**

“Heroes in flip-flops,” “Tel Aviv tales of terror and toenails,” “Poetic justice for the Satan of Oct. 7” by Ruthie Blum

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

#### **Crescent City Jewish News, New Orleans, LA**

“Living in interesting times,” “The war that keeps on waging,” “From Meta’s rules to our lips” by Alan Samson

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, ON**

“‘Challah for Ceasefire’?: Watching women’s media walk the political tightrope,” “How 2020 explains 2024: Phoebe Maltz Bovy on antisemitism as settler-guilt-deflection as Palestine becomes part of politics everywhere,” “Fiddler on the Nakba: Phoebe Maltz Bovy examines the strange new wave of Jewish anti-nationalism” by Phoebe Maltz Bovy

[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**

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

“Why Israel turned to archaeologists in its search for the Oct. 7 missing” by Chanan Tigay

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This account of the work of Israeli archaeologists charged with finding the remains of people who disappeared on Oct. 7 would be almost unbearable to read if not for the elegance of Chanan Tigay’s writing and his essay’s superlative narrative structure. When I finished it, I wanted to weep for the victims and the holy professionals who sifted their remains — and thank the author for treating both with such empathy and grace.*

### **Second Place**

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

“From a Jewish nightmare to an American dream” by David Suissa

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In this elegiac pre-Pesach essay, David Suissa traces “the mystic bond between Jews and America,” and finds in it a source of hope and resilience that he exhorts readers to bring to their own seder tables, even in the darkest of times. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Rabbi Meir Soloveichk, and Rabbi Jonathan Sacks all make an appearance in this imaginative, uplifting, and spot-on commentary.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The most exquisite flower of all” by Tehilla Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Tehilla Goldberg’s magnificent tribute to a late friend resonates with love and meaning. Her recollection of seemingly ordinary things — handwriting, honey cake, flowers, and driver’s ed — evokes the essence of an elegant, extraordinary woman, and a relationship that has left an indelible mark on her life. What a beautiful way to be remembered, in the words of an immensely gifted writer!*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Let there be light” by Abigail Pogrebin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: To paraphrase Abigail, she uses the Torah as a lens to view our current-day tragedies and predicaments. In so doing, we hope to cope a little better.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Jewish anti-Zionists, check your privilege” by Gershom Gorenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Searching for our Ben-Gurion and Jabotinsky” by Nadine Epstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Drawing hope from history.*

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

#### **First Place**

##### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“Covering Israel’s war-torn north is an exercise in dodging danger” by Uriel Heilman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wow — first-hand reporting of such a dangerous situation, but one faced by so many Israelis. Great job.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“I’m a Jew of color. Ta-Nehisi Coates can’t apply US lessons to Israel.” by Yirmiyahu Danzig

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This was an interesting take on Coates’ very controversial book. Nuanced, tough and compassionate at the same time.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“What would Matt Baldacci do? The collaborator mentality returns” by Ben Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoughtful look at the current situation facing world Jewry today — collaborator mentality is alive and well.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Praying for our dear son, Noam” by Rabbi Moshe Taragin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A deeply personal essay with reflections that can resonate for all.*

### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

"The genie is out of the bottle" by Merrill Silver

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

"Welcome home" by Abby Horowitz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Graphic novels abound and so do short, often humorous "strips." A graphic personal essay is less usual and lets author/illustrator Abby Horowitz tell her story with complementary words and pictures. Well done!*

### **Second Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

"Wabi-Sabi" by Lisa Simone Kingstone

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: "Modern" people don't like talking about death, often leaving it with a bland "I'm sorry for your loss." This piece conveys the deep relationship forged by a dying woman, Miriam, and writer Lisa Simone Kingstone, the hospice volunteer who visits her. Scenes of joy and sadness convey the ups and downs of end-of-life doings. And Kingstone avoids the inevitable sad ending by ending the story before Miriam dies.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Canadian Jewish News — Magazine, Toronto, ON**

"A first draft of history" by Lila Sarick

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Most readers see only journalism's end product, never thinking about what went into creating it. Canadian Jewish News editor Lila Sarick shows readers how she covered the October 7th horrors, while also processing her own emotions. Most interesting is how she covers the day and days following as both an international and local story.*

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

### **First Place**

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

"Why I named my newborn son after Hersh Goldberg-Polin" by Danielle Berrin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An extremely well-written piece that explores what it can mean to be a Jewish mother in these frightening times. In beautiful, deeply emotional prose, the writer tells of finding her inspiration in another mother's courage in the wake of the most horrific nightmare a parent can imagine.*

### **Second Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

"The blessing and burden of bearing first witness to Jewish history" by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: One of the most compelling leads I've ever read, and the excellence goes on from there. This reflection by a long-time newsman is masterful in its portrayal of the struggle confronted by every serious journalist who knows he holds the power to determine how a story is told, or whether it is told at all. Beautifully written and poignant in its honesty.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Celebrating simultaneous truths" by Stephen Bartell

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I wish I shared this writer's optimism regarding a resolution to tensions between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian protesters on campus. The fact that I do not, and yet found myself engaged and willing to reconsider what I thought was true, attests to his skill. A piece this well-written, well-reasoned and ultimately persuasive deserves recognition.*

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

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

### **First Place**

**Jewish Independent, Vancouver, BC**

"Anti-racism work at risk," "Legislating a fine line," "Upheaval, good and bad" by Basya Laye, Pat Johnson and Cynthia Ramsay

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Three thoughtful, thorough, balanced and persuasive editorials that examine current-day antisemitism and offer sage insights and wise calls to action.*

### **Second Place**

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

"Don't give up on the UN," "End the war: surrender," "False binaries harmful" by Basya Laye, Pat Johnson and Cynthia Ramsay

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"From bad to worse on campus," "'Civilian' terrorists," "Answering the pager call" by Washington Jewish Week Editorial Board

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Strong, tightly worded polemics that are fact-based and well-argued.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

"In the land of war and hope" by Steven Rosenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

"Seeking answers from King David Healthcare" by Courtney Byrnes

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

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

"No room for dissent in the newsroom?" by Tom Gjelten

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

"Israeli military vows to stop flow of donations to soldiers, even from their parents," "New regulations hinder donations of gear to Israeli soldiers, charities say," "Israeli battlefield commanders explain why they are breaking IDF rules to solicit donated gear," "Israel's military is acknowledging that soldiers' helmets and body armor may be unsafe," "'We are in dire need': Israeli soldiers rely on donated gear as IDF denies shortages exists" by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

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[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Many post-10/7 stories revealed that IDF soldiers were under-equipped. This deeply reported, well-written series looks at why and how and embarrassed leadership didn't/did deal with it. A superb example of taking a simple story and following up with a deep dive.*

### **Second Place**

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

"How a Jewish neighborhood in liberal Los Angeles became a stronghold for Trump" by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The Pico-Robertson neighborhood of Los Angeles has been a center of Jewish life for decades and a great example of liberal Westside Jewish life. But Pico-Robertson has changed, and this story paints a picture of why and how.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Shtetl, Teaneck, NJ**

"Fake chaplains, faithless scam" by Naftuli Moster, Sophia Lebowitz and Gersh Kuntzman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A publication doesn't have to have deep pockets to do quality investigative journalism. One way to do that is by going hyper-local but reporting as deeply as a publication much bigger to expose a parking scam in densely populated Orthodox neighborhood in Brooklyn.*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

"Jewish soldier laid to rest 80 years after his death" by Zoe Bell

[Click here to view submission](#)



*Comment: A compelling story, with great context, clarity and compassion throughout the piece.*

### **Second Place**

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

“St. Louis family fights to reclaim art stolen by the Nazis decades ago” by Dale Singer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating read, buttressed with strong research in a well-written piece.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘I’m screaming for help’: Jewish students face violence at UC Berkeley Israel talk” by Emma Goss, Maya Mirsky and Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Comprehensive reporting, with great detail and sharp writing about a scary incident.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Hate on parade in Springfield” by Marshall Weiss

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Letter from Berkeley, what do campus encampment protesters really want?” by Noach Phillips

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“Rachel Goldberg-Polin at son Hersh’s funeral: ‘Finally, you’re free’” by Philissa Cramer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A mother’s agony, palpable. Well reported.*

### **Second Place**

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

“For some Orthodox Jews, joy and a little schadenfreude as their candidate reclaims the White House” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In-depth dive into an often underreported bloc.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Two wheels and one mission: Jewish lawyer's bike trips empower kids to lead" by Deborah Weisberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautifully written piece on a Pittsburgh lawyer who 19 years ago turned his passion for cycling into a fantastic life-changing path for hundreds of low-income, inner city kids.*

#### **Second Place**

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

"A mission to heal wounded soldiers" by Marcus J Freed

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A California massage therapist committed to helping Israel after Oct. 7th volunteered his therapeutic massage services to healing wounded IDF soldiers and writes this intimate account on fulfilling his obligation.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Playground of yesteryear: Life is good at the cabin" by Shana Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Just as the Catskills were a respite for Jewish 20th century urban dwellers, black entrepreneurs created their own safe haven of getaway cabins, taverns, lodges and a summer camp in Lincoln Hills, an hour outside of Denver. This is a fabulous history of the little known black enclave, which attracted the likes of Langston Hughes and Duke Ellington, and its importance in black history.*

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

#### **First Place**

##### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

"2 incarcerated men wanted to convert to Judaism. This rabbi helped them do it." by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: How do you build a mikvah in a prison? How do you do a symbolic brit milah on two prisoners who want to convert? And how do you know whether the prisoners' motives are pure? Rabbi Miriam Terlinchamp had to answer those questions as she supervised the unconventional*

*conversion of two inmates at a Washington State prison. She found answers and this lovely piece takes readers on the journey to Ari Kingsman and Joshua Phillips's conversion.*

### **Second Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

"At Rikers Island, Jewish volunteers find a 'powerful connection' with inmates by leading prayer services" by Julia Gergely

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Rikers Island to most is a near myth, either a horror house filled with horrible people or filled with unjustly confined there. Here we see Rikers as a place where Jews from "outside" and "inside" come together to build community.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Paradise lost: Israel-Hamas war tears at social fabric of tiny Bolinas" by Emma Goss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Strong, emotionally compelling story, clearly crafted with care. It really succeeds in portraying the intense emotional experience of Jewish residents after Oct. 7, particularly through personal stories.*

#### **Second Place**

**The Detroit Jewish News Foundation, Farmington Hills, MI**

"A second home, a second family" by Danny Schwartz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Emotional yet uplifting story about how ShinShinim working in Detroit were impacted by Oct. 7 – and the warm, loving response of the Detroit Jewish community.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Last call for venerable Jewish chimney sweep" by Linda Matchan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This story has such a warm, intimate feeling, with Liverman coming across as a genuine person. It's a classic human-interest feature, with the writer sharing Liverman's journey, including his initial shame and later pride.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Blazing new trails” by Leora Eren Frucht

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is an uncommonly empathetic story that reminds readers of the diversity and difficulty in this part of the world — in all the world. We readers root for these women.*

### **Second Place**

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

“A laughing matter” by Carol Ungar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It's just a fine, refreshing feature that, with just the right touch, does what humans have to do — smile and laugh.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Stories to connect generations — and one another” by Talia Doninger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It can be difficult for small outlets to compete with big ones, but good stories are everywhere. This publication and writer win by recognizing and telling this local event that says something about all of human history and how we're all connected. Great stuff.*

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

### **First Place**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“From securing a tortoise to 40 hours of choir rehearsal: How New York's Temple Emanu-El prepares for the High Holidays” by Julia Gergely

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: With rich detail and strong voices, this piece offers an inside, highly detailed portrait of the months-long planning and execution behind one of the most important religious moments of the year for a major Reform synagogue.*

### **Second Place**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“Meet the mah jongg mavens of Bryant Park” by Lisa Keys

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a charming story with a vivid sense of place, strong characters and I especially like the inclusion of people from different backgrounds, which shows mah jongg's wide cultural reach.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Crescent City Jewish News, New Orleans, LA**

“Curacao or bust: An Israeli destination bat mitzvah goes Caribbean” by Alan Smason

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written story that ties the Israel-Hamas war to a little known slice of Jewish diaspora history. I especially like the deep sense of place and historical context.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“‘Nobody Wants This’ creator Erin Foster talks hit Netflix show” by Ryan Torok

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article covered a Hollywood story from a Jewish perspective — that’s Jewish journalism at its best.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **Jonathan Harounoff, New York, NY**

“Play about terror of October 7 opens in New York amid massive security” published by The Jewish Chronicle

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Gripping story and good coverage of what was happening outside of the theater before and after the show.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Blurring boundaries” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I felt like the writing mirrored the subject’s peripatetic thoughts and behaviors.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“A charming children’s book emerges from the devastation of October 7” by Frances Brent

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Observing the ordinary: Joanna Brichetto’s journey from naturalist to author” by Barabara Dab

[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**

“Why the hot rabbi is having a moment (again)” by PJ Grisar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fun, creative idea for a story that blends ancient and modern worlds. A delightful and engaging read from start to finish.*

### **Second Place**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“‘The Day the Clown Cried,’ funnyman Jerry Lewis’ infamously terrible Holocaust movie, is having a new moment. But you still can’t watch it” by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating excavation of a piece of film history — and the wild drama that shaped it.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“How a utopian Eurovision became a microcosm of a world divided over Israel and Gaza” by Talya Zax

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-reported, vividly written dispatch from Eurovision that highlights the Mideast upheaval’s ongoing impact on the arts.*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“Why a new Jewish documentary podcast, ‘The Nightingale of Iran,’ absolutely soars” by Tabby Refael

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellently written. Makes me want to know more about a culture of the Jewish people that isn’t known as much as it should be.*

### **Second Place**

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

"Simply friendless" by Thane Rosenbaum

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Important subject matter and very well portrayed.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Hebron, 1929: What's past is prologue" by Kathleen Hayes

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Important subject matter.*

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

### **First Place**

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

"An ancient book illuminates our troubled times" by Amy Schwartz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An eye-opening and gracefully written review. The author makes a compelling case for the Book of Kohelet's enduring relevance and resonance.*

### **Second Place**

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

"Remembrance of 'Things' past" by Robert Goldblum

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A beautifully written, vividly descriptive piece that makes the artist's visual explorations both accessible and captivating.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Noah Feldman explains us to ourselves" by Robert Siegel

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A highly articulate review that skillfully weaves together the book's many threads while offering a thorough introduction to its author.*

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

### **First Place**

#### **In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies, Greenfield, MA**

"A Yiddish and the Jewish voice in The Zone of Interest" by Justine Orlovsky-Schnitzler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautifully written and leaves many things open to question.*

### **Second Place**

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

"Why 'The Brutalist' resonated so deeply with me" by Daniel Libeskind

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: From one of the great artists and architects of our time.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Is every war movie about Israel and Gaza now?" by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is an important critique.*

## **Category 11: Award for Excellence in Personality Profiles**

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

"Muppets in Moscow!" by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This excellent piece highlights so many attributes of its subject: her passion and determination, sense of adventure, tremendous insight and faith in humanity. From its clever lead to its ending that inspires hope, it is well-written and tremendously compelling. What makes a personality profile stand out, in my mind, is its ability to make readers want to meet the featured individual, and I, for one, would like to say, "Hello, Natasha!"*

#### **Second Place**

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

"Xaviaer DuRousseau: The black Christian Zionist, former BLM activist fighting for Israel and the Jews" by Aaron Bandler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This comprehensive, well-written piece takes the reader along on Xaviaer DuRousseau's journey, as he draws on his experiences, reasons with discernment and turns around his own thinking and attitudes. We really come to know him through the depiction of his bold statements and actions. Well done.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

"The Amen Effect" by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)



*Comment: The struggles of Rabbi Sharon Brous to find her place in the Jewish world likely bring to mind challenges we've all encountered along the way. Her journey is poignant and meaningful, and well told through the skillful and empathetic writing in this piece.*

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

### **First Place**

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

"The courage of Eric K. Ward" by Jennifer Bardi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This true deep dive delivers, helping readers of many backgrounds get to know an interesting and newsworthy person "in a way that allows other people to see themselves in it."*

### **Second Place**

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

"A beloved bookstore in the before and after" by Carlin Romano

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This puts the "personality" in "personality profile." Readers can truly enjoy being with this person and these people in this special shop, which shows rather than tells what's at stake in this part of the world at this time.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"The eruv maven: Meet rabbi Micah Shotkin" by Steve Lipman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is just a classic profile of an interesting person, told with just the right touch — lots of anecdotes and some humor.*

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

### **First Place**

#### **Shtetl, Teaneck, NJ**

"Shlomo Franklin: Farm boy, Haredi Jew, country singer" by Naftuli Moster

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

"He was the heir apparent to Franz Kafka and Ralph Ellison and pioneered the idea of 'wokeness' — how did he just disappear?" by Allan Jalon

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

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

“Zach Zucker wants to be a modern-day court jester” by PJ Grisar

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

**First Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“How Oct. 7 changed everything” by Andrew Silow-Carroll, JTA Staff, Jacob Gurvis and Shira Li Bartov

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Second Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Disability and Judaism today” by Ashley P. Taylor, Ramona Saft, Julia Watts Belser, Mariah Guevin and Arielle Silver-Willner

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Link — Wine Guide, Teaneck, NJ**

“The Jewish Link Fourth Annual Wine Guide” by Elizabeth Kratz, Michal Rosenberg and Moshe Kinderlehrer

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

**First Place**

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

“Resilience workbooks for many times, many places, many children” by Toby Klein Greenwald

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

"A different trauma: Aurora shooting survivor and wife contribute" by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"It's just nuts" by Joseph Kaplan

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

"My family's bootleg contraception operation" by Nina Siegal

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderfully researched piece on author's family's bootleg contraception operation and ties to Margaret Sanger and the early birth control activists. The author's great grandparents ran a contraceptive manufacturing company and supplied Sanger's clinic and others with contraceptive products and devices throughout the 1950s.*

### **Second Place**

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

"One beautiful egg: The first gestational surrogacy" by Sandye Rudnitzky

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderful piece about the first baby ever to be born using the egg and sperm from biological parents in a surrogate's womb written by the biological mother. Her daughter was born in 1986, a time when surrogacy was still illegal in many places. So the new mom embarked on another milestone: she petitioned a Michigan court for a change in the legal definition of motherhood and won a court ruling that the woman providing the genetic material, not the woman giving birth, is the mother. Surrogacy laws differ by state. Fascinating read.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"A language of appetite & the Jewish woman who first heard it" by Bonnie Friedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautiful personal essay on a writer's search to overcome writer's block after her reading Hilde Bruch, the first to study and name anorexia. The author discovered the psychological similarity between writer's block, anorexia and eating disorders stemmed from the relationship with the parents, in her case, her mother. She was perhaps too close and it may have stunted her individuation and took a toll on her autonomy. Very helpful to anyone struggling with these issues.*

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

### **First Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

"In Jerusalem, a unique hotel offers respite for women who have experienced stillbirth" by Deborah Danan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This superbly researched article about a novel respite center in Jerusalem for women and couples who have experienced stillbirth showcases Israeli intelligence, ingenuity, and heart. Writer Deborah Danan brings empathy and insight to a problem that is often swept under the rug, and her portraits of the bereaved parents and program coordinators resonate equally with deserved admiration.*

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

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

### **First Place**

**Shlomo Brody, New York, NY**

"'Halitza' for wartime widows" published by The Jerusalem Post

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

"Rumors, Whatsapp and military censorship," "Israeli media covers anniversary of a half-year at war," "What Israelis are reading" by Nathan Guttman

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It takes great skill to present a cohesive roundup of so much information from so many sources, especially in such well-written pieces. This fact-filled series stands out for its readability and capacity to present details in a format that makes the information accessible and relatable.*

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

"Six days without Waze" by Nadine Epstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very well-written and balanced summary of views across the political spectrum in Israel, with an eye toward a vision for the future. Well done!*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Survivors share their stories” by Lisa Hostein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This well-written entry achieves an excellent balance between citing horrific details without being excessively graphic and detailing the larger context of worldwide antisemitism and the action being taken to counter it. Very readable and informative.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“American Jews asked to pick sides in wrenching debate over how to rebuild kibbutz hit hardest on Oct. 7” by Arno Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In-depth and gut-wrenching reporting made this a clear-cut choice for First Place. Shines a light on an important and complicated issue in the Post-Oct.-7 era.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Welcoming our college kids home to a more open conversation about Zionism” by Aaron Brusso

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Nuanced, intelligent perspective on life for Jewish college students in the Post-Oct.-7 era.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Doubt, empathy, and hope: Leadership for the Israel of tomorrow” by Ronit Heyd

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoughtful analysis of what makes for effective national leadership.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Loss, grief, and resilience” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“No laughing matter: Cartoons about miscarriage” by Ellie Wolf

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“OU women ‘build the biggest Tanach classroom in history’” by Elizabeth Kratz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“Ignored until it was too late” by Maayan Hoffman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“The holiest work: A conversation with Miriam Neumark Shalev of the IDF Chevra Kadisha women’s unit” by Leah Lightman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Blazing new trails” by Leora Eren Frucht

[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**

“While visions of sugar plum fairies dance in their heads, she makes sure all their steps are kosher” by Stav Ziv

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Stav Ziv produces an excellent profile of a woman who, for most of her life, has balanced two identities that are a “tremendous part” of who she is: performing ballet and being Jewish. The article traces her life and has her explain in her own words how she rose to join the New York City Ballet while always practicing her faith. The reader is left wanting to meet this remarkable person.*

### **Second Place**

**Shtetl, Teaneck, NJ**

“‘For women and girls only’: New book explores Haredi women artists and performers” by Lauren Hakimi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Lauren Hakimi’s review of “For Women and Girls Only: Reshaping Jewish Orthodoxy Through the Arts in the Digital Age,” moves beyond a review. It gives the reader a larger view of how women have changed their views of themselves and the religious world they live in.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Shtetl, Teaneck, NJ**

“Chabad women push leaders for a vote in Sunday’s crown heights JCC election” by Lauren Hakimi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Hakimi explores a similar theme with a news article about women in the Chabad-Lubavitch community and voting for the board of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council. They can’t vote but they want to be heard.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“After the pogrom” by Kathleen Hayes

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**Dovi Safier, New York, NY**

“Crowning glory: The lost empire of Radomsk” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“Gross Breesen: A temporary haven from Hitler” by Heidi Landecker

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"The little boat that could: Resistance and rescue in Denmark" by Diane Bolz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

"What American Jews need to know about Germany's growing far-right antisemitism" by Jake Wasserman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

"In the dwindling Jewish community of Moldova, one man fights to keep the old traditions alive" by Stella Mackler

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"A mezuzah imprint, a chance encounter, and a JCRC Holocaust education trip in Warsaw," "Facing Nazi atrocities, teachers trace path from Warsaw to Treblinka," "In Berlin, teachers grapple with inner workings of Nazi machine," "Teachers find inspiration in Prague with son of Kindertransport hero," "Face-to-face with the Holocaust by bullets in the Polish countryside," "Here's why the Tankenoffs, Vikings, and Allianz fund Holocaust education In MN" by Lev Gringauz

[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](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

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

"A tribute to the Jewish American songwriting duo who helped the medicine go down" by Tabby Refael



[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Lively and loving article about two quirky Jewish brothers who wrote the music and lyrics for Disney movies for 5 decades — and fought constantly.*

### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“The Mount Freedom Jewish Center enters its second century” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Feel-good story about aging New Jersey synagogue and community. Personal details make the reader feel like a member.*

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

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Jewish World War II soldier finally rests in peace” by Dan Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A remarkable story of faith and persistence, well told!*

### **Second Place**

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

“American Jewish orphanages housed the most fortunate unfortunates” by Marlene Trestman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The special role of Jewish orphanages in American life.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“They were a kosher bakery success story — 80 years later, people are still trying to make a buck off their babka” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderful article about Jewish baked goods, then and now. Well-researched, written with style and heart.*

### **Second Place**

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

“American Jews & our universities: Back to basics” by Josh Feigelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A history of American higher education, with a Jewish prescription for restoring community and excellence to the nation’s campuses.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“When Elie Wiesel was enchanted by Disneyland” by Zach Golden (translation of Elie Wiesel)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A magical look-back at the Magic Kingdom!*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“Sherith Israel’s historic pipes will offer majestic welcome to organist convention” by Aaron Levy-Wolins

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Eclipsing expectations: Shlenker School students have all eyes on the sky” by Judy Bluestein Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Ex-commando turned Chassid bridges secular-religious divide” by Etgar Lefkovits and Rina Castelnovo

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 19: Award for Excellence in Interfaith Relations Reporting**

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

### **First Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“Meet the first campus rabbi in the 183-year history of Fordham, one of NYC’s largest Catholic universities” by Luke Tress

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Citing Jewish values, humanitarian concerns and long-term thinking, Jewish-led initiatives increasingly aiding Palestinian civilians” published by eJewishPhilanthropy

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“As improved relations quaver, a new guide aims to educate Catholics about antisemitism” by Ben Sales

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 20: Award for Excellence in Writing about Food and Wine**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Owners of Loquat and Bi-Rite find recipe for talking freely about Israel and Gaza” by Alix Wall

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Kol haKavod to the business owners profiled in this story. If only peace could be brought about through dinner table diplomacy.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Remembering Esther Schimmel, the hot dog queen of Cardinals baseball” by Bill Motchan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Sweet snapshot of St. Louis culinary history.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Living the dream: Deal, NJ’s chef Uri Elbaum set to compete on ‘Hell’s Kitchen’” by Nati Burnside

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I appreciated learning about the Jewish background of a celebrity chef.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“The versatile, vengeful, volatile onion” by Diane Bolz

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“The stew of seven tastes” by Vered Guttman

[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**

“The war comes to the Park Slope Food Coop — could it also provide the blueprint for peace?” by

Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Food is politics, and Mira Fox brings that to light in a whole new way with her story. It was a terrific read, full of well-researched details, and captured readers well outside the Brooklyn bubble.*

### **Second Place**

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

“A methuselah of Chardonnay? A solomon of Champagne? How big wine bottles got so biblical” by

Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: What a great story, answering questions that never occurred to me and incorporating the writer’s voice and humor.*

## **Category 21: Award for Excellence in Writing about Sports**

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

### **First Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“Washington Commanders managing partner Josh Harris on Jewish identity, Israel and making sports a ‘shared community experience’” by Aaron Troodler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent article. Very well written and informative.*

### **Second Place**

**The Reporter, Vestal, NY**

“The winningest Jewish pitcher of all-time: Kenny Holtzman” by Bill Simons

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent article. Easy to read. Well researched.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **The Reporter, Vestal, NY**

"My dinner with Abel: Jewish Olympian remembered" by Bill Simons

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written and very informative.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Bitter blade: The triumph and tragedy of Attila Petschauer" published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Superb article. Extremely well written and researched.*

#### **Second Place**

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

"The enduring Jewish legacy at the Paralympics" by Molly Kurtzer-Ellenbogen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very well written and researched.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Canadian-Israeli cyclist gets good mileage" by Jennifer Lovy

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very well written article.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Did the spirit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe swing the World Series for the Dodgers?" by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent. Well written. Not your usual sports story.*

#### **Second Place**

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

"The NFL rookie with the name Jews cannot say aloud. (Or can they?)" by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very well written.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

"They survived Oct. 7...now they're playing basketball in Los Angeles" by Izzy Salant

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very well written.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Exponent, Melrose Park, PA**

"Philadelphia centenarians get married. Are they the oldest couple ever?" by Jarrad Saffren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It would have been easy to write an "aren't they a cute couple" story. Instead, the reader gained insights into what love means.*

#### **Second Place**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

"A daughter's promise: 85 days of quarantining in a nursing home" by Justin Vellucci

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Rather than tell a trite mother-daughter love story, the article made the reader feel they knew what it was like to be there with them both for the entire time.*

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

#### **First Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

"Thirteen ways of looking at your dying mother" by Penny Jackson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is simply smart and sharp, and it pecks you even if you're not a Jewish woman whose mother is dying. I sent this to a Jewish woman whose mother is dying and ... held my breath.*

#### **Second Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

"A kibbutz in exile" by Uriel Heilman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This isn't overtly about seniors but in a good way, working them into a bigger and interesting context of being exiled to a hotel and showing the good and bad in that.*

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

### **First Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“‘Club 2600’ is Brooklyn’s hottest party — for Holocaust survivors” by Julia Gergely

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“This 100-year-old Jewish activist is speaking up again — this time about Gaza” by Jon Kalish

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“These women bare all for a good cause” by Carin M. Smilk

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 23: Award for Excellence in Business Reporting — Trends**

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

### **First Place**

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

“They were a kosher bakery success story — 80 years later, people are still trying to make a buck off their babka” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-researched piece that ties a story of a small Jewish business to trends in the Jewish and general business worlds, with careful attention to the people involved.*

## **Category 24: Award for Excellence in News Obituaries**

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

### **First Place**

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

“Ivan Wolkind, Shalhevet dad, champion of community safety and liaison with law enforcement, dies at 56” by Mira Schulman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent reporting on memorial service. Good background on deceased. Well written, comprehensive.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Tragedy shocks Houston Jewish world: Community mourns ‘beautiful spirit,’ Susan Farb Morris” by Matt Samuels

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Multiple sources, both personal and professional. Comprehensive background information — both professional and philanthropic.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“St. Louis icon Ken Holtzman, three-time MLB champion and two-time no-hit pitcher, dies at 78” by Jordan Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent reporting on baseball career. Good anecdotes.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Mark Podwal, doctor and artist whose witty drawings bear weight of Jewish history, dies at 79” by Menachem Wecker

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Joseph Lieberman, 82, U.S. senator, vice presidential nominee and proud Jew” by Eli Rubin and Dovid Margolin

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Rabbi Shmuel Butman, 81, raised the Jewish profile in New York and beyond” by Menachem Posner

[Click here to view submission](#)



## Category 25: Award for Excellence in Writing about Politics/Government

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

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

“Jewish orgs push S.F. Mayor London Breed to veto cease-fire resolution” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article lays out the controversy over whether the San Francisco mayor should veto a city council resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. The reporter does an excellent job of providing perspectives from multiple Jewish council members on their thoughts as elected officials and feelings as Jews. The story provides context by explaining how rarely a mayor exercises a veto.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Congestion pricing stalled for now – will Congress fill MTA’s budget gap?” by Marc Gronich

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The reporter did an excellent job of balancing the high number of quoted sources against providing so many viewpoints.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“At the City Council: Disruption and a failed proclamation,” “Pro-BDS bill goes down in flames — 10-1 — after denunciations and some defense” by Steve Mark

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Bravo to Steve Mark for making sense of a Denver City Council meeting that turned into mayhem when members considered a proclamation that called for a Gaza ceasefire. Quotes from council members and a vocal audience of Palestinian sympathizers advanced the narrative.*

### Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

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

“Cori Bush, AIPAC and the future of Black-Jewish relations” by Jacob Forman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“New law requires DOD procedures for religious freedom complaints” by Marshall Weiss

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“Joe Biden calls himself a Zionist and loves name-dropping Golda Meir. His exit marks an end of an era” by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Does what not enough political reporters do: Gives the reader the full picture.*

### **Second Place**

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

“For some Orthodox Jews, joy and a little schadenfreude as their candidate reclaims the White House” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: So many groups have moved from the fringe to the center. More stories like this one will educate center Jews on how much the world has changed.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Iranian-American voters remain divided on Harris and Trump, community leaders say” by Karmel Melamed

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Keep looking where others do not. There's gold there.*

## **Category 26: Award for Excellence in Education Reporting**

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

### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Med school — and survival” by Larry Hankin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Riveting narrative. Excellent interviews with students.*

## **Second Place**

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

“Amid teacher suspensions, antisemitism remains an issue at local public schools,” “MCPS Board of Education President testifies at Congressional hearing about antisemitism in K-12 schools,”

“Antisemitic incident at Jackson-Reed High School’s international cultural night part of larger issue,”

“Concerns about antisemitism in Montgomery County as the new school year begins,” “Montgomery

County students discuss antisemitism with local elected officials,” “‘If we can do more, we should do

more’: MCPS Board of Ed candidates discuss antisemitism” by Zoe Bell, Braden Hamelin and

Suzanne Pollak

[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: Wide-ranging series that covers a lot of ground as it relates to antisemitism in local public schools. Good use of multiple sources.*

## **Honorable Mention**

### **The Detroit Jewish News Foundation, Farmington Hills, MI**

“Landmark settlement” by Barbara Lewis

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Good explanation of suit and settlement.*

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

## **First Place**

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

“Ramping up—and rethinking—Israel education” by Sue Fishkoff

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Second Place**

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

“The double bind of Israelis on campus” by Efrat Lachter

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Honorable Mention**

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

“How students are responding to antisemitism” by Tova Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

#### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“The ‘Gestapo Game’ at the high school where Tim Walz worked was part of a trend Holocaust educators now reject” by Andrew Lapin and Philissa Cramer

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 27: Award for Excellence in Writing about Antisemitism**

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

### **First Place**

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

“Confronting the Lindbergh legacy” by Shula Neuman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An extremely well-written and well-researched piece focusing on the era and attitudes of an American hero to provide a broader history of antisemitism in America. Factual, insightful and very compelling.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Of Dutch pogroms and American politics” by Thane Rosenbaum

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written and very convincing piece, chilling in its analysis and implications for today and the future.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Jewish patients and staff express concerns over antisemitism at UCSF Medical Center” by Ayala Or-El

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written news story that is very effective in its telling of how antisemitism is dramatically impacting an area that should be above bias but clearly is not.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“The vanishing antisemitism taboo” by Amy Schwartz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoughtful analysis of the state of antisemitism as a societal taboo.*

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“The courage of Eric K. Ward” by Jennifer Bardi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A profile that underscores the overlap of antisemitism and racism.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Dovi Safier, New York, NY**

“Bitter blade: The triumph and tragedy of Attila Petschauer” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“What we have learned about campus free speech since October 7” by James Loeffler

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Why are Jews calling anyone who disagrees with them a kapo?” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**New Mexico Jewish Journal, Corrales, NM**

“Jews and Christian nationalism” by Ron Duncan Hart

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 28: Award for Excellence in Writing about Jewish Thought and Life**

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

### **First Place**

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

“Wicked son to the rescue” by Gil Troy

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very thorough story that covers a complex issue with multiple aspects, all of them dealt with in this fine piece.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Native tribes and lost Jews” by Rabbi Dr. Stuart Halpern

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating and detailed account of the intriguing theory that native Americans might just be the 10 lost tribes. Delightfully written.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Am Yisrael Chai” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very interesting and informative take on the endless debate of Jews and tattoos, whether it's kosher to get one, and if so, why.*

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

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“After October 7, Holocaust literature will never be the same” by Amy Schwartz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This article was informative, intellectually deep, and moving — it called on readers to examine their own worldviews and responses to events both recent and historical.*

### **Second Place**

**Shlomo Brody, New York, NY**

“Mortality” published by Shalom Hartman Institute — Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Doikayt: The Jewish left is here” by Jennifer Bardi

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“Marking Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut post-Oct. 7,” “In every generation: A Haggadah supplement for 5784,” “Honoring Yom HaShoah post – October 7,” “Sources from sources: A resource for Shavuot 5784,” “Confronting the Ninth of Av after the Seventh of October,” “Commemorating October 7: Rituals for Tishrei 5785” by Jessica Fisher, Sara Labaton and Rachel Jacoby Rosenfield

[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: A breathtakingly thorough examination of Jewish mourning rituals, from the ancient to those in response to Oct 7th. It covers a lot of ground, and ties together many threads of this vast, and often tragic, aspect of the Jewish experience.*

### **Second Place**

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

“An heirloom Torah’s journey from Jerusalem to Afghanistan to Hong Kong” by Nancy K. S. Hochman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Fascinating story, that shines a light on aspects of Jewish history few know much about. It’s quite a journey and brings the reader along for every step of the way.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘Strange turn of events made me do it,’ rabbis say of penning Oct. 7 prayers for Tisha B’Av” by Menachem Wecker

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Beautifully contextualized exploration of prayers of mourning, along with its history and meaning.*

## **Category 29: Award for Excellence in Writing about Young Families/People**

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

**First Place****The Detroit Jewish News Foundation, Farmington Hills, MI**

“Making a meaningful holiday” by Karen Schwartz

[Click here to view submission](#)**Division B. Magazines and Monthly Newspapers.****First Place****Jewish National Fund-USA — B’yachad Magazine, New York, NY**

“Coming home to Israel’s south” by Tania Shalom Michaelian and Mara Fahl

[Click here to view submission](#)**Second Place****Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“I’m 10 and I’ve gone through more than most adults” by Hana Wildman Halpern

[Click here to view submission](#)**Division C. Web-based Outlets; Digital Only, Website Only and Wire Services.****First Place****Esther Kustanowitz, Los Angeles, CA**“Israel tech sector comes together to support children who lost parents in Oct. 7 attacks, war”  
published by eJewishPhilanthropy[Click here to view submission](#)*Comment: This well-balanced piece looks beyond philanthropy (the primary focus of its readership) to explore strategies for making the greatest impact on children who have lost parents since October 7. It is written with great sensitivity and compassion.***Second Place****Shalom Hartman Institute, New York, NY**

“How a multigenerational community can transform college students into Jewish adults” by Lauren Cohen Fisher, David Freidenreich and Rachel Isaacs

[Click here to view submission](#)*Comment: A well-written piece that deftly explores demographic trends and how an innovative approach to programming and outreach can profoundly impact outcomes.*



## Category 30: Award for Excellence in Podcasting

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

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

“The forgotten Exodus” by Manya Brachear Pashman, Atara Lakritz, T.K. Broderick, Sean Savage and Jon Schweitzer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: What an interesting premise for a podcast — the topic is especially relevant today. The production values are really good, and the host is engaging.*

### **Second Place**

**70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

“The nightingale of Iran” by Danielle Dardashti, Galeet Dardashti, Rebecca Seidel and Zachary Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great subject, wonderfully produced, and really an intimate and engaging look at one family’s history. I thoroughly enjoyed it!*

## Category 31: Award for Excellence in General Newsletters

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

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

“Ideas for today” by Natalie Panasci Swatez, Sabra Waxman and Maital Friedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**The Detroit Jewish News Foundation, Farmington Hills, MI**

“Morning coffee roundup” by Elizabeth King

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The morning light” by Jordan Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

## Category 32: Award for Outstanding Accomplishments — Best Freelancer

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

**Dovi Safier, New York, NY**

“The Esrog Libel,” “Bitter blade: The triumph and tragedy of Attila Petschauer,” “Blossoming the flowers of American Jewry” published by Mishpacha Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: What a privilege it was to read these elaborately researched articles that harken back to important moments in Jewish history. Dovi Safier has both broadened our understanding of the religious, cultural, and economic lives of bygone Jewish communities, and clarified their relevance to our own. Come Sukkot, you can be sure I will circulate his memorable account of the 100-year etrog controversy. In all, a fascinating submission.*

## Category 33: Award for Outstanding Accomplishments — Graphic Artist

All entries competed in the same division.

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“The return of the strongman,” “Is the rollercoaster ride nearing an end?,” “From the margins to the mainstream,” “What banned book changed your life?” by Erica Cash

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Keep pushing the limits with your photo illustrations.*

### **Second Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Identity & anxiety in our turbulent times,” “Three writers on the end of life,” “Our world after October,” “Disability and Judaism” by Lindsay Barnett

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Continue to stimulate the mind and heart with your graphic designs.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Jewish National Fund-USA — B'yachad Magazine**

"From the first moment," "All hands on deck," "The conversation starts here," "2024 year in review"

by Tom Seltzer

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Tom Seltzer's work is highly professional.*

## **Category 34: The Michael Staenberg Award for Excellence in Writing about Jewish Philanthropy**

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Good people help good people" by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An inspiring profile of Eisenberger with the motivation about why she chooses to dedicate so much of her life to helping others.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

"HIAS was poised to spend \$300k on Gaza aid. Internal divisions stopped it" by Arno Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Informs reader of a particularly vexing and heart-rending aspect of philanthropy in the wake of Oct. 7.*

#### **Second Place**

##### **70 Faces Media, New York, NY**

"When Portland charities condemned Israel, Jewish philanthropy was put to the test" by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is the classic conundrum so many Jews are facing in their relationships with progressive allies.*

## **Category 35: The Marc Klein Award for Excellence for Best Use of Interactive Media**

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

### **First Place**

**Eli Katzoff, Newton, MA**

“Bomb shelters make good neighbors” published by The Times of Israel

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Washington Jewish Week, Columbia, MD**

“The WJW podcast: A conversation with Ambassador John Bolton” by Aaron Troodler, Frank Wagner and James Meskunas

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Has your city passed a cease-fire measure? Our map shows you” by Maya Mirsky

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 36: Award for Excellence — Publication Design**

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

### **First Place**

**The Detroit Jewish News Foundation, Farmington Hills, MI**

“We remember” by Michelle Sheridan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: A heartwarming tribute to the victims of Oct. 7 with an emotional design that hits home.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Winter 2024 Issue” by Simeon Montesa

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 37: Wild Card Category — Award for Excellence in Writing about the War in Israel: News and Feature Writing**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“In the land of war and hope” by Steven Rosenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Marvelous, extensive and very enlightening first-person account of life in Israel soon after Oct. 7 by a veteran journalist, photographer and documentary filmmaker with intimate experience covering life and people in Israel and the Palestinian lands for more than four decades. This magazine-length piece is skillfully written, exhaustively reported and artfully assembled. What more can be said other than Rosenberg shows the big picture through a lot of well-crafted, well-investigated smaller pictures. Very high-level journalism (and photography).*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Med school — and survival” by Larry Hankin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Nicely executed story interviewing two young medical students who braved bullets in Gaza to care for Israeli soldiers.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

##### **Sara Lehmann, Brooklyn, NY**

“‘I felt like we were in Gehinnom’ — an interview with ZAKA” published by Hamodia

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent use of the multi-person interview format to gather eye-opening and heart-rending quotes from Israeli workers who collected bodies of victims after Oct. 7.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Public art as therapy” by Leora Eren Frucht

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“Survivors share their stories” by Lisa Hostein

[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**

“American Jews asked to pick sides in wrenching debate over how to rebuild kibbutz hit hardest on Oct. 7” by Arno Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The author deploys empathy and insight in his account of the divergent responses of the survivors of one kibbutz to the trauma they share from the horrors of Oct. 7, 2023. Their emotional and practical reactions are born of fear, hope, ideology, and one presumes — though the author does not say so explicitly — also their personalities. American Jews who care, in this case especially donors, are caught between those Kibbutzniks who wish to rebuild their homes and community and revive their lives by returning home, and those who wish to rebuild and revive their families’ shattered lives by beginning anew elsewhere. Rosenfeld describes, he does not judge. But although he does not himself make the observation, the particular case he observes with such elegant, clear and sensitive writing, can stand as a metaphor for wider dilemmas and divisions in Israeli society. Kudos.*

## **Category 38: Wild Card Category — Award for Excellence in Writing about the War in Israel: Antisemitism**

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

### **First Place**

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

“UCLA student Eli Tsives on standing up to campus antisemitism” by Ayala Or-El

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A great story of a UCLA student standing up to antisemitism and the poor response by campus officials.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Zionists not invited to the party” by Shana Goldberg, Steve Mark, Larry Hankin and Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A good look at how a Jewish politician stood up to pressure and what was at stake for him.*

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

### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

"A medical emergency" by Hilary Danailova

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article forcefully describes antisemitism within the medical community and the emergence of Jewish medical professional groups in the wake of October 7.*

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

### **First Place**

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

"When anti-Zionists take over your Hebrew school" by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a story about the profound crisis of identity in Hebrew schools in recent years. It is illustrated by a Hebrew school dominated by pro-Palestinian teachers. The story is very well written with great style and a sense of humor although the incident that opens the piece is quite shocking. The writer also briefly describes the steep decline in the number of kids attending Hebrew schools and the inability of these schools to "get things right".*

### **Second Place**

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

"The messy truth behind a viral video showing violence around anti-Israel protest at an LA synagogue" by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a very well-written and moving story about the world of LGBTQ Zionists. The article describes how Zionist LGBTQ people who obviously needed courage and determination to come out of the closet, have felt their world narrowing again after October 7th. Interviews describe the dating and interaction experiences of LGBTQ Zionists and how these encounters have enhanced the Jewish identity for some.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Are Jewish horns having a comeback? The history behind the antisemitic stereotype" by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is an interesting history of how horns have come to designate and denigrate people and in particular, Jews. The article builds a nice arc from the wrong translation of the bible which gave Moses horns to the placards carried in anti-Netanyahu demonstrations in the US.*

## **Category 39: Wild Card Category — Award for Excellence in Writing about the War in Israel: Personality Profiles**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Names, not numbers” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An incredibly powerful story that at times was difficult to read. But the story was so compelling that you couldn't help but read to the end. The personal details of Dr. Sharon-Sagie life make her feel very real and relatable, and while the story evokes sadness, it also captures the heroism of forensics work.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Bay Area Gazan turns loss into compelling case for a ‘different future’” by Alix Wall

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This story captures the incredible courage of Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib, a man who, in the face of unimaginable loss and personal anguish, has chosen to speak his truth. The vulnerability and courage reflected in his words make this a powerful, thought-provoking piece.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘I feel they’re still here’: Tomer Zak on family after Oct. 7” by Adam Reinherz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A powerful and emotional story that helps readers feel Tomer Zak's grief, strength and mission. I especially liked the detail of the butterflies project, which added hope without diminishing the weight of her family tragedy.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“A charming children's book emerges from the devastation of October 7” by Frances Brent

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a special, sadly beautiful story — a real narrative about a good person creatively framed around his last days and his last work, which we readers are happy continues on.*



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

### **First Place**

**Mary Grossman, Jackson, WY**

"Nothing between us" published by The Times of Israel

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a story of Batia, a peace activist and photographer from a Kibbutz near Gaza who collaborated with a Gazan photographer for an exhibit. The Gazan's betrayal on October 7th is part of the trauma Batia is trying to overcome through professional help and her work. This is an interesting well-written story which highlights the deep sense of betrayal felt by the left-leaning members of the Kibbutzim after October 7th, which further magnified the horror of the worst massacre of Jews since WWII.*

### **Second Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

"A Canadian mother mourns her son, murdered on Oct. 7" by Amelie Botbol

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The heart wrenching story of a mother who lost her son on October 7th. The article focuses on her thoughts and painful recollections of that horrible day when she was on a call with her son during the massacre and until he was killed. The article is written in simple and straightforward prose and yet it should touch readers' soul.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

"Be'eri farmer who lost his wife, son and leg on Oct. 7 returns to his fields" By Etgar Lefkovits

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article describes the unspeakable tragedy of a farmer from Be'eri who saw his wife and son die at the hand of the terrorists on October 7th and was severely wounded himself. He is now returning to his home. The story is told in simple prose which is very appropriate for this powerful story.*

## **Category 40: Wild Card Category — Award for Excellence in Writing about the War in Israel: Schools and Universities**

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

### **First Place**

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

"Some Jewish students at Stanford are learning to hide their identities" by Emma Goss

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Jewish at DU: In the aftermath of October 7” by Chris Leppek

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Jewish students at Pitt’s School of Medicine face anti-Israel, antisemitic rhetoric” by David Rullo

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

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

“Voices from campus” by Gideon Askowitz, Rebecca Massel, Adin Moskowitz, Eitan Fischer and Isaac Ohrenstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Although we have all heard about antisemitism on college campuses, the personal stories of students from Harvard, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, and CUNY resonate and show how deeply the students’ lives have been affected by the pro-Palestinian surge on campuses, and how Jewish students came together in the wake of October 7th. The first-person accounts are powerful and interesting.*

### **Second Place**

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

“The double bind of Israelis on campus” by Efrat Lachter

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article describes Israelis on US campuses who have become outcasts in their campus community and their reactions to the situation. The story is interesting and well written.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“No room for dissent in the newsroom?” by Tom Gjelten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article describes how students’ newspapers reacted to the Gaza war, citing several Jewish student reporters. The article provides a sprawling perspective, moving back and forth between personal stories, factual descriptions and much background.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“At Washington University, 2 Jewish seniors differ on Israel, but share a sense of loss” by Andrew Silverstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Really excellent work, that personalizes the Israel-Palestine conflict with a well-written account of two students who epitomize — and illuminate — many aspects of this seemingly intractable conflict.*

### **Second Place**

**New Mexico Jewish Journal, Corrales, NM**

“The life of a Jewish student on campus: Persisting despite the fear” by Nicole Osborne

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Written simply and clearly, this powerful story packs a punch with its quiet, telling details that lay out a personal and heartbreaking story of a major issue of our times.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, ON**

“Does the protest encampment at the University of Toronto make Jews unsafe? Depends which side of the fence you’re on while asking the question” by Jonathan Rothman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-balanced and very professional coverage of anti-Israel protests at a Canadian college.*