



Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists
P.O. Box 8232
Philadelphia, Pa. 19101

2011 PABJ Awards Ceremony Tickets for Sale

Tickets for the event are \$55 for general admission including parking and \$45 without parking; \$35 for full-time students with parking and \$25 for full-time students without parking. The deadline to purchase tickets is June 1. For tickets, contact Melanie Burney at 215-854-2289 or mburney@phillynews.com. Tickets can also be ordered by sending a check or money order payable to PABJ to P.O. Box 8232, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Tickets may also be purchased via PayPal by designating pabj@pabj.org as the payee.

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News Release

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PABJ Honors Region's Outstanding Journalists & Community Leaders

Honorees include veteran broadcaster Heshimu Jaramogi and music legends Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff and NBC10's Harry Hairston

The Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists (PABJ) announces the 2011 slate of exceptional journalists and community leaders to be honored at its 6th Annual Awards Ceremony on Sat., June 11, 2011, at WHYY on Independence Mall West, 150 N. 6th St., Philadelphia. The event starts at 6 p.m., with the awards ceremony commencing promptly at 7 p.m. KYW Radio anchor Vince Hill will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Selected by nominations from PABJ members and the Philadelphia community, several outstanding journalists will be honored, including:

Jesse Washington, the Associated Press – Journalist of the Year-Print

Harry Hairston, NBC10 – Journalist of the Year-Broadcast

Heshimu Jaramogi, WURD-AM – Lifetime Achievement

Lorraine Branham, Syracuse University – Trailblazer

Kenny Gamble & Leon Huff, Universal Companies – Community Service

PABJ is a 501(c)(3) organization
www.pabj.org



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PABJ Scholarship Winners – TBA. The chapter will award scholarships to deserving high school and college students who are pursuing journalism careers. Each will receive up to a \$2,500 scholarship to further his or her education.

Hairston, an Emmy award-winning journalist, joined NBC10 in 2004 as an investigative reporter and anchor. He has become one of the city's most recognized reporters. Through his career and current work as the only investigative reporter of color at the station, he has gained a reputation as a crime fighter. His mission is to expose fraud, scams, corruption, illegal activities and schemes that cheat the public. Among his investigative work in 2010 was a piece that exposed the dirty secrets of child abusers. Hairston has received numerous awards for his journalistic excellence and dedicated community service.

Washington writes about race and ethnicity with authority and sensitivity as one of the AP's National Writers. He explores the topics from his home base in Philadelphia, giving a unique perspective to a subject that permeates every corner of American life. The son of an interracial marriage, Washington has lived the subject of race and ethnicity. "There's more to American than just black and white." A graduate of Yale, Washington previously was managing editor of Vibe magazine and served as founding editor-in-chief of Blaze, a magazine focusing on hip-hop culture. His first novel, "Black Will Shoot," was published in 2008.

Branham, an award-winning journalist, editor and educator, has been blazing trails in the industry for more than three decades. She has paved the way for women and black journalists to follow in her footsteps. A Philadelphia native, she held top leadership positions at The Philadelphia Inquirer as an Associate Managing Editor for Features, Associate Editorial Page Editor and New Jersey Editor. She was one of the first blacks to hold those positions. Branham made history in 1996 when she became the first and only Black editor to hold the top post at the Tallahassee Democrat. Today, Branham dedicates her efforts to training the next crop of journalists as the Dean of the Newhouse School of Journalism at Syracuse University.

Jaramogi was an early member of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. His career spans three decades. He formerly was a news anchor, producer and public affairs program host for Clear Channel Radio. He also was a reporter at WDAS AM/FM, WPEN and WCAU. Jaramogi also hosted public affairs programs on WHYI, WPEN, and WUSL. He is President of Jaramogi Communications, a media relations company and publisher of The Neighborhood Leader newspaper. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Temple University's Journalism Department.

Gamble and Huff wrote and produced over 3,000 songs as the unique sound dubbed "The Sound of Philadelphia." Their music touches on subject matter that speaks to black life and love. They took their passion for music and community and developed a range of entrepreneurial businesses that include a passion for social change. Universal Companies,



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started by Gamble and Huff, seeks to rebuild community by establishing a home buyer and financial literacy program, developing more than 1,000 market rate and affordable housing units and managing four K-8 schools. They are working to improve the quality of life for residents in Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey.

Proceeds from the awards banquet support PABJ's scholarship program and its year-round community activities.

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Media interested in scheduling interviews with award winners and/or PABJ leaders should contact 215-854-4224 or pabj@pabj.org. Multimedia images are available upon request.

PABJ is an affiliate chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, which was founded in 1975 and consists of nearly 3,300 members. This year, the chapter will host the annual NABJ convention, which will be held in Philadelphia from Aug. 3-7, 2011.

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