Hurricane Sandy Coverage Dominates 2013 Silurian Awards

Kihss Award To Wasserman

Coverage of Hurricane Sandy by an assortment of news organizations swept the 2013 Silurians Excellence in Journalism Awards for outstanding work last year. A blue-ribbon group of judges cited Sandy-related entries in the print, photo, radio, television and online categories.

Named to receive the 2013 Peter Kihss Award is JoAnne Wasserman, former Brooklyn bureau chief of The Daily News, for her work as an outstanding reporter and her dedication to helping young journalists, in the tradition of the legendary New York Times reporter. Alas, soon after the award was announced, Ms. Wasserman was laid off by the paper as part of a major staff reduction.


The judges of the prize competition were Myron Kandel, chairman; Allan Dodds Frank, co-chair; Jerry Eskinuzi; Herb Hadad; Barbara Lovenheim; Ben Patrusky; Wendy Slight; and Joseph Vecchione.

The winners are:

PRINT JOURNALISM

Breaking News

The prize for breaking news in print goes to The New York Times for the paper’s comprehensive in-depth coverage of the devastating impact Hurricane Sandy wreaked on the city and on coastal areas in New York and New Jersey, as Continued on Page 2

Hoge on Journalism 101: Tell the Story

BY WARREN HOGE

I was in an undergraduate English class on Spenser’s “The Faerie Queene” when the professor said something that pretty much set me up for the rest of my life. He talked about a principle he called “the reproductive impulse” and explained it meant that something hadn’t really happened to you until you told someone else about it. Bingo, I thought, so that’s why I’m driven to telling stories all the time.

I had spent two teenage summers working as a pot washer in the galley of a New York State Maritime College training ship that sailed to ports abroad, and on those trips, I remember feeling somehow incomplete until I could retreat to my cabin, pull out my portable typewriter and compose lengthy letters about all the adventures I was having. A foreign correspondent was being born.

This realization that experience is validated only when it’s communicated is what led me into journalism 50 years ago, and it’s what’s behind the advice I most frequently gave reporters. I’d tell them that when you sit down to write, imagine you’re filling in your best friend on what you’ve just covered, listen to the way you set out the facts, and you’ve probably stumbled onto the lede.

I recall a lot of times when I was on the metro desks of The New York Post and, later, The New York Times, and people would come in from an assignment. I’d be on two or three phones at once, and I would look up and blurt out some form of “What happened?” The reporters would fire back with key details, and I’d tell them to give me so many words. When the story dropped a while later, it often bore little trace of what the writers had told me in the earlier rushed moments. So I would summon them back to the desk (memorably, in the case of The Times, over a sonorous city room microphone) and tell them to trust the instincts they used to get my attention the first time and write the piece that way.

Decades later, when I was the London bureau chief of The Times and covering the Northern Ireland peace process, I was giving my take on the reproductive impulse to Brendan Kennelly, the great Irish poet and professor of modern literature at Trinity College Dublin. He nodded excitedly in agreement. “Do you know,” he said, “the literal translation of the morning greeting in Gaelic is ‘What’s your news?’” In other words, in Ireland, “the greatest yarn-spinning land I know, people say good morning to each other by asking them what their story is. Bingo, I thought again.

Now, if story telling is at the essence of journalism, it also is at the heart of why I have loved my life in journalism. Simply put, can you imagine a greater work-place? The Post is where I had my introduction to New York journalism, and it is also the place that is on my mind when I go to Gramercy Park for Silurian lunches because I am always reminded of a wonderful colleague there, Helen Duder, who, with her husband, the master-
Continued from Page 1

This photo of Michelle Paulina of California and Stomre, a Dogue de Bordeaux, awaiting their turn at the Westminster Kennel Club Show at Madison Square Garden, won Robert Sabo of The Daily News the best feature picture category.

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HURRICANE SANDY COVERAGE DOMINATES 2013 SILURIAN AWARDS

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well as of the aftermath of the storm. That coverage, by virtually every department of the paper, was augmented by outstanding photos, graphs and maps and was accompanied by a massive live interactive feed. The 13-day coverage grew to 643 news posts and represented the most ambitious multi-platform operation in the paper’s history.

MERIT AWARD To The New York Post for the paper’s gripping deadline coverage of the shootings outside the Empire State Building, when a gunman shot and killed a former co-worker. The Post published crisply written articles and sidebars on the event, including incisive portraits of the shooter and his victim and testimony by eyewitnesses.

MERIT AWARD To The Record for its wide-ranging coverage of Hurricane Sandy and its impact on northern New Jersey, including individual reports on two dozen towns in its area. Its reports were accompanied by a number of striking photographs showing the effects of the storm.

FEATURE NEWS

Winners of the prize for feature news are William K. Rashbaum, Wendy Ruderman and Mosi Secret of The New York Times for their thoroughly-reported and sensitively-written article on the life and death of Cecilia Chang, a dean at St. John’s University in Queens, who committed suicide the day after testifying at her federal trial on charges of fraud and embezzlement. They unearthed notes and documents that helped them chronicle the bizarre events concerning her career and the details of her grisly death.

MERIT AWARD Daniel Bases, a reporter at Thomson Reuters, wrote a fascinating, well-written and diligently researched article on a little-known expert who influences how nations, from fragile to powerful, pay their debts and re-enter the international financial markets. He illustrates how a complex and obscure corner of global finance can be brought to life by focusing on one key individual.

MERIT AWARD Jay Levin of The Record is honored for writing this northern New Jersey newspaper. His specialty is death and his obituaries and special features on the subject ring with authenticity, sensitivity and realism. Among his other work, he is cited for one gripping piece for which he spent months interviewing four hospice patients about their feelings about death and the nature of their lives. Rather than dwelling on the pain they endures, these articles reflect what one patient said shortly before his death: “I am at peace.”

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

The prize for investigative reporting goes to Sam Dolnick of The New York Times for his fiercely reported expose of the horrific conditions that prevailed at New Jersey’s privately-run halfway houses for newly-released prison inmates. In his dogged, 10-month pursuit of the story, he tracked down and interviewed corrections officials, inmates and private operators of the homes for newly-released prison inmates. He interviewed one expert to whom he spoke about the mental health of inmates and (there’s not one anonymously quoted to be found in the three-part series). He fashioned a devastating account of unrelenting violence, widespread drug use, rampant gang activity, unmitigated mismanagement and lax oversight.

The series led to the introduction of 1,000 reform bills, huge fines and the resignation from the $100-million-a-year company that ran the system of a top official and chief executive Chris Z. Christy.

MERIT AWARD Newyad reporters Keith Herbert and Jennifer Maloney win a Merit Award for their investigation into the deaths and injuries that have turned Hemplestead Turnpike into Nassau County’s “16 Deadly Miles.” Their work resulted in a host of government actions to try to make that heavily-travelled highway safer for pedestrians and drivers.

SPORTS REPORTING

Members of the staff of the The Daily News win the sports award for their reporting of the bizarre case of Melky Cabrera, the baseball star who was suspended after testing positive for elevated levels of testosterone, including his machinations to avoid any sanctions and some of his shady associates.

MERIT AWARD Bloomberg reporters Curtis Eichelberger and Eilee Young receive a Merit Award for their article showing that Rutgers University pours more money from taxpayers and student fees into sports than any other large U.S. university. Their hard-hitting reporting, based on a financial data base built from university documents obtained using public records requests, found a sharp contrast between spending on sports and rising tuition and fees.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL

The prize for business/financial reporting goes to Susan Pulliam, Rob Barry and Jean Eaglesham of The Wall Street Journal for their exhaustive six-month investigation that uncovered insider trading by a thousand corporate executives who traded stock in their own companies ahead of potentially market-moving corporate news announcements.

MERIT AWARD After Hurricane Sandy devastated homes on Long Island, Newsday reporter Joe Ryan delved into the complexities and limits of flood insurance with a series of well-researched articles that elicited widespread reader response and earned him a Merit Award.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

The award for science/health reporting goes to Delthia Ricks of Newsday for three crisply reported stories that address both the majority and the darker side of modern medicine, including how high-tech artificial limbs have enabled a young woman who lost all four limbs resume her life; the danger of infection resulting from hip-replacement surgery; and the threat posed by the growing influx of counterfeit medications.

MERIT AWARD Lindy Washburn of The Record wins a Merit Award for her compelling and wide-ranging coverage of the health beat that eloquently brings to life the people and issues involved. Her articles range from abuses in the medical field to inspiring examples of organ donations.

ARTS/CULTURE

The arts/culture award goes to Thane Peterson for his wide-ranging and intensively researched investigation into the questionable production and sale of posthumous bronzes stamped with the signature of Salvador Dali. His influential article, published in ARTNews (with additional reporting by George Stolz and Charles Rump), revealed a detailed picture of a flagrant abuse in today’s art market.

MERIT AWARD An arts/culture Merit Award goes to Pia Catton for an engaging series of stories about roller skating and the white women who make it a sport. Her creative approach to a sprawling, 500-work city-wide exhibition offered new perspectives and made intriguing connections.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, in which she visited each of three museum shows of Caribbean art with a different New York-based Caribbean-American artist. Her creative approach to a sprawling, 500-work city-wide exhibition offered new perspectives and made intriguing connections.

MERIT AWARD Philip Boroff of Bloomberg is honored for his groundbreaking coverage of the city’s 911 response process and the Bloomberg Administration’s efforts to suppress a report critical of the emergency-dispatch system.

MERIT AWARD Sophia Hollander of The Wall Street Journal receives a Merit Award for her coverage of the shortcomings in the city’s 911 response process and the Bloomberg Administration’s efforts to suppress a report critical of the emergency-dispatch system.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The award for community service goes to The New York Post for its thoroughly-reported and sensitively-written article on the life and death of Cecilia Chang, a dean at St. John’s University in Queens, who committed suicide the day after testifying at her federal trial on charges of fraud and embezzlement. They unearthed notes and documents that helped them chronicle the bizarre events concerning her career and the details of her grisly death.

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MAGAZINE REPORTING

Bloomberg reporter Esmé I. Deprez wins the prize for magazine reporting for her sensitive and finely-tuned piece on income inequality and its ramifications on social mobility. Titled “Poor Forever? Connecticut’s Ribbon of Hardship,” it chronicles two families as they struggle to move up the financial ladder against great odds. She poignantly brings to life the reality of the growing gulf between rich and poor.

PRINT PHOTOGRAPHY

The winner in the breaking news photography category is Richard Harbus of The Daily News for his evocative photo of the brunt of Hurricane Sandy as it hits a seawall by Penfield Avenue in the Bronx near the Throgs Neck Bridge.

Continued on Page 3
BY GEORGE ARZT

I f ever there was a newspaper woman who personified a movie character it’s JoAnne Wasserman. She is so reminiscent of Hildy Johnson of “Front Page” that she should play the part in the next remake. JoAnne is the winner of the Peter Kibis Award not only because she is a great reporter, but because she fully embodies what this award is all about — her willingness to help younger journalists.

JoAnne came up through the ranks in a very traditional way. I do not believe reporters come up like JoAnne did anymore, and she may be among the last generation to do so. After graduating from Purchase College in 1977, she waited tables while freelancing. She used dictation, paper pads, and making 50 cent columns a inch. She was soon hired freelance to the Soho Weekly News by the legendary editor Al Ellenberg. It was Al who gave JoAnne one of her first story ideas after asking how she was surviving on hardly any money. Al assigned JoAnne a piece about waitress.

When she told him she wanted to write for a major newspaper, Al told her to use his name with Ryan Rushleyetz, who was the City Desk assistant at The New York Post. Mryon brought JoAnne in as a substitute copy girl, and she was eventually hired to take dictation.

When computers first began to take over the newspaper business, reporters at the Daily News would be told to go up to the copyrightholders or so they would have to call in their stories. On the other end of the line was Joanne taking dictation from some of the more colorful characters in newswapers. JoAnne was learning the business by taking dictation from court reporters like star criminal court writer Mike Pearl and crime columnist Jerry Capeci. Their use of language gave JoAnne the opportunity to hear how great writers and reporters do their work.

JoAnne became a reporter for the Post in 1979, working the graveyard shift with rewrite men like Michael Hochman and Cy Egan. It was dur- ing this time that The New York Times re- ported that Nelson Rockefeller died in the presence of his young aide Megan Marshack with whom he was widely rumored to have had an affair. The City Desk sent JoAnne to stake out Rockefeller’s apartment. As a result of JoAnne’s aggressive efforts to get a story, she made the doorman at Rockefeller’s building cry. The following day the Post ran the story from The Times on page 1, but with the addition that after being denied access to the building by the door- man, their reporter made him cry.

It was while working for me at the Post’s City Hall Bureau in 1981 that JoAnne was thrown into the deep end of the pool. Every young reporter has a “working without a net” moment and for JoAnne it was when she mixed up “con- demn” with “condemn” in a story and one copy desk caught it. We all learned that first experience of humiliation in print.

JoAnne worked in Room 9 with leg- ends like Clyde Haberman, Joyce Dunham and Marcia Caron. She learned from the best. But she was a fierce com- petitor in Room 9, opinionated and ag- gressive. In fact, she often believed I was not pushing her stories enough with the desk, and once accused me of “try- ing to destroy her career.” It is an epi- sode that encapsulates her drive and why I am so fond of her. JoAnne and I are still friends, and the charge of my trying to destroy her career is our private joke and it still punctuates all our emails and phone calls.

JoAnne broke many stories in Room 9, and she always had great sources. Once she found out a Health and Hospi- tal Corporation president, an emigre from Denver, used an unfortunate phrase about woodpiles before an African- American group. That IHBC President was soon replaced.

JoAnne learned to cover a special- ized beat at City Hall for the Post, and it is where she first made a name for her- self covering education. Steve Dunleavy was scanning the room looking for an education reporter, and since she was the only one standing, she got the job. In 1986, JoAnne moved to The Daily News, where she began as that newspaper’s education reporter. She had quite a few beats at The News, and she brought an unflinching investigatory eye to each one.

In 1994, she received an award from the New York Press Club for her piece, “Dying of AIDS, A Mother Seeks a Home for Her Son.” The story was later made into a television movie. JoAnne was recognized by the Deadline Club for her coverage of children’s issues. In 2002, she received a Big Apple Award for stories exposing dangerous conditions in city buildings.

In 2004, JoAnne was named the Brooklyn bureau chief of the News, and quickly turned the section into a must-read. One of her last stories as a reporter was written with Brian Kates, and was a five-part se- ries on the immigrant middle-class in New York City. This month, Ms. Wasserman was laid off by the News as part of yet another round of staff reductions by the paper.

When she was at the paper, JoAnne always demonstrated a willingness to mentor younger reporters, just as Peter Kibis helped so many of us. Just how effective a mentor JoAnne can be is seen from the list of quality reporters who are alumni of the Wasserman Brooklyn bureau. It also is what makes her such an ideal honoree for the Peter Kibis Award.

JoAnne has throughout her career demonstrated excellence in reporting, attention to detail, and being an inspiring mentor to junior colleagues.

Dennis Duggan Award to Irina Ivanova

Irina Ivanova, a student at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, is the 2013 winner of the Dennis Duggan Award. According to the CUNY faculty, some of her work brings Dennis Duggan to mind. One of her professors recently said: “She did a classic Dugganese story last semester when she followed a long-time postman on his last delivery before he retired after 20-plus years on the same route." Duggan was for many years a column- ist for Newsday, specializing in stories about ordinary people — teachers, cops, fire fighters, shoppers — that captured their spirit and dignity. He died seven years ago, just when the CUNY Jou- rnalism School was established. Pencil in that name of a CUNY-J School student. Ms. Ivanova has specialized in business and financial reporting and will spend the summer as an intern at Crain’s New York Business.

Robert Sabo of The Daily News, winner of the best feature picture, also won a Merit Award for his photograph of the Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter fracturing his ankle during a playoff game last October against the Detroit Tigers.

Hurricane Sandy Coverage Dominates 2013 Silurian Awards

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MERIT AWARD Todd Maisel of the Daily News receives a Merit Award for his photograph of a striking photo taken during the height of the massive fire that destroyed more than 100 homes in Breezy Point, Queens, during Hurricane Sandy.

MERIT AWARD Winner of a Merit Award is Corey Sikpin of The Daily News for a photo taken from Greenpoint, Brook- lyn, showing the southern half of Man- hattan without power in the immediate af- termath of Hurricane Sandy.

Feature News

The award for the best feature picture goes to The Daily News for its stunning photo of a woodpile before an African- American group. This month, this image was deemed so powerful that upon seeing it, oneaxies and will spend the summer as an intern at Crain’s New York Business.

Radio Breaking News

NY1 News wins the breaking news award for its coverage of Superstorm Sandy and restrained coverage of Hurricane Sandy before the storm arrived, in the midst of its havoc and in the days, weeks and months that followed. Its continu-
BY LINDA GOETZ HOLMES

I have always been proud of the fact that I am a second-generation Silurian. When I discovered, even as they showed signs of — shall we say, forgetting things. Dad sometimes complained about “that old fossil at the Ossining desk” — so he thought the name of our society was perfect for veteran newsmen. And when he died in 1973, Dad had his current Silurian membership card in his wallet. I served as president of the Silurians 2004-06 and have been an active member of the Board of Governors ever since I left that office.

Fredd Ferguson’s father, Fred Sr., an early member of the Silurians, had a long journalism career. He was a boyhood friend of Roy Howard (of Scripps-Hoover fame) and joined United Press in 1906. The younger Fred recalls that Howard sent his father to France to replace Westbrook Pegler, who had run afoul of Gen. John J. Pershing, the World War I American commander then, and that he periodically visited the general after the war.

And when the Dionne quintuplets were born in May 1934, Ferguson Sr. rushed to Sydenham, N.Y. to cover the event, and brought his eldest daughter, Mary, to the Players Club. She was six.

No Generation Gap

The second one said, “What will we call the club?”

The third: “Well, the first layer of fossil rock in which you find human fossils is the Silurian layer.” And they all agreed: “That’s what we’ll name the club!” So the rest of us have been explaining that name for the last 89 years.

The Westchester newspapers didn’t have a pension plan; as a result, the management allowed aging editors to remain in their jobs, even as they showed signs of — shall we say, forgetting things. Dad sometimes complained about “that old fossil at the Ossining desk” — so he thought the name of our society was perfect for veteran newsmen. And when he died in 1973, Dad had his current Silurian membership card in his wallet. I served as president of the Silurians 2004-06 and have been an active member of the Board of Governors ever since I left that office.

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Betsy Wade, Woman Of Many Firsts

BY JAMES BOYLAN

If they asked me, I could write a book. But they didn’t ask me, so I’ll tell you the way I see it. Betsy Wade runs back to 1951, when she was a student at the Columbia School of Journalism, one of only 10 women in her class and I was a sub-sub-editor at a Sunday magazine supplement. We met at Pete’s near Gramercy Park at a bachelor dinner, Betsy, born in the city, went to school and I was a Sunday school teacher. We married while she had a job in the women’s section of The New York Herald Tribune, which was abruptly terminated when the editor, Eugenia Sheppard, married while she had a job in the women’s section of The New York Times, which led eventually to increased opportunities for the next generation of women. Betsy and her fellow plaintiffs had the reward of continuing to work. Looking back, she commented: “We know that we opened doors for a new generation that may not know they were ever closed.”

On the heels of the settlement, Betsy became a syndicated columnist. As a practi- tioner of western Pennsylvania, came out of the Northwest. Frank built a business from scratch. His first law office was in the basement of a hotel. He started with one client and expanded to handle cases in all areas of law. His practice included 40 years with The Times and articles about New York’s National Football League team by our Pulitzer Prize win-
derer—Harriet Rabbe of the Columbia Law School’s Employment Rights Project. Both sides began playing for keeps and on Nov. 7, 1974, the case called, for short, Boylan v. Times, was initiated. Betsy was Boylan’s payroll name. The struggle, narrated in detail in Nan Robertson’s 1992 book, “The Girls in the Balcony,” went on for four years and ended in October 1978 in a severely qualified win—a minor cash settlement and an affirmative action plan to last four years, which led eventually to increased opportunities for the next generation of women. Betsy and her fellow plaintiffs had the reward of continuing to work. Looking back, she commented: “We know that we opened doors for a new generation that may not know they were ever closed.”

On the heels of the settlement, Betsy became the first woman president of Local 3 of the Newspaper Guild, founded in 1933 by the sainted Heywood Broun. No motion upward at all now. She was sent upstairs in 1977 to serve as assistant travel editor and then returned to the newsroom in 1981 to join the rim of the national desk. Nor did the Guild readily accept her re- form ticket or the salience of women in the guild. The leadership and her colleagues had displaced fought her and her allies by means fair and foul, and her service to the Guild ended in 1982. In 1987 she was offered the Times’ Practical Traveler column, created by Paul Grimes, and she remained in travel news for 14 years. She worked hard at making the column much more than a si- mple recipe. She sought out the real problems of mass travel, pioneered in seeking ac- cess to transportation for the handi- capped, and often raised questions that clashed with the generally soft material in the section. To augment her work, she became a member of the new Interna-
tional Society for Travel Medicine, which helped her develop many stories on travelers’ health, injuries and illnesses and— as always, one more thing—they served the ISTM as its parliamentary body.

She continued active in women’s and journalism organizations—mainly the Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS), a durable coalition of the young at heart. Not incidentally, she was nomi-
nated a member of the Silurians by Joan Cook and Richard Shepard, and is now a 25-year member.

She has received awards from all of her colleges—Barnard, Carleton, and the Columbia School of Journalism, not to mention recognition from the National Women’s Hall of Fame, which gave cita-
tions to all the named plaintiffs in the case against The Times.

In June 2001, she accepted a buyout, but had one last argument with the news- paper. She was asked to write an article on travel refunds and cancellations after the attacks of September 11. She wrote it only to find the Times would not publish it unless she yielded her claim to all the work she had ever freelanced for The Times. She refused and sold the article to Con- sumer Reports.

She has continued to seek out rewards in her post-retirement years. She served as copy editor for ponderous United Na-
tions publications, and, with her husband, has edited a series of local history works for the Stonington (Connecticut) Historical Society. And there are still four grandchildren, and not a journalist among them.

Jim Boylan is founding editor of the Columbia Journalism Review. He and Betsy observed their 60th anniversary last December.

Silurians in the News

Robert Lipsyte has been appointed CSFD’s fifth ombudsman. He will begin his 18-month term in June with critique and analysis of the network’s content. In addition, he will write pieces that will appear on ESPN.com, conduct on-line chats, and other multi-media interactions with fans. Lipsyte was the recipient of The Peter Kilob Award last year.

Allan Dodds Frank will be the recipi-
ent of the Guardian Award given each year by The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). The award is bestowed annually to a journalist whose “determination, perseverance, and commitment to the truth have con-
sistently saved significant dollars in the fight against fraud.” Frank will receive the award at the 24th Annual ACFE Global Fraud Confer-
ence, June 23-28, in Las Vegas. A regu-
lar contributor to Fortune.com and Newsweek/The Daily Beast, Frank was chosen in recognition of a broadcasting and print career in investigative reporting dur-
ing which he has helped to identify and examine numerous fraud cases. The ACFE is the world’s larg-
est anti-fraud organization and premier pro-
der of anti-fraud training and education.

Gerald Eskenazi, former sportswriter for The New York Times, will join the ranks of such notables as Justice Felix Frank-
turker, Dr. Jonas Salk, and lyricist Ira Gershwin on Nov. 7 when he receives the Townsend Harris Medal, the highest honor awarded to graduates of the City College of New York. The award is for career achievement and Gerry’s achieve-
ments include 40 years with The Times with more than 8,000 bylines, 16 books, and, currently, travel writing for the Huffington Post.

Lewis Grossberger’s newly published “Game of Cohens,” a parody of HBO’s Game of Thrones, is available at amazon.com. Lewis guarantees two laughs per page or your money back.

Max Nichols was inducted into the Okla-
ahoma Historians Hall of Fame on April 19 in Clinton, Okla. He has written a monthly column for the Oklahoma Historical Soci-
ety since 1990, when he became its public relations director, and has continued to do so even after retiring in 2002. The column tells about events occurring in operated by the society and appears in newspapers all over the state.

Ira Berkow’s 20th book, “Summers at Shea” (Triumph Books, $14.95), is on the shelves. Subtitled “Tom Seaver Loses His Overcoat and Other Mets Stories,” it includes 40 years of columns and articles about New York’s National League team by our Pulitzer Prize win-
ing colleague.

Evan Wiener’s new e-book, “America’s Passion: How a Coal Miner’s Game Became the NFL in the 20th Century” about the origins of pro-
fessional football in the coal mining coun-
try of western Pennsylvania, came out recently on smashwords.com and can be purchased for $2.99.

In 1956, she took The New York Times up on its complaint that it could not find good copy editors. Try me, she said, and they did, perhaps unaware that they were making a 45-year commitment. As the 105-year-old newspaper’s first woman on the copy desk, she was started in the “33rd floor,” where she replaced a male, then moved to the main event, a spot on city copy desk, then replete with spittoons and mossbacks, after our sec-
nion.

Thence to the foreign copy desk, and she became its head during the critical days of the Vietnam War, publishing the filings of such notables as Daniel Ellsberg as Daily rosesilk. She served on the elite team that edited the Pentagon Papers in a secret hotel suite. She became a colleague and friend of the editor and then returned to the newsroom in 1981 to join the rim of the national desk. Nor did the Guild readily accept her re-
form ticket or the salience of women in the guild. The leadership and her colleagues had displaced fought her and her allies by means fair and foul, and her service to the Guild ended in 1982.

To the burden of running a copy desk, try-
ing to improve her union, and seeing two sons through high school, she added the Times Women’s Caucus, which came to life in 1972 when a group of employees perceived that their way to the big jobs was blocked by an institution that had never conceived of women as figures worthy of equal pay or authority.

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She continued active in women’s and journalism organizations—mainly the Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS), a durable coalition of the young at heart. Not incidentally, she was nomi-
nated a member of the Silurians by Joan Cook and Richard Shepard, and is now a 25-year member.

She has received awards from all of her colleges—Barnard, Carleton, and the Columbia School of Journalism, not to mention recognition from the National Women’s Hall of Fame, which gave cita-
tions to all the named plaintiffs in the case against The Times.

In June 2001, she accepted a buyout, but had one last argument with the news-
paper. She was asked to write an article on travel refunds and cancellations after the attacks of September 11. She wrote it only to find the Times would not publish it unless she yielded her claim to all the work she had ever freelanced for The Times. She refused and sold the article to Con-
sumer Reports.

She has continued to seek out rewards in her post-retirement years. She served as copy editor for ponderous United Na-
tions publications, and, with her husband, has edited a series of local history works for the Stonington (Connecticut) Historical Society. And there are still four grandchildren, and not a journalist among them.

Jim Boylan is founding editor of the Columbia Journalism Review. He and Betsy observed their 60th anniversary last December.

In 1974, Ms. Wade addressed the Times Company annual meeting, urging the paper to appoint women to its board.
Hoge on Journalism 101: Tell the Story

Continued from Page 1

ful Newsweek writer Peter Goldman, lived in the building on the east side of Gramercy Park. The paper we worked for was the old bleeding heart liberal New York Post. People at the time cracked that an apt headline would be Cold Wave Hits New York/Jews, Negroes Suffer Most. I was one of the very few from my tribe to be at The Post, and I was grateful to Helen for sticking up for me in my first year as city editor after I had asked who wanted to do the Purim story and pronounced it Pure-Im.

Jew-WASP humor was to provide me an identity I embraced at The Post, and years later, when Max Frankel, the executive editor of The Times, asked me if I knew what a megaliah was, I was able to tell him that you couldn’t become city editor of The New York Post of my time speaking only English.

Helen was one of the stars of a newsroom that had an exceptional line-up of talented women. Just to name a few, there were Nora Ephron, Fern Marja Eckman, Judy Michaelson and Roberta Brandes Gratz, with Anna Quindlen soon to come. Gratz, with Anna Quindlen soon to come.

Now, the author gets his story on cocaine by visiting the coca fields of Bolivia.

In four decades of newspapering, I’ve lived through a host of ways to file, starting with walking my copy over to the West- ern Union office near the National Press Building in Washington where a guy in an eyeshade and sleeve garter would tap it off to New York, through my foreign correspon- dents and then thread it through a Telex machine; to the early days of electronic transmissions and then punch it through a Telex machine; to the early days of electronic transmission with bulky machines that vida phone a receiver telephone into and hope for a connection while the minutes to a connection expired. When you had to punch a paper tape full of perforations and then thread it through a Telex machine; to the early days of electronic transmission with bulky machines that you’d plug a telephone receiver into and hope for a connection while the minutes to a connection expired.

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Gratz, with Anna Quindlen soon to come. Gratz, with Anna Quindlen soon to come.

I’ve been blessed by great mentors who have also become cherished friends, like my boss at The Post, Paul Sann, and at The Times, Abe Rosenthal. I’ve had the privilege of working with walking my copy over to the West- ern Union office near the National Press Building in Washington where a guy in an eyeshade and sleeve garter would tap it off to New York, through my foreign correspondent years in Latin America where you had to punch a paper tape full of perforations and then thread it through a Telex machine; to the early days of electronic transmission with bulky machines that you’d plug a telephone receiver into and hope for a connection while the minutes to a connection expired.
Remembering Mayor Koch

It was a luncheon that Ed Koch would have loved. The subject: Ed Koch.

Three people who knew him well, and found him, in the words of Joyce Purnick, “frustrating, exhausting, and fun to cover,” formed a panel that entertained a Silurian luncheon on March 21.

Ms. Purnick, the former City Hall bureau chief of The New York Times, was joined by JoAnne Wasserman of The Daily News, and George Arzt, New York Post City Hall chief who became Koch’s press secretary.

The Koch stories were classics. Like the time he told the press that he almost choked to death in a Chinese restaurant on sautéed watercress. “Years later,” Arzt said, “he admitted it was a piece of pork.” He changed it to watercress because “he was afraid he’d lose the Orthodox vote.”

The panel agreed that Koch invented the “Life Is What You Make of It.”

During the Q & A after she addressed the audience, Sheehy was asked if she was pleased with the progress women had made since the birth of feminism. “You bet I am,” she replied. Is she worried that the Supreme Court might overturn Roe v. Wade? “Not with Obama there, especially if he gets to appoint a new Supreme Court Justice.”

A Lifetime of Writing

Gail Sheehy said she was 7 years old when her grandmother gave her a typewriter. It started her on a lifelong passion – writing. Lots of writing. Fifteen books to date, including her 1978 landmark best seller, “Passages.”

Sheehy, now 76, is working on a memoir about her life as a journalist, and sharing that life with Clay Felker, the founding editor of New York magazine, who hired her early in her career. They married in 1984. “Felker pushed me to be in print, and on camera,” Ms. Purnick said. But it was daunting, she added, to get past the mayor’s “how’m I doin’?” to get to what was really going on.

As for getting in print, well, he was successful till the end. On his last day, when he was going back into the hospital, Arzt recalled, Koch called him to say, “I’m going back in. I want a press release.”

Our Unhealthy Health System

It received more than 1.2 million citations on Google, and more than a month after his groundbreaking Time magazine article on the state of American medical care, Steven Brill attracted a full house at our Silurians’ April luncheon at the Players Club.

Brill, the lawyer who also founded Court TV as well as the magazine American Lawyer, said at the event, “What you have is a system that’s completely broken.”

He laid out in fascinating detail the genesis of the 25,000-word story — “Bitter Pill: Why Medical Bills Are Killing Us” — the longest by one writer that Time has ever run. He told how The New Republic had come to help launch its revised magazine, how he spent several months researching the piece, how he wrote it, and then withdrew it from The New Republic when it decided to use it for its second issue instead (he said he was pre-empted by an interview with President Obama). Thus, history was made at Time.

In his talk to the Silurians, Brill also used the story as an illustration of what he tells his writing students at Yale: “The best stories are the ones you’re most curious about.”

He immersed himself in the arcane world of hospital billing, even looked at help wanted ads for medical-equipment salesmen on the Internet, and discovered bizarre charging schemes that saw, for example, one woman go to a hospital for stomach pains and wind up with a $20,000 bill—for indigestion.

But Brill also said he did not have the solution to America’s spiraling health-care costs. He did concede, however, “with transparency comes the kind of solution we’ll need.”

— Gerald Eskenazi

And the writing goes on: Gail Sheehy is at work on a memoir.

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— Bernard Kirsch

Weeks of research, months researching the piece, how he wrote it, and then withdrew it from The New Republic when it decided to use it for its second issue instead (he said he was pre-empted by an interview with President Obama). Thus, history was made at Time.
President's Letter

BY MYRON KANDEL

This is my last report as President, and I'm happy to say that I can turn over the office into the good hands of Allan Dodds Frank with a sense of satisfaction. It's been a successful year, with high-quality luncheon programs, very high attendance, many valued new members and a solid financial footing. Despite internal turmoil at the Players, the club has been a great venue for our meetings and the food and service have been first-rate.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the presentation of our Lifetime Achievement Award to Gloria Steinem and her stirring remarks about her own career, the women's rights movement she spearheaded and her insights into the field of journalism. And this month's Peter Stess award to JoAnne Wasserman of The Daily News honored someone who follows in his tradition of outstanding reporting and helping younger journalists.

Our luncheons have been varied in content but universally admired. We started with recollections of working with Mike Wallace by Marlene Sanders, Sandy Socolov and Gary Paul Gates, followed by the husband-and-wife duo of Steve Shepard and Lynn Povich, both discussing recently published memoirs. Steve wrote about his long service as editor of Business Week and more currently as the founding dean of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and Lynn chronicled the groundbreaking class-action suit by the women of Newsweek, which she helped lead.

The year started with a memorable talk by two-time Pulitzer Prize winners and fellow Silurian columnist David Rohde, who is now a columnist at Thomson Reuters. Then came author and journalist Gail Sheehy and her memories of Mayor Ed Koch by Joyce Purnick of The Times, JoAnne Wasserman of The Post and The News, and George Arzt, who was City Hall bureau chief for The Post and then Koch's press secretary. The luncheon season ended with Steve Brill discussing his amazing 25,000-word cover story in Time magazine about the outsandish cost of U.S. health care. I recite all this to recall the quality of our luncheons and to remind you about what you missed if you skipped one or two of our annual treats, very high at-

The Silurians new hierarchy effective after the May 22 dinner: Allan Dodds Frank, center, who will become president, with first vice president Betsy Ashton and second VP Joe Vecchione.

For Stan Isaacs, A Fond Farewell

BY IRA BERKOW

I loved Stan Isaacs. How could you not? He was so honest and fair and funny and insightful and professional and caring and warm. Well, maybe not everyone loved him, at least for some small period of time, as I saw it. I remember when Stan first came to the club at the one time, Howard Kosell told me to think in print for something or other at some time which I no longer remember. Howard took such exception to the criticism that Stan and I had leveled at him – legitimate, reasoned and even-handed criticism, to be sure – that Howard, it came back to us, referred to us two noble scribes as Sleaze One and Sleaze Two. I took pride in believing it was me who was Sleaze One, but Stan insisted that it was he who was Sleaze One.

Stan and I never resolved the issue, but that was probably the only conflict we ever had. (Howard eventually saw the wisdom of our position, to some extent, and we got back on better personal terms with him.)

On the night of Tuesday, April 2, Stan Isaacs died in his sleep at his home in Haverford, Pa. He was 83, and the loss, as great as it was to his family (including his three daughters, Nancy, Ann and Ellen — his adored wife of 58 years, Bobbie, had passed away last year), was also profound within the journalism community, particularly that peculiar but, it says here, indispensable segment known as sports writing.

Stan, with a delightfully, sometimes odd-ball approach, appropriately enough named the sports column he wrote for a good part of the 40 years he was employed by Newsday, “Out of Left Field.” Remember, for example, that he was the one who asked the now famous, and, yes, odd-ball question, to Yankee pitcher Whitey Ford, “How many World Series games have you won?” Stan had pitched a World Series game in 1962. Terry was called away from answering questions at his locker to get a phone call. When he returned, Stan tenderly asked, “My wife,” said Terry, “She’s feeding the baby.” And Stan asked, “Breast or bottle.”

Stan explained that Bobbie had given birth not long before that, and that he “knew about things like that.” But he considered it a flippant line, a joke (Terry later explained that Bobbie had said something of the sort). And Stan, with a delightfully, sometimes odd-ball approach, appropriately enough named the sports column he wrote for a good part of the 40 years he was employed by Newsday, “Out of Left Field.”

Remember, for example, that he was the one who asked the now famous, and, yes, odd-ball question, to Yankee pitcher Ralph Terry, after he had pitched a World Series game in 1962. Terry was called away from answering questions at his locker to get a phone call. When he returned, Stan tenderly asked, “My wife,” said Terry, “She’s feeding the baby.” And Stan asked, “Breast or bottle.”

Stan explained that Bobbie had given birth not long before that, and that he “knew about things like that.” But he considered it a flippant line, a joke (Terry supposedly took it that way), part of locker-room banter. It may also have demonstrated the two sides of Isaacs the journalist. One was that he was seeking an original angle (even in flippant form), the other is that he was going just a bit deeper (if even, well, in this case, something of a stretch).

It was part of what has come to be called “the Chipmunk” concept of sports reporting. A group of young writers, mostly from afternoon papers, began in the early ’60s to seek ways to tell a story beyond what was then the generally conventional one. In the recently published, “Keepers of the Game: When the Baseball Beat Was the Best Job on the Paper,” by Dennis D’Agostino, Isaacs said: “I had this vision of being the equivalent of a city-side reporter – the guys who covered politics and crime and things like that. You do a good job, cover the story, and you don’t become pals with those you cover. One day, when I was starting out, Joe DiMaggio was involved in a weird play. I asked him about it, and he gave a non-answer. I walked away, and Joe Trimble of The Daily News came over to me and said, ‘Stan, you don’t go over and ask Joe about the play. You wait until he lets us know he wants to talk to us.’ I was stunned. That’s not the way a city side or political reporter would do it.”