



**Final 2010  
Chess Journalists of America  
Awards Committee Report**

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<http://CJAAwards.org>

## Table of Contents

General synopsis of this year's awards	3
The CJA Awards Judges	5
Changes this Year	8
Reimbursements	12
<u>The Awards</u>	
<i>The Top Four</i>	
CJA Chess Journalist of the Year (2010) Award	15
CJA Best Story of the Year Award	17
CJA Best Chess Column Award	18
CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award	20
<i>News</i>	
CJA Best Tournament Report Article Award	21
<i>Layout</i>	
CJA Best Chess Magazine/Newsletter Layout Award	22
<i>Mainstream Media</i>	
CJA Best Regular Newspaper Chess Column Award	23
<i>Photojournalism</i>	
CJA Best Chess Photojournalism Award	25
<i>Features</i>	
CJA Best Instructive Lesson Award	26
CJA Best Review Award	27
CJA Best Humorous Contribution Award	28
<i>News or Features</i>	
CJA Most Notable Achievement in Correspondence Chess Award	29
CJA Best Historical Article Award	30
CJA Best Interview Award	31
CJA Best Chess Art Award	32
CJA Best Analysis Award	33
<i>New Media</i>	
CJA Best [USCF] State Chapter Website Award	34
CJA Best General Chess Website Award	35
CJA Best Streamed Video of Chess News Award	36
CJA Best Chess Blog Award	37

## General synopsis of this year's awards

This year's entries I felt were overwhelmingly very strong, the addition of new categories bought out a further strong pool of entries. I have to profoundly thank CJA Member Mike Nolan as in role of USCF Information Systems Consultant for having supplied me with the request of USCF state chapter website addresses. It was burdensome to Google each state chapter as most don't call themselves with a correct name that comes up on their search result pages or have have bad search engine optimization. His list allowed me to Google the correct names and when feasible use the domain name he was provided with. Though at times the list was outdated, the names weren't and one by one on Google most of them appeared. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, I was able to the immediately send out individual e-mails both to the state chapters. I did so to all but 3, one chapter had representation in the awards judges, another had no method of contacting them via e-mail and the last one had a series of anti-SPAM buffer to contact them.

I have e-mailed Mike Nolan with an updated list of state chapter website links and contact information for the webmasters and state magazine/newsletter editor for use in the USCF. In addition, I have e-mailed the USCF State Chapter Committee Chairman to let them know to please publicize CJA and its awards competition among his committee at the U.S. Open. Representation by state chapters is only increased by cooperation of all, I don't mind taking a couple of hours to e-mail most states but they too have to take initiative and inquire about CJA and its awards competition. I did my very best in outreach, I can't e-mail everyone in this nation as it'd get to the point of who did I miss? Plus by contacting one additional person I am favoring that individual and placing the entrant who submitted an entry against someone who did not know of the competition at which the competition becomes tainted.

I favor publicity of the awards competition by word of mouth, publishing in *The Chess Journalist* and *Chess Life* and posting it on our main website <http://ChessJournalism.org>. I do want to take a moment to thank CJA Past President and Awards Committee Chairman/Chief Judge Daniel Lucas in his other role as USCF Director of Publications for having ran a mention of our awards competition on page 40 of the May 2010 issue of *Chess Life*. It's my belief that running the announcement within in it attracted a great deal of the entries we received this year from individuals. The full page announcement which had an amazing layout was done pro bono by USCF and joined by the leadership of CJA we are grateful to the USCF and their publications department.

The announcement of the awards competition within *The Chess Journalist* should have came out in the March 2010 issue in the month of March instead though dated March 2010 it came out in June. I myself received my copy on June 11<sup>th</sup> as a result I had to push back the entry submission deadline date to accommodate our very own newsletter. The layout was nice but it is inconceivable that a member have their entry submitted within a few days. To add insult to injury there was little response from the Newsletter Editor on when the March 2010 issue would come out. Now I may not be a master in chess but I am certainly a journalism teacher and have advised on both school newspapers and yearbooks and would note communication is vital. Apart from keeping a better publication schedule there needs to be much more improved communication between CJA's Newsletter Editor and their awards committee chairperson and chief judge. Not adequately knowing when the newsletter is going to the printer nor communicating was just an abysmal failure.

Posting the announcement our webmaster was e-mailed with the files already designed by myself in HTML coding (probably a first) on March 24<sup>th</sup>. I was contacted by him 5 days later that due to

personal issues he was not able to get to it any sooner but he would “shortly”. 15 Days later I e-mailed him asking for an update on the stall to update the main website with the announcement and other pertinent files and he finally uploaded them. I had heard of so much admiration for Franklin Campbell from Jonathan Hilton and Daniel Lucas that despite the delay of uploading the announcement anyone would get a second chance in my book. He lived up to being a workhorse as in weeks that followed he was quick to upload and make modifications as requested. I came to value his input and regard his e-mails with sincere respect. I'd note that though he, Randy Hough and GM Kosteniuk served as awards judges and they were not given any preferential treatment from my end and were treated as equals to other awards judges who weren't part of the CJA leadership.

We had 92 total entries submitted within all the categories this year. Though falling short of 2008, the number of entries this year surpassed those in total from last year. Three of the nascent categories bought out a total of 16 entries as we recognized the very best in story, layout and USCF state chapter website. The competition did bring in several new members and return a few others. I will defer to our secretary/treasurer on his finance report for income figures related to the awards competition.

There were times I was e-mailing the membership through use of the CJA all e-mail address under the notion that that all meant all members. I was notified on June 21<sup>st</sup> that that e-mail address was a group list for CJA leadership and not the entire membership. This is terrible as the president or the one of the committee chairs could have some important information needing the members to be made aware. At present the only method of reaching the entire membership is the newsletter (whenever it comes out) or places the onus on the member to check regularly the website. The better method being a mass-mailing but at a huge cost which this organization can not afford frequently. The membership form should include a space for e-mail address to be supplied and an opt in/out box for infrequent individual e-mails by the aforementioned so that members may be kept abreast at no cost to the organization.

When an individual entrant e-mailed me I was quick to open with Mr. Or Ms. and their last name as I did not want them to think we were close so as to raise question whether I'm being partial. Every step was taken to keep the competition fair at a high degree. From asking awards judges to recuse themselves or contact me privately on possible conflict of interest to recusing them from a category nothing was left without scrutiny. The end result per each category had to be fair and shoddy work was not going to be done neither by myself nor tolerated by me.

In my introduction letter to the CJA membership, I closed with a paragraph that led,

In closing I'll note Ralph Waldo Emerson once stated, “the reward of a thing well done is to have done it.” I hope after overseeing the awards contest, a majority of CJA will have a sense that they are pleased, that the judges felt they were valued for their service and the entrants walked away with a sense of fairness. If I complete those goals I myself would personally have felt my time has been worthwhile and have reaped the award of bridging everyone closer together.

I can with comfort note this year's competition was at minimum well done and a reward of a testament of having conducted it. My core goal of being and keeping the awards competition impartial, ethical and transparent were met and at times excelled. I, I can sleep well, to my fellow awards judges a giant thank you to each and to our president thank you for your communication and outstanding leadership.

~ Ramon

## The CJA Awards Judges

Excluding myself we had 7 CJA Members volunteer to serve as awards judges. As far back as March 29<sup>th</sup>, I attempted to solicit involvement as awards judges with an e-mail to what I believed was the entire membership. My predecessor was kind enough to send me a list of last year's awards judges and their e-mail addresses. While the list contained two dozen names some of the individuals had had their CJA membership lapse. To not have their ISP or inbox report my e-mail as SPAM and thereby close my account with my own ISP I opted to write the names of the individuals with current memberships separately and place their names in a hat. In early June, I pulled out 7 random names and e-mailed those individuals out asking if they'd be interested in volunteering. After waiting a week, I received yes responses from 4 individuals, the rest never responded back. The other three individuals came as a result of one offering to judge once again and I asked two others to return to their roles as an awards judge and they did so gladly.

I will allow anyone to take any cheap shot at me away from my presence, but I will be adamant in stating I would go to bat for each of these 7 awards judges. They each bought their own opinions on why they voted and their own individuality in voting. I'd thumb wrestle any of my predecessors but I'd state with glee I had the very best in awards judges. Had they been robotic and voted alike and in similarity it would have raised my eyebrow but they each were their own person. I would have cared less for whom they voted for (than so much as why they voted for that entry) than to know they were being fair.

Between them and I, individuals were recused appropriately to keep the competition fair. In doing so my respect of the individual awards judge never waned. I actually respected them more for being honest. Could I know who everyone associates themselves with? No, but they each cooperated fully and as a result the teamwork was conducted fair among everyone.

I extended the right to our president to be able to vote on any category she may have wanted as an *ex officio* awards judge. Though she didn't vote on any category, she did receive her entries package and did glance some of the categories' entries. The size of the judging pool (8 judges) did not hinder not one iota the results of the competition. If anything the size bought out more individual attention by me and spurred more feedback by them. CJA Awards Judges represented nearly all (minus the northwest) portions of the United States. They were not chosen by their state nor region then so much as their interest in volunteering and their impartiality.

I did have one individual who wanted to return to serve as an awards judge but I said no on the basis that he had submitted several entries including one for the CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award. Though he did not take it well, I could care little because I would not jeopardize the competition's impartiality for the sake of the happiness of one individual. This individual put in for several categories and there was no way that I could believe other judges would feel so some sense of pressure to vote in favor for his entries just because he was among the judges voting in other categories.

Our secretary/treasurer was allowed to serve as a judge albeit he did submit an entry but was not allowed to view the subforum his entry was in nor allowed to vote in that category. I made an exception for him given it was one category than entries in several categories. Each item presented before me was mulled over thoroughly and I have no remorse on any decision.

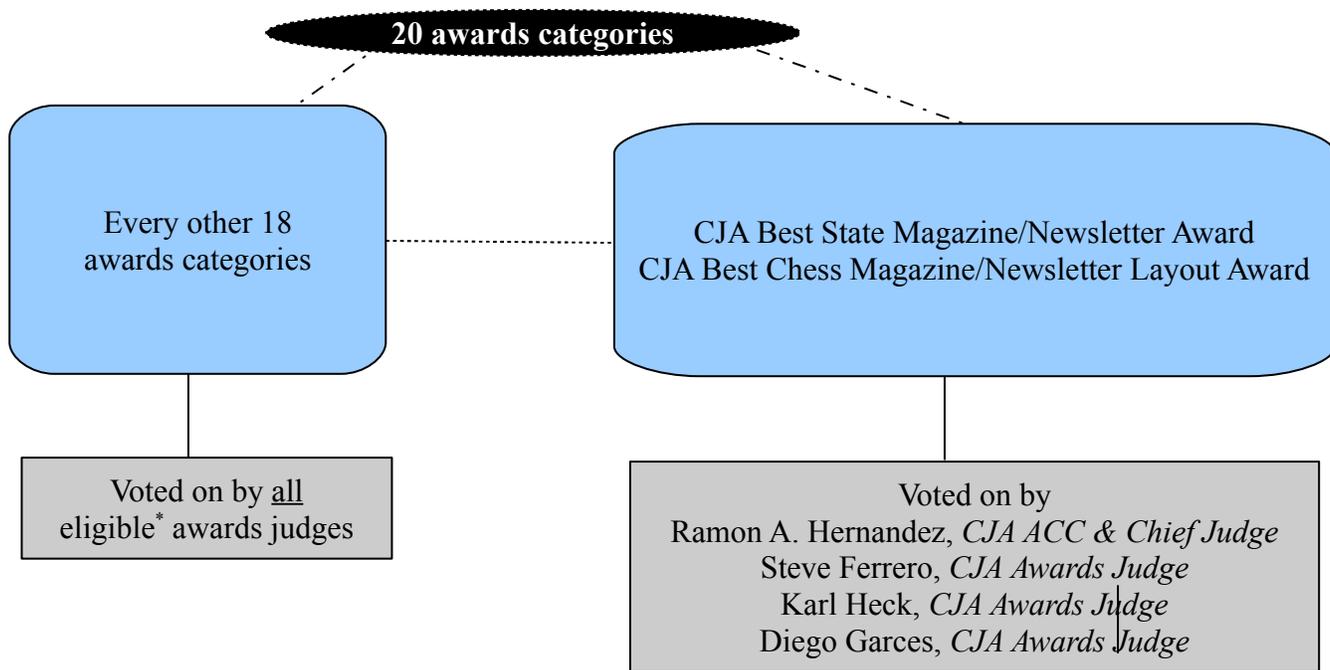
Barring any possible conflict of interest, every awards judge was allowed to vote in at minimum 18 of the 20 awards categories. The total number of categories the awards judges were to vote on had nothing to do with size of the pool of awards judges. I had intended to allow all the awards judges to vote in nearly all awards categories as possible. In the past they were divided into so many subcommittees that some might not have voted in the category they might have wanted to be a part of voting. By allowing the awards judges to vote in nearly all categories, they were not left with a feeling of having been excluded from voting in other categories. Given that the judges' awards package was mailed out three days prior to the scheduled, some judges had a few days over the two weeks to review and vote on all categories.

Two categories had subcommittees which were voted on by four individuals, they were the CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award and the CJA Best Chess Magazine/Newsletter Layout Award. Subcommittees were formed for these two categories because 4 copies of state magazine/newsletter are sent by each entrant. 1 Copy is the awards committee chairman's file copy and three for the awards judges. I selected in alphabetical order respectively:

- Steve Ferrero (N.J.), Editor of the *Atlantic Chess News* (state magazine/newsletter of the USCF NJ Chapter)
- Diego Garces (FL.) who web designs over 10 websites
- Karl Heck (Upstate N.Y.), Editor of *Empire Chess* (state magazine/newsletter of the USCF NY Chapter)
- and myself (a high school journalism teacher with years of advising scholastic newspapers and yearbooks)

Though several entries were submitted via pdf file format, the CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award and the CJA Best Chess Magazine/Newsletter Layout Award had to be reviewed in its original hard copy. Images which are printed are much different in quality than those reproduced on a screen. As a result, asking the entire pool of awards judges to vote off the pdf files for those two awards categories would have been unfair and its results shoddy. In addition, editors were not required to submit their state magazine/newsletter in pdf files, 2 of the 4 entrants submitted it completely by the deadline. Another entrant, (though they submitted by the entry) submitted a couple of files that were missing pages within the pdf files. The last entrant did not submit his state magazine/newsletter as a pdf file until post the deadline citing he normally doesn't convert them as pdf files. The pdf files at that point were more for the CJA membership and the general public to view as the hard copies is what we went off and voted with. Given that some state chapters probably don't have sophisticated desktop publishing programs for which to export as pdf files their issues it would be incorrect to mandate pdf files with their hard copies.

*(Continued on the next page)*



\* = Eligible awards judges being those not recused or self-recused from voting within a category.

Judging of the 2010 CJA Annual Chess Journalism Awards were done by:

GM Alexandra Kosteniuk, *Ex Officio CJA Awards Judge*

LTD Ramon Antonio Hernandez, *CJA Awards Committee Chairman and Chief Judge*

J. Franklin Campbell, *CJA Awards Judge*

Steve Ferrero, *CJA Awards Judge*

NM Diego F. Garces, *CJA Awards Judge*

STD Karl T. Heck, *CJA Awards Judge*

NTD NM Randall D. Hough, *CJA Awards Judge*

NTD Myron Lieberman, *CJA Awards Judge*

Rachel E. Lieberman, *CJA Awards Judge*

I had the very best in individuals who voted and I wouldn't trade any of them one by one if I had to. To state that I was profoundly proud and grateful of each them and their dedication doesn't do justice as they excelled in their roles.

~ Ramon

## Changes this Year

### *a. New categories and clustering of them under umbrellas*

On February 11<sup>th</sup> I e-mailed what I believed was the entire membership and several CJA members a pdf file which contained proposed changes to the categories. I waited exactly two weeks for feedback on it and received praise from our president who suggested two categories. One of her ideas was incorporated into the Best General Website which had its definition enhanced due to asking for feedback. She also came up with the idea of the CJA Best Streamed Video of Chess News category which was introduced this year. Past CJA President and Awards Committee Chairman/Chief Judge Daniel Lucas asked that the U.S. Chess Federation be allowed to submit their entries in the form of pdf files as tear sheets would have taken too much time. In addition, most individual members of CJA are also USCF members and would perhaps receive *Chess Life*, I did not object as it was a reasonable request.

Awards categories were placed under umbrella categories so as to maximize ease of locating them and to bring them more streamline with the journalism industry. One example was the Top Four which consisted of the CJA Chess Journalist of the Year Award; the CJA Best Story of the Year Award; CJA Best Chess Column Award and the CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award.

### *b. New awards instruction and cover sheet*

The instruction file tightened the definition of various awards categories a step more. Could there be room for improvement? Absolutely, but the categories now had a more clear definition than just the name of it. In addition, the cover sheet with its tinted box allowed me to keep tabs of payment, when the entry was received and provided me space for which to write any side notes.

### *c. New awards committee website*

The following text on this issue was copy and pasted from an e-mail sent to the CJA leadership and was intended for the entire CJA membership. I am pasting the text verbatim from the e-mail:

Please be advised that unlike my predecessors who used e-mailing, I have created a website for the awards committee to meet and conduct business. It provides me with the ability to keep the committee in unison privately and if need be the public at large abreast. This website located at <http://CJAAwards.org>, contains a forum where judges can leisurely post and/or reply on each of the entries. I despise e-mails for committees and favor such a website which can acts as an internet website for the members and the public but importantly serves as an intranet portal for the committee as each judge needs a password to log in.

I wish to more importantly stress this website should be viewed as a sub-website of CJA and not viewed as I wanting to move in on Franklin's territory as CJA Webmaster. The website is not a means of publicizing any work of myself as a webmaster nor do I wish to ever become CJA's Webmaster. To further my point, I have designed the website to not be search engine optimized and therefore not show up in a Google or similar search engine search. CJA's website chessjournalism.org is the main website of CJA and it is something that I both realize and care to promote. <http://CJAAwards.org> services the awards committee whereas the main website is orientated towards the entire membership, much of the former is password restricted where the latter is not. In respect to Franklin and continuing in my core of transparency, the bulk of the

text in this e-mail will be pasted [in my final committee report and] onto an e-mail to the entire membership over the weekend.

The cost for the domain name (\$11.42) is being picked up by me and is not being requested as a reimbursement by CJA. I'm not out to make a buck off the CJA than to lessen the load of e-mails in people's inbox. The fact they volunteer amid the workload of their personal daily lives should be enough stress than having to read through e-mails. If I can help an individual from getting bombarded with a slew of e-mails from committee judges and have them log in and gingerly read and discuss entries I've done some justice. One less e-mail in one's inbox is always a plus and though I can't stop other e-mails for individuals I can certainly ease their burden by such an act.

The website had a countdown which was for advising the public and CJA membership how many days left to submit their entry(ies). Afterward it was used to countdown the number of days the awards judges had for which to vote in the entire competition. The core framework the website uses in Joomla, similar to what the USCF uses for their website and allowed me the chance to add additional components and remove them as need be.

It is structured with access only for the awards judges and yet some information for the public and CJA Members not serving as an awards judge. Awards judges were asked to submit their votes with any explanation on their feeling of the entry under each categories' subforum. While a majority of the awards judges did so there were three who didn't opting to correspond via e-mail. Some of those three did voice disdain for the forum calling it too complex but through backend administration I was able to see they had logged in near the deadline and therefore felt some sense of pressure due to procrastinating. The majority of individuals logged in and after exploring the website learned the ins and out of it. Judges were kept abreast with "Memos to the Judges" on issues of importance and disclosure. In addition, every category had its own subforum to discuss any issue with that categories' entries and to vote in. Judges voted by starting a new thread within the subforum and listing their scores and any thoughts on the entries.

This concept of subforums per categories and voting online rather than the old method of e-mailing the votes in went along my core value of being transparent. In the past an awards judge would submit their votes to the subcommittee chief judge or the chief judge and he/she would only know where the other judges were in voting, how they voted and how the end result would look. Voting on-line afforded a new level of transparency while yet closing out the public and CJA members who couldn't see that portion of the website.

#### *d. Changing of the points system*

In the past, awards judges voted in a 0 to 10 points system, with the possibility of a .25, .5 etc score added in. This never made sense and was extremely vague as someone voting an entry an 8.5 could have done so with similar reasoning as someone who voted 6.5. On another example a 9.5 could have been the same vote as the individual who voted a 10. The voting bar was too wide and too arbitrary and needed an overhaul even for this teacher who knows about grades and various grading systems.

Implemented was a 0-2 point system, on any category with only 2 entries, awards judges were to vote on a 0 to 2 point system where:

0 equals the entry was either terrible/they wished to abstain/didn't merit any points from them.  
1 points had the entry in their view being fair.  
2 points had the entry being the best/great/excellent over the other.

They could only use the number 0, 1 and 2 once per categories with 2 entries.

The total of all judges per entries in that category wins that category i.e:

Judge A votes 2 point for entry 1, 0 for entry 2

Judge B votes 0 for entry 1, 2 for entry 2

Judge C votes 1 for entry 1 , 0 for entry 2

The winner would be entry 1 with 3 points

On categories with more than 2 entries they were instructed that they may use a 0, 1 and/or 2 more than once [note a 2 is the highest number vote they might have given] If a category with more than 2 entries ever had a tie for the winner I would send that category back to all of the awards judges to vote between the entries which are atop with a tie to once more in second round weed those entries out in a 0-2 point system. The points from the 2nd round will be added onto the entries' first round points and a winner will then be selected. After the tie-break had any category continued to have a tie those entries would be named co-winners.

I realized the change might have been difficult for some who were use to the 1-10 system but this method was thought through thoroughly and meant to be much more fair for the entries and define more narrow how we the awards judges are voting than the extremely vague 1-10 point system. Minus two individuals it was received with high praise from the rest of the ones who conversed with me about it.

*e. Setting a criteria per each category*

In the past each category had no or at much limited criteria for grading entries in each respective category. This year, judges were given through their Memo to the Judges a list of criteria per each category for which to weigh each categories' entries. As a result, each entry had the same consideration as it competitor irrespective of who wrote it, where it was printed or the ELO rating of the columnist/writer/photojournalist. There was no question of which entry was more grand over the other as they all now had a level playing field for which the judges were looking for in voting.

*f. Awards schedule*

To keep the awards judges, the membership and awards entrants abreast of the timeline for this year's awards competition an awards schedule was planned out and publicized both on the main website as well the awards committee website. We went through the schedule on par if not at times a few days ahead of schedule.

*g. Entries received*

Whereas in the past, entries received were automatically uploaded instantly onto the main website this year I went with uploading them in one shot. The rationale being someone who intentionally procrastinated could have gauged at what entries were submitted and submit something more stronger for the category. Uploading them in one shot provided a level base for all entrants as each one did not know irrespective of category what had been entered. They did receive a prompt e-mail confirming their entry had been received as noted in the awards instructions but were on the same playing field on who they were up against. In accordance with the awards schedule, our esteemed webmaster uploaded

them on the exact date noted in it. The entries received were subsequently posted off the spreadsheet I e-mailed Franklin Campbell on the main website. The actual entries were (available for download -a first) on the awards committee website for all CJA members and the public off a link entitled “Entries Received.” (*Please note:* They will remain on the awards committee website through September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010)

*h. Award add-ons*

Apart from the certificate winners of each category will receive, this year each runner-up and winner of every category will receive the opportunity to receive a graphic stating that were winner or runner-up in the category they finished 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in. The graphic will be saved in a file format for placement in a print layout while another will be saved in a different format so one can upload it onto their internet website.

Though I didn't have enough time to explore the possibility of having a chess company donate a wooden chess set for our CJA Chess Journalist of the Year Award recipient, it is worth looking into in the off-season. The return being a free one year membership into CJA for that business or their representative and mention in the awards wrap-up article in *The Chess Journalist*. The rationale being the recipient of that award should receive something more than/along with an awards certificate.

## Reimbursements

I teach, Staples the retail store my apartment doesn't have in it nor does it have a Post Office. I did have to purchase supplies or postage but for the most part shopped around for quality supplies at low prices. Goal one on reimbursements was too not have to buy too much while yet keep the bill very low. In keeping with my transparency core value I am posting my expense report reimbursed back to me and am detailing it to you all as I did to our secretary/treasurer.

Copies of the receipts for each listed as follows were sent to our secretary/treasurer, the total reimbursement was \$104.93

Receipt dated: 6/25/2010  
Store: Staples  
Total: \$52.41  
Purchased: Postage  
Purpose: To mail huge envelopes containing entries to the awards judges

Receipt dated: 6/17/2010  
Store: Staples  
Total: \$10.65  
Purchased: Huge envelopes  
Purpose: To mail entries to the awards judges

Receipt dated: 6/4/2010  
Store: US Post Office Morris Heights Station  
Total: \$6.25  
Purchased: Priority mail and delivery confirmation postage  
Purpose: Mailing our CJA Treasurer several awards checks and copies of the cover sheet/entry they pertain to.

Receipt dated: 6/24/2010  
Store: Crazy Dollar Deal  
Total: \$3.23  
Purchased: Huge envelopes  
Purpose: To mail entries to the awards judges

Receipt dated: 6/24/2010  
Store: Staples  
Total: \$10.00  
Purchased: Photocopying  
Purpose: Photocopying of awards entries and other material

Receipt dated: 6/24/2010  
Store: FedEx Office  
Total: \$15.00  
Purchased: Photocopying

Purpose: Photocopying of awards entries and other material

Receipt dated: 6/17/2010

Store: Staples

Total: \$10.65

Purchased: 8 ½ x 11 cream color cardstock paper

Purpose: Paper that will be used for printing of the awards certificates later in July 2010

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## CJA Chess Journalist of the Year (2010) Award

With one individual having entered an entry for what anyone can consider the most valuable of the prestigious awards CJA awards. I had weigh in various options, two individuals I reminded of the award told me either no thanks or paraphrasing the other, no I'd like for once that Dan Heisman wins it. Mind you he as the rest world did not know that Dan Heisman had indeed entered his name and credentials for the award. I think it speaks volumes that another individual who could have easily fueled a great competition for the entry gave such a noble reply.

I would never cancel the award on the count that we had only one entry submitted for it, regardless of the award. After deliberating days after the awards entry deadline passed and consulting the by-laws I decided to bring the following to the floor:

There was only one entry and it was by Mr. Dan Heisman who came in second last year in the same category to our new CJA President, GM Kosteniuk. To save the organization the cost it will incur on postage I am asking you all for your thoughts in me asking the executive committee to forgo mailing the entire membership a ballot and vote and name Dan Heisman Chess Journalist of the Year (2010) by majority on-line votes of the awards committee in addition to the executive committee (executive members serving as judges would have in total one vote) My reasoning being simple save the CJA the funds in postage especially since there is only one entrant in this category.

With no one against the motion to accept and name Mr. Dan Heisman was set forth to executive committee and the awards committee, one by one each member voted and in a vote of 9 in favor, no one against and 1 abstention the motion to name Mr. Dan Heisman Chess Journalists of America's Chess Journalist of the Year (2010) carried.

The one abstention came from an executive member who cited, "... problems with the JOY concept in its present form. It should not be awarded by default, and if a ballot is mailed it should include "no award." To which in that categories' subforum I replied as follows,

I myself as the final vote missing vote in favor of presenting Dan Heisman with the CJA Chess Journalist of the Year (2010) Award. I want you each to know that prior in coming up with the cost saving idea I presented as chair and chief judge of the awards competition I did review the CJA By-laws and did notice there was leeway not to have the entire membership vote. It is not Dan Heisman's fault if no one else wanted to run against him for the award. I shopped all awards including this one, the most prestigious one to everyone. I had one member who could have won the award tell me I don't want to put in for that award and now I will paraphrase as he stated something along the lines of, I truly hope Dan Heisman puts in for it and one day wins it. Mind you he as everyone else did not what the entries were until Franklin on the main and I on this website publicized them. I had another chess journalist tell me he did not want to put in his name for that entry.

To state that I am livid doesn't come close as I really am beside myself that any member would believe we should vote yes out of "joy" to name any individual or as a mercy feeling for Mr. Heisman. I went in and researched the past awards entries and he had applied at minimum three years for the possibility to win this award, each time he was up against some very good competition but he placed his in the hat. We vote on this year and his credentials speak volume, a testament of true chess journalist who has promoted the industry beyond many others and at

the every end a true ambassador of chess journalism. Do we fault him for not having any competition?! Absolutely not! Would I as CJA's Awards Committee Chairman and Chief Judge place a clause to the effect that if a category has one entrant we not accept that individual as the winner, absolutely not! Rather than abstain everyone could have voted against him and he subsequently could have not won.

It is beyond ridiculous to claim to abstain on the basis of "joy" Even as much more to perhaps vote No if there was only one individual, I'd vote if the person did not match what we looking forward for the award. It's counterproductive to even suggest mail a ballot out to the entire membership, waste (not spend) CJA finances and then the members' .44 cents to send it back with a No vote for one individual would get an overwhelming nod in favor. Had everyone abstained on their own merits I would have have then moved to mail the entire membership but we're not financially fit to be wasting on an individual who on his merit this year has done a phenomenal job to earn this award as seen not only by myself but by a select cross number of the membership. I certainly did not wake up with the idea on the floor and thought it through with diligence as the date of the deadline to submit entries neared. While being fair to everyone in multiple entry categories I too must be fair to Mr. Heisman.

## CJA Best Story of the Year Award

This was one of new awards which brought our total categories available for entry to 2 dozen a number not seen since 1997. It's inception into the awards competition was well received as 6 entries were submitted.

### Recusement:

I recused CJA Awards Judge Myron Lieberman from voting within the CJA Best Story of the Year Award and the CJA Best Chess Column Award. The disclosure came after reading a vote and being informed that as a past member of the USCF Policy Board he knew too well Mr. Al Lawrence and GM Lev Alburt. He had been recused from voting in entries written by or having some slant towards either of those two gentlemen.

Category/Entry	Subtotal	Total	RUNNER-UP WINNER
<a href="#">Best Story of the Year</a>			
Castling Long Around the World by FM Mike Klein (September 21, 2009)	10	10	
Chessanomics	11	20	
From Russia With Lev	11	22	
Rural Chess	11	14	
Vive le Variant	9	9	
The 2009 Denker Tournament of High School Champions	5	5	

After the initial vote count, there were entries with a tie of 11 each, this category was sent to a tie-break round of voting with all eligible awards judges voting and after their tie-break votes were counted and added to their first round votes the Runner-up for the CJA Best Story of the Year Award goes to Chessanomics and the

## CJA Best Story of the Year (2010) Award is presented to

### **From Russia With Lev**

submitted by the United States Chess Federation.

## CJA Best Chess Column Award

6 Entries were submitted in this category as well.

### Recusements:

1. After being informed by CJA Awards Judge Steve Ferrero that chess columnist and writer Pete Tamburro writes a column in the New Jersey USCF State Chapter magazine/newsletter which he serves as editor of, in agreement I recused him from the following categories which include an entry written by Mr. Tamburro. The CJA Best Chess Column Award, the CJA Best Analysis Award, the CJA Best Review Award and the CJA Best Historical Article Award.
  
2. I recused CJA Awards Judge Myron Lieberman from voting within the CJA Best Story of the Year Award and the CJA Best Chess Column Award. The disclosure came after reading a vote and being informed that as a past member of the USCF Policy Board he knew too well Mr. Al Lawrence and GM Lev Alburt. He has been recused from voting in entries written by or having some slant towards either of those two gentlemen.

Category/Entry	Total		
Best Chess Column			
<b>Entry by Dan Heis man</b>	12	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>PERFECT SCORE</b>
Principles of Analytical Efficiency			
The Most Common & Important Use of Tactics			
When Adults Learn Basic Material			
<b>Entry by the USCF</b>	8		
Back to Basics			
Back to Basics			
Back to Basics			
<b>Entry by the USCF</b>	10	<b>RUNNER-UP</b>	
Chess to Enjoy			
Chess to Enjoy			
Chess to Enjoy			
<b>Entry by the USCF</b>	9		
Endgame Lab			
Endgame Lab			
Endgame Lab			
<b>Entry by the USCF</b>	8		
The Chess Detective			
The Chess Detective			
The Chess Detective			
<b>Entry by the USCF</b>	8		
Win or Draw			
Win or Draw			
Win or Draw			

With a perfect score among all eligible awards judges the winner of this category was clear, cut and simple for the awards judges. The Runner-up for the CJA Best Chess Column Award goes to Chess to

Enjoy and the

CJA Best Chess Column Award  
is presented to

**Dan Heisman**

The entries of his chess columns were submitted by Dan Heisman himself and included three of his chess columns each mentioned in the above spreadsheet.

## CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award

We had 4 entries submitted for this category from various parts of the nation. The USCF state chapter affiliates of the states of Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts and Washington/Oregon each submitted their excellent and respectful state magazine/newsletter for this revamped awards category. Kudos and accolades to each of them for taking the initiative to enter their publications.

Category/Entry	Total	WINNER     RUNNER-UP	PERFECT SCORE		
Best State Magazine/Newsletter					
<i>Chess Horizons</i>	4				
<i>Georgia Chess</i>	8				
<i>Iowa Chess News En Passant</i>	2				
<i>Northwest Chess</i>	5				

This category had the winner winning with a perfect score among all awards judges voting. The Runner-up for the CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award goes to *Northwest Chess* and the

## CJA Best State Magazine/Newsletter Award is presented to

***Georgia Chess***

submitted by the USCF State Chapter Affiliate of Georgia.

## CJA Best Tournament Report Article Award

9 Entries were submitted in this category.

### Recusement:

CJA Awards Judge Randall Hough recused himself from voting in this category noting, "[the] category includes an entry by Jerry Hanken, my friend and sometimes collaborator."

Category/Entry	Subtotal	Total	
<a href="#">Best Tournament Report Article</a>			
Broccoli, Asparagus, and Brussels Sprouts!	4	4	
Farewell to Foxwoods	11	11	
Freddie's Swansong	10	10	
Hikaru	13	24	WINNER
Krush on the Congress: From Worst to First ( <i>December 7, 2009</i> )	9	9	
Turning Back the Clock	13	23	RUNNER-UP
Women's Championship	10	10	
World Youth Championship	8	8	
2009 Iowa Chess Championships	8	8	

After the first round of voting there was a two way tie for first, the awards judges revoted those two entries in the tie-break round. The Runner-up for the CJA Best Tournament Report Article Award goes to Turning Back the Clock and the

## CJA Tournament Report Article Award is presented to

**Hikaru**

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Chess Magazine/Newsletter Layout Award

We had 7 entries submitted for this category from various parts of the nation.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Chess Magazine/Newsletter Layout</a>		
The entire April-June 2010 issue of <i>Chess Horizons</i>	4	
The entire January 2010 issue of <i>Chess Life</i>	3	
The entire January-March 2010 issue of <i>Chess Horizons</i>	6	<b>CO-RUNNER-UP WINNER</b>
The entire January/February 2010 issue of <i>Georgia Chess</i>	7	
The entire July-September 2009 issue of <i>Chess Horizons</i>	4	
The entire May 2010 issue of <i>Chess Life</i>	5	
The entire October-December 2009 issue of <i>Chess Horizons</i>	6	<b>CO-RUNNER-UP</b>

This category had two entries winner winning with a perfect score among all awards judges voting. We had two entries tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and as such the Co-Runner-up award are shared by *Chess Horizons* for their entire January-March 2010 issue and their October-December 2009 issue. The

## CJA Best Chess Magazine/Newsletter Layout Award is presented to

**The entire January/February 2010 issue of *Georgia Chess***

submitted by the USCF State Chapter Affiliate of Georgia.

**CJA Best Regular Newspaper Chess Column Award**  
and the  
**CJA Best Regular Newspaper Local Interest Chess Column Award**

Though this category had 1 entry in it but all of the awards judges were told to find which of his three mainstream newspaper columns appealed and affected the most the residents near Fort Lauderdale, FL. where the *Sun Sentinel* serves for the CJA Best Regular Newspaper Local Area Interest Chess Column Award.

It is worth noting that we had a CJA member who was a veteran chess columnist for the *Washington Post* and had his column phased out of the print publication and into the website. He parted ways and today continues his chess column on a popular website. These actions are being done by features editor nationwide as they aim to find areas to cost cut their finances. Since their website offers opportunity to add more columns and articles at very little expense chess journalist and columnist are faced with a bulls-eye. This member did pass on submitting any of his chess columns from his period at the newspaper for this category.

To compromise with mainstream daily newspaper editor and/or their features editor, a new category was created entitled the CJA Best Regular Newspaper Article of Local Interest. The intent was to spur an "average Joe" on to write an article of a local tournament report or analysis and submit it as a one time article published in their daily newspaper than having editors have to allocate time and time again for a regular newspaper chess column. At least chess would be featured in most daily newspapers albeit sporadically and editors would not shaft chess columns to their websites. In the better world there'd be chess columnists and/or chess beat reporters on daily newspaper staffs. But when editors are phasing chess columnists to the point we can count them all on one hand we should praise regular chess columnists and yet try to meet editors half-way. Though we didn't get any entries in the nascent debut of that category, I hope someone takes the initiative to write an article and freelance it to their daily newspaper on some local chess tournament.

In regards to this category:

Recusements:

CJA President and *Ex officio* Awards Judge Alexandra Kosteniuk and CJA Awards Judge Diego were each recused from voting in this category as one of Bill Cornwall's three chess columns was over 4/5ths about GM Kosteniuk and for that reason I recused them both.

The

**CJA Best Regular Newspaper Chess Column Award**  
is presented to

**Bill Cornwall**

and The

**CJA Best Regular Newspaper  
Local Area Interest Chess Column Award**  
is presented to

**The October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 chess column of Chess A Knight's Tour  
printed in the [Fort Lauderdale] *Sun Sentinel***

submitted by chess columnist Bill Cornwall.

## CJA Best Chess Photojournalism Award

Though this category had 6 entries in it.

Category/Entry	Subtotal	Total	
<a href="#">Best Chess Photojournalism</a>			
George Mirjanian analyzing with Mateos Sahakian	10	20	WINNER
Page 12 of July 2009's <i>Chess Life</i>	5	5	
Page 19 of January 2010's <i>Chess Life</i>	8	8	RUNNER-UP
Page 21 of October 2009's <i>Chess Life</i>	10	18	
Page 28 of August 2009's <i>Chess Life</i>	10	16	
Page 31 of January 2010's <i>Chess Life</i>	9	9	

This category had a three way tie after the first round of voting, those three entries were sent back to the awards judges. After the tie-break round Page 21 of October 2009's issue of *Chess Life* was awarded the Runner-up award. The

## CJA Best Chess Photojournalism Award is presented to

### **George Mirjanian analyzing with Mateos Sahakian**

submitted by the USCF State Chapter Affiliate of Massachusetts and appeared in page 24 of *Chess Horizons'* July-September 2009 issue.

## CJA Best Instructive Lesson Award

8 Entries were submitted in this category.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Instructive Lesson</a>		
Lazy Person's Guide to Endgames (Part 1)	13	CO-RUNNER-UP CO-RUNNER-UP CO-RUNNER-UP
Lazy Person's Guide to Endgames (Part 2)	13	
Middlegame Zugzwang	13	
Refried Liver	12	
The Mind Reading Fish	8	
The Most Common and Important Use of Tactics	13	CO-RUNNER-UP WINNER
When Adults Learn Basic Material	14	
Be Critical	12	

Though there were 4 entries which finished tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, the

**CJA Best Instructive Lesson Award**  
is presented to

**When Adults Learn Basic Material**

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Review Award

5 Entries were submitted in this category.

### Recusement:

After being informed by CJA Awards Judge Steve Ferrero that chess columnist and writer Pete Tamburro writes a column in the New Jersey USCF State Chapter magazine/newsletter which he serves as editor of, in agreement I recused him from the following categories which include an entry written by Mr. Tamburro. The CJA Best Chess Column Award, the CJA Best Analysis Award, the CJA Best Review Award and the CJA Best Historical Article Award.

Category/Entry	Total	WINNER     RUNNER-UP	PERFECT SCORE		
<a href="#">Best Review</a>					
1. d4 Pawn Families	10				
Botvinnik the Invincible!	14				
Connecting Blindfold Play to the Chess Mainstream	12				
Talking A Good Game	12				
Warrior of the Field	13				

The winner of this category won the category with a perfect score from all eligible awards judges. The Runner-up for the CJA Best Review Award goes to Warrior of the Field and the

**CJA Best Review Award**  
is presented to

**Botvinnik the Invincible!**

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Humorous Contribution Award

5 Entries were submitted in this category.

### Recusements:

1. After being informed by CJA Awards Judge Steve Ferrero that chess columnist and writer Pete Tamburro writes a column in the New Jersey USCF State Chapter magazine/newsletter which he serves as editor of, in agreement I recused him from the following categories which include an entry written by Mr. Tamburro. The CJA Best Chess Column Award, the CJA Best Analysis Award, the CJA Best Review Award and the CJA Best Historical Article Award.
2. Because he had an entry within this category, I recused CJA Awards Judge Randall Hough from voting within this category. He was not able to view nor communicate in the subforum for this category.

Category/Entry	Subtotal	Total	
<a href="#">Best Humorous Contribution</a>			
A Chess Dad's Decathlon by Mark Schein ( <i>December 15, 2009</i> )	8	8	
An Evening with Campo	9	17	<b>RUNNER-UP</b>
Defeating a Grandmaster	8	8	
Father Time and other stories from Okoboji Open	1	1	
<i>The Georgia Chess Repeater</i> (April Fool's Supplement)	9	18	<b>WINNER</b>

After the first round of voting there were two entries in a tie, they were sent back to the eligible awards judges who revoted those two entries. The Runner-up for the CJA Best Humorous Contribution Award goes to An Evening with Campo and the

## CJA Best Humorous Contribution Award

is presented to

### *The Georgia Chess Repeater* (April Fool's Supplement)

submitted by the USCF State Chapter Affiliate of Georgia.

## CJA Most Notable Achievement in Correspondence Chess Award

2 Entries were submitted in this category.

Category/Entry	Total	<b>RUNNER-UP WINNER</b>
<a href="#">Most Notable Achievement in Correspondence Chess</a>		
All Chess Players Should Have A Hobby	10	
Duliba Dubbed CCGM	13	

The Runner-up for the CJA Most Notable Achievement in Correspondence Chess Award goes to Duliba Dubbed CCGM and the

## CJA Most Notable Achievement in Correspondence Chess Award is presented to

### Duliba Dubbed CCGM

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Historical Article Award

2 Entries were submitted in this category.

### Recusement:

After being informed by CJA Awards Judge Steve Ferrero that chess columnist and writer Pete Tamburro writes a column in the New Jersey USCF State Chapter magazine/newsletter which he serves as editor of, in agreement I recused him from the following categories which include an entry written by Mr. Tamburro. The CJA Best Chess Column Award, the CJA Best Analysis Award, the CJA Best Review Award and the CJA Best Historical Article Award.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Historical Article</a>		
Snapshots from a Life	12	<b>WINNER</b>
Botvinnik the Invincible!	11	<b>RUNNER-UP</b>

The Runner-up for the CJA Best Historical Article Award goes to Botvinnik the Invincible! and the

## CJA Best Historical Article Award is presented to

### Snapshots from a Life

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Interview Award

3 Entries were submitted in this category.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Interview</a>		
Interview with a Hall of Famer: GM John Fedorowicz by Jennifer Shahade ( <i>October 1, 2009</i> )	10	RUNNER-UP
Interview with Andrew Rea	8	
Karpov on Fischer	12	WINNER

The Runner-up for the CJA Best Interview Award goes to Interview with a Hall of Famer: GM John Fedorowicz by Jennifer Shahade (*October 1, 2009*) and the

## CJA Best Interview Award is presented to

### Karpov on Fischer

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Chess Art Award

7 Entries were submitted in this category.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Chess Art</a>		
Cover of <i>Chess Horizons</i> July–September 2009 issue	8	<p><b>RUNNER-UP</b></p> <p><b>WINNER</b></p>
Cover of <i>Chess Life</i> April 2010 issue	6	
Cover of <i>Chess Life for Kids</i> December 2009 issue	12	
Cover of <i>Chess Life</i> July 2009 issue	8	
Cover of <i>Chess Life</i> June 2009 issue	14	
Cover of <i>Georgia Chess</i> January/February 2010 issue	11	
Cover of <i>Georgia Chess</i> March/April 2010 issue	9	

The Runner-up for the CJA Best Chess Art Award goes to the cover of *Chess Life for Kids*' December 2009 issue and the

## CJA Best Chess Art Award

is presented to the

## Cover of *Chess Life*'s June 2009 issue



The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Analysis Award

8 Entries were submitted in this category.

### Recusements:

1. Because of his friendship with one of the writers in this category, CJA Awards Judge Franklin Campbell was recused from voting within this category.
2. After being informed by CJA Awards Judge Steve Ferrero that chess columnist and writer Pete Tamburro writes a column in the New Jersey USCF State Chapter magazine/newsletter which he serves as editor of, in agreement I recused him from the following categories which include an entry written by Mr. Tamburro. The CJA Best Chess Column Award, the CJA Best Analysis Award, the CJA Best Review Award and the CJA Best Historical Article Award.

Category/Entry	Subtotal	Total	
<a href="#">Best Analysis</a>			
A Whirlwind of Events at the Supernationals	6	6	
George Eichhorn and Robert Keating Annotate	7	7	
Middlegame Zugzwang and a Previously Unknown Bobby Fischer Game	8	8	
Opening Notebook: The Basman Attack	9	12	
Pete Karagianis Annotates	7	7	
Re-Fried Liver	9	17	<b>WINNER</b>
The Lazy Person's Guide to Endgames	5	5	
Vigorito on Chess	9	16	<b>RUNNER-UP</b>

After the first round of voting, there were three entries tied and they were sent back to the awards judges to tie-break. After voting in a tie-break round, the Runner-up for the CJA Best Analysis Award goes to Vigorito on Chess and the

## CJA Best Interview Award is presented to

**Re-Fried Liver**

The entry was submitted by the USCF.



## CJA Best General Chess Website Award

There were 2 entries submitted in this category.

Category/Entry	Total	<b>RUNNER-UP WINNER</b>
<a href="#">Best General Chess Website</a>		
Chess Diva T.V. Show	6	
Official website of the U.S. Chess Federation	13	

The Runner-up for the CJA Best General Chess Website Award goes to Chess Diva T.V. Show and the

**CJA Best General Chess Website Award**  
is presented to the

**Official website of the  
United States Chess Federation**

The entry was submitted by the USCF.

## CJA Best Streamed Video of Chess News Award

This category was proposed and introduced by our new president and had 1 entry submitted.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Streamed Video of Chess News</a>		
Chess Diva episode #8	11	<b>WINNER</b>

The

**CJA Best Streamed Video of Chess News Award**  
is presented to

**Chess Diva episode #8**

The entry was submitted by Laura Goodkind.

## CJA Best Chess Blog Award

This category had 6 entries submitted.

Category/Entry	Total	
<a href="#">Best Chess Blog</a>		
A Method for Winning Games	8	
BELLE, Baczynskyj, and Bisguier	9	CO-RUNNER-UP
Chessvine.com	9	CO-RUNNER-UP
Losing a Pawn can Lose the Game	6	
THE KENILWORTHIAN	10	WINNER
Why Are Stronger Players Stronger?	7	

After the first round there were 2 entries which tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, the Co-Runner-up for the CJA Best Chess Blog Award goes to BELLE, Baczynskyj, and Bisguier in addition to Chessvine.com. While the

**CJA Best Chess Blog Award**  
is presented to

**THE KENILWORTHIAN**

The entry was submitted by Michael Goeller.