

# 2026 Awards (For Work Done in 2025)

Awards were presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Simon Rockower Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the American Jewish Press Association's 2026 Annual Conference, on June 4, 2026, in New York, New York.

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

### Division A. Weekly and Biweekly Newspapers.

#### **First Place**

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

"The conservative movement's crisis of meaning," "The light we refuse to dim," "In tribute to Thanksgiving" by David J. Butler

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Very well-written and exceeding readable, these commentaries draw the reader right in. They are diverse and tremendously compelling — and offer, not just an opinion, but a call to action.*

#### **Second Place**

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

"The Palestinian children strained for a peek," "900," "Selichot" by Tehilla Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Her extraordinary writing is filled with passion and strong imagery. Each article immerses the reader in an emotional journey right from the start.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

"The new world order begins," "And now: A new, even more virulent, form of Jew-hatred," "Where is the light?" by David Shribman

[Click here to view submission](#)

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*Comments: These very compelling pieces exemplify excellence in writing. They are fact-filled with a strong perspective.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“What did you just say to me?,” “Tranquility will have to wait,” “The God I believe in now” by Letty Cottin Pogrebin

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It's not always easy to meld the universal with the personal, but Letty Cottin Pogrebin does so seamlessly and masterfully. Whether contemplating her own belief in God or urging others to express anger at the direction of American society by making their voices heard, she draws on her own life and career as a journalist and social justice advocate. This gives her pieces moving depth and humanity.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Beware of feel-good fake and AI bloopers,” “Israel’s brilliant handling of the ‘flotilla’ affair,” “The tragic naiveté of liberal Jews” by Ruthie Blum

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The author writes with a decisive point of view, argued skillfully. Her prose is sharp and her pieces perfectly paced.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Zohran Mamdani’s victory proves it: The ‘gotcha’ mode of fighting antisemitism has to go,” “I know exactly why leftists aren’t celebrating this ceasefire,” “Trump’s crusade against Columbia is ripped straight from Hungary’s anti-Soros playbook” by Emily Tamkin

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Consistently thoughtful commentary that encourages readers to consider multiple perspectives.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The Trump administration is primed to give a gigantic gift to extremists in the West Bank,” “I first met Netanyahu in 1988. Here’s how he became the most destructive leader in Israel’s history,” “Will Israel ever have another leader who truly wants peace?” by Dan Perry

[Click here to view submission](#)

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[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 2: Award for Excellence in Single Commentary**

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“His story ended but mine continues” by Ruth Roth

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Powerful, moving and richly personal piece about what it takes to live on after the painful death of a child.*

#### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“The patina of democracy” by Gary Rendsberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Sharp and insightful look at how signing on to certain petitions can lead to contradictions, hypocrisy and regret.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“For my mixed Jewish-Salvadoran family, Thanksgiving is complicated” by Lea Loeb

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Best written and most effective short piece of commentary in the category. Brevity works.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Our fragile tents: Community, consent, and care” by Yehuda Kurtzer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article describes the philosophical core of the Jewish community, the “Jewish tent”, how it has changed over the years and how it is being challenged today by the need for safety and by ideological polarization. The author presents very interesting ideas tied together in an original and illuminating fashion.*

#### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Freedom for all? Trump says forget it” by Sarah Posner

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: One may agree or disagree with the theme of this article, Either way, one must appreciate the biting edge of this well-written and very well constructed opinion piece.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Thinking about deportation, from 1492 to 2025” by Ruth Behar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In a short essay, the author takes us on a magical, centuries long journey starting with her ancestors in Spain, and culminating with her family’s arrival in Cuba and the US. These experiences are summarized and synthesized in her award-winning book. Ms. Behar suggests that the lessons from the expulsions and deportations that characterize this personal history are relevant today.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“We’re Jews in Zohran Mamdani’s neighborhood. We love New York — but not like this.” by Asher Butler, Hannah Castillo and Tal Luigi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This a very well written and extremely poignant story about Zohran Mamdani’s approach to the Jewish residents of his assembly district and by extension to Jews in NYC*

### **Second Place**

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

“The Jewish hostage we’re not talking about” by Jodi Rudoren

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a very well written and moving article about Elizabeth Tsurkov, a Jewish hostage held in Iraq and her sister Emma’s complex emotions upon the release of hostages held by Hamas. Most readers are probably unaware of this episode, and the article provides information and background as well as weaving an engaging story about the lives of the two sisters and Emma’s attempts to help her captive sister.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Fifty years since the UN’s ‘Zionism is racism’ resolution” by Ben Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This clear and well-written article reminds us of the 50th anniversary of the “Zionism is racism” UN resolution. The author follows the toxic path of anti-Israeli actions engendered by the resolution and suggests the US should work to dismantle the remaining anti-Israeli committee*

*founded in the wake of this resolution.*

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

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

##### **First Place**

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

"We just went to the beach to celebrate Hanukkah" by Chavi Israel

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Powerful first-hand account.*

##### **Second Place**

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

"Wanted for being Jewish" by David Rullo

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A scary story of something that is unfortunately becoming more common and accepted.*

##### **Honorable Mention**

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

"Life amid 12-Day War" by Bruce Brown

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A sobering view.*

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

##### **First Place**

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

"Josef Rosensaft and the displaced persons camp of Bergen-Belsen: Remembering my Father" by Menachem Rosensaft

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It reads like a chapter in Leon Uris' "Exodus." His father seems to have been a passionate, remarkable man with a fire to fight for what was right in a situation -- in a world -- that was oh so wrong. This story was mesmerizing.*

##### **Second Place**

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

"I forgive a country" by Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: My Jewish lineage in America starts way before the 2nd world war, so no relatives I know of were part of the Jewish annihilation so I still can't imagine it, carrying a grudge against those who*

*let a whole huge group of people die, nor to forgive those who wiped out my family because of their faith. Yet this piece made me hear her reasons, it made me try on the emotions she expressed. It made me think. I appreciated that.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Ruth Ebenstein, Jerusalem, ISR**

“The longest twelve days” published by Lilith Magazine

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I've never been to Israel, but often try to imagine what it's like to run for deep shelter, fearing for my life, when the alarms blare throughout the town. I appreciated her description of what it is like, what her thinking and experience is, and her hope that it be the last time, over and over again!*

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

### **First Place**

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

“My Jewish family is proof that hope is worth mustering after terror cuts young lives short” by Claire E. Sufrin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A deeply personal, wrenching account, borne of extraordinary circumstances, yet with lessons for all.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Letter from Jaffa: ‘It was the loudest boom I have ever heard’” by Deborah Danan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Through vivid description, this story makes you feel the fear and horror of a cluster bomb attack through the eyes of one family.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“She was my Hebrew school bully — and I finally learned what happened to her” by Joan Afton

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Alternately funny and sad, this story of adolescence and bullying will resonate with everyone. And what a reward at the end.*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“Settler extremists are undermining Israel,” “Ben Cohen’s meltdown,” “When genocide becomes politics” by Philadelphia Jewish Exponent Editorial Board

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This entry showed consistently strong arguments and firmness in concise fashion with clear calls to action. Writing in the Ben Cohen piece — example: “not to churn ice cream but to whip up moral outrage in pint-size portions” — was fun, creative and incisive.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Anti-Israel activists show true colors by targeting teenage Jewish athletes,” “Moral clarity matters: Leaders must call this what it is,” “A New Year’s call to responsibility: Suggested resolutions for 2026” by Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle Editorial Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

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*Comment: It’s one thing to confront antisemitism, another to do it when it occurs in your own backyard, as was done here. These editorials do so, with calls for action, in a nice conversational voice, with more persuasion than preaching or screaming.*

### **Honorable Mention**

#### **Baltimore Jewish Times, Columbia, MD**

“The Haredi draft emergency,” “Van Hollen’s selective moral outrage,” “A Senator’s cheap shot” by Baltimore Jewish Times Editorial Board

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **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**

“A time for war and a time for peace” by Steven Rosenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“What does justice look like in a notorious #MeToo case?” by Alice Sparberg Alexiou

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Rule of law: A tradition under pressure” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

### **First Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Pentagon removing Israel planner from Joint Staff, launching probe after JNS scoop,” “Chief Israel planner at Pentagon bashes Jewish state publicly, extensively” by Andrew Bernard

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written and thorough story that revealed a U.S. official's questionable comments -- especially in light of his administration position.*

### **Second Place**

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

“When fire spread to West Hollywood, a rabbi’s mom chose to grab candlesticks,” “What a remarkable Torah rescued from Iran — then LA’s fire — can teach about community amid devastation,” “Their Pacific Palisades synagogue is standing, but all three rabbis lost their homes,” “‘Like the burning bush’: Rabbi’s book survives Holocaust – and the Los Angeles fire,” “At least one synagogue destroyed as unprecedented wildfires rip through Los Angeles” by Louis Keene, Rob Eshman, Sam Shepherd, Benyamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

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[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fresh and timely look at how Jews were affected by a devastating fire.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“In new change, main Wikipedia ‘Israel’ entry says Jewish state committing ‘genocide’,” “Wikipedia accused of anti-Israel bias for locking page title referring to Israeli ‘massacre’,” “‘Recurring trend’:

Wikipedia demoting pro-Israel content, experts say,” “‘Hypocrisy, double-standards’ in effort to axe Wikipedia page on Iranian policy to destroy Israel” by Aaron Bandler

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“With wildfires untamed, anguished L.A. communities carry on with Jewish life” by Emma Goss

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“Jewish identity restored for World War I vets at Arlington National Cemetery” by Debra Rubin

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Demolition leads to time capsule discovery at Emanu El” by Judy Bluestein Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

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

“A statement about the May 21, 2025, Washington, DC, shooting from Moment Magazine editor-in-chief Nadine Epstein,” “Interview: Eyewitness JoJo Drake Kalin on shooting at Capital Jewish Museum,” “Video: Eyewitness aftermath: Capital Jewish Museum shooting leaves two dead,” “A strike at the political heart of Jewish America” by Moment Staff

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Bimonthly Moment jumped on the museum shooting as if it were daily media.*

*Comprehensive coverage, video and a follow-up interview with a witness. I’ve been a daily journalist and couldn’t have done better.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Gaza protest movement has a message for Hamas” by Waseen Abu Mahadi and Jacob Wirschafter

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: We hear rumors that there’s a movement in Gaza protesting Hamas. Moment did the groundwork to confirm the rumor first-hand.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Shalhevet student left with clothes, backpack as home destroyed in Palisades fire” by Sophie Katz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It’s hard to imagine a high school newspaper covering the Palisades fire as a news story, but The Boiling Point at Shalhevet did it. The staff focused on an aspect of the fire that related directly to the student body. It could have sounded like a synagogue newsletter, but the reporters/writers handled it professionally. (BTW, I grew up in Pacific Palisades.)*

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

### **First Place**

#### **eJewishPhilanthropy, New York, NY**

“Atra study provides rare, caveated glimpse into the U.S. rabbinate, offering insight and concern” by Jay Deitcher and Judah Ari Gross

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, New York Orthodox rabbinical school, ordains an out gay rabbi” by Louis Keene

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Brown University students light first Hanukkah candle in the shadow of mass shooting” By Shira Li Bartov

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“Rabbi-led photo ID project helps fix Missouri’s broken system” by Ellen Futterman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The North City Photo ID Project exemplifies the Torah obligation of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. Kudos to the Light for publishing a piece that some might say the project is not a “Jewish” story simply because it’s led by a rabbi. It is.*

### **Second Place**

#### **Washington Jewish Week, Colombia, MD**

“DC synagogues serve as ‘refuge’ for Afghan neighbors in times of need” by Zoe Bell

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The plight of Afghan refugees has been buried under the wreckage of current events. But it hasn’t gone away and the Week’s coverage of a Jewish communal response is more than worthwhile.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Learning to ‘dance again’” by Eetta Prince-Gibson

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“How Ukrainian Jewry has responded to war” by Paul Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Abortion is in trouble” by Chanel Dubofsky

[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**

“Transgender Jews and their families search for safety as Trump takes aim at their rights” by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Honoring Rabbi Arthur Waskow – activist, pioneer and prophet” by Jay Michaelson

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“JCLP guides congregations through sustainability, mergers and last chapters” by Deborah Weisberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A heartbreaking topic - the closing of small congregations around the county - meaningfully rendered. The writer walks us through the emotions and the economics, talking to everyone involved along the way.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Rabbis who took psychedelics for study describe ‘profound,’ spiritual experiences” by Niva Ashkenazi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Psychedelics-taking rabbis, who knew? A thoroughly researched, detailed story that never forgets the humans at the center and how this could help them open their hearts and minds in new ways.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Letters capture a Bay Area family’s generational discord over Israel” by Alix Wall

[Click here to view submission](#)

*A timely, well-told and important feature on a mom and daughter navigating their feelings about the Israel-Palestine conflict along with so many Jewish families in America and around the world.*

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

#### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Let the truth come out” by Maayan Hoffman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Maayan Hoffman’s penetrating look at the demands for accountability by the families of female soldiers killed on Oct. 7 at Nahal Oz is both unbearable and imperative to read. This is*

*difficult material in the hands of a gifted writer, who conveys with expertise both the pain of bereaved parents and the failures of the state.*

### **Second Place**

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

“When the Black press stood by the Jews against the Nazis” by Dan Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This enlightening feature about the Black press’ unabashed support of Jews during the Holocaust is a reminder that relations between the two communities weren’t always fraught. Dan Freedman leans on detailed research and a compelling narrative to examine an unusual era in American journalism and the historic friendship between American Blacks and Jews.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Women of the book[shop]” by Lauren Aliza Green, Sarah Seltzer and Lindsay Barnett

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In a year when much of American Jewish journalism dealt with sad, weighty, and urgent topics, this multiple-byline feature about feminist Jewish bookstore owners was just plain fun to read. The women profiled were interesting and their work inviting, informed in many cases by their Jewish values. The topic was clever, and the profiles deftly executed.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“A Jewish farmer drove 600 miles to rescue a century-old synagogue. Now he’s building a new one in a cornfield.” by Benjamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“How the Oct. 7 aftermath splintered the New York Dyke March” by Nora Berman

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A Palestinian man in Philadelphia served kosher bagels for decades. Then customers found his Facebook profile.” by Ben Sales

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Cleveland Jewish News, Cleveland, OH**

“The ‘reel’ story behind Superman” by Casey Couch

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written love letter to Superman, his creators and the city of Cleveland. Thoroughly enjoyable read.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Judaica auctions: A window into Jewish history” by Jeannie Rosenfeld

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fascinating inside look into Judaica history and a storied auction house.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“Pittsburgh scholar studies world’s oldest synagogue paintings firsthand in Syria” by Deborah Weisberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Interesting details, well-written, good command of the subject matter.*

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

#### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Songs in the key of October 7” by Rahel Musleah

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“The musical—yes, musical! —about the Rabin assassination” by Ron Kampeas

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: I love unexpected stories, and this certainly counts as one. Good job taking us behind-the-scenes here.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A photographic portal of Sephardic women’s lives” published by Lilith Magazin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An interesting look at what it takes to elevate the power of pictures.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Silent tears: The last Yiddish tango: A new Canadian music project gets Holocaust stories heard around the world” by Jonathan Rothman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent writing. Good use of multiple sources. Unusual and interesting topic. Local angle prominent. Comprehensive reporting.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Why the Dreyfus case matters now more than ever” by Jonathan S. Tobin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent commentary. Riveting writing, clear and comprehensive. Deals fairly with difficult topic.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘Red alert’: Israeli actress Rotem Sela tells ‘story of the horrors my people’ faced” by Amelie Botbol

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“‘Fiddler on the Roof’ wrestles with tradition, change at signature theatre” by Lisa Traiger

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The writer did a magnificent job giving modern day context to this musical theater classic.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“One Oxford Centre features photographer’s striking landscapes of Israel” by Emma Riva

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written story that does a good job explaining the art from a Jewish lens.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Yeshiva University men’s basketball team nets a big win in ‘Rebound’” by Aaron Troodler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The writer’s respect and admiration of the players shines through.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“The secret life of an art deco diva” by Diane Bolz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Makes a good contribution to understanding Jews and Jewishness in art. Also shows the dichotomy and pressure that Jews live in, “between two worlds.”*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Queen Esther goes Dutch” by Robert Goldblum

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Makes a good contribution to the complexity of and providing an understanding of Jews as a symbol in art.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Sylvia Plath’s private Jewish problem” by Carl Rollyson

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent review of a very fraught subject and bringing it out into the open. Also very brave to highlight her antisemitism. As we see with the Roald Dahl play, our heroes must be examined properly.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Searching for true magic in a broken world, all of us are lost — even Kavalier and Clay” by Talya Zax

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Part review, part comprehensive peek into the minds of the creative team behind the ambitious operatic adaptation of “The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay,” this richly hued piece had me from Michael Chabon’s opening “farblondjet.” The author digs deep to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of bringing the Pulitzer Prize–winning novel to the stage.*

### **Second Place**

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

“In Dan Brown’s chaotic tale of a rampaging Golem, a case of missing Judaism” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An engaging book review with a clear, convincing point of view: Dan Brown’s latest thriller about a golem from Jewish folklore is strangely short on Jewish detail and context. Very well done.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Julia M. Klein, Philadelphia, PA**

“In Israel, she’s a national heroine — Americans are starting to understand why” published by The Forward Association, Inc.

[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**

“A survivor’s journey” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This heartbreaking story of a Holocaust survivor had me captivated the whole way through.*

#### **Second Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Visionary” by Shana Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Baltimore Jewish Times, Baltimore, MD**

“For David Rubenstein, success is serendipitous” by Aaron Troodler

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

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

“I wanted to make sure I was seen’: a great many hopes are invested in Melissa Lantsman” by John Lorinc

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“An unlikely Rabbi” by Gary Rosenblatt

[Click here to view submission.](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“An Ethiopian ‘mouthful’ from Beejhy Barhany” by Adeena Sussman

[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 rise of Yehuda Kaploun: How a Hasidic fixer became Trump’s nominee for antisemitism czar”  
by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thorough reporting sets apart this piece on a shadowy figure suddenly in the national spotlight.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Fearless or foolish? Michael Roth, Wesleyan’s Jewish president, stands apart in opposing Trump’s campus policies” by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In a category marked by single-sourced stories, this multiply sourced piece is balanced and leaves the reader feeling smarter.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“He wrote the book on American Jewish history. Stepping back from teaching, Jonathan Sarna says he has plenty of chapters still to go.” by Andrew Silow-Carroll

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Bright, entertaining writing makes this a thoroughly enjoyable reading experience.*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“The Jewish Link fifth annual Wine Guide” by Elizabeth Kratz, Michal Rosenberg, Moshe Kinderlehrer and Mark Schwartz

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“Embracing the city” by Bill Motchan, Jordan Palmer, Ellen Futterman and Mike Sherwin

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Sibling stories” by Alice Wertheim, Sara S. Barenfeld, Brandi Larsen, Marilyn Mayo and Theta Pavis

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Atlanta Jewish Times, Atlanta, GA**

“Neurodiversity and Judaism” by Robert Garber

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A completely fresh and perhaps unprecedented look at how Judaism and Judaic roles, including that of rabbi, seem to attract people with neurodiverse backgrounds. Nice job!*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Hasidah, Bay Area Jewish nonprofit whose IVF grants led to 60 babies, is winding down” by Niva Ashkenazi and Lea Loeb

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The reporter went above and beyond with this story. Instead of simply announcing the looming shutdown of an area nonprofit, Ashkenazi instead helped to raise awareness of ongoing fertility issues and some potential solutions for the Jewish community.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“JHF initiative empowers Pennsylvanians to address teen mental health” by Adam Reinherz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This article will help raise awareness about a deadly but sometimes hard to detect pandemic among youth.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Do clowns have the power to heal?” by Josie Glausiusz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is an excellent piece of health care journalism because it brings a little-known practice to life through powerful storytelling. The writer shows how medical clowning works in real time, offering moments of relief without diminishing the gravity of trauma. The contrast between profound loss and unexpected laughter is handled with great sensitivity, making the therapeutic impact feel both credible and deeply human.*

### **Second Place**

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

“When dad has dementia” by Rachel Schwartzberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a deeply affecting and thoughtfully reported piece that sheds light on an often-overlooked intersection between dementia care and religious life. The writer does an excellent job of grounding broader statistics in lived experience, allowing the reader to understand both the scope of the issue and its intimate human impact.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“IDF soldiers journey of healing: Transforming lives at Ramah Darom” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a timely and heartfelt story that highlights a meaningful initiative connecting healing, community, and place. The writer effectively conveys the significance of Ramah Darom as more than just a camp, positioning it as a setting uniquely suited for restoration and reflection.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Here’s why hospitals ask you your religion — and why Jews shouldn’t be afraid to answer” by Joseph Strauss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In this marvelous essay, Joseph Strauss asks and answers a smart and timely question: Why do hospitals ask patients their religion? His interrogation ultimately becomes an engaging, and at times even humorous meditation on a serious topic: issues of personal identity that are increasingly relevant to Jews in an age of rising antisemitism. Strauss’s essay is a pleasure to read, with a punchline that leaves you thinking.*

### **Second Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Two years on: Beilinson’s returning hostages unit stands ready” by Judy Last Balint

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Judy Lash Balint picked an inspiring subject — the Returning Hostages Unit of an Israeli hospital — and described its efforts to treat and rehabilitate hostages returning from Gaza in an insightful and empathetic way. Her feature provides readers with a near-complete understanding of the facility’s workings and range of services, and the underlying values and ingenuity that shaped this important endeavor and its life-affirming purpose. Bravo, Ms. Balint!*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Zionists faced increasing ostracization in 2024. It could get worse” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Strong well-reported article on the plight of Zionists in the U.S.*

#### **Second Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Gruesome evidence of Oct. 7” by Shana Goldberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Moving interview shines light on a difficult topic.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“A Dead Sea journey: Biking through the Negev” by Uriel Heilman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A completely fresh way to look at environmental and other challenges faced by the Red Sea area. I learned so much from this article. Good combination of first-person travel-like reporting with also speaking with experts. Well-done!*

#### **Second Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Let the truth come out” by Maayan Hoffman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This was a moving and human-centered piece with several angles related to Oct. 7.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Twenty years later — Remembering the uprooting of Gush Katif” by Carol Ungar, Debbie Rosen, as told to Toby Klein Greenwald, Moti and Hana Sender, as told to Toby Klein Greenwald

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This article was very educational by combining academic studies with reporting on individuals’ own experiences and those of their uprooted communities.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“2 years after Oct. 7 shattered them, Israel’s border kibbutzes are drawing new dreamers” by Deborah Danan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent article. Great topic and really addresses my questions about what comes next. I especially liked that it really put the focus on the resilience of the Israelis.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“My brother-in-law’s kibbutz weathered Oct. 7. Then came the Iranian missile strikes” by Rob Eshman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great article. The reporter really humanized the conflict and made it so relatable to the reader.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“In Druze town where hundreds breached border with Syria, residents mourn one tragedy while fearing another” by Deborah Danan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very gripping article on a lesser covered topic, The reporter shed light on how the war was affecting the Druze community in a way that was not only relatable, but evoked emotion. It was refreshing and well written.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Honoring Israel’s heroines and artists” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Second Place**

**The Reporter, Vestal, NY**

“Discovering the fascinating life of a Tunisian Jewish female performer” by Arieh Ullmann

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

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

“Cementing the bonds of friendship, one backstroke at a time” by Ellen Futterman

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

**First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“An unlikely rabbi” by Gary Rosenblatt

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“What I found in Joan Rivers’ filing cabinet full of jokes” by Melissa Pheterson

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

**First Place**

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

“Four Jewish women in Toronto found out they were sisters thanks to 23andMe” by Lila Sarick

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Lila Sarick of the Canadian Jewish News has written an astonishing article about four Jewish women in Toronto who discovered they were sisters by birth. Two were adopted as infants, and two were raised by the women’s mother. Thanks to 23andMe, courage, chutzpah, and love, a new family was miraculously born. Kudos to Sarick for finding this remarkable story and telling it in such a moving and memorable way.*

**Second Place**

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

“How the Oct. 7 aftermath splintered the New York Dyke March” by Nora Berman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The annual New York Dyke March took a virulently anti-Israel stance in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks, espousing the sort of anti-Zionism and antisemitism that has since become a feature of many progressive groups. Nora Berman's lacerating examination of the controversy and its damaging impact on the Jewish members of the March's organizing committee makes for utterly compelling journalism.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

"Connecting past and present: A seminar bridges Jewish history across northern Europe,"  
"Observance and observations: Seminar spotlights Vilnius," "Beneath Latvia's soil, stories speak,"  
"No longer 'Judenfrei,' Estonia boasts future-focused model developing Jewish youth," "In Finland, small Jewish community seeks sizable engagement" by Adam Reinherz

[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](#)

#### **Second Place**

##### **Washington Jewish Week, Colombia, MD**

"A surge in Ukrainian ancestral records means finding long-lost family" by Zoe Bell

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written and a "Finding Your Roots" approach.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

"The oldest matzah ball soup tureen in existence" by Tsadik Kaplan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very cute and well reflected, with historical annotations.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

"YIVO at 100: Preserving Ashkenazi culture of the past for the present and future" published by Beryl Benderly

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written, engaging story. Important Ashkenazi history to share.*

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Josef Rosensaft and the displaced persons camp of Bergen-Belsen: Remembering my father” by Menachem Rosensaft

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A strong testimonial and moving description centered on the author’s father.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Hitler’s enablers included conservative German Jews” by Dan Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I was unaware of this history; the author provided ample details of this sad story.*

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

### **First Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“In Europe, some Jews move Chanukah menorahs indoors” by Canaan Lidor

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This writer does a masterful job telling an important story through first-hand accounts. Great reporting!*

### **Second Place**

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

“War battered their Berlin hummus bar. But the Israeli-Palestinian partners behind Kanaan see a way forward.” by Shira Li Bartov

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very revealing piece about the after-shocks of Oct 7 told from the perspectives of Israeli and Palestinian business owners. Good context throughout.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“In a first-of-its-kind museum, mezuzahs keep memories of pre-war Poland alive” by Olivia Hayne

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I appreciate this story for bringing mezuzah imprints from pre-war Eastern Europe to life!*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“US long interested in Mideast” by Gil Zohar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Timely article traces largely-unknown efforts, by private Americans, to colonize or settle the land of Israel*

### **Second Place**

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

“Jews and the car business” by Mike Smith

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A retrospective look at Jewish contributions to Motor City*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“His voice reached St. Louis in 1943 on a record. Now, thanks to John Pertzborn, it’s being heard again.” by Jordan Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-written, feel good feature about the echoes of history*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Ain’t No Back to a Merry-Go-Round: Desegregating Glen Echo amusement park” by Deborah Lynn Blumberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well-paced and well-written personal history that brings the past to life.*

### **Second Place**

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

“When the Black press stood by the Jews against the Nazis” by Dan Freedman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Important look at the Black press’s allyship with Jews during and after WWII.*

*Comprehensive and well-researched.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Building a community: Stories from the ground up” by Sandy Eller, Judy Gruen, Merri Ukraincik, Rachel Schwartzberg and Carol Ungar

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Inspiring stories of faith and community.*

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

### **First Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Norman Podhoretz’s intellectual journey and the fate of American Jewry” by Jonathan S. Tobin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Heartfelt, sweeping tribute to influential American thinker*

### **Second Place**

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

“A Jewish bridge builder’s burial, 15 years late: The strange afterlife of Lawrence Rubin” by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Quirky story of quirky man and quirky community.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“In Galveston, descendants of a forgotten Jewish migration keep their community’s story alive” by Dan Fellner

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A look back at the Galveston Movement and its legacy.*

## **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**

“Interfaith celebration at Emanu-El blesses S.F.’s new mayor, Daniel Lurie” by Aaron Levy-Wolins

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**JNS, Allston, MA**

“Eritrean migrant who saved IDF officer on Oct. 7 settles down in Israel for good” by Rina Castelnovo

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Having a blast — Segal Academy students prepare for the Jewish New Year with shofars” by  
Judy Bluestein Levin

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Reimagining home: Syrian Jews, memory and a future of peace” by Kalid Loul

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Envisioning unity” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A young Muslim woman moved in with a 96-year-old Jewish actress — and it was bashert” by  
Hannah Feuer

[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**

“Why are pickles such a big hit with S.F. religious school kids?” by Alix Wall

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A clever story about experiential learning.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Resilience in the vineyards: Israel’s wine industry emerges scathed but strong” by Joshua E.  
London

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A story about the post-Oct 7 Israeli spirit told from the perspective of the vintners, and the reader can't help but feel hopeful for the future!*

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

### **First Place**

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

“The secret recipes of the Spanish Inquisition: hidden converso Jewish cooking still shapes food today” by Caitlin Stall-Paquet

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Fermenting a comeback” by Uriel Heilman

[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**

“From LA’s Bo.Re.Kas to NYC’s Buba, Israeli bourekas enter the American fast-food mainstream” by Rachel Ringler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great quotes and details, and I love stories that make me want to go and try new things.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Harlem’s queen of Ethiopian Jewish cuisine knows that the histories of Jews and Africans are inseparable” by Sam Lin-Sommer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This was nicely written and her voice shines through, thanks to a terrific interview and an interesting source!*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“You can fill up on kosher cholent at this NJ gas station” by Joseph Strauss

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I love stories that surprise me and this was well written with great quotes.*

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

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

### **First Place**

#### **Jewish Exponent, Melrose Park, PA**

“Marc Zumoff: Looking beyond the bouncing ball and giving back” by Aaron Troodler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This was a very well written article. It had an excellent flow to it and was very readable.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Yeshiva University men’s basketball team nets a big win in ‘Rebound’” by Aaron Troodler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very well written article. It contained a lot of information and was very well organized.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“At the edge of the pool Coach Al Rose delivers perspective” by Adam Reinherz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very well written. The article provided a lot of good background information and insight into why the subject was a highly successful coach.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Skiing through sour cream” by Eileen Pollack

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written and good flow. An interesting story.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Hadassah’s slam dunk” by Barbara Sofer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Well written. A lot of good background.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Driven by passion, fueled by legacy: Shwartzman’s path to the Indy 500” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well written article.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“Is this heaven or is it New Jersey? 9 innings of the Jewish American pastime” by Alter Shimon Yisrael Feuerman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great article. Very well written with great flow. A heart warming human interest piece.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Did the weekly Torah portion predict the winner of the Super Bowl?” by Benjamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very well written. I enjoyed reading this.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“From 5 a.m. tipoffs to bar mitzvah trips, Israelis are reveling in Deni Avdija’s breakout season” by Jacob Gurvis

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well written article.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, CO**

“Dr. Esther Mizrachi” by Larry Hankin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A very well-written piece that introduces a wonderful advocate for seniors’ health and her motivation and inspiration -- and emphasizes Jewish values that speak to caring for our elders.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“Retired teacher brings bridge, mahjong to life” by Ellen Futterman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This lovely, warm piece told from the perspective of the writer, immediately places us right in the middle of a Mahjong game, later revealing the subject’s background. A clever and unique approach to telling the story.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Ruth Davis sings her way through life at 106” by Ellie Wolf

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The opening description draws the reader in, and the incredible, positive attitude of the subject is presented in a way that might make one think, “I’d love to meet this amazing lady!” Warm and very well-written.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“My journey with dementia” by Wally Klatch, as told to Nechama Carmel

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“The last generation” by Hilary Danailova

[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**

“Trump’s Social Security Administration cuts are hurting Holocaust survivors, advocates say” by Andrew Lapin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It is a well reported piece on an important topic.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“‘Calendar girls’ yuk it up on ‘The Kelly Clarkson Show,’ receive honor from city mayor” by Carin M. Smilk

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Could dementia be the key to saving endangered Jewish languages?” by Lauren Hakimi

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article focuses on the very interesting phenomenon of people with dementia reverting to their native language. If that language is practically extinct, e.g. Judeo-Kashi mentioned in the*

*article, then talking to such people may be of great scientific value. The article discusses several cases and sheds light on this very slim silver lining to a dreadful disease.*

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

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

### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Fermenting a comeback” by Uriel Heilman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article was well-researched and reported in detail. The reader gains a clear understanding of the economic impact of the war with Hezbollah in both human and business terms.*

### **Second Place**

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

“The making of a mezuzah” by Rachel Schwartzberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article sheds light on a subject that most people do not consider: whether their mezuzah is authentic. The exploration provides the reader with an economic and religious education about a commonplace object found in many homes.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Passover cooking gets adjusted for the era of expensive, hard-to-find eggs” by Rachel Ringler

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The article takes a mundane subject — eggs at Passover — and elevates it into a well-sourced consumer finance story. The multiple perspectives that highlight people rather than dollars and cents keep the reader engaged.*

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“Community remembers longtime Emanu El Rabbi Roy Walter” by Matt Samuels

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A well-written, beautiful tribute to the rabbi. Quotes from those interviewed were well-selected to present the reader with so many aspects of this beloved man.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Rosa Zygmund Burk, holocaust survivor and matriarch, dies at 100” by Ellen Braunstein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This lovely article enables the reader to get a strong sense of this fascinating women despite being confined to a single page. The humorous and unique lead immediately grabs the readers' attention.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Goodbye captain America” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The mark of an outstanding obituary is its ability to give the reader a true sense of the man, and this piece does so beautifully. I felt like I'd visited his JCC and personally interacted with Mr. Rogers.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“They met at synagogue in 1961. They were buried together at Arlington National Cemetery in 2025. This is their story.” by Benyamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Lovely and soulful dual obituary of two women who were lifelong friends and shared a burial space. Made all the more heartfelt by in-person and on-the-scene reporting and a moving photo presentation.*

### **Second Place**

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

“The life and mission of Rabbi Sholom Lipskar, the Miami Rabbi who never stopped working” by Dovid Margolin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Very well reported and artfully presented historical obit of a rabbi that tells the story of a successful immigrant and builder as well as the story of the Jewish century.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“‘If it’s a success, then you’ve won’: Yaakov Kirschen on a career of cartooning” by Carin M. Smilk

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Excellent use of in person pre-death interview to elevate the quality and depth of an obit that is full of heart and affection.*

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

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

#### First Place

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

“Rep. Ro Khanna says he supports Zionism in exclusive interview on Jewish issues” by Gabe Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### Second Place

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

“‘What is the end here?’ Local Jewish campus leaders react to Trump crackdown” by Emma Goss

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### Honorable Mention

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

“Pulpit politics” by Casey Couch

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### First Place

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

“The inside story of the return of Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo” by Bobbie Greene Kilberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: An excellent piece by a White House fellow and then-recent Yale Law School graduate on Richard Nixon’s steadfast commitment to advancing legal justice for Native Americans and returning Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo on Dec. 15, 1970. Nixon called his signing of the Return of Blue Lake Act as the start of “a new road which leads us to justice in the treatment of those who were the first Americans.” After the signing ceremony, organized by author Bobbie Greene Kilberg, “Nixon turned and stared directly at me, put his hand on my shoulder and said: ‘Young lady, that ceremony was one of the highlights of my presidency. It was exceptionally meaningful, and I only wish it could have continued even longer. I am very proud of what we did today.*

#### Second Place

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

“Stephen Colbert asked Josh Shapiro about his only campaign defeat. The winner has some thoughts” by Ami Eden

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A fun piece on Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's interview with Stephen Colbert just after the governor and his family were terrorized in an antisemitic attack on the governor's mansion.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“School district of Philadelphia reaches settlement with DOE over Antisemitism,” “Swarthmore Israel protests result in suspension of students for justice in Palestine group,” “Is the lower Merion School District doing enough to address antisemitism?,” “In Wissahickon, the school board takes a stand against antisemitism,” “Michigan Congressman demands answers from Haverford on antisemitism,” “Federation sends letter to School District of Philadelphia, teacher on antisemitism,” “Lawsuit alleges First Amendment violations against Philadelphia Public School in incident involving Jewish students,” “Congressional committee investigates alleged Antisemitism in School District of Philadelphia,” “Groups back Penn refusal to give EEOC names of Jewish employees, students,” “Wissahickon School District responds to reported antisemitism at fair booth,” “Wissahickon principal faces termination after antisemitic comments on voicemail” by Andrew Guckes, Jarrad Saffren, Mia Resnicow, Braden Hamelin and Dan Joseph

[Click here to view submission](#)

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#### **Second Place**

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

“Bulls-eye placed on school funding” by Casey Couch

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This writer guides us through the thicket of school funding in Ohio and holds our hand all the way. great job!*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“With eye to future, educators aid ‘COVID kindergarteners’” by Adam Reinherz

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I hear about this issue from my educator friends all the time. Good quotes and a good picture of how COVID is still impacting young people long after its arrival.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Anti-Israel demonstrations weigh on seniors’ college choices” by Ayala Katz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

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

“BDS on Canadian campuses: What has been achieved in the months since 2024’s summer of unrest?” by Mitchell Consky

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Comprehensive and clearly written. Multiple sources. Excellent investigative work. Many issues (such as lawsuits) ongoing; follow-up reporting would be welcome.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“First-ever Solomon Schechter day school in North America goes Orthodox?” by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Multiple sources. Good historical context. Clearly presents complexity of issue.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Online antisemitism: What it looks like, what to do” by Braden Hamelin

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

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

“Jewish students share their struggles with antisemitism at Pitt” by Toby Tabachnick

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

**Cleveland Jewish News, Cleveland, OH**

“Praying for peace, protected by guns” by David Hertz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

**First Place**

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

“American antizionism” by Shaul Kelner

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Second Place**

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

“Tennessee Jewish communities strengthen security amid rising antisemitism” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

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

“Nashville holds hate accountable in landmark civil rights conviction” by Barbara 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**

“The podcasters making antisemitism Christian again” by Mira Fox

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Excellent overview of the rise of antisemitism by Christian nationalists. This is a must needed exposé.*

**Second Place**

**Chabad.org, Brooklyn, NY**

“‘I don’t recognize this Australia’: Persistent antisemitism rocks Australian Jewry” by Mendel Super

[Click here to view submission](#)

**Honorable Mention**

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

““We cannot be defined by the hatred of others,” antisemitism in New Mexico here and now” by Ellen Marks

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The heartfelt coupled with the informational approach is well done.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

##### **Jewish Standard, Riveredge, NJ**

“Learning from our own history” by Joanne Palmer

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a very moving story based on a conversation between the writer, Joanne Palmer and a scholar who grew up in the Soviet Union and wrote a book about refusniks. The scholar, Dr. Izabella Tabarovsky, compares Soviet antisemitism and anti-Zionism to current events and experiences in the US especially on college campuses.*

#### **Second Place**

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

“A nation unashamed by our ‘story’” by Rabbi Moshe Taragin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a very well-written and argued article. Although there are no new or surprising facts in this essay, the clear logic and interesting framing make this presentation of the “story” of the Jewish people by Rabbi Moshe Taragin well worth reading.*

#### **Honorable Mention**

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

“This week’s Torah portion fueled a 1,000-year argument” by Daniel Stein

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is an interesting article describing how the Karaites split from mainstream Judaism. The writer, Rabbi Daniel Stein, explains the reasons for the differences in rituals, framing them as manifestations of the perpetual tendency of Jews to argue and debate. Rabbi Stein builds on his own experience with Karaites in the bay area to call on other communities to include Karaites in their congregations.*

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Sacred collaboration” by Hilary Danailova

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A beautifully written story that weaves together tradition, spirituality and progress.*

*Through vivid detail and powerful voices, it captures not just the act of writing a Torah, but the profound meaning of inclusion and shared sacred experience.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Chesed breeds Tzedek” published by Shira Stutman

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: Really enjoyed this essay, which I thought really brought the concept of chesed to life. It showed how small, consistent acts of kindness can create real change, especially in a chaotic world.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Appalachian homecoming” by G. Samantha Rosenthal

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comments: This piece offers a thoughtful and engaging portrait of Jewish life in Appalachia, highlighting both its challenges and its strength. Through vivid detail and personal insight, the writer shows how community and identity can flourish in unexpected places.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“A Jewish farmer drove 600 miles to rescue a century-old synagogue. Now he’s building a new one in a cornfield.” by Benjamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece is both poignant and uplifting, capturing how loss can give way to renewal. Through vivid detail, the writer honors the emotional weight of preserving a synagogue’s legacy while giving it new life.*

### **Second Place**

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

“This NY rabbi’s job is so specialized, he hasn’t vacationed in 26 years. But now, technology can help.” by Jackie Hajdenberg

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece offers a compelling look into a highly specialized role, bringing to life the quiet dedication behind maintaining the eruv. The writer captures the rabbi’s commitment and sense of purpose, with the introduction of new technology adding an interesting layer to the tradition.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“The search for the biblical blue dye is told in a new visitor’s center” by Etgar Lefkovits

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This piece offers a fascinating account of the search for tekhelet, weaving together history, science, and personal narrative. The writer brings the centuries-old mystery to life while highlighting the dedication behind its rediscovery.*

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

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

#### **First Place**

**Jewish Standard, River Edge, NJ**

“Little gorilla learns to read” by Lori Fein

[Click here to view submission](#)

#### **Second Place**

**Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, Pittsburgh, PA**

“College decision process prompts pause and questions for students and parents” by Adam Reinherz

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

#### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Reading and re-reading” by Ilana Kurshan

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In this short but powerful and provocative essay, Ilana Kurshan likens the experience of reading a book to a child to reading the Torah: Both require an act of the imagination, and both lead, in every instance, to fresh discoveries about that which is read, and to whom it is read. Kurshan delivers a beautiful message, beautifully expressed.*

## **Category 30: Award for Excellence in Podcasting**

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

#### **First Place**

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

“Architects of peace” by Manya Brachear Pashman, Atara Lakritz, TK Broderick, Sean Savage and Jon Schweitzer

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Very professionally done — intriguing and introduces a wide variety of perspectives and voices. Really makes the most of the genre of podcast.*

### **Second Place**

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

“Such a match!” by Emma Goss and Lonny Goldsmith

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: I love the concept of this podcast and the human stories that it picks up. It is almost the diametric opposite of the first place one in terms of scope and style but also presents some of the best opportunities of the podcast genre.*

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Thoughts & prayers” by Jessica Fisher, Maital Friedman, Tessa Zitter and Josh Allen

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Thoughtful and insightful — really made me think and ask questions about concepts like prayer that can be too easily routinized. In particular, I appreciated the rare interaction with specifically Jewish theological content.*

## **Category 31: Award for Excellence in General Newsletters**

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

### **First Place**

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

“Hey Alma’s weekly pop culture digest” by Grace Yagel

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

**Andrew Silverstein, New York, NY**

“Waiting on line on Christmas is a time-honored New York tradition — was it ever thus?,” “How a Jewish mother from Flatbush became America’s most recognizable Italian on TV,” “I have seen the future of America — in a pastrami sandwich in Queens” Published by The Forward Association, Inc.

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

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

“Hey Alma’s guide to antisemitism,” “Finding a Sephardic Jewish community changed my world,”

“The Noshers’s ultimate latke guide” by Avital Dayanim

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Wonderful, truly creative, and eye-catching. visually appealing and graphic designs invite the reader to a more involved participation with the text and its underlying concepts.*

### **Second Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“What does it mean to be pro-Israel in 2025,” “Moments that have shaped American Judaism,” “The dangerous antisemitism lurking in the Christian nationalist movement, and the American government,” “Modi is running on ‘Moshiach Energy’” by Erica Cash

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

**eJewishPhilanthropy, New York, NY**

“25 years after launching, the now-shuttered Joshua Venture still making waves through Jewish world” by Jay Deitcher

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

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

“In a new light: Accountability and turmoil at the FIDF” by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“A federation grant opened the door — Aurora Pfeiffer skated through it to win gold and silver” by Barbara Dab

[Click here to view submission](#)

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

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

### **First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“A protective presence: 24 hours in the West Bank” by Sarah Breger and Eli Katzoff

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Deserving of first place for high production values and the intense, live scenes. This was not retrospective reporting. This had immediacy.*

### **Second Place**

**Eli Katzoff, Newton, MA**

“Through the land — Hostages Keith and Aviva Siegel tell their story” published by The Times of Israel

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: A close second because of the power of the interviews juxtaposed with the gorgeous landscape.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Eli Katzoff, Newton, MA**

“Through the land — The women who run towards the bombs” published by The Times of Israel

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Deserves recognition for the incredible drone shots of a bombed apartment building.*

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

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

**First Place**

**Lilith Magazine, New York, NY**

“Spring 2025” by Lindsay Barnett

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Terrific cover that immediately engages the reader. Funny, clever, smart. Inside, the layout of the cover article is clean, the typography wonderfully chosen and the photographs completely relevant. Even the smaller articles and regular columns demonstrate thought behind the look. I loved many of the pulled quotes and thought the type throughout the issue was well chosen.*

**Second Place**

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

“Summer 2025: The food issue” by Carol Moskot

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Great use of type, photos; even the choice of where to add tone to an article was thoughtful and relevant. The illustrations were relatable and weren't over the top. Love the size of some of the photos. Overall a beautiful issue.*

**Honorable Mention**

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

“Winter 2025” by B'nai B'rith Staff and Simeon Montesa

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Evocative cover that draws the reader in. Simple yet thoughtful. The rest of the issue (and the cover article) used illustrations cleverly and clearly. The typography overall was easily readable and well chosen; and even the organizational news was well presented. Overall a clean, clear issue with great use of photos and art.*

**Category 37: Award for Excellence in Short-Form Video**

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

**First Place**

**Moment Magazine, Washington, DC**

“Nazi Germany's war on jazz” by Andrew Michaels

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: Creative and engaging reminder of fascism's cultural reach.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“These artists are keeping memories of pre-war Poland alive through mezuzah traces” by Jake Wasserman and Olivia Haynie

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It's the story, more than the use of video, that set this entry apart. This piece depicts a poignant and creative effort to find and document the homes of Jews who fled or were killed.*

### **Second Place**

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

“The fall harvest sows the seeds for a new synagogue” by Benyamin Cohen and Andy Carvin

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: It is the story, the subject matter, that distinguishes this entry. The novelty of a synagogue in a cornfield was inspiring to see.*

### **Honorable Mention**

**Eli Katzoff, Newton, MA**

“On the Tel Aviv beach under waves of Iranian missiles” published by The Times of Israel

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The resilience of our fellow Jews is vividly displayed in these interviews. If there was a category for existentialism, this would win first place.*

## **Category 38: Wild Card Category — Award for Excellence in Short-Form Writing**

**All divisions compete in the same category.**

### **First Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Saving the Rabbinic Library of Izmir” by Avi Dresner

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Second Place**

**Hadassah Magazine, New York, NY**

“Animals from Gaza get a second chance in Israel” by Jordana Benami

[Click here to view submission](#)

## **Category 39: Wild Card Category — Award for Excellence in Long-Form Writing**

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

### **First Place**

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

“The Ball Dreams of the Sky” 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.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“The new Christian right, antisemitism & U.S. democracy” by Tom Gjelten

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: In-depth and sober coverage of an important issue that is negatively impacting the Jewish community. This entry was a runaway winner of this category.*

### **Second Place**

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

“A dead sea journey: Biking through the Negev” by Uriel Heilman and Simeon Montesa

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: The author found an interesting way into observing and describing the current condition of an important part of Israeli geography.*

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

### **First Place**

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

“The heroes of Bondi Beach” by Moshe New

[Click here to view submission](#)

*Comment: This is a heartbreaking and terrifying account of the terrible attack on Bondi Beach. It made me feel like I was there witnessing every second.*

### **Second Place**

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

“He grew up Christian. Now he's sleeping in the synagogue that sparked his conversion.” By Benyamin Cohen

[Click here to view submission](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

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

“Inside one man's quixotic quest to preserve 200,000 Israeli tchotchkes” by Asaf Elia-Shalev

[Click here to view submission](#)