RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATING RELIGIOUS ISSUES, VALUES, AND THEMES IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA

AN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS FOUNDED IN 1929
RELIGIONCOMMUNICATORS.ORG
Dear Wilbur Award Recipient,

Congratulations on receiving the 2021 Wilbur Award for excellence in communicating religious values and themes. This award represents the best in religion communication and reflects your efforts to create public content that advances religious literacy and promotes religious values. I applaud you on this great achievement and wish you all continued success in the future.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline F. Fuller
RCC President

Host - Ryan Koch, Wilbur Award Coordinator

“I am in awe of the way the awardees were able to communicate religious and inspiring themes with dedication, grace, and sensitivity. It is an honor to associate with professionals such as these, and I look forward to collaborating, coordinating, and communicating with them long into the future.”

Ryan is the Director of the New York Office of Public and International Affairs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the President of the Religion Communicators Council New York City Chapter.

Special Wilbur Award

From time to time, the board of governors of the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) confers a special Wilbur Award to a person or organization whose body of work makes a substantial and unique contribution to public discourse on religious faith and values or interfaith dialogue and understanding.

This year, a Special Wilbur Award will be presented to Dennis C. Benson for his extraordinary career in media and public discourse that has spanned over the course of six decades.

Phillips Theological Seminary, a community of teachers and students that offers online and on-campus courses across the US and abroad, is a proud sponsor of this year’s Wilbur Awards. Visit their website at https://www.ptstulsa.edu/

NEWSPAPERS

National or Top 15 Metro Markets
COVID hits the church (series)
The Associated Press
Luis Andres Henao, reporter; David Crary, reporter; Jessie Wardarski, video journalist

All Other Markets
How religion is front and center in the heated Georgia Senate runoff races
Deseret News
Mya Jaradat, reporter

Blog/Column
When Christians won’t acknowledge racism, protest becomes church
Religion News Service
Andre Henry, author; Paul O’Donnell, editor; Roxanne Stone, editor

MAGAZINES

National or Top 15 Metro Markets
The Most American Religion
The Atlantic
McKay Coppins, writer; Denise Wills, editor; Jeffrey Goldberg, editor in chief

All Other Markets
In Search of Spirits in Cassadaga
Flamingo Magazine
Moni Basu, writer

BOOKS

Non-Fiction
The Rumi Prescription
Penguin Random House
Melody Moezzi, author

Youth/Children
For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World
Flyaway Books
Michael W. Waters, author; Keisha Morris, illustrator

PHILIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Where Faith Leads

60 Minutes: Critical Condition
60 Minutes
CBS News
60 Minutes
Bill Owens, Executive Producer; Tanya Simon, Executive Editor; Scott Pelley, Correspondent;
Nicole Young, Producer; Katie Kerbstat Jacobson & Aaron Weiss, Associate Producers; Ian Flickinger, Broadcast Associate; Warren Lustig, Editor

Documentary (30 min. +)
Spiritual Audacity:
The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story
Journey Films
Martin Dobrimeier, producer, director, writer & narrator;
Deryl Davis, producer; Carrie Snyder, producer & graphic design; Mark Comberiate, producer, director of photography, & editor

Spiritual Audacity:
The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story
Journey Films
Martin Dobrimeier, producer, director, writer & narrator;
Deryl Davis, producer; Carrie Snyder, producer & graphic design; Mark Comberiate, producer, director of photography, & editor

In Search of Spirits in Cassadaga
Flamingo Magazine
Moni Basu, writer

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**ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS**

**Online News Stories**

*Beyond the Most Segregated Hour* (series)
Religion News Service
Adelle M. Banks, writer; Matthew J. Cressler, writer

**Multimedia or Video**

*Callings: Portraits of Pittsburgh-area faith leaders*
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Nate Guidry, photographer; Peter Smith, writer

**RADIO OR PODCASTS**

**Single Program**

*Un-HolyLand? An Arab Muslim Reckoning With Racism*
NPR
Leila Fadel, Reporter; Shereen Marisol Meraji, Editor; Kumari Devarajan, Producer

**Documentary**

*No Going Back*
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
Produced by Rosie Fernandez and Trevor Green, with Erin Noel

**Series of Programs (two or more)**

*Unfinished: Short Creek*
Witness Docs from Stitcher and Critical Frequency
Ash Sanders & Sarah Ventre, co-hosts; John Delore & Amy Westervelt, Executive Producers & Editors; Abigail Keel, Senior Producer

**TELEVISION AND CABLE**

**News – Network or National Syndication (up to 4 min.)**

*The CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell, ON THE ROAD: Virginia Congressional Candidate Heals Political Divide With Compassion*
CBS News
Jay Shaylor, Executive Producer; Steve Hartman, Correspondent; Gavin Boyle, Senior Producer; Roxanne Feitel, Producer

**News – Network or National Syndication (4-8 min.)**

*CBS Sunday Morning: A Chance to Dream*
CBS News Sunday Morning
Seth Doane, Correspondent; Sari Aviv, Producer; Steve Tyler, Editor; Rand Morrison, Executive Producer

**News – Network or National Syndication (8 min. +)**

*CBS Sunday Morning: Block by Block*
CBS News Sunday Morning
Lee Cowan, Correspondent; Dustin Stephens, Producer; Carol A. Ross, Editor; Rand Morrison, Executive Producer

**Documentary (30 min.+)**

*Names, Not Numbers*
Names, Not Numbers Inc.
Dov Rosenberg, Executive Producer; Tova Rosenberg, Producer; Michael Puro, Director

**Documentary (up to 30 min.)**

*The Cork Nativity*
Bo Media, RTÉ
Roger Childs, Executive Producer; Derek Nagle, Producer; Patrick O’Shea, Director; Rupert MacCarthy Morrough, Director of Photography; Enya O. Sullivan, Researcher; Donal O. Driscoll, Camera Assistant; Gearoid O’Sullivan, Gaffer; Darren Sheehan, Composer

**Interview**

*Religion in Life: A Conversation with Jim Wallis*
Appalachian State University
Ozzie Ostwalt, Host; JC Cureton, Producer; Bianca Bortoluzzi and Eric Xhajanka, Camera; Timothy Breaton, Audio

**SPECIAL WILBUR**

Dennis C. Benson
*Master storyteller, media guru and mentor*

A master storyteller who sees the image of God in every person, Dennis C. Benson has interviewed more than 15,000 people on radio and TV – from the likes of Alice Cooper and Fred Rogers to ordinary, everyday people – over a span of six decades. Over his lifetime, Dennis C. Benson, a retired Presbyterian minister, has been a chaplain, authored 22 non-fiction books, produced 60 experiential audio/video courses for group learning and written over a hundred articles on youth work and education. Benson excels in his work to transform secular culture and media platforms into vehicles of care and hope.

Dennis C. Benson joins recipients of special Wilbur Awards that include Bob Abernethy of Religion & Ethics Newsweekly; John P. Blessington of CBS-TV’s Religion and Culture series; President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter; John Dart, former religion editor of the Los Angeles Times; Martin Marty of The Christian Century; Bill Moyers of Bill Moyers Journal; Fred Rogers of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood; Charles Schulz, creator of Peanuts; and ecumenical and interfaith leader Joan Brown Campbell.
Since 1949, the Religion Communicators Council has annually honored examples of excellence by secular communicators in presenting religious issues, values, and themes through various media. That recognition is central to our historic mission.

Thank you for sharing your outstanding stories of faith and values with your audiences.