



White House News Photographers' Association, Inc.

NEWS

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WHITE HOUSE NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION **AWARDS \$5,000 PROJECT GRANT**

(WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan. 2, 2004) Washington freelance photographer Vivian Ronay has won the White House News Photographers' Association \$5,000 Project Grant for her story on five Bedouin tribes living near the ancient trading city of Petra in Jordan, the WHNPA Education Committee announced Friday.



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The \$5,000 grant will be used to facilitate the completion of Ronay's photographic exhibit, "The Bedul Tribes of Petra." Ronay's photographs document the transition of the Bedouin tribes people from their traditional pastoral lifestyle to that of a market economy and with modern amenities such as electricity and mass media, plumbing and cell phones. Petra, built nearly 2,000 years ago, is on the crossroads of the ancient frankincense trade route from Oman to Damascus and on the Silk Road connecting Asia to the Mediterranean port of

Gaza among others. Unlike most cities, Petra was not built as a series of freestanding buildings but rather rooms carved into the sandstone cliffs with elaborate facades.

"With Vivian's work, " said WHNPA Education Committee chair Leighton Mark, "we are able to see the integration of the old with the new. This is a big change in lifestyles for these people. We look forward to seeing her photographs on display for others to see."

Ronay, who has been making photographs of Petra since 1986, was very excited about being selected the WHNPA grant recipient. "Thanks to all of the WHNPA for this grant," said Ronay,



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“this means more than I can express. It is really wonderful after almost 15 years of work in Petra!”

Currently, the photographs are on exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and will travel to five other venues in the United States and Canada. Ronay hopes to provide a copy of her show to the U.S. Embassy in Amman for exhibition throughout Jordan. Ronay expects that this set of images will find a home at the museum in Petra in order for travelers from all parts of the globe to have a more complete view of the people they meet while visiting Petra. The traveling exhibit, when completed, will be given to the Bedul to help future generations share their visual heritage. For more information on the photographs, please visit Ronay's website: <http://www.petraphotos.com>

“Our Project Grant shows how the WHNPA is able to give back to its members as well as promote photojournalism to the world community,” said WHNPA President Susan Walsh. “Our members are the best in the business. I am proud that their work is seen around the world,” said Walsh.

The WHNPA -- now in its 83rd year -- is a highly successful volunteer organization of photojournalists from national and international news organizations. WHNPA members have garnered dozens of Emmy Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, and other prestigious awards. From Ground Zero to the war in Iraq, President Bush to Tiger Woods, Capitol Hill to Beverly Hills, images captured by members of the White House News Photographers' Association capture the heart and soul of the United States and beyond.

The WHNPA aims to provide professional and educational outreach to its members and the community through scholarships, programs, and an annual competition. The WHNPA sponsors the annual “Eyes of History” still photography and television contest and honors its winners and the photojournalism industry at the annual “Eyes of History” Gala in May.

More information on the White House News Photographers' Association can be found on their website, <http://www.whnpa.org>.

The White House News Photographers' Association and “The Eyes of History” are sponsored in part by Nikon Spirit Initiative, Fuji Photo Film USA, Tiffen/Domke, Thomson/Grass Valley, and The Corcoran Gallery of Art.

WHNPA MEDIA RELATIONS:

Please contact Susan Walsh for a high-resolution photo for use with this announcement.

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