

FACT SHEET THE TONER PROGRAM & TONER PRIZE CELEBRATION

Robin Toner

Toner was the first woman to be the chief political correspondent of *The New York Times*. She led the newspaper's coverage of the 1988 and 1992 presidential campaigns, and was deeply involved in the 1996, 2000 and 2004 cycles. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2007 and covered as much of 2008 as her treatment would permit. She died in December 2008 at the age of 54, leaving a husband and her twins, Nora and Jacob, then 11. For more on Toner, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WETSJFukj5g>

The Program

The purpose of the Toner Program is to help keep alive the flame of non-partisan, fact-based political reporting, at which Robin so excelled. The program seeks to do this by sponsoring lectures and symposia at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, where it is based; by working to offer innovation grants to encourage new types of campaign coverage, and by awarding an annual prize. For more on the program, see:

<http://tonerprogram.syr.edu/about/>

The Prize

The Toner Prize, which has become perhaps the most prestigious in political journalism, seeks to recognize the best national or local political reporting in any medium or on any platform—print, broadcast or online. Entries must be fact-based reporting, not commentary, and are judged on how well they illuminate the electoral process, reveal the politics of policy and engage the public in democracy. For more on the prize, including past winners, see: <http://tonerprogram.syr.edu/toner-prize/>

The Celebration

The Washington event brings together up to 400 top executives, editors and reporters from the nation's major newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*, online sites such as *ProPublica*, and broadcast and cable networks in a tasteful, serious setting to honor the best work of the previous season and hear a keynote address by a major political figure assessing journalism's performance and challenges. Previous keynoters include President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Toner's twins, Nora and Jake, now 19, trade off presenting the prize and speaking for the family. For more on the celebration, see: <http://tonerprogram.syr.edu/toner-lecture/>