

Schedule 71st annual dinner Oct. 1

Once again our Chicago Journalists Association will present an all-star cast when it holds its 71st annual dinner at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans, Friday evening, October 1.

Twelve Chicago-area journalists are to receive Sarah Brown Boyden awards for their work in different categories. One of them will be recipient of the \$1,000 "Best of Best" award. Three other distinguished journalists will also be honored. They are: Chicago Reader columnist **Ben Jarovsky** (Chicago Journalist of the Year), former City News Bureau chief **Paul Zimbrakos** (Lifetime Achievement), Current TV reporters **Euna Lee** and **Laura Ling** (Daniel Pearl Award).

Jarovsky is known for his outstanding political reporting, while Zimbrakos has had a great impact on journalists' careers during a period spanning a half-century.

Lee and Ling were arrested in March, 2009 along the North Korea-Chinese border while investigating the trafficking of North Korean women. Both were sentenced to 12 years in a labor camp, but released in August of the same year after a visit to Pyongyang by former President Bill Clinton.

Previous recipients of the prestigious Pearl award include: Liz Sly, Chicago Tribune; Wolf Blitzer, CNN; Michael Weisskoff, Time Magazine; Martha Raddatz, ABC Worldwide News; Jill Carroll, the Christian Science Monitor; Paul Salopek, Chicago Tribune; Alan Johnston, BBC Worldwide; and Georgia Anne Geyer, Universal Press Syndicate.



Laura Ling

Euna Lee

In an unusual move, the CJA will be presenting a \$1,000 scholarship to a student overseas. The person, yet to be named, will be a member of one of the families whose husband/wife were among 26 journalists massacred in Magundanao province in the Philippines Nov. 23, 2009. It marks the first time our organization will be giving a scholarship to a high school or college student outside the Chicago-area.

Dinner tickets are priced at \$90 per person; tables of eight, \$720. Tickets for CJA seniors (65 and over) are available at the discounted price of \$65. The reception is from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner.

All checks should be written to the Chicago Journalists Association and sent to: 1800 Nations Drive, Ste.117, Gurnee, IL 60031. For additional information, call CJA's Hot Line (312) 458-9792.

Baumann ill as he tells it his way

Ed Baumann, former chairman of the Chicago Press Veterans Association and past president of the Chicago Press Club became ill, but let him tell it his way.

"I collapsed on Sunday, June 6, while playing with the dog. Paramedics took me by ambulance to Kenosha hospital where they x-rayed me, shoved an oxygen tube up my nose, stuck I.V. lines into both arms, administered seven blood transfusions in 10 days and installed a Pace Maker in my chest.

Diagnosis: Congenital Heart Failure, plus my body is not producing red blood cells. I am going up to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee to see what they can do. Meanwhile I will have to go in for blood transfusions every month. I am not allowed to do anything—can't eat salt, drive the car, no sky diving or mountain climbing. The dog is OK." (Thank goodness).

News about members and others...

- **Laura Washington**, a former speaker to the Chicago Journalists luncheon programs and a Sun-Times columnist, was appointed president of the Woods Fund of Chicago. This grant giving organization serves the poor.

In one of her recent columns she wrote: "The 2010 media environment hews to the if it bleeds, it leads mantra. The media have abandoned public interest journalism on the slaughterhouse floor. Real news is increasingly an endangered species. Draconian cutbacks have forced newsrooms to slash, even eliminate investigative, enterprise and beat reporting. Accuracy, content and credibility are withering on the vine." She also called on more diversity in the news media.

- **Allen Rafalson**, CJA president, took part as a speaker representing our organization in a planting and candlelight vigil for reporters Laura Ling and Euna Lee who were taken into custody by North Korea border guards.
- The Chicago Tribune reported that much of the editing and designing of content of the Daily Press of Newport News, Virginia, will be done in the Tribune's Chicago newsroom as a means of reducing costs.
- The Sun-Times reports that the "once-regal giant" WGN-AM will be in a "stunning free fall" as it drops "Sports Central" that began April 4, 1982, hosted by the late Jack Brickhouse, a former active member of our organization and Chicago Journalist of the Year. Later Sports Central hosts were Rom Shaer, Brian Davis, Randy Minkoff and Dave Eanet.
- **Dan Baumann**, has retired after 46 years as a reporter, editor, director and chairman of the board of Paddock Publications. He now has the title of chairman emeritus. Baumann in an article in the paper states he thinks electronic news delivery will grow while print will shrink but not disappear. He also was a member of our organization and now resides in south central Wisconsin

- Chicago television stations are forcing some members of their staff to get out of bed a lot earlier these days as they are in the process of offering a 4:30 a.m. newscast.

Chicago journalism history

Susan Stevens, a former CJA board member and president of the Chicago Headline Club sends us some thoughts from **Wayne Klatt** who just wrote "Chicago Journalism: A History." The book includes print and electronic journalism in Chicago from 1833.

Klatt in comments said newspapers should "do what they do best: staying in-depth and relevant. They're not doing that now. How often do you read the why of a news story?" He also states "News also has drifted toward celebrity-fawning and beauty and health tips. There is nothing daring any more." He said that his book is the first one to cover "the full history...of Chicago journalism."

Say 30 to...

- **Lila Weinberg**, 91, author of seven books, including the biography of Clarence Darrow, written with her husband, Art, who was a reporter for Fairchild Publications. The book was in the personal library of great books owned by President John Kennedy. She also was an editor for Ziff-Davis and the University of Chicago Press and with her husband taught the subject of social justice at DePaul University. The couple lived in South Shore and Hyde Park.
- **Harlan Byrne**, 89, who was a reporter for the Hannibal Courier-Post and Kansas City Star, both in Missouri, before he joined the Wall Street Journal becoming assistant bureau chief in Chicago and later Midwest editor of Barron's, working to the age of 85. He was a gentle, nice person respected for his understanding of financial news.

How are your taxroll school people doing?

People who believe in open government were pleased that teacher, principal and superintendent work evaluations had become public information.

This lasted for 15 days, according to an IPA Government Update newsletter. It took the General Assembly and Governor Pat Quinn four days to make this information private. The number of hours this item was discussed in a House Committee: It was zero hours. It was passed as an amendment to a bill to help Illinois net \$500 million in federal funding.

Biographies of our Daniel Pearl Award winners

Laura Ling is a journalist and author. She recently served as vice president of Current TV's journalism department and created Current's weekly investigative documentary series "Vanguard."

In addition to overseeing the department and guiding its editorial vision, Ling worked as a correspondent reporting on crucial issues from around the world. She has reported from dozens of countries and has covered subjects including slave labor in the Brazilian Amazon, Mexico's drug war, Internet censorship in China, and women's rights in Turkey. Under her leadership, episodes of "Vanguard" received numerous prestigious awards including the Alfred I. DuPont Award and several Emmy nominations.

She and her colleague Euna Lee were arrested and held captive in North Korea for 140 days before being granted a special pardon and returning to the United States. She has since sought to shine a light on the issue of trafficked women as well as to bring greater attention to the plight of other imprisoned journalists around the world.

Prior to joining Current in 2005, Ling worked as a series producer for Channel One News where she produced reports from around the globe. Ling co-created "Breaking it Down," a documentary series on MTV that aired between 1999 and 2001. Her work has also appeared on ABC's "Nightline," NBC, PBS, and the WB.

Ling is co-author of "Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea and the Other's Fight to Bring Her Home," that she penned with her sister Lisa.

Euna Lee is a film editor for Current TV, a cable network co-founded by former vice president Al Gore. As an editor, she has worked on humanitarian stories such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India, American troops in Iraq, the U.S. war on drugs in Bolivia, and parolees in the United States.

She was working as a producer on a documentary about North Korea defectors when she was arrested and detained in North Korea. She earned a motion pictures and television degree at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and she lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Michael and daughter, Hana.

New Domain name for Website

A new, easier to remember, name has been registered for the site. Bookmark www.chicagojournalists.org today! The old name will be redirected until it expires.

A special reminder:

If you have not paid your dues yet---then please do it now---\$50 for active members and \$30 for retired members. Send your 2010 dues to Chicago Journalists Association, 1800 Nations Drive, Suite 117, Gurnee, Illinois 60031. Money is tight for our organization as it is for other good non-profit groups. Please send in your 2010 dues now---and if you want to pay in advance for 2011, send that in as well---perhaps also some extra money for our Scholarship Fund.

Your checks for our annual Sarah Brown Boyden Award dinner also are to come to the Gurnee address. See the first page of this electronic newsletter for details. Thank you.

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Please send us news about your activities and those of your family, your journalist friends and some of the many interesting happenings you recall that you think would interest our membership.