

Narrative Television Network/Jim Stovall to receive the 2009 Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) proudly announces Narrative Television Network/Jim Stovall as the recipient of the Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description.

The Achievement Award is made to an individual for outstanding contributions to the establishment and/or continued development of significant audio description programs. The Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of audio description over an extended period of time, leading, inspiring, or providing significant service to others.

“Audio Description uses words that are succinct, vivid, and imaginative to convey the visual image from television, film, DVDs, theater, museums, and many other settings,” stated Mitch Pomerantz, president of the American Council of the Blind. “The individual and organization honored with this award are among the leaders in description. They help make so many aspects of our culture accessible to people who are blind or have low vision; they deserve this special recognition.”

The Narrative Television Network is in its 20th year of making educational programming, movies, and television accessible for blind and visually impaired people and their families. Jim Stovall said, “On behalf of the hard-working professionals at the Narrative Television Network, I am proud to receive this honor named for Barry Levine, a tireless worker in the field of accessibility.”

The Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description was established as a tribute to Barry Levine, the highly-respected moderator of the Audio Description listserve, now administered by ACB. Barry was not only an avid description user in both media and performing arts; he served so many others as the president of Audio Description International. When he passed away suddenly in May 2009, the nation lost a forceful and impressive advocate for audio description.



July 17, 2009

Jim Stovall
Narrative Television Network
5840 South Memorial Drive, Suite 312
Tulsa, OK 74145

Dear Jim,

In the weeks leading up to our recent Audio Description Project Conference, you were nominated to be honored as the first recipient of the Barry Levine Memorial Career Achievement Award in Audio Description. On behalf of the American Council of the Blind and its Audio Description Project, I am quite pleased to inform you that your name was announced at our Conference on July 8, 2009 as the recipient of this prestigious award. Congratulations, Jim!

Let me quote from our award guidelines: "The Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of audio description over an extended period of time, leading, inspiring or providing significant service to others." I think that "describes" you perfectly, Jim.

As you may know, the Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description was established as a tribute to Barry Levine, the highly-respected moderator of the Audio Description listserve, now administered by ACB. Barry was not only an avid description user in both media and performing arts; he served so many others as the President of Audio Description International. When he passed away suddenly in May 2009, the nation lost a forceful and impressive advocate for audio description.

It's my great pleasure to enclose with this note your crystal award trophy inscribed with your name, of course, and the award title. Also enclosed is a copy of the ACB press announcement regarding this award and the other achievement awards in Audio Description that were announced at our Conference.

Once again, Jim, congratulations on this richly deserved honor.

All best,


Joel

JOEL SNYDER
Director, Audio Description project
American Council of the Blind
jsnyder@acb.org – 202 467-5083
www.adinternational.org



For Immediate Release

Contact: Joel Snyder, Director, Audio Description Project
(202) 467-5083

**American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project
Announces the 2009 Achievement Awards in Audio Description**

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2009 - The American Council of the Blind (ACB) proudly announces the 2009 Achievement Awards in Audio Description, an initiative of the Council's Audio Description Project (ADP).

In conjunction with ACB's 48th annual convention in Orlando, Florida, the awards were presented during the first Audio Description Project Conference. The prestigious awards included:

- Achievement in Audio Description – Media: Maria Diaz and Closed Caption Latina, Longwood, FL
- Achievement in Audio Description – Performing Arts: Lisa Helen Hoffman and Geva Theatre, Rochester, New York
- Achievement in Audio Description – Museums: Elisabeth Axel and Art Education for the Blind, New York, NY
- Achievement in Audio Description --International Organizational Contributor: Joan Greening and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, London, England
- Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description: Jim Stovall, Narrative Television Network, Tulsa, OK

The Achievement Awards are made to individuals for outstanding contributions to the establishment and/or continued development of significant audio description programs. The Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of audio description over an extended period of time, leading, inspiring or providing significant service to others.

"Audio Description uses words that are succinct, vivid, and imaginative to convey the visual image from television, film, DVDs, theater, museums and many other settings," stated Mitch Pomerantz, president of the American Council of the Blind. "The individuals and organizations honored with these awards are among the leaders in description. They help make so many aspects of our culture accessible to people who are blind or have low vision; they deserve this special recognition."

Additional information about ACB's Audio Description Project is available at: www.adinternational.org.

About the American Council of the Blind

The American Council of the Blind is a national membership organization. Its members are blind, visually impaired, and fully sighted individuals who are concerned about the dignity and well-being of blind people throughout the nation.

Formed in 1961, the ACB is one of the largest organizations of blind people in the world, with more than 70 state and special-interest affiliates and a nationwide network of chapters and members spanning the globe.

For more information about the American Council of the Blind, contact: Melanie Brunson, Executive Director, American Council of the Blind, 2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 650, Arlington, VA 22201; phone (202) 467-5081 or toll-free, 1-800-424-8666; or visit the web site, www.acb.org.