



## Our President's Message

Dear Press Club Members and Friends,

Our sincere thanks to you for your ongoing support as we continue to adjust to the realities of our world's new normal.

It was such a joy to be able to see so many of you this fall when we were able to once again have our two key scholarship fund-raising events in-person: our Media Persons of the Year Awards Dinner at Edward Jones in November and Beauty Buzz at Neiman Marcus in September. Both events were a resounding success and enabled Press Club to award twelve scholarships to students aspiring to careers in media, two of which are new – the Alice Handelman Scholarship for Feature Writing in partnership with the Staenberg Foundation and the Mike Shannon Scholarship for sports writing/broadcasters in partnership with the St. Louis Cardinals. And, thanks to Elizabeth Mannen Berges \$10,000 donation last month, we have established a scholarship fund in her honor for communications which will be awarded in 2023.



**Joan Lee Berkman**  
President, St. Louis Press Club

Among other Press Club's activities this year were the free, community service program, "Watchdogs of Democracy: The Media's Role in Fair Elections" in partnership with the St. Louis County Board of Elections; the launch of our first communitywide writing contest; and our inaugural "Freedom of the Press" awards ceremony.

At our club's virtual Annual Meeting on December 8th, we installed our new 2023-25 board members, honored this year's Catfish and President's "Above and Beyond" winners, toasted our club's many accomplishments and heard remarks from one of our recent scholarship recipients, Kelly Bowen.

As my term as your president comes to a close, I am happy to report that our club's membership continues to grow, and we are providing meaningful services to our community. It has been my honor to serve alongside an incredibly talented and committed team of leaders for the last two years. All of whom and all of you as well as our staff have worked vigorously to support our mission to raise awareness and vital funding for student journalism scholarships and to help ensure the future of quality media and freedom of the press. And, if you will, finally, please consider the good you can do with a donation to your Press Club's Year End Giving Campaign.

In the meantime, our warmest wishes for a most happy and healthy holiday season to you and yours,

Joan



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Joan Lee Berkman  
*President*
- William Greenblatt\*  
*Immediate Past-President*
- Kent Martin  
*Secretary & President-Elect*
- Richard Gavatin  
*Treasurer*
- Jessica Z. Brown  
*Vice President Programming*
- Margaret S. Gillerman  
*Vice President Publicity*
- Ellen Nisensen Soule  
*Vice President Membership*
- Claudia Burris  
*Vice President Scholarships*

- Peggy Barnhart
- Arlene Maminta Browne
- Becky Domyan
- Julia Flory
- Ellen Futterman
- Miran Halen
- Dennis Heinze
- Audrey Krohngold-Prywitch
- Douglas Moore
- Joseph Martineau
- Angie Minges
- Pamela Niehaus
- Charlotte Ottley
- Janet Scott
- Barbara Langsam Shuman
- Dale Singer
- Kevin Smith
- Betsy Taylor
- Sarah Thompson
- Kedra Tolson
- Elisa Crouch Tomich
- Karyn R. Williams
- \*Past Presidents*

### Staff

- Laura Schnarr, Executive Director
- Glenda Partlow, Associate Director

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## Press Club Welcomes Arlene Maminta Browne to Board of Directors

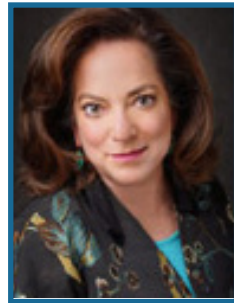


**Arlene Maminta Browne** is best-known as the owner of Robust Bistro & Wine Bar in Webster Groves, but she also is a veteran communicator.

As principal of the Robust Solutions firm, Browne has more than 20 years of experience in marketing, public and media relations, networking and development.

Browne earned a bachelor's degree in English and communications at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

## Press Club Receives \$10,000 Scholarship Grant from Berges Family Foundation



**Elizabeth Mannen Berges**, managing trustee of the Berges Family Foundation, has donated \$10,000 to the St. Louis Press Club for scholarships to help journalism students acquire educational and professional skills leading to careers in journalism. The scholarship will be named in honor of Elizabeth Mannen Berges and will be open for full-time students pursuing a career in communications.

Elizabeth, who graduated both from Cornell University, where she studied economics and Japanese, and Ithaca College, where she majored in music and communications and played viola in its symphony orchestra said: "The future of journalism is critical to ensuring quality media; and our Foundation wants to encourage the best and brightest to enter the field," she said.

The Berges Family Foundation is dedicated to enriching St. Louis and encouraging giving in four focus areas, one of which is Youth Empowerment.

"We are most grateful for Elizabeth Mannen Berges and the Berges Family Foundation's gracious and generous donation to help us fulfill our mission to provide much-needed funding for student journalism scholarships," said Joan Berkman, president, of St. Louis Press Club.

Berges, a Wells Fargo financial advisor, has attracted national attention for her success in her field and as a philanthropist. She is passionate about both financial literacy and women's health, and is herself a five-time cancer survivor. She is an active participant in corporate philanthropy efforts. In addition to her work for the family foundation, she is a St. Louis Woman of Achievement and a board member of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Gateway Greenway-Brickline Project and serves as an advisor to the St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness.





## Beauty Buzz

This year's Beauty Buzz in partnership with Neiman Marcus was another smashing success, raising almost \$20,000 benefiting our scholarship program thanks to our chairs, Becky Domyan, Miran Halen and Kedra Tolson. Jasmine Huda returned, once again, to be our emcee.





## Media Persons of the Year

We finished the year out with our recent Media Persons of the Year Awards Dinner at Edward Jones which has received rave reviews. The event was co-chaired Joan Berkman and Peggy Barnhart and honored Debbie Monterrey, KMOX; Elliott Davis, KTVI FOX 2; Joe Holleman, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Kay Quinn, KSDK Newschannel 5; Wiley Price, St. Louis American; and the "Living St. Louis" Creative Team, Nine PBS: Jim Kirchherr, Ruth Ezell, Anne Marie Berger, Brooke Butler, Kara Vaninger. KSDK's Renee Knott was the Master of Ceremonies and the program featured nationally-renowned singer and composer Brian Owens. Press Club raised over \$50,000 for student scholarships. Press Club raised over \$47,000 for student scholarships.



Debbie Monterrey  
KMOX



Elliott Davis  
KTVI FOX 2



Joe Holleman  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Kay Quinn  
KSDK



Wiley Price  
St. Louis American

"Living St. Louis" Creative Team  
Nine PBS



Jim Kirchherr



Ruth Ezell



Anne-Marie Berger



Kara Vaninger



Brooke Butler





## Freedom of the Press Award

The inaugural Freedom of the Press awards ceremony was held at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to honor Josh Renaud and Dr. Shaji Khan.

“For being a champion of Freedom of the Press, which is vital to a healthy democracy For informing the public and supporting the community’s robust exchange of ideas For demonstrating courage when confronting those in power who misuse their authority For hearing the disenfranchised, rooting out corruption and advocating for reform”



## Annual Meeting

The Press Club Annual Meeting was held virtually this year. The 2023-2025 board members who were re-elected for a three-year term are Jessica Brown, Margaret Gillerman and Charlotte Ottley. The President’s “Above and Beyond” award was presented to Peggy Barnhart and Sarah Thompson for their work on Media Persons of the Year; Jessica Brown and Sandy Diamond in connection with Watchdogs for Democracy – as well as Jessica’s coordination of our inaugural “Freedom of the Press Award; Becky Domyan, Miran Halen and Kedra Tolson for Beauty Buzz; and Audrey Prywitch and Joe Martineau for their ongoing, major contributions with Press Club. The Club’s highest honor, the Catfish Award, was presented to Richard Gavatin for his many exceptional contributions – so many of which have been behind the scenes to keep us on track on so many important levels and our long-time Treasurer. The evening concluded with a tribute to the former Press Club Executive Director, Glenda Partlow.



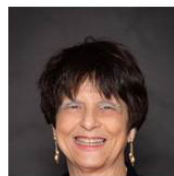
*Peggy Barnhart*



*Sarah Thompson*



*Jessica Brown-Billymer*



*Sandy Diamond*

*Richard Gavatin*



*Becky Domyan*



*Kedra Tolson*



*Miran Halen*



*Joseph Martineau*



*Audrey Prywitch*



## **For those who make, cover, influence and consume the news.**

Our mission is to raise awareness and funding for student journalism scholarships. We serve our members through professional development activities to bolster their skills to address the changing needs of the global communications profession and to offer social activities that build a vital media community.

[www.stlpressclub.org](http://www.stlpressclub.org)

### **Join St. Louis Press Club for 2023**

**Renew your membership or consider becoming a new member**

[Click here](#) to join us in our important work to ensure the future quality of media and ensure freedom of the press.