

KMOV-TV's Conners and Newton to be 2009 Media Persons of the Year



Media Persons of the Year Event Co-Chairs Joan Lee Berkman (right) and Debra Hollingsworth (left) introduce the 2009 recipients, KMOV TV anchors Larry Conners and Vickie Newton (center) at the Patron's Cocktail Reception hosted by Ruth's Chris Steak House on February 24.

The evening of April Fool's Day promises to be a night of great fun, a little foolishness, and more than a few surprises in the Khorassan Room of the Chase Park Plaza. The Press Club will be turning the spotlight on KMOV-TV news anchors, Larry Conners and Vickie Newton, who will be royally roasted and toasted as our 2009 Media Persons of the Year. Co-chairs of the event are Joan Lee Berkman and Debra Hollingsworth and the advisory chair is our immediate past-president Alice S. Handelman.

Carol Daniels of KMOX Radio and KMOV-TV Co-host of "Great Day St. Louis" will be program emcee and scorekeeper of roasts and toasts from a group of guest celebrities including KMOV Chief Meteorologist Kent Ehrhardt, St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Deb Peterson, KMOX personality John Carney and several national celebrities from coast to coast.

Presenting sponsors are AT&T, Inc. with a gift of \$10,000 and Creative Producers Group. The Producer sponsor is THF Realty with a \$5,000 donation. Anchor sponsors at \$2,500 include: Carboline Company, Creative Producers, Edward Jones, Catherine Manley Gaylord Foundation, Missouri Wine & Grape Board, Ruth's Chris Steak House, St. John's Mercy, Steve Edwards Studios, St. Louis University Hospital, and University of Missouri-St. Louis. Editor sponsors at \$1,500 include: AAA

Missouri, Archway Chapter of The LINKS, Arcturis, Build-A-Bear Workshop/New Space, CBS Radio, Citi, Danna McKittrick, Doc's Harley Davidson, Emmis Broadcasting, Elizabeth Green, Fleishman Hillard, Fox Family Foundation, KMOV-TV, Logan College of Chiropractic, Maryville University, Millstone Foundation, Nestle Purina PetCare, Northwest Coffee, Regions Bank, SM Wilson, St. Louis Community College Foundation, The Private Bank, UBS Financial Services, Walter Knoll Florist, Washington University in St. Louis, Webster University, and World Wide Technology Foundation.

Individual patron tickets are \$300, otherwise, single tickets are \$150. A special discounted price for Press Club dues paying members and one guest is also offered. Contact the office at 636-230-1973 for this special member rate.



Chuck Knoll (seated center), Director of Operations for Walter Knoll Florist, shows the whimsical centerpiece he has designed for the 2009 Media Person of the Year event to Joan Berkman, (right) co-chair of the event and Alice S. Handelman, (left) immediate past president of Press Club and advisory chair of the event. The event will be the evening of April Fool's Day. photo by Mike Giger



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Website: www.stlpressclub.org

Glenda Partlow, Courier Editor

Laura Schnarr, Webmaster

Jared Gordon, Intern

Gina Trapani, Intern

2009 Spring Press Club Internship and Scholarship Recipients

Jared Gordon is a junior Media Communications/English double major in pursuit of a Professional Writing Certificate at Webster University.

On campus he has served as a New Student Orientation Leader, a judge on the Surfacing Student Playwright Festival’s Selection Committee, and a Writing Center Coach in the

university’s Academic Resource Center. Last spring, he studied at Regents College in London, England. In February, he was selected to give a presentation on the top student issue to the president, vice-presidents, and administrators of Webster University at the annual Delegate’s Agenda. He is currently involved with the

Dominic Research Project under the supervision of Professor Larry Baden. **Gina Trapani** will be graduating in May with a B.A. in Media Communications from Webster University. She is also a student-athlete at Webster. Gina is known for her

strong work ethic and her passion for the game of softball. After graduation, Gina is looking forward to applying the skills she has learned from interning at The Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis to a career in marketing.

and film at Webster and Washington Universities and serves on the Board of Directors of Student Media Inc. at Washington University.



New Board Members

Ellen Futterman recently became the editor of the St. Louis Jewish Light. She is an



award winning journalist and former daily features editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Futterman joined the Post-Dispatch in 1982 as a general assignment reporter. Her previous journalism experience includes stints at the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner and the Belleville News-Democrat. During her 25 year career at the Post-Dispatch she worked as a news reporter, feature writer, columnist, movie critic and critic-at-large. She teaches journalism

and film at Webster and Washington Universities and serves on the Board of Directors of Student Media Inc. at Washington University.

Irvin Harrell is the director of community outreach and newsroom recruitment at the



St. Louis Post-Dispatch where his responsibilities include hiring and organizing the scholarship and internship programs at the newspaper. He is also the assistant business editor for the team that covers the economy, retail, construction, real estate, aerospace and transportation. Harrell is the current president of the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists. He’s also on the board of the Diversity Awareness Partnership, and a member of the National

Association of Black Journalists, National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and the local and national chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists. Irv has been a journalist for more than 20 years, working at such newspapers as the St. Petersburg Times, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Tampa Tribune and Detroit News.

Aisha Sultan writes a feature column for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch called “Dirty Laundry” and covers home and relationship trends. She took over as Home and Family editor for the Lifestyle section of the paper after almost 10 years of covering news stories. She is a frequent guest on local and national news programs and on the reporter’s roundtable on KMOX. She also writes a parenting news blog at www.stltoday.com/parentstalkback.

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Welcome to Recent New Press Club Members

Erica Abbett, Patricia Beck, Edward J. Blake, Jr., Diane Denney, Ellen Futterman, Jennifer Gaby, Jo Mannies, Melody Meiners, Margaret Rambo, Mary Shapiro, Kedra Tolson, Maureen Umlauf, Emily Willilams

President's Inaugural Message and Goals for 2009

Dear members of the Press Club,

When Alice Handelman persuaded me a couple of years ago to rejoin the Press Club after many years, I did not have high expectations. To be sure, I liked the people who I knew as members and I respected the club's mission as Alice articulated it. But the Press Club had not been on my radar screen, nor, frankly, on that of many journalists with whom I had worked.

When she asked me a year later if I would serve as president, I had to think it over. It sounded like a lot of work. But as I gave it more thought, I realized the Press Club represented a great opportunity for me, for every one of our members and for those we hope to recruit. Here was an organization that with Alice's great leadership had found its footing both as an effective fundraiser and a convener of timely and interesting programs. And here we are today living in a time when the threat level to the nation's press has gone so quickly from yellow to orange to red.

In 2009, our organization is in a position to make a difference.

I am convinced that we can do this by...

- **Underwriting great journalism.** Increasingly, across the nation, non-profits have stepped up to support enterprising journalists as they shed light in dark places. Simply put we can ask journalists to bring us their great ideas and offer grants to get those stories reported, written and into the local press.
- **Bringing more journalists into our organization and then providing for their needs.** We can offer journalists retraining opportunities, use our website to help them look for work and create a thriving network where students, business people and everyday citizens can access their considerable skills.
- **Educating our young people.** Our membership can help youth – from first graders to high school seniors – come to grips with new technology and to appreciate the enduring principles of a free and vibrant press.
- **Speaking up for and acting on behalf of the First Amendment.** Through our programming we can give people a greater appreciation for what it means to have a free and vibrant press.

Late last month, Feb. 24, your board convened a brainstorming session where we began to flesh out these ideas. Subsequently, we brought to the board a proposal on how to move toward that first goal – underwriting great journalism.

We must move quickly because the need is urgent.

In case you doubt this, I want to share a message with you that I popped up on my BlackBerry during the brainstorming session. It came from a freelancer that I had been working with on behalf of the St. Louis Beacon, our region's nascent online journal. For the sake of her privacy, I'll call her Sue.

She wrote:

"Well, things have gone from bad to worse back to just bad. I haven't had time to work on the column, as I am in day-to-day survivor mode. I'm basically being evicted, and some friends are putting me up in an apartment for a couple months for free -- until hopefully I can get a full-time job or even two part-time jobs. So I am in the process of moving, and trying to keep up with my regular freelance, and trying to find work. Anyway, just wanted to let you know I haven't fallen off the face of the earth. I am just in a very chaotic place right now."

I'd like the Press Club to go to the ends of the earth to keep journalists and storytellers like Sue from falling off the face of the earth.

I hope you do, too, and that you will join me in whatever way you can to support this organization and its good work.

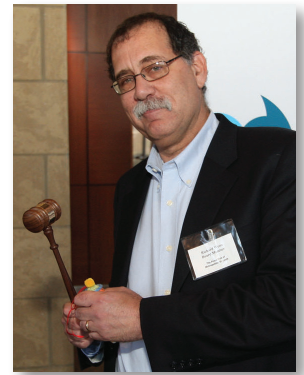



Photo by William Greenblatt

2009 Media Person of the Year Committee

Jan Albus, Keith Alper, Peggy Barnhart, John & Lori Beck, Dan Berger, Lewis Bettman III, John Boul, Charlene Bry, Claudia Burris, Pat Bush, Ruby Harriman Christian, Kim & Tom Chulick, Maxine Clark & Box Fox, Allan Cohen, Allison Collinger, Suzanne Corbett, Peggy Csereznyes, Cynthia Davis, Melanie Dileo, Steve Edwards, Tom Eschen, Beth Fagan, Anne & George Gagen, Neil J. George, Tom George & Barbara Harbach, Elizabeth Green, Bill Greenblatt, Linda Goldstein, Dr. George Goodman, Larry Griggers, Lyle Hamilton, Alice S. Handelman, Diane Haneklau, Zelema Harris, Karen Johnson, Judy Kaplan, Tom Keller, Deborah Kersting, Chuch & Walter Knoll, Becky & Gary Kueker, Ben Lipman, Ann Marr, Sue Killenberg McGinn, Bill McShane, Rick Miller, Nick Molony, Doug Morgan, Jim O'Donnell, Joan Quicksilver, Margaret Rambo, Alvin Reid, Mike Right, Marci Rosenberg, Sally Roth, Keith Schoop, Tanja & Bob Schwendinger, Jan Scott, John & Darcie Sheehan, Laura Signaigo, Wayman Smith, Michael Staenberg, Lauren Stayce, Mark Stayce, Norma Stern, J. Kim Tucci, Susan Veidt, Cheryl Walker, Barbara Washington, Dorothy Weiner, Pat Whitaker, Richard Wilson.

Annual Meeting Packs a Memorable Punch

Press Club members and guests at the annual meeting in the William D. Purser Center at Logan University.
Photo by William Greenblatt



Julius Hunter Becomes First "Lifetime Member", Shares TV Anecdotes

Julius Hunter has been a first to initiate many worthwhile endeavors in St. Louis, so it is in keeping with this tradition that with a \$500 check, he became our club's first "lifetime member" at the Dec. 5th annual meeting. Held in the sun-drenched lobby of Logan University's beautiful new William D. Purser Center, the morning began with a delicious breakfast buffet. After elections, reports and awards, Hunter entertained the audience of over 50 members and guests with humorous anecdotes from his 33-year career as a television news anchor and reporter, which are chronicled in his latest book, *TV One-on-One*. He closed the morning with a book signing. In 1993, Hunter was awarded the Press Club's Media Person of the Year, which is just one of the many honors he has received during his illustrious career.

Lifetime Membership is an option for all members who are 65 or older. To become a life member like Hunter, contact Glenda Partlow, 636-230-1973.

Catfish and President's Awards Given

Given our club's beginning in 1956 as newsmen gathered for a catfish lunch, the club's highest recognition for a member's exemplary service to the Press Club is **The Catfish Award**. The Catfish Club is like our "hall of fame" and this year two of our most dedicated board members were welcomed into this elite group: **Susan Fadem and Cynthia Kagan Frohlichstein**. Susan Fadem made a major contribution to the club this year for her outstanding service as the chairperson of our new fund-raising event, "Face the Nation: A Girls' Night Out", which raised \$8,000 dollars to fund our new Tim Russert broadcast

journalism scholarship. Cynthia Kagan Frohlichstein has been an exemplary good-will ambassador for the club -- having brought many new people into membership and to our events. She has also provided us with a number of interesting forums over the last several years.



President's Awards recognize outstanding service to the club and enable us to foster excellence in communication. The 2008 recipients were **Thomas Eschen**, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Maryville University; **Richard Gavatin**, Owner and President of Information Management Solutions, Inc.; **Charles Gail**, President, DTS Consulting Group; **Ellen Soule**, Public Relations Director, Neiman Marcus St. Louis; **Allen Barber**, Vice President and General Manager, Neiman Marcus St. Louis; **Maxine Clark**, President and Chief Bear, Build-A-Bear Workshop; **Joan Lee Berkman**, President, Facewatchers, Inc., and 501creative's **Karen Handelman**, President and **Steve Norkaitis**, Graphic Designer.



Julius Hunter (center) presents a \$500 check for Lifetime Membership in the Press Club to Alice S. Handelman, (right) 2008 president, and Richard Weiss, (left) incoming president, at the December 5, 2008 annual meeting.

Photo by William Greenblatt

President Award Recipients



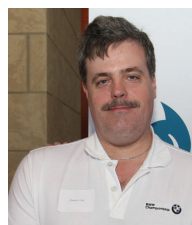
Accepting for Maxine Clark:
Tina Klocke and Bob Fox



Bob Cohn



Thomas Eshen



Charles Gail



Richard Gavatin



Ellen Soule

Press Club Legacy Needs Help

The year 2009 marks the 22nd anniversary of the Media Archives at the St. Louis Public Library. The Press Club founded the archives in 1987 to help preserve the rich history of the diverse media of St. Louis. Originally, 10 volunteers worked every month to catalog and promote the archives, and the Press Club also provided an intern to help the archivist, Jean Gosebrink. Some of the most devoted volunteers included Frank Absher, who still works with radio and television collections and personalities. Others who were long-time volunteers included Verna Smith, Mary Kimbrough, and Guin Stemmler. In addition to Press Club material, donations have come from Gardner Advertising, Harry Fender, Al Fleischman., and various radio stations and newspapers. Jean Gosebrink has presented several exhibits and programs on the collected material for the enjoyment of local media groups.

To ensure that this great Press Club legacy is continued, we would like to remind members how they can help to preserve our history.

1. Plan to donate your personal media files to the Media Archives.
 2. Tell others when and how to donate work and background material.
 3. Join volunteers on the first Friday (or designated day) of the month at the archives.
 4. Use the archives for programs and research.
- For information or questions about the archives, please contact Marge Polcyn at 314-416-4074 or margepolcyn@sbcglobal.net; Verna Smith at 314-692-0488 or vsmith@oasisnet.org; or Jean Gosebrink, archivist, at 539-0381.



The 1904 World's Fair Foundation honored the The Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis for its 52 years of service to the community. 1904 President Rich Pisani, (left) and Bruce Cicardi, chairman (right), present a Certificate of Appreciation to Alice S. Handelman, President of Press Club. The gala 1904 event was held in December at the Cabanne House. Photo by William Greenblatt



"Business and Ethics" was the topic of the March forum featuring from left, Dr. Ira Kodner of Washington University's School of Medicine who directs the Center for the Study of Human Values and Ethics, and Dr. Stuart Yoak, executive director of the Center and a professor at Washington University who teaches business ethics. The Center is unique in its support for the study, research and teaching of ethics across all disciplines and professions. Thanking them for their insightful presentation is Press Club's immediate past-president Alice S. Handelman.



Press Club Board members at January meeting.

From the left front row: Rena Abrams, Richard Gavatin, Marge Polcyn, Jan Scott, Barbara Washington, Judy Kaplan and Aisha Sultan. Second Row: Joan Lee Berkman, Margaret Gillerman, Bob Cohn, Tom Eschen, Tom Keller, Gloria Ross, Alice S. Handelman, Glenda Partlow, Ellen Futterman, Alvin Reid and Carol Lundgren. Third Row: William Greenblatt, Mike Right, Dick Weiss, Allison Collinger, Benjamin Lipman and Claudia Burris.

2009 Officers and Board Members Elected

Press Club officers were elected for two year terms and are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Richard Weiss

VICE PRESIDENTS:

PROGRAMMING: Pam Neihaus (1 year), Judy Kaplan and Irvin Harrell

SCHOLARSHIP: Claudia Burris and Aisha Sultan

MEMBERSHIP: Susan Fadem and Ellen Futterman

PUBLICITY: Carol Lundgren and Margaret Gillerman

TREASURER: Benjamin Lipman

SECRETARY: William Greenblatt

PAST-PRESIDENT: Alice S. Handelman

New and returning board members were also elected and are: Ellen Futterman, Susan Fadem, Irvin Harrell, Thomas Keller, Carol Lundgren, Benjamin Lipman, Marge Polcyn, Marci Rosenberg and Aisha Sultan

**Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis
2009 Media Persons of the Year**
to honor
Larry Conners and Vickie Newton
KMOV-TV News Anchors



Wednesday, April 1
(No foolin')

Chase Park Plaza
Khorassan Room

5:30 p.m. Cocktails
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Program

Caricatures by Steve Edwards

