

Connecticut Press Club 2023 Communications Contest Winners

Writing

News Story (Online Publication)

- **First Place**: Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* "Democrats, Republicans Warn Delays Risk Chaos for Voting in Connecticut's 2024 Elections"
- Second Place: Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* "Waiting Lists and Higher Prices Add Up to Long Delays for New Fire Trucks"
- **Third Place**: Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* "After Sexual Assault and Confession by East Lyme Politician, an Endorsement but No Prosecution"
- Honorable Mention: Gregory Stroud, *CT Examiner* "Amtrak Promises 'Clean Sheet,' But Seeks Viable Off-Corridor Route From New Haven to Providence"

In-Depth Reporting

- **First Place**: Marc Fitch, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* "The Board of Pardon and Paroles 44 Commuted Murder Convictions"
- **Second Place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* "Changing the Charter in Stamford a Fraught Process"
- **Third Place:** Chandra Bozelko, *Witness LA* "Ridding Our Nation's Prisons Of Solitary Confinement Is Far Harder Than It Should Be (Three Part Series)"
- Honorable Mention: Robin DuCharme Pastore, *Old Greenwich + Riverside Neighbors Magazine* – "How the Kids Online Safety Act May Have Prevented My Child's Suicide and Exposure to Online Predators"

Continuing Coverage or Unfolding News

• **First Place**: Marc Fitch, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* – "Grave Concern: A DCF-funded Shelter for Teen Girls Loses Control"



- **Second Place:** Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* "Proposed Utility Easement Opposed by Bridgeport and Fairfield"
- **Third Place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* "How development divides the City of Stamford"
- Honorable Mention: Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* "Absentee Ballot Fraud in Bridgeport Results in New Primary Election"

Editorial/Opinion

- **First Place**: Chandra Bozelko, *USA Today* "Filing Taxes? Why Your Hair and Nails Should be Written off as Business Deductions"
- Second Place: Julee Kaplan, *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton Magazine* "Love Letter"
- **Third Place:** Deborah DiSesa Hirsch, *The Stamford Advocate* "Weight Watchers Leaves Her with a Different Sense of Loss"

Feature Story (Magazine, Newsletter/Other Publication)

- First Place: Joey Macari, *Stamford Magazine* "A Mother's Promise"
- Second Place: Georgette Yacoub, *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton Magazine* "All That Glitters"
- Third Place: Elizabeth Hole, New Canaan Darien Magazine "Beacon of Light"
- Honorable Mention: Susan Accetura, *The Granby Drummer* "After nearly 46 years in the Wutka family, Lost Acres Orchard passes seamlessly to its new family: The Bennetts"
- Honorable Mention: Kate Perry 068 Magazine "Mark Twain's Spirit Lives on in Redding"

Feature Story (Online Publication)

- **First Place**: Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* "By the Third Time They Met at the Train Station, Kazmierczak Said, 'I Knew He Was the One'"
- Second Place: Kathleen Kiley, *Invisible People* "If You Only Knew the Half"
- **Third Place**: Tricia Ennis, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* "Inside Oddities: Connecticut's Vintage Radio Museum"



• Honorable Mention: Lizbeth Ryan, *Hartford International University for Religion and Peace* – "Strikes and Stories: International Students Experience Duckpin Bowling"

Personality Profile (More than 750 words)

- First Place: Riann Smith, Greenwich Magazine "Higher Ground"
- **Second Place**: Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* "At 96, 'Saving the Playground his Greatest Accomplishment'"
- Third Place: Jamie Marshall, Greenwich Magazine "Sweet Business"

Specialty Articles (Agriculture)

- **First Place**: Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* "Dairy Technology in Ellington Converts Manure to Natural Gas"
- **Second Place:** Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* "As Five-Year Farm Bill Comes Up For Renewal, CT Farmers Say Current Crop Insurance Offers Little Help"
- **Third Place**: Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* "Farmers Fret Federal Crop Insurance Payouts with Worst Flooding Along the Connecticut Since 2011"
- Honorable Mention: Thomas Renner, Mercury Marketing Communications "New Coulter Addresses Corrosion Crisis"

Specialty Articles (Arts & Entertainment)

- **First Place**: Beth Levine *ADHD Online* "What *Everything Everywhere All At Once* Has to Say About ADHD"
- **Second Place:** Cate Hewitt, *CT Examiner* "'Blue Seeds' at Lyman Allyn Explores Emotions Behind Foster Care"
- **Third Place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* "Hulu's Sarah Lawrence 'Cult' Series Omits Bernard Kerik's Creepy History"

Specialty Articles (Business)

- **First Place**: Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* "Real Estate Scam Targets Unsuspecting Buyers of Vacant Land in Connecticut"
- Second Place: Julie Jason, *Forbes.com* "Age 72 Or 73? Confused About RMDs From IRAs?"
- Third Place: Julie Jason, *Forbes.com* "Do You Think You Can't Afford A 401(k)? Check Your W-4"



Specialty Articles (Education)

- **First Place**: Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* "Connecticut Aims to Rethink Math Instruction With Equity and Technology in Mind"
- **Second Place:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* "Parents, Advocates Praise Opening of State Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities"
- Honorable Mention: Robin DuCharme Pastore, *Old Greenwich + Riverside Neighbors Magazine – "4,200+* Communities Across the U.S. Gather on Dec. 16 To Honor Veterans: Wreaths Across America"
- Honorable Mention: Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* "Top-Performing Connecticut School Districts Face Changes After State's Denial of Reading Waivers"

Specialty Articles (Food)

- First Place: Joey Macari, Stamford Magazine "The Pizza Lover's Guide"
- Second Place: Elizabeth Keyser, *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton Magazine –* "Dining Society"
- Third Place: Sarah Galluzo, 068 Magazine "Pass the Bangers and Mash"
- Honorable Mention: Carin Weisman, 068 Magazine "The Inside Scoop"

Specialty Articles (Ghost-written article)

- **First Place**: Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* "Installing a New Boiler Comes Down to Doing It Properly"
- Honorable Mention: Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* "Amid Inflation, Evaluate Boiler Performance for Saving Money"

Specialty Articles (Government or Politics)

- **First Place**: Marc Fitch, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* "Double Down: Connecticut's Questionable Pension Investments with Local Firm"
- **Second Place**: Chandra Bozelko, *The Connecticut Investigator* "History of Ignoring Legal Directives Means Bill to Oversee DOC is Fundamentally Flawed"
- **Third Place:** Angela Carella, *CT Examiner* "Pointed Fingers, Loud Voices as Audit Overdue Again in Stamford"



Specialty Articles (Green/Environmental)

- **First Place**: Tricia Ennis, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* "Sunk: Connecticut's Growing Flood Risk"
- Second Place: Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* "Facing Uncertainty in Offshore Wind Industry, States Band Together to Procure Power"
- **Third Place:** Brendan Crowley, *CT Examiner* "First Wind Turbines Head Out from New London's State Pier"
- Honorable Mention: David Desiderato, *The Granby Drummer* "The Spotted Lantern Fly: One Bad Bug"

Specialty Articles (History)

- **First Place**: Julie Hughes, *Wilton History Room* "Wedded and Widowed: Two Wilton Women Fight for Autonomy and Acknowledgement"
- Second Place: Mark Williams, *The Granby Drummer* "Three-hundred-year-old Loom Will Again Produce Woven Cloth"
- **Third Place:** Andrew Fowler, *Yankee Institute* "The Long, Winding Road to Erecting the Nathan Hale Statue at Yale"
- Honorable Mention: Andrew Fowler, *Yankee Institute* "'We Can Not Consecrate': Connecticut at Gettysburg"

Specialty Articles (Obituary)

- **First Place**: Shirley Murtha, *The Granby Drummer* "Remembering Tom Wutka A Man of Many Talents"
- **Second Place:** Robert Storace, *CT Examiner* "Former Chief of Staff Remembers Friend and Mentor, Lowell Weicker Jr."

Specialty Articles (Personal Essay)

- **First Place:** Anastasia Healy, *Narratively* "Welcome to America's Most Elite Girls Boarding School. Let the Hazing Begin"
- Second Place: Chandra Bozelko, *Chow Hall* "Fruit Is Dangerous In Prison"
- Third Place: Diane Lowman, *Everything's an Essay "*A Good Bra is Hard to Find"



Specialty Articles (Physical Health)

• Honorable Mention: Laurie Newkirk, *Social Life Magazine –* "Mindset Wellness Demystifying CBD"

Specialty Articles (Reviews)

- **First Place**: Sierra Shepard, *The Granby Drummer* "Full Circle: From Paper to Perfect-bound"
- Second Place: Elizabeth Keyser, Stamford Magazine "Dig In"
- **Third Place:** Kerry Anne Ducey, *Hamlet Hub* "ACT of Connecticut Opens Sixth Season with Pure Brilliance! Sunset Boulevard Captivates Audience, Leaves Theater-goers in Awe"

Specialty Articles (Social Issues)

- **First Place:** Marc Fitch, *Connecticut Inside Investigator* "Invisible Epidemic: Connecticut's Alcohol Problem"
- Second Place: Cheryl Platzman Weinstock, *KFF Health News* "Mental Health Respite Facilities Are Filling Care Gaps in Over A Dozen States"
- **Third Place:** Emilia Otte, *CT Examiner* "Maternal Health Bill Would Allow Birthing Centers, Home Visits, Doula Certification"
- **Honorable Mention:** Cheryl Platzman Weinstock, *KFF Health News* "As Younger Children Increasingly Die by Suicide, Better Tracking and Prevention is Sought"
- **Honorable Mention:** Chandra Bozelko, *Witness LA* "PREA Turns 50 This Year And It Urgently Needs Fixing"
- Honorable Mention: Robert Storace, *CT Examiner* "Advocates Work to Bring Medical Aid-in-Dying Bill Back in 2024"

Specialty Articles (Sports)

• **Second Place:** Sophia Muce, *CT Examiner* – "Stratford Boxing Club to Host Inaugural Festival Saturday"

Specialty Articles (Style)

- **First Place**: Elizabeth Keyser, *Ocean House Magazine* "Cottage Collection Adds Two Historic Homes"
- Second Place: Suzanne Gannon, Stamford Magazine "Just in Time"



Columns (General)

- **First Place**: Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* "Public Defenders Do More For January 6 Suspects Than Trump Ever Will"
- Second Place: Chandra Bozelko, *USA Today* "Judge Chutkan Imposes Partial Gag Order on Trump/ACLU Representing NRA is Consistent with its Values. Its Stance on Transgender Issues Isn't."

Columns (Humorous)

• **First Place:** Mark Fiorentino, *The Granby Drummer* – "The New Guy"

Columns (Informational: how-to, Q&A, advice)

- **First Place:** Julie Jason, *Forbes.com* "Penalty For Missed RMDs Is Reduced; Why You Should Care"
- Second Place: Robin DuCharme Pastore, *Old Greenwich + Riverside Neighbors Magazine* – "Meet an Author: Dr. Robert Okin, MD: Psychiatrist & Professor Emeritus, UC/SF School of Medicine & Global Advocate for People Experiencing Homelessness and/or Mental Illness"
- Third Place: John Violette, DVM, *The Granby Drummer* "Lessons on Leashing Your Pet"
- Honorable Mention: Julie Jason, *Stamford Advocate/CT Post/Greenwich Time/Danbury News Times/New Haven Register* – "Make Sure You Leverage Your 401(k)"

Columns (Personal Opinion: by-lined, not editorial)

- **First Place:** Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo* "Public Defenders Do More For January 6 Suspects Than Trump Ever Will/Murdaugh Coroners' Folly Raises Hard Questions About Homicide Convictions"
- Honorable Mention: Jessica Collins, *HamletHub* "This Week, On The Children's Shelf: The Legend Continues...The Horseman"

Publications Regularly Written by Entrant (Newsletter/Other Publication)

• First Place: Chandra Bozelko, *The National Memo –* "The Yellowhammer Files"



Fiction for Adult Readers (Novels)

- First Place: Gabi Coatsworth A Beginner's Guide to Starting Over
- **Second Place:** Annette Nauraine *Do-Over Daughter*
- Third Place: Libby Waterford Take It All
- Honorable Mention: Richard Seltzer We First Met in Ithaca, or Was It Eden?

Non-fiction Book for Adult Readers (Autobiography or Memoir)

- First Place: Diane Lowman The Undiscovered Country Seeing Myself Through Shakespeare's Eyes
- Second Place: Suzanne Smith Small Off Things: Meditations from an Anxious Mind
- Third Place: Deborah DiSea Hirsch *Counterfeit Mother*
- Honorable Mention: Mary-Lou Weisman, Jennifer Keller and Gina Ryan *The COVID Chronicles*

Non-fiction Book for Adult Readers (Biography or History)

• **First Place**: Faith Tyldsley – *To Granby, with Love*

Young Adult Book (Fiction)

• Third Place: Rande Goodwin – The Witchfinder's Serpent

Single Story

• Honorable Mention: Andrew Fowler, *Yankee Institute* — "Safe Home"

Creative Verse (Single Poem)

- First Place: Andrew Fowler, Yankee Institute "The Irish Soldier"
- Second Place: Mitzy Sky, *True Sky Creatives* "What if?"
- Third Place: Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGHC* "A.I. Woman"
- Honorable Mention: Adair Heitmann "Lucidity is Key"

Creative Verse (Book of Poetry)

• **Honorable Mention:** Mitzy Sky, *True Sky Creatives* – Top of the Zinc Roof: Poems Observed from Behind the Veil with a Glimpse of the Light



Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book

• First Place: Gabi Coatsworth, *Connecticut Literary Anthology* – "Sent Away"

Advertising

Advertising Campaign

• First Place: Mitzy Sky, True Sky Creatives – "Support is Necessary"

Communications, Programs, and Campaigns

Marketing Program or Campaign

• Second Place: Kerry Anne Ducey, Hamlet Hub – "Why Small Businesses Matter"

Editing for Print or Online Publications

Single Page, Section, or Supplement Edited by Entrant (Magazine/Newspaper)

- **First Place**: Julee Kaplan and Elizabeth Hole, *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton Magazines* "Beacon of Light"
- Second Place: Jill Johnson Mann, *Westport, Wilton & Weston Magazines* "Vivid: The World Through Stephen Wilkes' Lens"
- Third Place: Jill Johnson Mann, *Westport, Wilton & Weston Magazines –* "A Look Back on 25 Years of Westport Magazine"
- Honorable Mention: Samantha Yanks, *Westport, Wilton & Weston Magazines* "Martha Stewart returns to Westport for Positive Directions"

Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant (Magazine/Newspaper)

- **First Place**: Samantha Yanks, *Westport, Wilton & Weston Magazines* "Westport Wonder Women Alisyn Camerota, Lindsay Czarniak, Emily Liebert and Stéphanie Szostak Share Their Enduring Friendship"
- Second Place: Jen Bell, *The Granby Drummer*, Volume LIV
- Third Place: Samantha Yanks, *Westport, Wilton & Weston Magazines* "Martha Stewart Returns to Westport for Positive Directions"
- Honorable Mention: Cristin Marandino, Greenwich Magazine "Agents of Change"



Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant (Newsletter/Other Publication – Non-profit, Government, or Educational)

• **Second Place:** Jen Bell, *The Granby Drummer* – "The Granby Drummer, Volume LIV"

Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant (Newsletter/Other Publication – Corporate or For Profit)

• **Honorable Mention:** Tom Quinn – "Trying to build a better mousetrap when you really need an exterminator"

Graphics and Design

Page Design (Magazine/Newspaper)

- First Place: Venera Alexandrova, *Moffly Media* "All That Glitters"
- Second Place: Garvin Burke, *Moffly Media* "Getting It All Done!"
- Third Place: Garvin Burke, *Moffly Media* "5 Ways to Live Better"
- Honorable Mention: Venera Alexandrova, *Moffly Media* "Beacon of Light"
- Honorable Mention: Garvin Burke, *Moffly Media* 25th Anniversary Feature

Information for the Media

News or Feature Release (Single Release)

• **First Place**: Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* – "J&M Manufacturing from the U.S. wins the international golden manus award 2023"

Information for the Media

Media Pitch

• **First Place**: Thomas Renner, *Mercury Marketing Communications* – "Playhouse in the Park"



Photography

Single Photograph (News or Feature Photo)

• **First Place**: Venera Alexandrova and Kyle Norton, *Greenwich Magazine* — "The New Bruce Museum Cover Photograph"

Photo Essay

- **First Place**: Venera Alexandrova and Andrea Carson, *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton Magazine* "All That Glitters"
- Second Place: Venera Alexandrova and Kyle Norton, *Greenwich Magazine* "Our Crown Jewel"
- Third Place: Venera Alexandrova, *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton Magazine* "Beacon of Light"

Photographer-Writer

- **First Place**: Adair Heitmann, "Not Dead Yet"
- Third Place: Adair Heitmann, "Lucidity is Key"

Public Relations Materials

Report

• **First Place**: Linda Avellar and Barbara Aronica, *Ferguson Library* – Annual Report

Radio and Television

Prepared Report (Radio)

- **First Place**: Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "Community Resources for Residents, Including the Mentally Ill: Pathways.org & Grassroots Programs"
- **Second Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "Voice, Choice and Preference: Why Respecting A Minor's Voice, Choice and Preference Matters"
- **Third Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "How Supporting Employment for People with Disabilities Benefits A Community"



Special Programming (Radio)

• **Third Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* – "Resources in Our Greenwich Community for the Mentally Ill: Update from resident Peter Tesei"

Special Programming (Television)

- **First Place:** Audrey Russo, *WFSB* "The Dumping Grounds"
- Second Place: Patricia Del Rio, *WFSB* "Bears In Connecticut"

Interview (Radio)

- **First Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "Interview with Dr. Robert Okin, MD"
- **Second Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "Unruly Women: The Politics of Social and Sexual Control: Interview with Author & Professor Dr. Victoria Bynum of Emory University"
- **Third Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "How the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) May Have Prevented My Child's Suicide & Online Predators"

Talk Show (Radio)

- **First Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGHC* "How Abolishing Family Court Brings Justice to Children and Families: Discussion with Author & Columbia University Law Professor Dr. Jane Spinak"
- **Second Place:** Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGHC* "What is Incitement? Why the Supreme Court Will Determine Who is On the 2024 Presidential Ballot: Interview with Attorney Andrew Lichtenfel"

Speeches

Speech

- **First Place**: Robin DuCharme Pastore, *WGCH* "Introducing Jim Kuczo, Founder of Kevin's Afterglow"
- Second Place: Adair Heitmann "Clearance for Takeoff"
- Third Place: Adair Heitmann "Love Through the Tides of Time"
- Honorable Mention: Adair Heitmann "Seek and You Shall Not Find"



Web & Social Media

Website Edited or Managed by Entrant (Non-Profit, Government, or Educational)

• First Place: Conner Drigotas and Joe Carmado, Connecticut Inside Investigator

Personal Website

• First Place: Donna Christopher, "Genealogical Mystery Tells Unknown Family Story"

Blog (Personal)

- **First Place**: Lisa Bernard, *Words to Elevate & Enlighten* "Far More Than a Bookstore: Howard's at 25 Main Street"
- Second Place: Tanya Detrik, *TanyaDetrik.com* "The Stuff of Grief"
- **Third Place**: Lisa Bernard, *Words to Elevate & Enlighten "*Tu B'Shevat or Not! Never a Question for Me, Because I was Raised to Celebrate the Trees"
- Honorable Mention: Adair Heitmann "Setting Boundaries Gains Big Results"

Electronic Newsletter (Non-profit, Government, or Educational)

• **First Place**: Conner Drigotas, Joe Carmado, Marc Fitch, Tricia Ennis and Katherine Revello, *Connecticut Inside Investigator*

Video for Web (Special Interest Video)

- First Place: Steven Havira, Hartford International University "A Chaplain's Journey"
- Second Place: Mitzy Sky, *True Sky Creatives* "What if?"



2023 Connecticut Press Club High School Contest Winners

Writing

News Story

- **First Place:** Campbell Treschuk, *Fairfield Ludlowe High School* "Federal Court Sets the Stage for Decision on CIAC Transgender Sports Policy"
- Second Place: Campbell Treschuk, *Fairfield Ludlowe High School –* "The Last Time Fairfield Parents Sued Over School Redistricting"
- Honorable Mention: Campbell Treschuk, *Fairfield Ludlowe High School* "Fairfield State Legislator Introduces Bill to Limit Lockdown Rules"

Feature Story

- **First Place**: Kristina Yosypiv, *Stamford High School* "Ukrainian Refugees Share Their Story After Unwillingly Leaving Their Home"
- Second Place: Marticeta Inverno, *Stamford High School* "Jewels of the Knight Provides Support System for Freshman Girls"
- **Third Place:** Deep Banerjee, *Stamford High School –* "Meet the 2023 BOE Election Candidates"
- Honorable Mention: Michael Faherty, *Stamford High School* "Breaking Down the Budget: Lucero Proposes Record High Budget Cuts"

Opinion

- **First Place**: Jasmine Whitefield, *Stamford High School* "How Long Will Female Wrestling Continue to be Overshadowed"
- Second Place: Chase Alexander, *Granby Memorial High School* "To GMHS Seniors, A Year of Lasts Delivers New Firsts"
- Honorable Mention: Michael Faherty, *Stamford High School* "Up in Flames: The Fault with SHS Fire Drills"



Editorial

• **First Place**: Molly Fitzgerald, *Stamford High School* – "Locking Bathrooms Isn't Just Inconvenient – It's Illegal"

News

Visual

Single-Page Layout

- **First Place**: Elizabeth Meehan, *Fairfield Ludlowe High School* "Congo's Silent Genocide"
- Second Place: Julia Masso, *Fairfield Ludlowe High School* "Florida Bans Another Curriculum"

Broadcast or Video

Radio/Television Talk Show or Interview

• **First Place**: *Scarle Mejia, Stamford High School* – "Black History Month Feature: An Emotional Interview with Superintendent Tamu Lucero"

Prepared Report

• Third Place: Mia Evans and Emily Toro, *Stamford High School – "WGCH Segment"*

Feature Story

• **First Place**: Emily Sedgwick and Devan Jordan, *Sacred Heart Greenwich* – "Upon Return"

News Story

• Honorable Mention: Jasmine Whitfield, *Stamford High School* – "Teachers Teach to the Contract to Protest 6th Class"