

Regina Brett

Regina Brett is a metro columnist at The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio. Her columns appear on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. In addition to her newspaper duties, Regina also hosts her own radio program on WCPN-90.3 FM (Cleveland's local NPR affiliate) every Friday from 9:05 – 10:00 a.m.

Regina has been writing professionally since 1986, when she covered city hall for the Lorain Journal. She then moved to The Beacon Journal in Akron where she covered business news, breaking news and wrote nearly 30 magazine stories for the Sunday magazine. She began writing columns in 1994 and joined The Plain Dealer as a columnist in 2000.

Not content to interview herself, Regina is often out on the street, grabbing local stories with appeal to narrow demographics, turning them into compelling stories with universal appeal.

Some of her columns move government policy, some move men to cry, and all move many readers to consider her a must-read.

In 1998, Regina was diagnosed with breast cancer. While going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments, she wrote extensively and candidly about her experiences in The (Akron) Beacon Journal. For that effort, Regina won the prestigious National Headliner Award in 1999 ("...She was able to tell her own story with a fresh approach that was moving, instructive and appealed to a broad audience," said the judges). Subsequently, Regina had a prophylactic double-mastectomy, writing about that experience for The Plain Dealer.

In 2008, Regina was one of two finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary "for her passionate columns on alienated teenagers in a dangerous city neighborhood.

She is also the recipient of two Awards of Achievement from Northern Ohio Live, who said that "Regina's column is the heart of The Beacon Journal and, in turn, her column represents the soul of the Akron area."

In 2003, both the Cleveland Press Club and The Society for Professional Journalists gave Regina their "Best Columnist in Ohio" award, with the latter saying, "Regina Brett does what not enough local columnists are doing these days. With the righteous indignation of the muckrakers of old, she gives voice to the local issues and people who need it most. A good local columnist should be the conscience of a community. Regina Brett succeeds."

Regina is also the winner of the 1996 first place humor writing award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Regina also received the Batten Medal, awarded by Knight-Ridder "for lifetime achievement." She has also received numerous writing awards from the Cleveland Press Club, Society for Professional Journalists and the Ohio Associated Press. Regina has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Kent State University and a master's degree in religious studies from John Carroll University. She is also a past president of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Regina is married and has a daughter and two stepsons.

Her columns, including the columns submitted for her Pulitzer Prize finalist award, can be accessed on the Internet at www.reginabrett.com.