

Our President's Message

Dear Press Club Members and Friends,

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support. Your membership and donations truly make a difference to our mission to raise awareness and funding for student journalism scholarships and enterprise grants to working, independent journalists to spotlight marginalized stories in our region. And, a special thank you to everyone who donated to the Press Club's Year End Giving campaign which raised \$13,586.

Press Club closed out 2021 with a fun and festive virtual Annual Meeting. A number of Board members were recognized for their outstanding commitment to St. Louis Press Club. This year, five **President's Above-and-Beyond Awards** were presented to **Richard Gavatin, Jan Scott, Jessica Z. Brown, Betsy Taylor** and **Sarah Thompson**. This award goes to an individual who has truly gone above and beyond to provide a service or support for Press Club. **Encore President's Awards** were presented to **Miran Halen** and **Phyllis Langsdorf**. The Press Club's highest honor, **The Catfish Award** was given to **Claudia Burris**.



Joan Lee Berkman
President, St. Louis Press Club

At the annual meeting, we also announced the **Alice Handelman Scholarship Fund for Feature Writing**. Thanks to a generous \$18,000 grant by **Michael Staenberg**, \$3,600 will be donated annually for the next five years to her Scholarship Fund. And, thanks to the many others who have also made donations to her scholarship fund -- a link to donate is available on our website.

2022 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Press Club. We will be hosting an in-person **Media Persons of the Year Gala**. This year's honorees include... **Elliott Davis**, FOX2, **Joe Holleman**, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, **Debbie Monterrey**, KMOX, **Wiley Price**, St. Louis American, **Kay Quinn**, KSDK Newschannel 5 and a group award to **Nine PBS and its "Living St. Louis" team: Jim Kircherr, Anne-Marie Berger, Ruth Ezell, Kara Vaninger** and **Brooks Butler**. Congratulations to each of these most-deserving journalists. We will celebrate their program of work at a gala later this year that will be co-chaired by **Peggy Barnhart** and yours truly.

Thanks to the success of Beauty Buzz and other fundraising efforts and the leadership of board member **Elisa Tomich**, who chairs our enterprise grant committee, we now have funds available to award grants to working journalists. Please check the website on how to apply for a grant.

The winners of our inaugural **Writing Contest** for local writers will be announced at the end of January.

Our team leaders are working on programming to keep the spotlight on the essential issues of the day, as well as collaborating with media organizations to provide professional development activities to bolster journalistic skills to address the changing needs of the global communications profession and to offer social activities that build a vital media community.

In the meantime, thanks to the dedication and perseverance of our Club staff, board leadership and our members, who continue to prove the resiliency of the St. Louis Press Club. Please feel free to share our newsletter with colleagues and friends and encourage them to join us on our mission to ensure the future of quality media. Freedom of the press and reliable reporting are now, more than ever, critically important.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support,

Joan



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St. Louis Press Club is excited to announce The Alice Handelman Scholarship Fund for Feature Writing



Alice Handelman is one of Press Club's most valued members and a past president of Press Club. She is an award-winning writer and photographer and began her illustrious career in the 7th grade where she was the editor of the school newspaper at West Miami Junior High School. She graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and has held a number of journalistic positions including 18 years as the community relations director for the Jewish Center for the Aged, a feature writer for the ice hockey blues and now for the Ladue News. Her impressive list of awards and community involvement have benefited so many in the St. Louis region.

We are announcing a new scholarship in her honor – **The Alice Handelman Scholarship Fund for Feature Writing**. And, thanks to a generous \$18,000 grant by Michael Staenberg, \$3,600 will

be donated annually for the next five years to her Scholarship Fund. Our sincerest thanks, respect and admiration, Alice, for her remarkable contributions over the years to Press Club and the St. Louis journalism community. Also, many thanks and ongoing appreciation to Michael Staenberg for his incredible support of Press Club.

To donate to The Alice Handelman Scholarship Fund for Feature Writing visit:
<https://www.stlpressclub.org/TheAliceHandelmanScholarshipFundForFeatureWritingDonation.html>

A special thank you to everyone who donated to the Press Club Year End Giving that raised \$13,586

Year End Giving Contributors

Christy Beckmann	Julie Flory	Mike Murray
Joan Lee Berkman	Richard & Linda Gavatin	Tom O'Neal
Better Business Bureau	Bethe & Gary Growe	Art Perry
Patty Bloom	Miran Halen	Marci Rosenberg
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St. Louis Press Club's 2021 Annual Meeting



Claudia Burris

The Catfish Award

"The Catfish Award" is the Press Club's highest honor. The Catfish, is named in remembrance of the club's originating founders who gathered over Catfish lunches each Friday in 1956, and is awarded to a member recognizing that person's exceptional contributions to the field of communications and to the Press Club.

This year our board has elected to bestow the "Catfish" on **Claudia Burris**, a member who has been a leader in promoting excellence in journalism throughout our region for many years. In fact, for more than 15 years, she has coordinated the Club's highly successful journalism scholarship program. Under her leadership, Press Club has provided scholarship grants to hundreds of students. She currently is an adjunct photojournalism professor at Webster University. She also is highly-recognized ceramic artist and has received countless awards for her stunning photography.

President's Award

Several years ago, the Press Club president began giving President's Above and Beyond awards to an individual who has truly gone above and beyond to provide a service or support for Press Club.

This year, that award is going to five people. Two of whom have been doing their magic behind the scenes for years – and they are **Richard Gavatin** and **Jan Scott**. Richard is our board treasurer, website guru and all-around technology advisor. Jan has served as the Board's programming Vice President for six years and has led this effort flawlessly.

The next three recipients are **Jessica Brown**, **Betsy Taylor** and **Sarah Thompson**. Jessica's insightful interview series "In the Now" resulted in more than 40 spellbinding stories of professionals balancing work and life challenges during these uncertain times and she has now stepped up as our new co-vice president of programming.

Betsy spearheaded the club's virtual program "Covering News in Contentious Times" and Sarah provided not only the seamless technical support for this important program but she and her husband, Boyd, also directed and provided technical oversight to the awards program and presentation to Major Garrett, CBS Chief White House Correspondent. Betsy and Sarah invested an incredible amount of work on both of these memorable programs.



Richard Gavatin



Jan Scott



Sarah Thompson



Jessica Brown



Betsy Taylor

Encore President's Award

This year, we've created a new award category – an Encore President's award for those who continue to make outstanding contributions to Press Club. And, the Encore President's Award goes to Board Member **Miran Halen**, and community volunteer **Phyllis Langsdorf** for their incredible work on Beauty Buzz.



Miran Halen

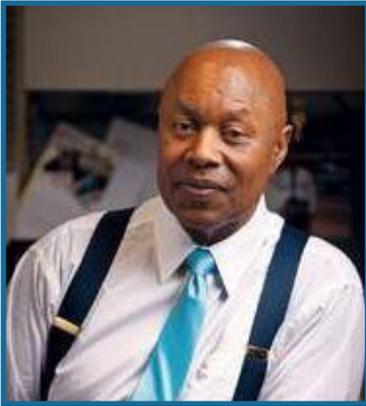


Phyllis Langsdorf



St. Louis Press Club's 2021 Media Persons of the Year

St. Louis Press Club is proud to announce five individual honorees — two each from newspapers and television, and one from radio — and one group of broadcast journalists. Each of the honorees has made outstanding contributions to journalism and to the St. Louis community. Press Club will celebrate their program of work at a gala later this year that will be co-chaired by Peggy Barnhart and Joan Lee Berkman. Congratulations to each of these most-deserving journalists. Congratulations to each of these most-deserving journalists.



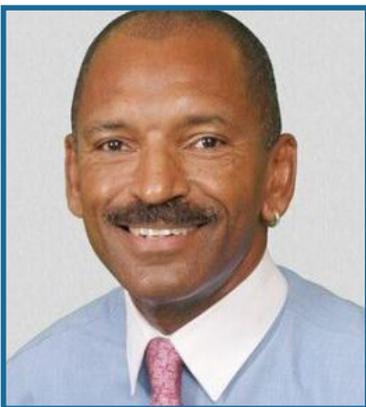
Elliott Davis: A reporter and anchor at KTVI (Channel 2) since 1980, Davis is best-known for his government watchdog feature "You Paid For It."



Debbie Monterrey: A morning-show host at KMOX (1120 AM), Monterrey joined the station in 2003 and now anchors the news for "Total Information AM" at 5 a.m.



Joe Holleman: A Post-Dispatch staffer since 1989, he has reported on news and features and also has written the columns "Life Sherpa" and "Joe's St. Louis."



Wiley Price: A longtime photographer best-known for his work at the St. Louis American, Price is a member of the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame.



Accolades also are being shared with the "Living St. Louis" team at **KETC (Channel 9)**. the program began in 2004 has highlights various people, places and culture in STL. The team includes **Jim Kirchherr**, executive producer, and **Ruth Ezell, Anne-Marie Berger, Kara Vaninger** and **Brooke Butler**.



Kay Quinn: For more than 32 years, Quinn has anchored and reported at KSDK (Channel 5) on most of the station's newscasts. Currently, she anchors the station's 4 p.m. newscast.

2022 Membership Dues Are Due

If you haven't already paid your 2022 Press Club membership dues, just go to our website where you can quickly choose your level of membership and pay by credit card. Renew online at www.stlpressclub.org/membership Or, if you prefer, mail a check to: St. Louis Press Club, PO Box 410522, St. Louis, MO 63141

The St. Louis Press Club is a professional, social and charitable organization of people who make, cover, influence and consume the news. Our members are reporters, editors, news directors, anchors, columnists, professionals in advertising and public relations, and others who may be sources of news or interested in the news. It is a true "umbrella" organization for those in the communications professions and those interested in the industry.

Our mission is to raise awareness and funding for student journalism scholarships and enterprise grants for working, independent journalists to spotlight under-reported topics in our region. We serve our members through professional development activities to bolster their skills to address the changing needs of the global communications profession and to offer social activities that build a vital media community.

Freedom of the Press Society: \$1,000
Diamond Membership: \$500
Premium Membership: \$250
Active Membership: \$100
Retired/Faculty Membership: \$60
Students/Recent Grads to age 25: \$25
Corporate (10 per group): \$500
Collegiate (10 per school and advisor): \$500
High School (10 per school and advisor): \$500

Press Club Accepting Enterprise Grant Applications

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

Thanks to the success of Beauty Buzz and other fundraising efforts, the Press Club has \$5,500 in grant funds available to help finance journalism that's relevant and impactful to the St. Louis area.

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

Thanks to our sponsor:

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