

CJA NEWS

AN ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS • WINTER 2010/2011



Sarah Brown Boyden Award

One of the most emotional speeches ever presented at our Sarah Brown Boyden Awards dinner was made by Julia Mae P. Reblando, a high school student in the Philippines who was the recipient of our \$1,000 scholarship this year. Julia, who has expressed an interest in pursuing a career in journalism, and her mother were flown to Chicago from the Philippines for the scholarship presentation with the help of Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Press Club – U.S.A.

Julia's mother read the acceptance speech when the teenager began to cry as the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" began playing as she walked to the podium.

"I want to thank the Chicago Journalists Association and the National Press Club of the Philippines USA," Julia wrote. "I

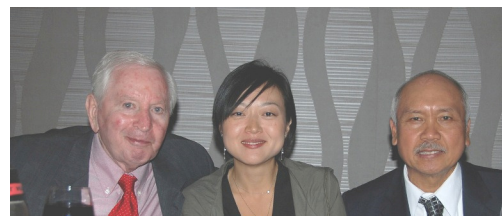
am at a loss for words. I could not believe we were in the United States when we landed in Las Vegas. My family lives in public housing. I thought I was dreaming.

"The death of my father is the reason I am here. I am trying to find out why the war lords would kill 32 journalists. I want to use this scholarship to follow my father in journalism. On the grave of my father I pledge to tell the world to work for peace. God bless the Philippines and the United States.

The massacre took place on November 23, 2009."

This was the first time our annual scholarship was given to a student from outside the Chicago area. The dinner was held October 1 at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza with 134 people attending.

Also at the dinner, Allen Rafalson, president of CJA for the past nine years, congratulated Laura Ling and Euna Lee as the winners of the



Sitting at the head table were from the left, Allen Rafalson, CJA president, Euna Lee, one of the two Daniel Pearl Award winners this year for international reporting and Joseph Lariosa, former president of the Philippine National Press Club, USA, who also supplied the pictures for our newsletter.

Daniel Pearl Award. Lee said she is grateful to even have been considered for the award. "When we cover a story we tell the truth," she said. "Thank you for your support during this difficult time in our lives." Ling could not attend as she was caring for her newborn baby. Our thanks to Mary Frances Fagan of American Airlines for helping to get Lee, her husband and daughter to Chicago.

Former president Bill Clinton was instrumental in getting Ling and Lee freed from the possibility of serving 12 years of hard labor in North Korea.

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Press card rules

The Chicago Headline Club has been working with local news media organizations and the City of Chicago to develop new rules about who can obtain press credentials.

Press cards are available to freelancers as well as traditional media members and will no longer require finger printing under chapter 4-328 of the Municipal Code, City

of Chicago. The mayor may form a committee that will include three news people to help determine if individuals qualify for the credentials.

If you would like a copy of the new regulations contact your newsletter editor.

A letter from the president

The holiday season is already upon us and, as usual, pictures of turkeys and Santa Claus come and go. But one thing is certain, our Chicago Journalists Association remains steadfast, continuing to uphold the dream that began more than a century ago when young reporters covering the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 held a reunion 40 years later at the Chicago World's Fair. In 1939, that dream became a reality and the Chicago Press Veterans was established.

At our annual dinners, I frequently refer to this piece of our history...reflecting and admiring the tenaciousness of those pioneers who undoubtedly said, "Yes, we can!" Their spirit of togetherness still remains within our membership as we proudly enter our 72nd year in 2011.

Let's continue to bond together in these turbulent times and pray that there is a brighter future ahead for both electronic and print journalists.

In 2001, when I became your president, I too thought about the future of our organization and with the support of our board of directors initiated a number of innovative moves. It was the turn of a new century and a period of adjustment. For this reason we voted to change our association's name to its present one, still upholding the respect for those who worked tirelessly under the Chicago Press Veterans' umbrella.

We also recognized that we were not keeping pace with other journalist organizations, especially in the awards' category, and, therefore, created two new honors, the Lifetime Achievement

and Daniel Pearl Awards. Although the Lifetime Achievement was a standard for most organizations in Chicago, the honor to the late Wall Street Journal reporter murdered in Pakistan wasn't. It came about after contacting his parents, Ruth and Judea Pearl, who gave us their blessings. This honor is presented only to foreign correspondents who represent the high journalism standards and integrity displayed by Pearl. Among the award's recipients have been Martha Raddatz (ABC Worldwide News), Wolf Blitzer (CNN), Alan Johnston (BBC), and, most recently, Euna Lee and Laura Ling (Current TV). We have enormous pride in telling you that we are the only organization in the Midwest to present such an award, which sets us apart from other similar organizations.

Another proud moment occurred at our recent Oct. 1 annual dinner when we presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Julia Mae Reblando, a high school student in the Philippines whose father was among the 32 journalists killed in the Maguindanao Massacre last year. It was another CJA first!

There were also other initiatives, such as the signing of a Reciprocity Agreement with the Philippine National Press Club, USA, which also binds us to the Washington Press Club; creation of the Chicago Journalists Association's Charitable Fund, a 501c3 that now allows contributions to be tax deductible; and the implementation of a new and sophisticated website

(CHIJA.ORG).

As we stated in our recent letter asking for your continued support by paying your annual dues, we will continue to seek new cost-effective venues and reinstate programs which have fallen by the wayside and explore new ones.

God bless Allen Rafalson



Jason Groto, left, of the Chicago Tribune, receives the first of two awards for investigative reporting along with Tim Jones. The second recognition included a \$1,000 check as the best of all the excellent award-winning entries.

Have ideas, Share them

Your CJA board is seeking ideas about programs that you would like to see us sponsor or co-sponsor with another journalism organization. The activities might include such things as luncheons; a return to our annual picnic at Cantigny; seminars; discussions about politics, government, and the contest for mayor of Chicago; more evening events; increased emphasis on or information about the suburbs; or any other subject. Please let us know what you think we should be doing and it will be considered by the board.

Chicago media in the news

Seemingly every week, if not every day, the Chicago media is in the news and it almost always is negative. Lately there seems to have been an avalanche of stories concerning lawsuits involving the media, the Sun-Times killing 18 southwest and far North suburban newspapers, charges of financial mismanagement, jail time for former media management types, more cut backs, WGN falling out of first place among Chicago radio stations, print and broadcast employees being fired, and readers and viewers decreasing in numbers.

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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.

Say 30 to ♦♦♦

- **Robert J. Smith**, 85, long time board member of our organization, was a reporter, writer and editor at the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Today, Chicago American, Chicago-Herald American and the City News Bureau of Chicago. He also ghost wrote two syndicated medical columns for Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, president of the Chicago Board of Health, and for Dr. Samuel L. Andelman, the Chicago Health Commissioner. He exposed a major hoax when he found Bridey Murphy living in Chicago, and had not disappeared as was indicated in a 1950s book. His wife, Isabell, was well known by Chicago journalists.
- **Ward Quaal**, 91, the Chicago Press Veteran of the Year in 1973, was an active supporter of the Chicago Journalists Association. He was named one of the 50 giants of broadcasting by the Library of American Broadcasting and among the top 100 broadcasters of the century by Broadcast & Cable Magazine. The Broadcasters Foundation of America named its Pioneer Award after him. He retired in 1975 as president of WGN Continental Broadcasting, a position much higher than his goal of simply becoming a staff announcer at WGN when he was a student at the University of Michigan. Gordon Smith, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, said, "Few stood taller than Ward Quaal...as free and local broadcasting was built by a handful of visionary giants." One of the first things he did when he became president of WGN Radio and WGN-TV was to bring in Bob Bell, who later launched Bozo's Circus, and Wally Phillips. Both became giants of American broadcasting. For decades until the this year, Quaal was by far the largest contributor to our scholarship program. Continued on page 6



Allen Raffelson shares a happy moment with 14-year-old Julie Mae and mother shortly after our annual dinner. Singer Ellen Balmadrid (2nd from R) is shown with an unidentified member of the Philippine National Press Club-USA.

Sarah Brown Boyden Award

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The Daniel Pearl World Music Days was held October 1 to 31. The event allows musicians to use their instruments to connect people through words and music. Pearl, in addition to his journalistic career, played the violin.

The master of ceremonies at our dinner again was Dick Kay, who worked at Channel 5 (WMAQ-TV) for 38 years as the station's top political reporter.

Ben Joravsky, the recipient of this year's Chicago Journalist of the Year award at our annual dinner, said he was astounded "when I received notice of this award. I wondered if they had called the wrong journalist. I explored arcane subjects such as TIFs (tax increment financing). I thank my wife and daughter for putting up with me, especially when I am near a deadline. I work from home." He added that whatever success "I have had I owe to the late John McDermott."

Jack Smith, the former CBS Chicago and Washington D.C.



Chicago Journalist of the Year, Ben Joravsky, tells the audience he was astounded when he received notification of this award and thought they had called the wrong journalist.

bureau chief, who began his career in journalism as a reporter for the City News Bureau of Chicago, said that Paul Zimbrakos, the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award from our organization, gave his life to the City News Bureau. At our dinner, Zimbrakos thanked everyone who worked at City News for helping him make CNB a success.

Other winners of journalism awards from the CJA were:

- Don Rose of the Chicago Daily Observer for commentary.
- David Jackson, Gary Marx and Sam Roe of the Tribune for public service.
- Roger Ebert of the Sun-Times for Online Journalism.
- Howard Reich of the Tribune for features.
- Tim Novak, Art Golab, Chris Fusco and Dave McKinney of the Sun-Times for investigative



Paul Zimbrakos, who started his career as a copy boy at the City News Bureau of Chicago, ended it there a near half-century later. He became a legend in American journalism as the head of CNB. About a third of the audience at the CJA Awards Dinner were graduates of CNB and applauded him loudly as he was presented with the Life-

reporting.

- Rick Telander of the Sun-Times for his in-depth reports on the long-term health affects of head concussions suffered by football player.
- Rick West of the Daily Herald for photography.
- Jason Grotto and Tim Jones of the Tribune for Best Series and they also won the \$1,000 Best of the Best Award for their agent orange reports.
- Ted Cox, Dann Gire, Jim Slusher, Elisabeth Mistretta, Christy Gutowsky, Madhu Krishnamurthy, Deborah Donovan, Ashok Selvam and Ginny Lee of the Daily Herald for spot news coverage.

Live music was provided by singers Ellen Balmadrid who sang the Philippine national anthem and "You'll Never Walk Alone" as Julia Mae Reblando walked to the podium to receive her \$1,000 scholarship. Joining her was singer Jimmy Damon who also sang the American national anthem. Also at the podium during the evening were Mary Frances Fagan, CJA board member from American Airlines, Susan Nelson, our secretary, Jack Smith, a CNB alum and former CBS bureau chief in Chicago and Washington, Allen Rafalson, CJA president, Karen Petite, CJA treasurer and Foundation president, Rev. Monsignor Kenneth Velo from DePaul University and Dick Kay, our master of ceremonies, former political editor for the NBC television station.

News about members and others . . .

- Brenda Starr, 70 ½, has retired, according to Mary Schmich. Starr's work as a reporter and her personal life was in the public realm internationally. She got her start from Dalia "Dale" Messick, a greeting card artist from South Bend, Indiana. Starr's activities were directed for a quarter century by Chicago Tribune columnist Mary Schmich. Chicago Tribune Media Services syndicated Starr's many activities; at one time she appeared seven days a week in 250 newspapers in the United States and elsewhere such as The Star of Malaysia. Messick died at age 98 in 1995.
- Shaw Newspapers, whose 60 newspapers, magazines and websites, have served northeastern and north central Illinois for 159 years, changed its corporate name in October. It's now called Shaw Media to reflect its diverse media operations
- News people seem to have a charitable bent when it comes to the Mayo Clinic. There is a plaque on the eighth floor of the Gonda Building, part of the huge Mayo medical complex of buildings in Rochester, Minnesota, acknowledging contributions to the clinic by Abigail Van Buren; Pauline or Mrs. Morton Phillipi in tribute to her son, Edward and daughter-in-law Leslye Phillipi; and by the foundation established by Pauline's parents and in-laws, Jay and Rose Phillipi, for the purpose of advancing research on Alzheimer's disease at Mayo.
- Also, inside the main entrance at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona, is one of the largest and highest atriums you will ever see. High up on the wall facing you as you enter are the engraved names of Angel and Paul Harvey.
- Felix Kubik, Jr. writes that for more than eight years he has been growing a special pea-size tomato that is "super delicious." He also tells us that for more than 70 years he has been an amateur radio ham and talks to fellow hams around the world, getting information about, among other things, the weather around the globe. In addition, he keeps in touch with his former coworkers, some of whom still work at his former station, WGN. Unfortunately, he has decided not to rejoin our organization. We wish him well. He resides at 9121 S. Albany St., Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805.
- Robert Feder, radio and television reporter, will join Time Out Chicago Magazine. He took a buyout at the Sun-Times and recently was a blogger at Vocolo, a website affiliated with Chicago Public radio.
- There's an interesting item from Val Lauder on the Daily News web site. She writes that when the Daily News moved into the Sun-Times building a lot of the library files had to be thrown away. Tom Collins, who became executive editor of the Daily News, told Val that the company "hired a bunch of seemingly well educated young men from Northwestern and discovered only after they'd been through the A's and the B's...that they were fraternity men and had pitched anything that didn't have Alpha or Beta or Chi Omega in it."
- John Madigan, the former Chicago American, Chicago Today and WBBM editor, suffered a stroke and, as a result, has not been able to attend social functions such as our annual Boyden Awards dinner. He was an active member of our organization. You can contact him at 47030 Lakeview Avenue, Grand Beach, Michigan 49117.

It's our web site, another activity

It has taken a few years, but we now have our very own, honest-to-goodness website. We will be filling it in with lots of information in the weeks and months to come. Many of our activities, board information, requests for help and input from members will be among the items featured and continuously added to site. The website finally was put together by Phil Moy with a lot of help from members and outsiders interested in helping us develop it. Our website address is: chija.org/.

Moy did a similar job for 4CS Weekly, Chinatown's first English language newspaper that until recently was edited by Allen Rafalson, our CJA president.

To keep the website fresh and interesting, please send us information about your activities, family, journalist friends and others. We need your contributions, opinions, etc.

Say 30 to ♦♦♦

(continued from Page 3)

- Another giant of broadcasting providing music and news for hours around the United States in the early morning hours starting at midnight was **Jay Andres**, 86. His "Music 'til Dawn" show was often broadcast from near the fireplace in The Abbey resort at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The program was heard for 13-years on WBBM until it switched to an all news station. In 1973, he moved the show to WGN. He also broadcasted on WNIB-FM and WFMT-FM.
- **James J. Kilpatrick**, 90, a syndicated columnist and television commentator, was conservative in nature but respected by the people he worked with, including liberals. He offered, among other things, this advice to would be wordsmiths: "Be clear, be clear, be clear! Your image or idea may be murky but do not writer murkily about it. Be murky clearly."
- Some 50 companies dominated the media back in 1983, but today 44 of them are gone, according to the sixth edition of *The Media Monopoly* by **Ben Bagdikian** and published by Beacon Press. The future of the six remaining media giants that have helped shape our thinking---Time Warner, Walt Disney, Viacom, Murdoch's News Corporation, Clear Channel and NBC---remain in doubt, according to the author.
- Following its December issue, the print version of *U.S. News & World Report* will disappear. The magazine, instead, will have a web site with news and feature reports. The *Washington Post*, meanwhile, has sold *Newsweek* to The Beast for one dollar. The magazine is forming a relationship with The Beast, operated by a media conglomerate owned by Barry Diller. Tina Brown, the former *New Yorker* editor, is running the news product.
- **Reid Hanley**, 64, died after more than 30 years of sports reporting for the *Chicago Tribune*. Golf and wrestling were his special interests. He was inducted into the *Illinois Wrestling Hall of Fame* in 2007.

Daily Herald forms largest suburban newspaper group in the country

Paddock Publications, publisher of the *Daily Herald*, has unveiled the largest suburban business-oriented newspaper in the United States, according to Douglas Ray, Paddock's president and a CJA member.

The company, in existence since 1872, started the new monthly newspaper, called the *Daily Herald Suburban Business* along with a companion website, in November. Paddock also announced plans to purchase the *Business Ledger*, a bi-weekly business newspaper founded by James Elsener, a former *Tribune* business reporter. Elsener will serve as a consultant to Paddock for its new publication. Elsener, who founded the *Business Ledger* 16 years ago, sold it in 2008 to Ohio Community Media, which has since gone bankrupt. The *Ledger* will continue to operate from its office at 1620 Iroquois Ave., Naperville.

In addition to the *Daily Herald*, Paddock publishes *Reflejos*, a Spanish language publication, and other niche publications, making it one of the largest suburban family-owned news companies in the United States.

The *Daily Herald* has also expanded its *dailyherald.com* website, which provides additional news content and localizes news and other information for each of the communities it serves. Management at the paper says the website is one of the few media outlets powered by Saxotech Online and the Saxotech Mediaware Center.

Web sites look for scoops

Curbed.com LLC, a New York City company, is entering the Chicago news market with three websites covering dining, real estate and the fashion scene. The sites will have a distinct neighborhood slant and will depend on freelance reporters and photographers for much of their content. Content will include news, features and related material and will be supported by advertising.

The websites have been in the works for the last two years but their introduction was delayed until Internet advertising started making a comeback following the recent economic recession.

FOIA Case law being developed For providing information

By Dan Friedlander

Illinois arguably has the best open meetings laws but the implementation of those laws too often leaves a lot to be desired, according to Cara Smith, the Illinois public access counselor whose position was created after the passage of the new Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Smith spoke October 14 at the ninth annual First Amendment Congress held in the Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Courtroom at the Kent College of Law. The Congress is cosponsored by the Chicago Journalists Association, Chicago Headline Club and the International Press Club of Chicago.

Smith said the first ten months in her current position that began January 1 have been "extremely challenging," noting that her office, which is staffed by nine lawyers and support personnel, received more than 4,100 telephone calls from individuals and organizations who felt that their requests for public information from government agencies were either ignored or illegally denied. She thought that many of the disputes could have been avoided if the parties

involved had done a better job of communicating with each other.

About 20 percent of the calls came from the news media, Smith said. One reason public information was not given out in the past was because there were no enforcement provisions forcing government agencies to comply with requests for such information. Even with the new law, some government bodies and employees still are trying to avoid providing information, Smith noted.

Smith said there is no case law for open meetings in Illinois but she and her staff are creating it. She said she was optimistic that providing information requested by the public will improve significantly in the future, as a result of the fact that about 15,000 government public information officers have been trained concerning the new law with more to be trained in the next few months.

Her office has a website: <http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/>.

The telephone number for Smith's office is (877) 299-FOIA.

Philippine 'Inquirer' cites CJA scholarship award in story of killed journalist 'Bong' Reblando

Our Chicago Journalists Association continues to receive kudos from the Philippine media long after our annual Sarah Brown Boyden Awards dinner. The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* is the latest publication to cite our Charitable Fund's presentation of a \$1,000 scholarship to high school student Julia Mae Belando that evening.

The feature, *Bong loves Bebot*, is primarily about the beautiful relationship senior journalist Alejandro "Bong" Reblando had with his wife Myrna "Bebot" Parangan prior to the Ampatuan Massacre Nov. 23, 2009 when Reblando and 31 other journalists were killed.

At the end of the article, author Menchu Aquino Sarmiento, writes: "During the Chicago Journalists Association's award ceremony, Julia Mae broke down when she heard the classic, *You'll Never Walk Alone* playing as she walked upstage. Bebot immediately stepped up and read her daughter's acceptance speech. Bong Reblando would have been proud."

This marked the first time in the history of our organization that we have presented the scholarship to a student outside the United States. Credit goes to CJA member Joseph Lariosa, who is former president of the Philippine National Press Club, USA. He played a key role in bringing Julia Mae to our dinner.

The *Inquirer* is the country's largest circulation magazine supplement.

A Daniel Pearl Award item

Previous winners of the now nationally known Daniel Pearl Award went first to Liz Sly of the Chicago Tribune followed by Wolf Blitzer of CNN, Michael Weisskoff of Time Magazine, Martha Raddatz of ABC News, Jill Carroll of the Christian Science Monitor, Paul Salopek of the Chicago Tribune, Alan Johnston of the BBC Worldwide, and Georgie Anne Geyer of Universal Press Syndicate. Laura Ling and Euna Lee, this year's recipients of the award, work for Current TV, which was founded by former Vice President Al Gore.

Scholarship notes

Do you have a candidate who is eligible to apply for our college scholarship or know of someone who deserves to be a recipient?

If so, contact your CJA office at 1800 Nations Drive, Suite 117, Gurnee, IL 60031 or call (312) 458-9792 to ask for an application. We would very much like to get information about the scholarship out earlier for 2011 than has been the case in the past to give young people sufficient time to gather the information they need to collect in order to apply for the scholarship.

Looking for new directors who might become officers in 2012

Your CJA directors and officers want to vastly expand the programs of the organization. But before doing this we need a larger board of directors where people will take responsibility for specific activities.

As reporters and editors face more problems and news staffs become smaller, some disappearing, it is important that CJA takes a more active role in Chicago journalism.

At the December meeting the directors felt that your organization is headed in the right direction with its new activities and respect it is receiving in Chicago journalism and even from overseas.

If you would like to join the board and/or know of people who should be on it and of people who should join CJA please let us know at 1800 Nations Drive, Suite 117, Gurnee, IL 60031 or call us at 312/458-9792. Take a look at our new web site: chija.org/

Don't forget your dues; more important than ever

Please pay your annual dues as soon as possible, \$50 for active members and \$30 for retired journalists. Add another amount that is tax deductible to our charitable foundation headed by Karen Petite.

The programs sponsored by the Chicago Journalists Association are important for the future of our profession and for keeping the past accomplishments of Chicago journalism alive. As news staffs decline it becomes even more important for us...and other journalism organizations...to maintain and increase our membership.

In an effort to lower our costs, we no longer will print a newsletter. Instead, we will create one for e-mail distribution. If you do not have an e-mail address, please let us know in the form below. We then will provide a computer copy of the newsletter and mail it to you.

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2010 and/or 2011, please do it now.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address (if available) _____

Fax number (if available): _____

Mail your dues check and the above form to:

Chicago Journalists Association

1800 Nations Drive, Suite 100

Gurnee, Illinois 60031.

Our telephone number is (312) 458-9792

Web site: chija.org/