

2021 *Wilbur Awards*

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
SEMINARY

where faith leads

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.pttulsa.edu/>

2021 WILBUR AWARD WINNERS

NEWSPAPERS



National or Top 15 Metro Markets
COVID hits the church (series)

The Associated Press
Luis Andres Henao, reporter; David Cray, 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

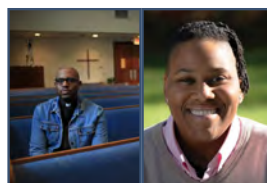
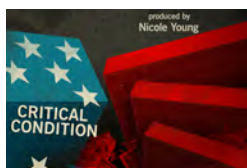


photo credit: JD Higgins

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

FILMS AND VIDEO

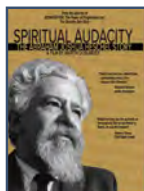
Documentary (up to 30 min.)
60 Minutes: Critical Condition



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

Documentary (30 min. +)
**Spiritual Audacity:
The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story**

Journey Films
Martin Doblmeier, producer, director, writer & narrator; Deryl Davis, producer; Carrie Snyder, producer & graphic design; Mark Comberiate, producer, director of photography, & editor



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*

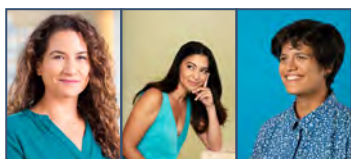
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Nate Guidry, photographer;
Peter Smith, writer



RADIO OR PODCASTS

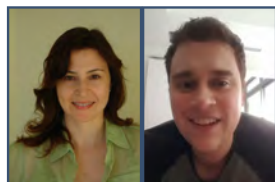
Single Program *Un-HolyLand? An Arab Muslim Reckoning With Racism*

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



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.

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*

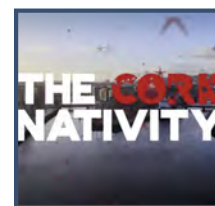
Names, Not Numbers Inc.
Dov Rosenberg, Executive Producer; Tova Rosenberg, Producer; Michael Puro, Director



Documentary (up to 30 min.)

The Cork Nativity

Bo Media, RTE
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



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.



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NEW YORK, NY 10115

WWW.RELIGIONCOMMUNICATORS.ORG/WILBUR-AWARDS



2020 WILBUR AWARD WINNERS

NEWSPAPERS: National or Top 15 Metro Markets
Sikh Drivers are Transforming U.S. Trucking (series) Los Angeles Times
Jaweed Kaleem, reporter

NEWSPAPERS: All Other Markets Coverings
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Peter Smith, religion editor; Stephanie Strasburg, staff photographer; Shelly Bradbury, public-safety reporter

NEWSPAPERS: Blog/Column
Holiness in the Midst of Pain
Deseret News
Kelsey Dallas, religion reporter and InDepth content manager

MAGAZINE: All Markets
On the Road With Thomas Merton
Emergence Magazine
Fred Bahnson, essayist; Jeremy Seifert, filmmaker

BOOKS: Fiction
The Dearly Beloved
Simon & Schuster
Cara Wall, author

BOOKS: Non-Fiction
Sacred Liberty
HarperOne, HarperCollins
Steven Waldman, author

BOOKS: Youth/Children
The Best of KidSpirit, Volume VI
KidSpirit
Elizabeth Dabney Hochman, editor

FILMS AND VIDEO: Documentary (30+ minutes)
Revolution Of The Heart: The Dorothy Day Story; Journey Films; Martin Doblmeier, filmmaker; Mark Comberiate, producer & director of photography; Carrie Snyder, producer; Deryl Davis, producer

FILMS AND VIDEO: Feature Length Film
Breaking Bread
Gemini Girls Productions; Beth Elise Hawk, writer/producer/director; Jon Fitzgerald & Travis Knox, executive producers; Martin Goldenberg, Michelle Harrison, Issie Rabinovitch, Lois Schottenstein, associate producers; Ofer Ben Yehuda, director of photography; Jonty Fine & Itai Levin, editors; Omar El-Deeb, music

FILMS AND VIDEO: Documentary (30+ minutes)
American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel; Butlerfilms in association with Contemporary Dialogues; Jeanine Butler & Catherine Butler, directors & producers; Jamie Lee Godfrey, editor; Peter Hutchens, camera

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS: Online News Stories
The Reckoning
The Associated Press
The Associated Press Staff

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS: Multimedia or Video Coverings
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Peter Smith, religion editor; Stephanie Strasburg, staff photographer; Shelly Bradbury, public-safety reporter

TELEVISION & CABLE: Drama
Jesus: His Life
Nutopia for History
Ben Goold, Jane Root, Joel Osteen, D. Emerson Iloff, Mary Donahue, Evan Lerner, executive producers; Simon Breen, series producer; Joshua Hyams, Alex Dwiar, Jackelyn Viera Lloff, producers

TELEVISION & CABLE: Network or National Syndication (up to 4 minutes)
The CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell: WWE Wrestler Fights Stereotypes; CBS News
Jim Axelrod, correspondent; Kimberly Godwin and Jay Shaylor, executive producers; Alturo Rhymes, senior producer; Sharaf Mowjood, producer

TELEVISION & CABLE: News - Network or National Syndication (4-8 minutes)
CBS News Sunday Morning: Family Man; CBS News Sunday Morning
Nancy Giles, correspondent; Mary Lou Teel, producer; Joseph Frandino, editor; Rand Morrison, executive producer

TELEVISION & CABLE: News - Network or National Syndication (8+ minutes)
CBS News 60 Minutes: Tree of Life
60 Minutes, CBS News
Lesley Stahl, correspondent; Shachar Bar-On, producer; Kate Morris, associate producer; April Wilson, editor; Bill Owens; executive producer; Tanya Simon, executive editor

TELEVISION & CABLE: Documentary (up to 30 minutes)
In Bad Faith
Fault Lines, Al Jazeera English
Paul Abowd, producer; Natasha Del Toro, correspondent; Laila Al-Arian, executive producer; Erik Ljung and Stephen Bailey, dp; Paul Abowd, additional photography; Warwick Meade, editor

TELEVISION & CABLE: Interview
Face the Nation - Bipartisan Prayer
CBS News
Margaret Brennan, moderator; Mary Hager, executive producer; Catherine Reynolds, senior producer; Jake Miller, producer; Alison Hawley director

TELEVISION & CABLE: Documentary (30+ minutes)
Life & Soul
Scratch Films for RTE
Liam McGrath, producer/director; Roger Childs, executive producer; Greg Fromholz, associate producer; Áine O'Neill & Colm Flynn, presenters/producers; Lanka Perren, director of photography; Elisanne Pires, production co-ordinator(RTE)

RADIO OR PODCASTS: Single Program
'Blue Christmas' Services Offer Refuge From Holiday Cheer
Freelance broadcast on NPR
Deena Prichep, reporter; Jason DeRose, editor

RADIO OR PODCASTS: Series of Programs (two or more)
The Roots and Fruits of U.S. Exploitation of Immigrant Labor
Sandburg Media, LLC with Freedom Road, Sojourners, and The Work of the People
David Dault, producer/audio engineer/editor; Lisa Sharon Harper, executive producer/host

RADIO OR PODCASTS: Documentary
Wrapped in Love
CBC Radio - Tapestry
Sarah Keaveny-Vos, producer; Erin Noel, editor and sound designer

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photo Story/Essay
India's Crackdown Hits Religious Freedom in Disputed Kashmir
The Associated Press
Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan, Rajesh Kumar Singh, photographers