

Our President's Message

Dear Press Club Members and Friends,

Your Press Club is off and running with a number of activities and plans for 2022. In the last few months, we announced winners of our inaugural writing contest, provided virtual programming for our members, held a long overdue in-person kick-off reception for the 2021 Media Persons of the Year. Plans are underway for our annual Beauty Buzz fund-raising partnership with Neiman Marcus which will take place on September 17 and is being co-chaired by board members **Becky Domyan** and **Kedra Tolson** with event advisor **Miran Halen**. We will continue to cautiously add in-person events.

In this issue you will get a glimpse of the intimate kick-off reception for our Media Persons of the Year honorees and board members that was hosted by Saks Fifth Avenue on April 1. The honorees include **Debbie Monterrey**, KMOX, **Elliott Davis**, FOX2, **Joe Holleman**, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, **Wiley Price**, St. Louis American, **Kay Quinn**, KSDK Newschannel 5 and a group award to **Nine PBS and its "Living St. Louis" team: Jim Kircherr, Anne-Marie Berger, Ruth Ezell, Kara Vaninger and Brooks Butler**. Congratulations to each of these most-deserving journalists. We will celebrate their program of work with an Awards Dinner on November 3 at Edwards Jones which will be co-chaired by **Peggy Barnhart** and yours truly.



Joan Lee Berkman
President, St. Louis Press Club

Fifty entries were received for our inaugural **Press Club Writing Contest**, which was chaired by our board secretary **Kent Martin**. Both media professionals and student entries were judged in the following categories: news story, in-depth reporting, feature story, commentary, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. A listing of the articles and authors are on page 4. All of the winning stories can be accessed at our website, www.stlpressclub.org.

Our scholarship committee chaired by **Claudia Burris** is currently judging the many applications received for the 17 scholarships that are to be awarded this spring. Among those are two new Press Club scholarships – the **Alice Handelman Scholarship for Featuring Writing** and the **Mike Shannon Scholarship for Sports Broadcasting/Writing**. Thanks to fundraising efforts and the leadership of board member **Elisa Tomich**, who chairs our enterprise grant committee, we also have funds available to award enterprise journalism grants to working journalists spotlighting marginalized stories in our region. Please check the website on how to apply for a grant.

In the meantime, we are planning an in-person and virtual Press Club program entitled **"Watchdogs of Democracy: The Media's Role in Fair Elections"** on June 14 at the St. Louis County Election Board headquarters in Northwest Plaza. A 5:30 p.m. tour will be followed by a keynote talk by **Paul DeGregorio**, Democracy Fund former chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission and panel discussion by State Senator **Karla May**, State Representative **Shamed Dogan**, Madison-St. Clair Record editor, **Ann Maher**, St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter **Mark Schlinkmann**, St. Louis County Board of Elections director/R **Rick Stream**, and St. Louis County Board of Elections director/D **Eric Fey** moderated by **Joy Leopold**, School of Communications, Webster University. It will be free and open to the public.

On a sad note, our beloved friend and colleague, **Alice Handelman**, a past President of St. Louis Press Club, recently passed away after a courageous battle with leukemia. Alice was a talented, accomplished journalist whose ongoing oversight, energy and watchful eye over Press Club's expansive program of work will be greatly missed. All of us who were fortunate to know Alice will miss her and will do our best to carry on her special mission of inspiring students to pursue a career in journalism.

Finally, we appreciate your ongoing support of the St. Louis Press Club. Please feel free to share our newsletter with colleagues and friends and encourage them to join us on our mission to ensure the future of quality media. Freedom of the press, and reliable reporting are now, more than ever, critically important.

Joan



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Congratulations to our Members

Joan Berkman received first place in the Missouri Professional Communicators' Communications Contest for her "Velvet Hammer" column in Town & Style Magazine. The entry received kudos for informational advice for leadership and transition in business situations.

Jessica Brown won first-place in the "specialty articles, social issues" category for her entry which appeared in the Gateway Journalism Review and announced Anna Crosslin, retired director of the International Institute of St. Louis, as recipient of the GJR/SJR Freedom Fighter Award.

Suzanne Corbett won three top awards for "A Culinary History of Missouri: Foodways & Iconic Dishes from the Show-Me State," a book she co-authored with Deborah Reinhardt. The book, Corbett's radio interview about Missouri's food history on the St. Louis NPR station and a trailer from the book each earned first place.

Also top winners for Corbett were specialty article topics in agriculture concerning the Hoffman family's planned preservation of Augusta's wine country, in food about "Holiday Cookies and Beyond"; in sports, about the hunting tradition of basseting, all of which appeared in West NewsMagazine, and a AAA travel feature, "Places of Rest." Her "Chef Conversations" column from Gazelle STL magazine, including a selection about a chef who adds cannabis to food, also was awarded a top place.

Alice Handelman followed a tradition of numerous years of winning entries for her "Movers and Shakers" column and other stories in Ladue News and other publications where she introduces readers to top leaders in the community. Three of her six top-winning stories introduced Julie Yawitz' efforts to empower her own daughter and other people with autism; Brown-Billhymmer, recipient of St. Louis Press Club's Catfish Award, and Pam Toder, president of Women of Achievement, on a mission to recognize women who volunteer selflessly in the community.

Other Handelman winners this year were specialty articles: harpist Amy Camie, in the arts and entertainment category for musical efforts with cancer patients; Ellen Mocerri in education, seeking to broaden learning opportunity locally and around the world, and Sandy Kaplan, in the hobby category, who combines art-making and art-supporting endeavors.

Our members were celebrated by contest entrants and judges on April 23. A first-place award in the state entitles each of our members to compete further in their respective categories in the 2022 Communications Contest of the National Federation of Press Women. The national contest winners will be announced on June 25, 2022, in Fargo, N.D., at a banquet finale of the NFPW annual conference. Nationally, the contest attracted 1,730 entries from state affiliates and an atlarge competition across the country. Missouri entrants were members who presented what they considered to be their best published or broadcast work during calendar year 2021. Each entry receives comments from its judge. This year Missouri Professional Communicators, the state organization, sent a bumper number of 29 first-place entries to the national competition.



Welcome New Members

**Jenna Fisher, Dan Gray, Jenna Jones,
Bess McCoy, Nicolle Spencer, & Caleb Sprous**

2021 Media Persons of the Year Kick-Off Reception

After a long delay due to Covid restrictions, your Press Club board was delighted to hold an intimate reception honoring our 2021 Media Persons of the Year honorees on April 1 in the art gallery of Saks Fifth Avenue in Plaza Frontenac. This year's gala will be chaired by **Joan Berkman** and **Peggy Barnhart**. The gala will be held later this year and the date will be announced soon.



2021 Media Persons of the Year Honorees

From left, **Kay Quinn**, KSDK Newchannel 5; **Joe Holleman**, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; **Wiley Price**, St. Louis American; **Debbie Monterrey**, KMOX; **Jim Kirchherr**, NinePBS "Living St. Louis"; **Elliott Davis**, FOX 2; **Anne-Marie Berger**, **Kara Vaninger**, **Ruth Ezell**, and **Brooke Butler** of NinePBS "Living St. Louis".

Photo by William Greenblatt



From left, **Todd Asselmeier**, **Brittani Vigne**, **Peggy Barnhart**, **Joan Berkman**, **Alison White**, **Jennifer Shoop**.

Photo courtesy of Saks



Suzanne Corbett, **Peggy Barnhart**, and **Becky Miller**.

Photo by Bryan Schraier



Amy Shaw, **Brooke Butler**, **Ruth Ezell**, **Anne-Marie Berger**, **Jim Kirchherr** and **Kara Vaninger**. *Photo by Bryan Schraier*



Sarah Thompson, **Miran Halen**, **Becky Domyan** and **Joan Lee Berkman**. *Photo by Bryan Schraier*



Miran Halen, **Kay Quinn** and **Ellen Soule**. *Photo courtesy of Miran Halen*



Becky Domyan and **Debbie Monterrey**.

Photo courtesy of Miran Halen

Jessica Z. Brown-Billymyer and **Veronica Theodore**.

Photo by Bryan Schraier



Rick Stoff, **Kent Martin**, **Richard Gavatin**, and **Linda Spitzer Gavatin**.

Photo by Bryan Schraier



St. Louis Press Club Louis Announces Winners of First Writing Contest

From budding high school journalists to seasoned, veteran members of the news media, the winners of the St. Louis Press Club's inaugural writing contest showcase the depth and expanse of the current state of writing in the area. Press Club received 50 entries for its inaugural contest.



"St. Louis has a rich legacy of literary leaders and journalists whose work has transformed the craft of writing," Joan Lee Berkman, president of the St. Louis Press Club, said. "From Mark Twain, Eugene Field and William Burroughs to Joseph Pulitzer, Maya Angelou and Tennessee Williams, St. Louis has witnessed an unparalleled parade of writers whose influence continues to this day. Our contest is meant to honor not only their legacies but also those of today's writers who are forging their own paths, in both traditional as well as new media.

"In this spirit, we are honored to award the winners of our first writing contest. Their entries reflect the critical issues facing us today as well as the everyday stories that color our lives. We congratulate the winners and we're proud to be able to recognize their achievements."

High School/College

News story

- **Elle Rotter**, "[The Second Pandemic: Mental Illness](#)"
- **Addie Gleason**, "[Digital Divide](#)"

In-Depth Reporting

- **Nikita Bhaskar**, "[Transgender Rights in the Education System: A Closer Look at Title IX](#)"
- **Leah Schroeder**, "[Runoff Recap: What You Missed About the Georgia Runoffs](#)"

Feature Story

- **Elizabeth Franklin**, "[The Pride and Culture of Black Hair](#)"
- **Elle Rotter**, "[ABCs of Covid](#)"

Commentary

- **Grace Hu**, "[Making the Case Locally for Reparations](#)"
- **Mira Nalbandian**, "[Debunking Critical Race Theory](#)"

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Parkway West Pathfinder Staff**, A series of articles detailing the impact of the pandemic on various aspects of their lives, including "[The Low-Down on Low Staff](#)"
- **The Kirkwood Call**, "[14 Months Later](#)"

Professional

News story

- **Sylvester Brown, Jr.**, "[Spanky, COVID-19 and the Plight of Missouri's Disabled](#)"
- **Danny Wicentowski**, "[Searching for the Real Inside a Police Training Simulator](#)"

In-Depth Reporting

- **Before Ferguson, Beyond Ferguson**, "[63106: The Struggle to Survive the Pandemic in St. Louis' Most Vulnerable Neighborhoods](#)"
- **Danny Wicentowski**, "[Inside the Missouri Tribe That Has Made White People Millions](#)"

Feature Story

- **Denise Hollinshed**, "[A Grieving Reporter Rushes to Get Vaccinated as Her Subject Resists](#)"
- **Suzanne Corbett**, "[Purchasing Property-Promising Preservation - Uncorking the Hoffman Family's Plan for Augusta's Wine Country](#)"

Commentary

- **Eric Mink**, "[Dedicated to the United States of America](#)"

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Aisha Sultan**, A series of columns on the impact of the pandemic on her family's life, including "[The Day We Thought My Husband Would Die of COVID](#)"

Press Club Accepting Enterprise Grant Applications

The St. Louis Press Club is happy to announce that Enterprise Journalism is back.

Thanks to the success of Beauty Buzz and other fundraising efforts, the Press Club has funds available to help finance journalism that's relevant and impactful to the St. Louis area.

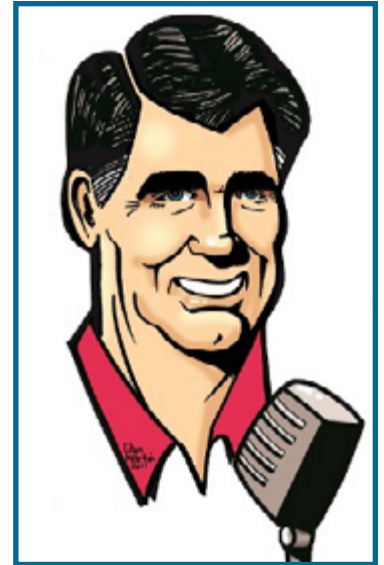
St. Louis Press Club is accepting applications for grants of up to \$2,500 from freelancers, employed journalists, bloggers, or others with a compelling project and a plan for broadcast or publication. More information about how to apply and criteria can be found on our website's Enterprise Journalism page.

St. Louis Cardinals & St. Louis Press Club Announce New Mike Shannon Scholarship Fund

***Annual Scholarship Honoring Legendary Cardinals Hall of Fame Broadcaster
Open to Full-Time Students Pursuing Career in Sports Broadcasting/Writing***



The St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Press Club announce the creation of The Mike Shannon Scholarship for Sports Broadcast Journalism. The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded annually, beginning this year, to a full-time student pursuing or intending to pursue a degree leading to a career in sports journalism, with preference given to students from the St. Louis bi-state metropolitan area.



"I am grateful to the St. Louis Press Club and the Cardinals organization for creating a scholarship fund in my name for aspiring sports journalism students," said Cardinals Hall of Famer Mike Shannon. "St. Louis has a rich history of producing some of the most talented sports writers and broadcasters in the industry and I look forward to helping the next wave of men and women pursue their dreams of a career in sports journalism."

A panel of judges from the St. Louis Press Club and members of the Shannon family will select the scholarship recipient based on aptitude, interest in pursuing a sports journalism career, academic standing, and financial need.

Applications for the Mike Shannon Scholarship Fund were accepted through May 1. A recipient will be announced on June 1.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Mike Shannon's Scholarship Fund can do so by visiting stlpressclub.org/MikeShannon.html.

St. Louis Press Club Resolution on the Crisis in Ukraine Adopted by the Press Club of St. Louis - March 21, 2022

WHEREAS, The horrific war in Ukraine was instigated as an unprovoked attack by Russia against an independent democratic neighboring country; and WHEREAS, our journalism colleagues on the scene have courageously covered this searing tragedy, with the calamitous result of fatalities and serious injuries; and WHEREAS, precious press freedom is being harshly threatened and curtailed; be it RESOLVED that the Press Club of St. Louis urges an immediate ceasefire, to be followed by serious negotiations to end the war, so that our brave journalism colleagues may return to covering not needless human suffering but efforts by the United Nations, NATO, the European Union and other international entities to restore peace and security to the war-torn region of Ukraine and its neighbors.



P.O. Box 410522, St. Louis, MO 63141

Return Service Requested

Seeking Press Club Intern

The St. Louis Press Club offers semester-long internships to college media students who are seeking to fulfill work experience degree requirements. Interns receive a \$1,000 scholarship and are expected to work 12 hours a week with Press Club staff in our office. Responsibilities include: assisting with the club's administrative tasks, producing the club's newsletter, writing news releases, assisting with social media communication and the coordinating of club events. Interested students should contact Laura or Glenda at info@stlpressclub.org

Thanks to our sponsor:



Press Club Office Now in Chesterfield Mall



Our Press Club is very grateful to **Michael Staenberg**, who has donated the use of office space to the St. Louis Press Club for the last 13 years. Our office recently moved from the Staenberg Building at Page and I-170 to a spacious facility he is providing for us on the main floor of Chesterfield Mall. If out this way, give us a wave.



Watchdogs of Democracy: The Media's Role in Fair Elections

June 14, 2022, Flag Day

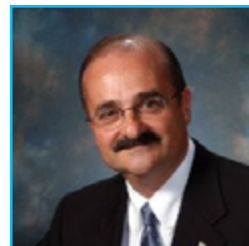


5:30 p.m. **Tour of St. Louis County Election Board Headquarters**

725 Northwest Plaza Dr., St. Ann, MO 63074

downloadable maps on how to get to the event site available at www.stlpressclub.org

6:30 p.m. **Keynote speaker, Paul DeGregorio**



Paul DeGregorio,
Fellow, Democracy Fund,
Former Chair, U.S. Election
Assistance Commission

Panel Discussion

Moderator, Joy Leopold, PhD

State Senator Karla May, D-4

State Representative Shamed Dogan, R-98 (Ballwin)

Ann Maher, Editor/Madison-St. Clair Record

Mark Schlinkmann, Reporter, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Rick Stream, St. Louis County Board of Elections Director/R

Eric Fey, St. Louis County Board of Elections, Director/D



Joy Leopold, PhD,
Assistant Professor,
School of Communications,
Webster University

Q&A Follows

Free and Open to the Public

Space is limited.

Please make reservations via email: info@stlpressclub.org



Presented by **St. Louis Press Club** in cooperation with **St Louis County Board of Elections**