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Article of the Year

An Interview with Craig Zabransky

Yes, the ballots are closed and all the votes counted and this year's article of the year goes to Craig Zabransky for his article "Give it Up." After winning the award, the realhoboken.com editorial staff sat down with Craig to understand what the award means to him and his writing career.

Realhoboken (RH): First off, let me extend my congratulations on winning the 1st annual 'article of the year' award.

Craig Zabransky (CZ): Well, thank you. It truly is an honor. It is also amazing to think realhoboken.com is a year old already.

RH: You had some stiff competition. How does it feel to win the 'article of the year?'

CZ: Yes, actually it was truly an honor just to receive the nomination. The site is loaded with quality writers all deserving of recognition. To me each writer produced fantastic and insightful articles over the past year and I really appreciate the opportunity to work with the staff, to learn from them, and read their work. But of course, I am certainly thrilled the readership enjoyed my article. I hope they enjoy all my writing.

RH: Well as one of the writers, thank you and we are all glad to have you onboard our staff. But do tell us some insight on how you became a writer?

CZ: To be honest, it did not seem too probable from my academic years given my English grades. I have to thank the editors of the site for their help (along with my friends.) They provide insight and the occasional edit of my work before the site publishes it. But to me the joy of writing is about telling a story. That is where my passion lies - to tell an inspiring tale of adventure.

RH: So what inspired you to write this article on "Give it Up"?

CZ: I really enjoyed the concept of giving items up to learn about yourself. The world is full of distractions. We all get caught up in them. I learned so much about myself by giving up corporate America and hitting the open road during my sabbatical. That was my method for giving things up and the book in the article describes another path. But bottom line -



we can all learn by giving up our distractions. Plus, with the author of the book being a Hoboken resident, it was the perfect match for the site.

RH: So you left the world and traveled for a while, where was your favorite place?

CZ: A lot of people ask me that question and to be honest I have no favorite. Each place is special in its own way. But I do recommend taking a longer trip than just the typical long weekend or week. . It is really only after a week or two you truly leave the distractions of the everyday and immerse fully in a vacation.

RH: Ok, fair enough, but can you leave us with one recommendation of where to travel?

CZ: Sure. Go where the dollar gives the best value. You can find that by going south. Pay a visit to South America and enjoy how far the dollar goes. In fact, my Vegas article talks to how I spent more (money) in one weekend in sin city than in six weeks in Argentina.

RH: Not sure we can get that type of time off, but we'll keep it in mind. Final question - What is next for you?

CZ: Well as stated in my 'Give it Up' article I plan to write an adventure article every month for the realhoboken.com. This month you can expect my next article out very soon.

RH: We all look forward to it.

Again we want to thank everyone for being a part of our first year at realhoboken.com. The writing staff continues to look forward to providing you, our valued readers, with insight on: local events, fashion, finance, entertainment, relationships, and travel.

Please send your comments on the contest, the nominated articles or author to the editor at editor@realhoboken.com. To reach the winning author directly, you may email him at mercerstwriter@yahoo.com

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