

# 51

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL

**SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
JOURNALISM  
AWARDS**

LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB



# **RICK ORLOV**

**2009 JOSEPH M. QUINN AWARD  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB**

**SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS FROM  
ONE OF YOUR GREATEST ADMIRERS -**

**I'VE BEEN PROUD TO WORK WITH YOU FOR  
MOST OF THAT LIFETIME!**



**ZEY YAROSLAVSKY  
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT**



## Los Angeles Press Club

A non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status  
Tax ID 01-0761875

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# 51 FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS

## Awards for Editorial Excellence in 2008 *and* Honorary Awards for 2009

### THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

*For Impact on Media*

**Arianna Huffington**

*Huffington Post*

### THE JOSEPH M. QUINN AWARD

*For Journalistic Excellence and Distinction*

**Rick Orlov**

*Los Angeles Daily News*

### THE DANIEL PEARL AWARD

*For Courage and Integrity in Journalism*

**Robyn Dixon**

*Los Angeles Times*

**JUNE 14, 2009**

SHERATON UNIVERSAL HOTEL

# 51 FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Chris Woodyard

GOOD EVENING and welcome to the 51st annual Southern California Journalism Awards. Tonight you'll see proof that quality journalism matters and that bringing news to an information-hungry world can still change lives and influence public policy.

Our industry is rapidly transitioning into the digital age. It's forcing managers and editors to rethink the entire business. Broadcasters and reporters are being forced to work harder—and for less—while fighting to adhere to their ethics and their values. Lots of our friends have been laid off, but a new era will hopefully create new jobs, maybe even better ones.

Reporters in nearly every medium find themselves working harder—and for less—while remaining true to their journalistic ethics and values. We've seen many of our colleagues and friends laid off, but this new era in how we provide and package news will, I believe, create new jobs, maybe even better ones.

At the Press Club, we're reaching out to journalists to help them survive this crisis and to be ready for this new era in journalism. Over the past year, we've sponsored discussions on where to find new jobs. We conducted a seminar on how journalists can make best use of Twitter. We're examining the crisis from every angle to prepare tomorrow's journalist, building on our core strengths and embracing new technologies.

The Press Club has survived the storm thanks to hard work from our many volunteers—top industry professionals who give up a few hours a week to organize events, write for the newsletter and reach out to new members. Over the 62 years since the club was revived after World War II, it's faced many transitions. Now the club is in transition again as we reach out to digital journalists, bloggers and a new generation of those who seek to inform listeners and readers through a new set of technologies.

Join us. The club is alive and exciting. We view tough times as opportunities. Now, as never before, it's time to band together and stand up for quality journalism. Fill out a membership application tonight and look for our top-notch events this fall. They're all at [www.lapressclub.org](http://www.lapressclub.org).

Sincerely,

Chris Woodyard  
President



# 51 FIFTY-FIRST **ANNUAL** **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** JOURNALISM AWARDS

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For all finalists see  
pages 24-27

6:15 p.m. Dinner  
Silent Auction Closes

6:50 p.m. Welcome  
Paula Poundstone

FEATURES  
Print Journalist of the Year  
(Newspapers under 100K)

DESIGN/LAYOUT  
Designer of the Year

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING  
Photojournalist of the Year

NEWSCASTS  
Television Journalist of the Year

ENTERTAINMENT  
Entertainment Journalist of the Year

PRESIDENT'S AWARD: Arianna Huffington

SPORTS

BUSINESS  
Business Journalist of the Year

COMMENTARY  
Radio Journalist of the Year

QUINN AWARD: Rick Orlov

FEATURES

HARD NEWS  
Print Reporter of the Year  
(Newspapers over 100K)

DANIEL PEARL AWARD: Robyn Dixon



# The Year in Review

*The Los Angeles Press Club continued its tradition this past year of putting on great events and engaging the public.*



Board Member Jill Stewart moderated a special political discussion with NBC News White House Correspondent, Political Director and On-Air Analyst, Chuck Todd.

IT IS OFTEN SAID that time passes quickly when you're having fun. What many observers don't know—except for the Press Clubbers—is that time flies when you average 25 events per year. It is always a challenge to bring together some of the best and brightest that journalism has to offer but the bar was set high long ago and the Los Angeles Press Club continues its grand tradition of holding high quality programs—ostensibly for journalists, but also for the public at

large. Adorning these pages are just a few from the past year.

The Press Club will be taking a well-deserved respite next month but we'll be back in action starting in August. Stay up-to-date on the Club and become more involved by visiting our website at [www.LAPressClub.org](http://www.LAPressClub.org). What's more, be sure to join us on Twitter and Facebook so you don't miss any of our upcoming events. You can also see footage of our events on YouTube!



Coverage of the political conventions and the presidential campaign trail led to lively discussion between Variety's Wilshire & Washington blogger Ted Johnson, USA Today reporter Bill Welch and Big Hollywood's Andrew Breitbart.



KPCC's Kitty Felde, left, with Stephanie Stone, moderated the discussion about coverage of national politics in one of the most exciting presidential election years ever.



Freelance journalist Beth Barrett and Executive Director Diana Ljungaeus sharing a jovial moment at the Finding Journalism Jobs Panel Discussion.



Journalists receive solid advice on life after the news business. From left are, Ken Mandler, a trainer in landing state jobs in Sacramento; Gayle Pollard-Terry, a veteran Times reporter and editorial writer who now works for Los Angeles Unified School District; moderator Jill Stewart; Lilli Cloud, a corporate trainer; and Brent Hopkins, an award-winning Daily News reporter who became a Los Angeles Police officer.

# 2008 – 2009



Veteran radio newsman Jon Beaupre, right, moderated a panel that looked at how the Muslim community is covered in the news. The club co-sponsored the event with the Media Image Coalition and Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.



Judea Pearl and Press Club publicist Edward Headington at the Pearl Fellows Reception at the Steve Allen Theater.



Actor Robert Forster and Kim Masters of NPR present Joe Morgenstern with the Press Club's Career Achievement award at the National Entertainment Journalism Awards.



Actor Andy Garcia narrated a powerful documentary, "The Women in White," on the efforts of Cuban women to free imprisoned men. The film was produced by Norwegian journalist and active Press Club member Gry Winther, left. At right is the club's Executive Director Diana Ljungaeus. The discussion was conducted by NBC4 anchor Ana Garcia.



Jewish Journal editor Rob Eshman chats with Ruth Pearl, mother of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, at a reception the Pearl Fellows at the Press Club. The Pearls are deeply involved in the club's Daniel Pearl Award for courage by a journalist.





# The Press Club Review of 2008 – 2009

The club's agenda is busier than ever now that we've rededicated ourselves to helping journalists cope with the new realities of a changing business.

We've held sessions on how journalists can use Twitter. Another covered how journalists are attempting to gracefully to leave the news business—and how they are faring.

We've heard about election and the transition to the Obama administration from White House political correspondent Chuck Todd. And the club honored the best among the nation's entertainment reporters and broadcasters with our National Entertainment Journalism Awards, which this year featured a tribute to Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Joe Morgenstern of the Wall Street Journal and KCRW. The coming year should be just as busy. Join us, come to our events and track our progress at [www.LAPressClub.org](http://www.LAPressClub.org).

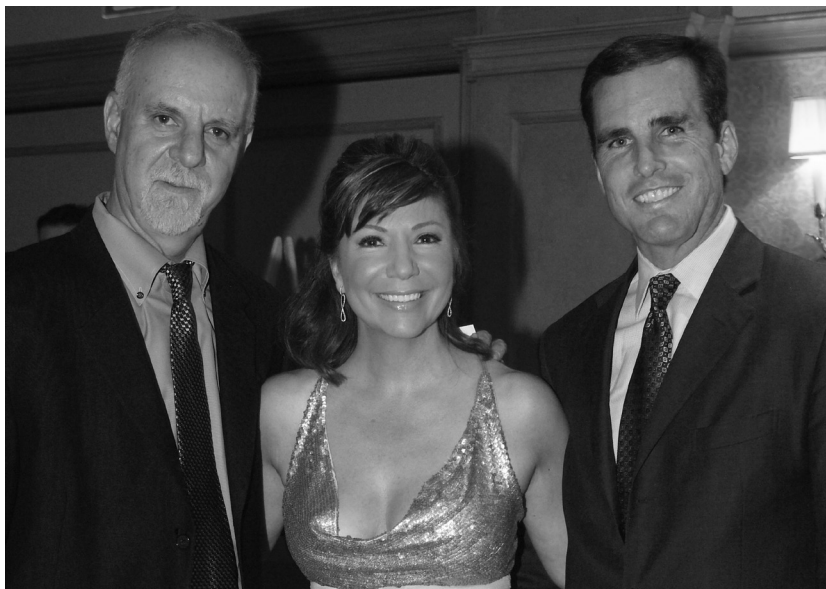


Photo: Charlotte Osterdal

2008 Southern California Journalism awardees: Steve Lopez, Los Angeles Times, The President's Award; Ana Garcia, KNBC, The Joseph M. Quinn Award; and Bob Woodruff, ABC, The Daniel Pearl Award.

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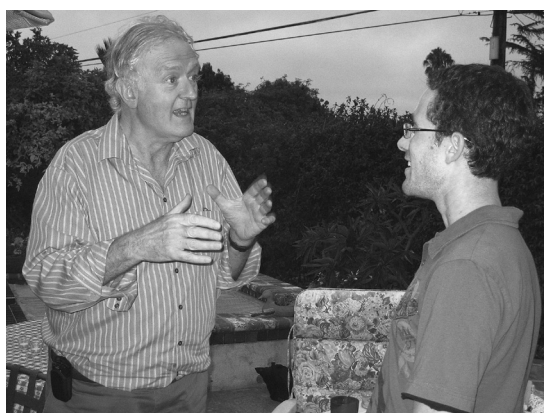
Documentary screening of "The Women in White" with Andy Garcia and NBC News Anchor, Ana Garcia.



The Press Club hosted the Pearl Fellows reception that brought together a lot of bright minds and interesting dialog. The club is proud of its close relationship with the Pearl Family to honor the memory of Daniel Pearl.



Board Member Fred Mamoun enjoying a moment of frivolity at the Women in White documentary screening.



Los Angeles Press Club Board Retreat with Rory Johnston, Adam Wilkenfeld, and Chris Woodyard.



**89.9 KCRW & KCRW.COM**  
**SALUTE**  
**LA PRESS CLUB HONOREES**

Daniel Pearl Award

**Robyn Dixon**

President's Award

**Arianna Huffington**

J.M. Quinn

**Rick Orlov**

**Joe Morgenstern**

Career Achievement Award

LA Press Club's 2nd Annual National Entertainment Awards, March, 2009

**Congratulations to all the KCRW Finalists  
at the 51st SoCal Journalism Awards**

**To the Point/Which Way, L.A.?**

**Warren Olney, Anchor/Executive Producer**

**Karen Radziner, Managing Producer**

**Mike Newport, Technical Director**

**Frances Anderton, Andrea Brody, Christian Bortal,**

**Katie Cooper, Sonya Geis, Gary Scott, Producers**

Martini Shot  
**Rob Long**

Theatre Talk  
**James Taylor**

Barrack 18  
**Jon Kalish**

The Business  
**Soo Youn, Matt Holzman**

McCabe's at 50

**Lincoln Myerson, Ariana Morgenstern, Sarah Spitz and J.C. Swiatek, with Mario Diaz**

**And congratulations to the other winners and finalists  
who appear regularly on KCRW:**

**Kim Masters (The Business), Arianna Huffington and Robert Scheer (Left, Right & Center)**



# Jim Bellows

November 12, 1922 – March 6, 2009

*Los Angeles Press Club is dedicating this year's Awards Gala to the legendary Jim Bellows, "The Last Editor."*

*Thankfully, we saw him at the February 18th, 2008 "Almost 20th Herald Examiner Reunion Party" held at the Press Club. It was a great event for a great man produced by Alex Ben Block.*

*In memoriam, we are publishing club member Rip Rense's tribute to his former boss.*

## THE LAST EDITOR

by Rip Rense

(Originally published in 2002 for The Rense Retort.)

JIM BELLOWS WAS A MOZART in a world of ink-stained Salieris. He deliberately helmed restless underdog newspapers and made them sing with writing, personality, verve, and love of community—where others were content to preside over stuffy, self-important, sleepy cash-cows. He covered the city instead of Sri Lanka. He was an editor for people, not politicians.

Bellows thought that newspapers were not beholden to advertisers, demographers, stockholders, political correctness, politicians, or even themselves. He thought newspapers were there to serve the readers. To, as he likes to say, "get 'em talking."

He was the real deal.

Bellows was a guy with his sleeves rolled up putting in fourteen-hour days with staffs running on adrenalin, nicotine, alcohol, and aspirin. His journalism training (he entered the racket on a whim): flying F6F Hellcats for the Navy. "Each individual in charge of his own plane, each formation a powerful unit—the perfect metaphor for life in a city room," as he put it. Not bad preparation.

As a cub reporter for the Columbus, Georgia *Ledger*, he was caught spying on a late-night Ku Klux Klan rally, force-fed liquor and shot up with drugs (later disowned by his bosses, which did not endear him to management types thereafter.) At the legendary *New York Herald-Tribune*, he teased the *New Yorker*, and elbowed the gray *New York Times*, which upped local coverage in response to the gritty, Bellows-driven, Jimmy Breslin-and-Tom Wolfe-charged "new journalism" (which was really old, storytelling-style journalism revived.)

In the early '70s, Bellows walked away from a posh associate editor's job at the *Los Angeles Times*—the "velvet coffin," as he dubbed it—to take over the falling *Washington Star*. The paper quickly became a cracking answer to the establishment *Post*, and famously ribbed *Post* editor Ben Bradlee with a prickly gossip column, "The Ear." Reviving the rickety *L.A. Herald-Examiner* in 1978, Bellows became a harpoon in the side of his former employer, the *L.A. Times* ("The Whale," as the *Her-*

*Ex* called it almost daily), before leaving the news biz to found Entertainment Tonight (don't hold it against him), run the TV Guide west coast bureau, and help start Excite.com.

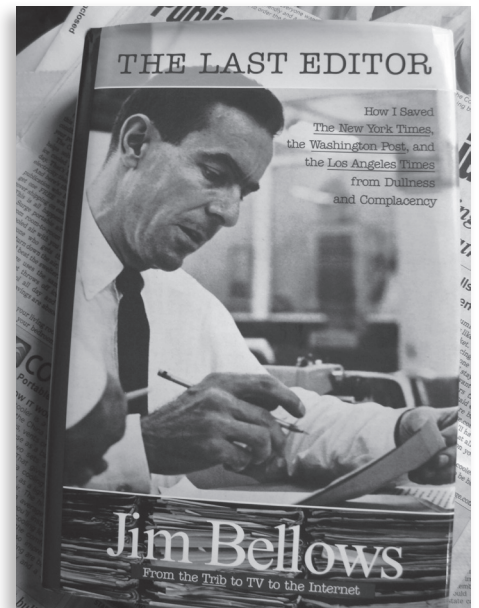
Yet the resume, astounding as it is, doesn't tell the story.

Jim Bellows is a cryptic, mumbling, gravel-voiced enigma who gives instructions like "think of the shade in a cave" and "you'll figure it out." The funny thing is, it works. He gets through to you—with a raised eyebrow, a half-smile, body language. *You know what he means.* Everyone who has worked for him has a "Bellows story." Here's a famous one: Once asked by a *Washington Star* writer what sort of column to write, Bellows responded "Bip bip bip." (The meaning? Short and punchy.) That same writer, Diana McLellan, found her column trumpeted on the sides of buses before she'd even agreed to take the job. Sly Bellows stuff.

The secret—well, one secret—of Bellows is that he is a "writer's editor," which is such a preposterous sounding term. Editors cultivate and cherish writers, don't they? (Pardon me while I pluck a dollar off a tree limb.) Well, Jim did—along the way, teaching the value of sharp observation, and letting facts speak for themselves ("gritty detail," he called it.) The prime exponent of this form was Pulitzer Prize-winning Breslin, who let the details of his stories carry their weight and credibility—not purple prose.

And Bellows was the opposite of micromanagement. If you had panache or pizzazz (two of his favorite words) and didn't mind fourteen-hour days too much, Jim turned you loose. He instilled confidence and trust the way a boss always should, whether at a newspaper or anywhere else. At the *L.A. Her-Ex*, where I was lucky to work for him, the result of this trust was easy to see: we routinely wiped out the *Times* in annual awards banquets, even as strikecrippled ad revenue (and *L.A. Times* strongarm advertising tactics) ensured our eventual demise.

In today's world of corporate bottom-line martinets





and self-serious poseurs, the Bellows style of trust is as quaint as a dial telephone. Trust? A modern piece of copy can go through six or seven different editors, all hemming and hawing as they suspiciously study sentences as if they are booby-trapped; puzzles that only their keenly trained minds can solve. *What* trust?

Fools that most writers are, the confidence of an editor is more inspiring than dental coverage and a decent salary (at the *Her-Ex*, we lacked both, and paid for parking.) This is why so many writers walked away from better paying jobs, or turned down better offers (guilty), to work for Jim, or to keep working for him. This is why he is revered by the likes of Wolfe, whom Bellows grabbed from the *Washington Post* and loosed on New York City, and Breslin, whom Bellows took off the *Herald-Tribune* sports page and told to write about the people.

The list of loyal Bellows alums—a who's who of journalism—can be found in a new book I recommend, especially to those readers who have soured on the fourth estate: "The Last Editor" ([www.thelasteditor.com](http://www.thelasteditor.com).) (Or catch the PBS documentary of the same name.) Bellows was persuaded by his youngest daughter, Justine, to finally set down a memoir, at a spry seventy-nine (credit longevity to the two-martini lunches.)

It's a crisp, entertaining read, with tons of "sidebars"

from those who worked with the man—or, to use his terminology, who "helped" him. That's it, you see—Bellows always asked for *help*. He figured out, early on, a principle that probably makes corporate clone types retract their body hair: if you *ask* people for help, why, they like to pitch in!

This is the leitmotiv of Jim's astonishing "second paper" career—where he steered what I consider to have been the last great American "Front Page"-style newspapers: the *Herald-Tribune*, *Star*, and *Herald-Examiner*. He asked for help.

The Last Editor. . .

That's about right. Newspapers are gone. They are corporations. Oh, there are fine, spirited people working for them, but the "Front Page" ethos is fable. Consider alone the fact that the title, "editor," doesn't exist at many papers. They are "team leaders," and "content managers." As Bellows wrote:

"(Newspapers are) competing in the lowest-common-denominator race with tabloids, trash TV, shock-jock radio, and the rumor-plagued Internet. They are fighting for eyeballs, advertising dollars, and a thumbs-up from Wall Street for maximizing profits (not serving the public) as their primary goal."

Serving the public. What a concept.

Bellows thought so.



# HMG

## HEADINGTON MEDIA GROUP

**HMG is a boutique communications firm that specializes in image management, branding, messaging and public relations.**

**Congratulations to the Los Angeles Press Club on its 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Southern California Journalism Awards and the top honorees:**

**Arianna Huffington of the Huffington Post, Rick Orlov of the Daily News and Robyn Dixon of the Los Angeles Times.**

**[www.HeadingtonMedia.com](http://www.HeadingtonMedia.com)**



**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

*for impact on media*

# Arianna's Bridge

HUFFINGTON HELPS CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN OLD AND

BY JANE ENGLE

**A**RIANNA HUFFINGTON personifies multimedia, with celebrated contributions to the Web, print and radio.

Dubbed the Queen of the Bloggers by James Rainey, Los Angeles Times media columnist, Huffington four years ago co-founded The Huffington Post, a news and blog website that has become a must-read for anyone interested in national politics.

**Arianna Huffington, editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, is trying to take journalism in a new direction.**

While continuing to serve as editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, the Los Angeles resident pens a nationally syndicated column; co-

hosts "Left, Right & Center," a political roundtable program on public radio; maintains an active writing schedule that has produced a dozen books; and serves on several charitable boards, including A Place Called Home, which works with at-risk children in South Central Los Angeles.

Huffington, named in 2006 to the Time 100, the magazine's list of the world's most influential people, is also a high-profile participant in the ongoing debate about the future of journalism, where she has championed both citizen journalism and professional reporting.

She has engendered controversy with her spirited defense of news aggregators and "citizen journalism," which she describes as "shorthand for a collection of methods for producing content by harnessing the power of a site's community of readers" to contribute tips, stories and video.

Testifying on the topic before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee, she said in May, "I firmly believe in a hybrid future where old media players embrace the ways of new media...and new media companies adopt the best practices of old media...."

She added: "The discussion needs to move from 'How do we save newspapers?' to 'How do we strengthen journalism—via whatever platform it is delivered?'"

To that end, The Huffington Post in March announced it would collaborate with The Atlantic Philanthropies and other donors to launch the Huffington Post Investigative Fund. Working with an initial budget of \$1.75 million, the fund was designed to support journalists doing investigative reporting.

"All of us increasingly have to look at different ways to save investigative journalism," Huffington was quoted as saying.

Among avid readers of The Huffington Post, apparently, is tech-savvy President Barack Obama, who surprised the media establishment at a news conference earlier this year when he called on the site's Sam Stein to ask a question.

Originally from Greece, Huffington as a teenager moved to England, where she graduated from Cambridge University with a master's degree in economics. At 21, she became





## NEW MEDIA WITH HER BOOKS, BLOGS AND POLITICS

president of the well-known Cambridge Union debating society.

Her wide-ranging literary output embraces politics, philosophy, satire and biography. Among her books, many of them bestsellers, are:

"Right is Wrong: How the Lunatic Fringe Hijacked America, Shredded the Constitution, and Made Us All Less Safe," published last year, which skewers the right wing of the Republican Party and media compliance with the powerful.

"On Becoming Fearless...In Love, Work and Life" (2006), a personal manifesto on how to be bold in word and deed.

"How to Overthrow the Government" (2000), deals with the corruption of our political system and the need for reform.

"Picasso: Creator and Destroyer" (1988), a biography of the artistic genius that was translated into 16 languages and made into a film starring Anthony Hopkins.



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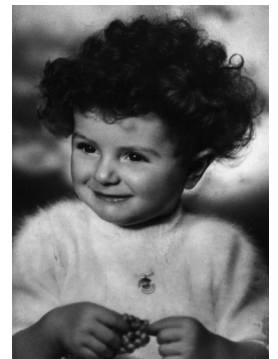


"The Gods of Greece," which celebrates the power of myths as guides to forgotten dimensions of ourselves.

"The Woman Behind the Legend" (1981), a biography of opera diva Maria Callas that became an international bestseller.

Huffington has been a frequent guest on television, including the "Today" show, "Real Time With Bill Maher," "Oprah," "Charlie Rose," "Larry King Live," "Hardball," and "The O'Reilly Factor."

Among her honors, besides the Time 100 list, is the latest Fred Dressler Lifetime Achievement Award from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. The award honors those who have made



(clockwise from top) Huffington with Rev. Jesse Jackson at a party celebrating the inauguration of President Barack Obama; as a child growing up in Greece; as a student at Cambridge University, where she studied economics; speaking to the crowd at the inauguration party.

unique, long-term contributions to the public's understanding of the media.

"Arianna Huffington was ahead of the curve with HuffPo," Newhouse Dean Lorraine Branham said in May. "She embraced the use of new media, but never forgot that no matter where or how you tell the story, content is still king. This is what we teach our students."

Huffington lives in Los Angeles with her two teenage daughters.

# THE STRUGGLE TO FREE Laura Ling and Euna Lee

**S**HORTLY BEFORE PRESS TIME, the terrible news hit that Current TV reporters Laura Ling and Euna Lee were sentenced to 12 years of hard time in a North Korean prison.

Questions are being raised about how the two women got detained by North Korean border guards in March while taping a documentary on female refugees, and why Ling—with nearly 100 video reports to her name from locales like Haiti and the Amazon—was sent to the border with an inexperienced editor, Lee, who was on her first overseas assignment.

Support for the two women is pouring in to the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices of Current TV. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the charges against the women, of illegal entry and “grave” crimes, are baseless, and the White House has announced it is using “all possible channels” to free them.

Laura’s sister, broadcaster Lisa Ling, is a finalist at tonight’s awards for her work on a KCET team report about the foreclosure crisis.

The prayers of all journalists are with Laura Ling and Euna Lee and their families.



Protesters in South Korea demand the release of Laura Ling and Euna Lee.



(left) Laura Ling

Hokubei News

Huffington Post

## FILIBANTER SALUTES TONIGHT'S HONOREES AND FINALISTS

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## **SALUTING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT**

### **Hats Off to the Dean of City Hall Reporters**



The Daily News proudly salutes the Los Angeles Press Club for its 51-year legacy of promoting excellence in journalism. This year, we are privileged to offer a special congratulations to our own Rick Orlov as recipient of the Press Club's Joseph M. Quinn Award for lifetime achievement in journalism.

## **WAY TO GO RICK!**

Congratulations on being the best political reporter in Los Angeles and thanks for helping to make the Daily News a well-recognized leader in local news.

**Daily News**  
**[dailynews.com](http://dailynews.com)**

*Congratulations to all of our Daily News nominees and to this year's award winners in all categories.*





**THE QUINN AWARD**  
*for journalistic excellence  
and distinction*

# Outlasting

## THE POLITICIANS

As the Faces at City Hall Changed, Rick Orlov Kept Decades of Daily News Readers Informed

BY KERRY CAVANAUGH

WHEN RICK ORLOV became a news reporter after graduating from Cal State Northridge in the 1970s, he expected to have fun in journalism for a couple of years before he got a real job.

Nearly 40 years later, he's one of the most respected and well-liked reporters in Los Angeles. He's covered four mayors and five governors. He's jetted around the world for a story and dodged libel lawsuits. He's even negotiated the surrender of a murder suspect.

Yet the reporters who have worked with Rick know him as a tireless reporter who can file three stories a day and a front-page weekender, and as a generous colleague who can always offer a source and is willing to show City Hall newbies the ropes.

Rick graduated from Cal State Northridge in 1970 with a political science degree and was hired into Copley



City hall press corps in the early 1990s, when there were reporters for the Daily News, Times, Herald-Examiner, City News Service and LA Weekly.

(Below left) Rick Orlov interviews former mayor Richard Riordan.



Newspapers training program, before landing a permanent reporting job at the Alhambra Post-Advocate. He must have shown promise because Rick was city editor by the end of the year. He moved on to the Copley News Service and soon became bureau chief in the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration.

In between assignments in Cancun and Canada (he was a travel writer too) Rick got his political education through the "Kenny Hahn Way of Government." The veteran politician, then a county supervisor in his 50s, would invite Rick and other reporters to sit in on staff meetings, listen to his calls and otherwise get extraordinary access.

For a 25-year-old reporter, the experience was eye-opening.

"He treated us as equals. He made us realize how important we were, because they needed us," Rick said. "But I also realized early on that it's not me. It's the paper I represent. Any power or influence I have is from being



a newspaper reporter and it's the newspaper that has the power.

"I'm just enjoying the ride."

In 1977, a friend suggested Rick get a job with the Valley News and Green Sheet, which was trying to make the leap from community shopper to real newspaper. Rick was hired as an investigative reporter.

One of his first stories revealed that a Los Angeles Community College District chancellor had gone on vacation and stuck taxpayers with the bill for his dog's kennel care. The chancellor sued the paper for libel, prompting Valley News publisher Scott Schmidt to march into the newsroom and announce a \$50 bonus for Rick. It was the newspaper's first libel lawsuit.

Over the next few years, Rick helped cover some of L.A.'s biggest stories—the Night Stalker and the Hillside Strangler

After he had written about a gruesome murder involving the Israeli Mafia, one of the wanted suspects called Rick, who negotiated a deal with him—a 20-minute interview and then the suspect would surrender to police. LAPD officers on the scene tried to take the suspect right away, so Rick called then-Assistant Chief Daryl Gates, who ordered his cops to back off, saying a deal is a deal. Rick got his interview.

Having covered enough crime and mayhem and taken a turn as assistant city editor at the Daily News, Rick moved to Los Angeles City Hall in 1988 to follow another group of characters.

It was the era of Mayor Tom Bradley and a raucous City Council, with Joel Wachs and Zev Yaroslavsky. On Fridays at 5 p.m., Rick pulled out the vodka, beer and chips as his City Hall office became the informal gathering place for political reporters, Council aides and politicians—even Bradley stopped by a few times. Strictly off the record, the parties were a way to blow off steam and talk politics.

During that time Rick developed his reputation as a straight-shooter and an even-handed reporter, thanks to his sophisticated political insight and a dead-on B.S. detector. If a new reporter needs to know what is or is not a story in City Hall, Rick is the authority.

"Rick approaches City Hall with a quasi-mellow, quietly ironic point of view. He knows what's happening, sees the fraud, the chicanery, the charlatanism—and reports on it," said John Schwada, a long-time political reporter, now with KTTV Fox 11.

"But he has a long view that our politicians will probably always travel in these ruts in the road and that there's no sense



in getting too terribly worked up about it."

But, Rick is loved for more than his reporting chops and insight. He is kind and generous with colleagues; respectful and trustworthy with sources. Known for keeping confidences, Rick has been a shoulder to cry on and a wide adviser to many.

"He's the kind of guy you can talk to, run ideas by," said Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

"For a political reporter to be around as long as he has and still be universally liked and loved by the people he covers—and still be a good reporter, who is relevant and breaks stories—is truly remarkable."

In the newsroom of today, when veteran reporters are leaving the business and the remaining reporters are cranking out multiple stories a day, Rick's insight is more valuable than ever. His weekly political column is a must-read for those inside City Hall, and he gives Angelenos, on a daily basis, the most thorough coverage of Los Angeles politics.

While colleagues are fretting over the future of the business, Rick maintains the long view. People told him when he started in newspapers in the 1970s that the business was dying. Maybe that's why he figured journalism would be a temporary gig.

"I still feel that way," Rick said, with a laugh. "Sometimes I think I'll get to do this for another year and then get a real job."



Orlov and then-Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas in City Hall chambers.



## DANIEL PEARL AWARD

*for courage and integrity  
in journalism*

# DEFY THE FEAR

## HOW ROBYN DIXON, THE 2009 DANIEL PEARL AWARD WINNER, HANDLES THE JOB

BY JON  
REGARDIE

**R**OBYN DIXON has covered riots in Kenya and escaped gunfire in Grozny. She was on an airplane that nearly crashed and once, while on a dark road in Afghanistan, she and her companions were shelled by Taliban mortars.

"I've had a few cat's lives," says the winner of the Los Angeles Press Club's 2009 Daniel Pearl Award, which recognizes courage in journalism. Dixon's view of her experiences may be the understatement of the year: Cats fall from trees; they don't escape unscathed from all of the above.

What is almost as important as Dixon's ability to survive these harrowing encounters, is her passion for telling stories—brave stories, sad stories,

from Moscow, Dixon has gone beyond the horrifying events that too often define foreign journalism and instead told the stories of the people who live day-by-day, surviving through sheer force of will.

Her subjects have included a girl kept in a cow shed for 22 years, cyber-scaming Nigerian youth who use the internet to try to separate Americans from their money and a Rwandan woman who was forced into slavery by Hutu militias.

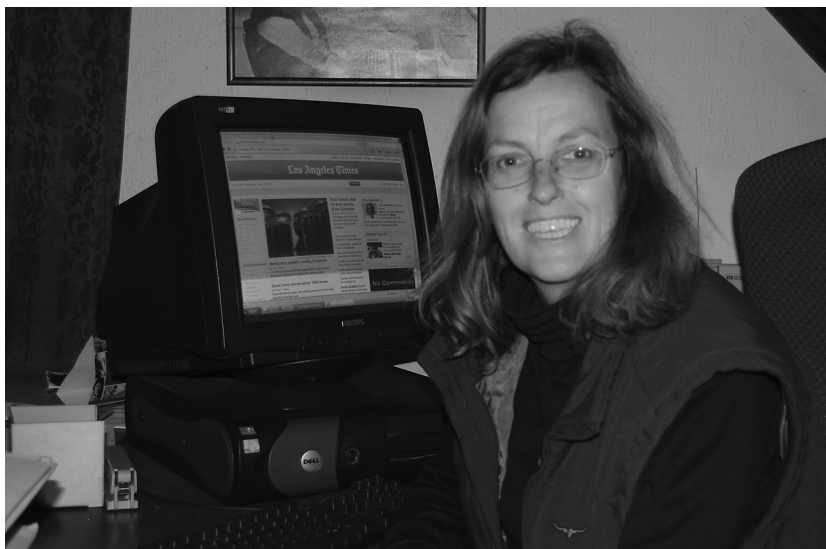
"At the heart of it is an intense curiosity I have to really know—to almost feel myself—what emotion the person I'm interviewing felt," Dixon writes in an e-mail interview from Johannesburg, where she is the South Africa bureau chief for the Times. "If I can feel it—the anger or pain—I try to preserve that feeling in my writing, so that my reader feels the essence of pain, anger or loss—or joy, too. That's what is at the heart of what I try to do: To help readers in the U.S. (and other places where the articles are re-printed) to know what it feels like to be someone on the other side of the world."

### A Girl From Melbourne

Dixon grew up in Melbourne, Australia. The daughter of a judge in the Victorian County Court and a mother who mainly worked at home, she originally wanted to be a doctor. An interest in journalism surfaced when she was about 16, and Dixon got a job as a "cadet," or "copygirl," right out of high school. The first piece she was paid to write was a one-paragraph brief for The Herald in Melbourne.

"My chief of staff took it apart," she says.

After doing everything from the night police beat to writing a TV column, Dixon took a position as a correspondent in Moscow. She worked for two Australian papers, the Sidney Morning Herald and The Age, before being hired by the Times in 1999.



**Robyn Dixon covers  
South Africa for the  
Los Angeles Times.**

strange stories, human stories—that the world would not otherwise know. In the six years she has covered Africa for the Los Angeles Times, and for the nine years before that in which she reported





It was in Russia that she began to show her penchant for digging into stories that not everyone wanted told and that most reporters were unable to get. She reported on the Kursk submarine disaster at a time when Moscow officials offered few details. She persuaded illegal seafood poachers to discuss the trade and to tell her how much it cost to bribe government officials. Her descriptions of the industry could be simple but harrowing: "In this line of work, death nibbles at your elbow like a hungry fish," she wrote in the 2001 article.

After nine years, she accepted the assignment to South Africa. Since then she has traveled across the continent reporting on a wide variety of topics. However, it is her work in Zimbabwe that stands out.

When she was reporting on the corrupt and violent regime of President Robert Mugabe, foreign journalists were not allowed in the country without a visa. Thus Dixon snuck into Zimbabwe—11 times.

"If I'd been caught I would have gone to jail," she says. "But after some local people told me I looked too much like a foreign journalist, I learned how to camouflage myself. I learned a nice smile goes a long way. I had a couple of close calls. I sometimes felt unsafe. A few times I slept in my clothes and familiarized myself with back exits in case I had to make a run for it at night."

Her reporting revealed a collapsed economy, a nation with 80% unemployment and a regime in which even government officials knew things were wrong, but were

too fearful or otherwise unable to force change. In Zimbabwe, Dixon explains, the danger "was a subtler, more insidious fear. You had to make a decision to defy that fear in order to get the story. A couple of times when I started to meet ruling party officials, base commanders and intelligence agents, I knew I was taking a risk. I wasn't sure how it would end up. But I felt the need to get inside the machine, which no one else was doing. And every time I took the chance, I learned a huge amount about what was going on inside the ruling party."

Dixon doesn't know where her next assignment will be. Although she has certainly earned the right to a desk job in some safe locale, it doesn't sound like she will take that option any time soon.

"I'm not looking for comfy," she says. "I'm looking for the interesting places. I love getting into people's hearts, absorbing their passions, telling their stories. The more interesting the place, the more interesting the stories. I also believe that somehow, telling stories of people's suffering or pain is important. I believe readers have the same innate curiosity and passion for people that I feel."

**The Melbourne-born and raised Dixon says, "At the heart of it is an intense curiosity—to almost feel myself—what emotion the person I'm interviewing felt."**



(left) Dixon on the beach in South Africa; (below) Meeting with Muslim family.

# An iron grip on a country in chaos

But Zimbabwe's Mugabe faces an unlikely challenger.

By ROBYN DIXON  
*Times Staff Writer*

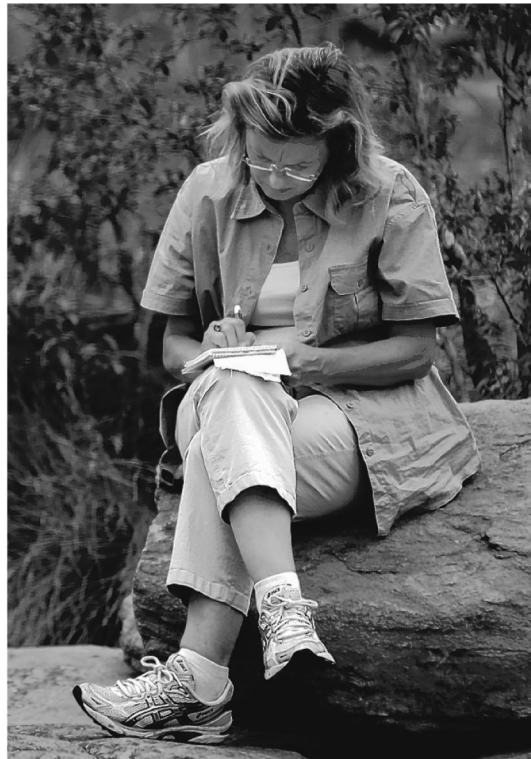
**HARARE, ZIMBABWE** — It takes 55 million Zimbabwean dollars to buy a single American one. Schools have no teachers. Hospitals have become mortuaries. And inflation has topped 100,000%.

As President Robert Mugabe, 84, seeks a sixth term in elections Saturday, Zimbabwe's financial catastrophe takes the words "It's the economy, stupid," to a new level.

Yet even with a crisis so intractable it would finish off any leader in a genuine democracy, Mugabe is expected to maintain his grip on power.

His tools are the same ones that have worked before: gerrymandered electorates; an electoral roll full of ghost voters; tight control of state television and radio; preelection gifts of tractors, plows and cattle to the rural chiefs who will get in the ruling party vote; pay raises for public servants and the military. And, above all, fear.

The major streets of this capital city are lined with cars bearing an old portrait of Mugabe, fist raised.



OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO



**ROBYN  
DIXON**

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DANIEL PEARL AWARD  
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IN JOURNALISM**



**Los Angeles Times**



## ALEX BEN BLOCK

Award-winning entertainment industry journalist Alex Ben Block is Editor-at-Large for The Hollywood Reporter, as well as Show Business Historian for Hollywood Today.

He is Editor of the upcoming book, *Blockbusting: The Business of Film-making: A Decade-by-Decade Survey*, an almanac of blockbuster movies for

George Lucas Books and Harper.

Block was the Editor of The Hollywood Reporter and founding Editor of TelevisionWeek. He has been Associate Editor of Forbes Magazine, Assistant City Editor of the Los Angeles Herald Examiner and was Editor-in-Chief and VP of eStar.com.

Block was Executive Director of the LA Press Club for three years and is an honorary board member. He organized a HerEx reunion last year and has done numerous panels, including "Who Can Be Trusted? – A Seminar On Sourcing," at USC, sponsored by the New York Times and Discovery Networks.

He is author of "OUTFOXED: The Inside Story of America's Fourth Television Network," and the international bestseller "The Legend of Bruce Lee."

Block was on KPCC-FM's "Call Sheet" and reports for the syndicated radio program, "The Advertising Show." He has been heard as expert commentator on KNBC-TV, the Today Show, CNBC, NPR, NBC, O'Reilly on Fox, CNN and more.

His honors include three LA Press Club Awards, Hearst Awards, Crain Awards, a Detroit Press Club Award, a Will Rogers Foundation "Willie," the (RIM) Angel Award and the Journalism Award from the Caucus For Television Producers, Directors and Writers.



## LINDA BREAKSTONE

Linda Breakstone, a 33-year veteran of Los Angeles journalism, covered national and local politics and the area's top news stories, from the L.A. riots to O.J. Simpson's murder trial.

Nominated twice for Pulitzer prizes, Breakstone worked for both print and TV. She was a political reporter and investigative journalist for

11 years at the former Los Angeles Herald Examiner before moving to KABC-TV in 1990 and later to KCBS-TV as political editor. Her extensive career encompassed seven U.S. presidential campaigns.

A former board member of the Los Angeles Press Club, she won awards for her work from the club, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the Associated Press Radio and Television Assn.

## ANA GARCIA

Veteran journalist Ana Garcia is an award-winning investigative reporter for NBC4 Los Angeles and is the co-anchor



of the "Channel 4 News" at 6 p.m. Garcia's investigations have exposed corruption, fraud, terrorism and consumer scams that have led to legislative changes. At the 2008 Southern California Journalism Awards she was awarded the Joseph M. Quinn Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Garcia's expose of big city contracts and campaign contributions in

Los Angeles led to a revision in the city's fundraising rules and a federal fraud trial. In 2005, Garcia broke the story of a terror cell operating from inside a California prison. And her 18-month undercover investigation "Tow Truck Pirates" used hidden cameras to show drivers being taken advantage of by unlicensed tow truck operators. Those reports were used in Congress as examples of why the federal towing law should be amended. That amendment was part of a Transportation Bill signed by President George Bush in August 2005. In 2006, the California Assembly played the reports in a hearing to document what was happening to drivers. Later that year, California toughened its towing law.

Garcia is the only reporter to capture a sex trafficking ring in operation in Northern San Diego County. That groundbreaking investigation led to an Emmy for Outstanding Hard News Reporter.

Her investigative work has earned her numerous other awards, including Golden Mikes and Edward R. Murrow Awards. She was also the recipient of an Associated Press Award for Best Investigative Series in California and named Journalist of the Year by the Los Angeles Press Club.

Garcia is on the board of directors of the Good News Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by the women of Los Angeles television news dedicated to making a difference in the community they cover through charitable grants and an academic scholarship for journalism students.



## BILL MAHER

Bill Maher's pull-no-punches style of political comedy has won him millions of fans and multiple Emmy nominations. His long-running weekly roundtable on HBO, "Real Time with Bill Maher," launched in 2003, has attracted guests ranging from the Rev. Jesse Jackson to Pat Buchanan to Sarah Sarandon.

On Comedy Central and later on ABC, Maher's "Politically Incorrect" show livened up late-night TV with witty, controversial conversations and tallied 18 Emmy nominations before its final run in 2002.

Last year's "Religulous," a movie written by Maher and directed by Larry Charles, featured Maher's provocative take on world religions.

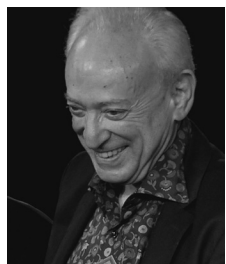
He has also penned four best-sellers, including "New



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Rules: Polite Musings from a Timid Observer" and "Does Anybody Have a Problem with That? Politically Incorrect's Greatest Hits."

Born in New York and raised in River Vale, N.J., Maher now lives in Los Angeles.



## JOE MORGENSTERN

Joe Morgenstern is the Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic for The Wall Street Journal and KCRW radio. He has worked for The New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner. His freelance writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, the Los Angeles Times Magazine,

Playboy, GQ, and the Columbia Journalism Review.

A magna cum laude graduate of Lehigh University, Joe has also written for television. His scripts include "The Boy In the Plastic Bubble" and several episodes of "Law & Order." He is a founding member of the National Society of Film Critics and a member of the New York Film Critics Circle, as well as the Los Angeles Film Critics Association.

In 2008, Joe's film commentaries won Best Critic - Radio in the Los Angeles Press Club 1st Annual National Entertainment Journalism Awards

(NEJA) competition. In 2009 the Press Club honored him at the NEJA for his lifetime contributions to the field of entertainment journalism. In 2005, Morgenstern became only the third movie reviewer to receive a Pulitzer Prize for distinguished criticism, the jury citing him for his "reviews that elucidated the strengths and weaknesses of film with rare insight, authority and wit." His editor at the Journal describes Morgenstern as "an impassioned lover of movies and endowed with a superb critical ability, all of which he manages to transmit in radiant prose." He is known for his independent thought and his fearlessness in deflating highly hyped films by major directors and producers.



## JUDEA PEARL

Judea Pearl was born in Tel Aviv and is a graduate of the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology. He came to the United States for post graduate work in 1960 and received his Master's degree in physics from Rutgers University and his Ph.D. degree in 1965 from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Pearl joined the faculty of UCLA in 1969, where he is currently a professor of computer science and director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory. He is known internationally for his contributions to artificial intelligence, human reasoning and philosophy of science. He is the author of more than three hundred scientific papers and three path-breaking books in his fields of interest.

Dr. Judea Pearl is the father of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl and president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation [www.danielpearl.org](http://www.danielpearl.org), which he co-founded in April 2002 "to continue Daniel's life-work of dialogue and understanding and to address the root causes of his

tragedy." The Daniel Pearl Foundation sponsors journalism fellowships aimed at promoting honest reporting and East-West understanding, organizes worldwide concerts that promote inter-cultural respect, and sponsors public dialogues between Jews and Muslims to explore common ground and air grievances. The Foundation has received the CommonGround's Partners in Humanity Award in 2002 and the 2003 Roger E. Joseph Prize for its "distinctive contribution to humanity."

Judea Pearl and his wife Ruth Pearl are co-editors of the book "I am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl," winner of the 2004 National Jewish Book Award for Anthologies, which provides a panoramic view of how Jews define themselves in the post 9/11 era.



## GEORGE PENNACCHIO

George Pennacchio is the longtime entertainment reporter for ABC7 Eyewitness News. He covers all aspects of the showbiz beat but he occasionally ventures outside that zone. In the summer of 2007, while on assignment in South Africa, to cover the opening of the Lion King on stage in its homeland. George did a series of reports involving entertainment, health and

programs that empower the women of South Africa with connections right here at home.

During his broadcasting career, George has won three Emmy Awards for his work. He has also been honored with The Press Award by The Publicists Guild of America for his coverage of the entertainment industry. He is also only one of four journalists who have received The Critics' Critic Award from The Broadcast Film Critics Association, North America's largest critics group. In 2007, George added weekly film reviews to his ABC7 duties.

Outside of work George serves on the board of the charity group, The Thaliens, which raises money for the maintenance of the Thaliens Mental Health Center at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center. He and his wife, Erin, also support various greyhound charities devoted to saving the dogs once their racing days are over. The Pennacchios have two greyhounds of their own, Billy and Vivian.



## PAULA POUNDSTONE

Appearing on stage with a stool, a microphone, and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paula Poundstone is famous for her razor-sharp wit and spontaneity. The Boston Globe said, "Poundstone improvises with a crowd like a Jazz musician ... swinging in unexpected directions without a plan, without a net." Paula is so quick and unassuming that audience members at her live shows often leave complaining that their cheeks hurt from

laughter and debating whether the random people she



# PRESENTERS

talked to were “plants.”

Paula grew up in Sudbury, Massachusetts and by the time she was 19 she was traveling on a Greyhound bus across the country—stopping in at open mic nights at comedy clubs along the way. She credits her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Bump, with being the first one to spot her comedic talents. Bump wrote in a letter to Paula’s parents: “I have enjoyed many of Paula’s humorous comments about our activities.”

In 1979 Paula began nurturing her standup comedy talent as part of the Boston comedy scene, and then moved to San Francisco where she continued to flourish. By 1990 she’d relocated to Los Angeles and had starred in several comedy specials for HBO, as well as appeared on Saturday Night Live when friend and mentor Robin Williams hosted the show. Paula’s first one-hour HBO special, “Cats, Cops, and Stuff” made her the first woman to ever receive the Cable ACE for best standup comedy special. She also starred in a self-titled talk show series for HBO (for which she won her second Cable ACE Award for Best Program Interviewer, beating out other, more recognized names in that field.)

Paula’s long list of other credits include being the first woman to perform at the White House Correspondents dinner, earning an Emmy for her field work with PBS’s “Life & Times,” being a regular panelist for the NPR weekly news

quiz program “Wait Wait ... Don’t Tell Me,” writing a memoir, co-writing three children’s math textbooks, and representing the citizens support group Friends of Libraries USA as national spokesperson.



## ANTHEA RAYMOND

Anthea Raymond co-produced the Southern California Journalism Awards from 2005-2008. She was the first Senior Editor at KPCC, where she supervised a growing team of award-winning reporters for nearly two years, and instituted the newsroom’s first beat system. She was also Executive/Line Producer of “Bloomberg Politically Speaking” and Show Editor of “NPR’s News and Notes.”

Her field reporting and producing have also won awards including Golden Mikes, an Emmy nomination, and the 2008 LA Press Club Award for “Best Multimedia Package.” She currently teaches at Santa Monica College, and has taught at USC, UCLA, and Hunter College. She was president of the Los Angeles Press Club from 2006-2007. In a previous life, she coordinated international exchanges while Associate Director of UCLA’s Arts and Entertainment Management program. A native Angeleno, she has degrees from Wellesley College and UCLA.



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## B2. NEWS FEATURE (Newspapers over 100K)

Johnny Dwyer, LA Weekly, "Before Haditha."  
Scott Gold, Los Angeles Times, "Out There."  
Patrick McDonald, LA Weekly, "The All-About-Me Mayor."  
Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly, "Raven, the Death of a Hollywood Beauty."

## C2. NEWS FEATURE (Newspapers under 100K)

Gustavo Arellano, OC Weekly, "The Last One"  
Brad A. Greenberg, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "The Professor the Anti-Semites Love."  
Carl Kozlowski, Pasadena Weekly, "Life on the Edge."  
Greg Mellen, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Davik's Heart."  
R. Scott Moxley, OC Weekly, "Hate and Death."

## F2. FEATURE (Radio)

Steven Cuevas, KPCC 89.3, "Mockingbird Diaries"  
Queen Kim, Tanya Jo Miller, KPCC 89.3, "California Dreaming"  
Kim Masters, NPR, "Hollywood Magic"  
Patricia Nazario, KPCC 89.3, "Her Three Sons"  
Frank Stoltze, KPCC 89.3, "Prison Desegregation"

## I1. NEWS, FEATURE, SERIES (Online)

Chris Hedges, Truthdig, "The Best and the Brightest Led America Off a Cliff"  
Chris Hedges, Truthdig, "Starving for Change"  
Scott Ritter, Truthdig, "Dinner With Ahmed"  
David Weigel and Julian Sanchez, Reason Magazine, "Who Wrote Ron Paul's Newsletters?"  
Wellford Wilms, Truthdig, "Liberating the Schoolhouse"

## E2. FEATURE (Television)

Chris Blatchford, KTTV, "No Guns Fraud"  
Daniel Heimpel, Eylan Etterman and Ben Stein, Current TV, "Foster Emancipation"  
Fred Mamoun and Ana Garcia, KNBC News, "Peeping Techs"  
Bret Marcus, Angela Shelley, Lisa Ling, Justine Schmidt, Linda Burns, Val Zavala et al, SoCal Connected, KCET "Foreclosure Alley"  
Bret Marcus, Vicky Curry, Christal Smith, Judy Muller, Alberto Arce et al, SoCal Connected, KCET "Gold Diggers"

## G2. FEATURE/COMMENTARY (Magazines)

Lorenzo Benet, People Magazine, "Family Matters"  
Nick Gillespie and Matt Welch, Reason Magazine, "The Libertarian Moment"  
Seth Lubove, Bloomberg News, "Aegon Calling,"  
Richard Siklos, Fortune Magazine, "The Man Who Would Be Robbins, Covey and Chopra"  
Claude Walbert, San Diego Lawyer, "Hearts on Fire"

## A2. PRINT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR (Newspapers under 100K)

Daffodil J. Altan, OC Weekly.  
Brad A. Greenberg, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles  
Anna Scott, Los Angeles Downtown News  
Matt Welch, Reason  
Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate

## G5. IN-HOUSE OR CORPORATE PUBLICATION (Magazines)

Bennet Kelley, Internet Law Center, Monday Memo  
Elizabeth Leonard, People Magazine, "Who has the Power"  
Jim Perry, Los Angeles Firefighter, United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112

## G6. Design (Magazines)

Terry Colon, Reason Magazine, "What Part of Legal Immigration Don't You Understand? A guide to America's labyrinthine immigration bureaucracy"

## B11. DESIGN (Newspapers over 100K)

Darrick Rainey, LA Weekly, "Death of a Hollywood Beauty"  
Darrick Rainey, LA Weekly, "Shutting Up the Little Guy"  
Derek Simmons, George Wilhelm and Jay Clendenin, Los Angeles Times, "Olympic Special Section"  
Kelli Sullivan, Michael Whitley, Mary Vignoles, Doug Stevens, Thomas Suhlauder et al, Los Angeles Times, "Out of Control"  
Staff, Los Angeles Times, "The Oscars"

## C11. DESIGN (Newspapers under 100K)

Brian Allison, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Don't Miss Summer"  
Daniel Kacvinski, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "Is our fate really sealed?"  
Robert Landry, Los Angeles Business Journal, "The Next Big Things"  
Kelly Lewis, OC Weekly, "Best of OC"

## A8. DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Wes Bausmith, Los Angeles Times  
Page designs, Los Angeles Times  
Derek Simmons, Los Angeles Times  
Kelli Sullivan, Los Angeles Times

## B3. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES (Newspapers over 100K)

Beth Barrett, Justino Aguila and George B. Sanchez, Los Angeles Daily News, "Top-Heavy District."  
Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly, "Billboards Gone Wild."  
Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly, "Grim Sleeper"

## C3. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES (Newspapers under 100K)

Evan George, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Citing Legal Fears, County Turns to Cops to Help Mental Patients."  
Daniel Miller, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Busted Ventures."  
Nick Schou, OC Weekly, "Jailhouse Beating Coverage."  
Anna Scott, Los Angeles Downtown News, "The Downtown Diamond Caper."  
Wendy Thomas Russell, Greg Mellen, and Tracy Manzer, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Kids and Crime: Inside Juvenile Justice."

## F3. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES (Radio)

Patricia Nazario, KPCC 89.3, "Her Three Sons"  
Molly Peterson, Frank Stoltze, Patricia Nazario, Queen Kim, Adolfo Guzman-Lopez, KPCC 89.3, "Ashes of Oakridge"  
Cason Smith, KSAK 90.1, "A Voice in Your Life"  
Frank Stoltze, KPCC 89.3, "Prison Re-Entry"  
Susan Valot, Frank Stoltze, Patricia Nazario, KPCC 89.9, "Mental Health"

## E3. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES (Television)

Chris Blatchford, KTTV/Fox 11, "City Funds for Gangsters"

Eric Longabardi, Vic Walter and Brian Ross, ABC News/TeleMedia News

Fred Mamoun, Ana Garcia, Herman Vasquez, Jose Hernandez, James Hourani and Keith Esparros, KNBC, "Fighting for a claim"

Bret Marcus, Foshay, Vince Gonzales, Justine Schmidt, Linda Burns et al, SoCal Connected, KCET, "Billboard Confidential"

## **G1. NEWS/INVESTIGATIVE (Magazines)**

Radley Balko, Reason, "Guilty Before Proven Innocent"

Vickie Bane, People Magazine, "A Place to Call Home"

Joe Domanik, Playboy Magazine, "Saving Los Angeles"

David Evans, Bloomberg, "Way Ahead of the Curve"

Claude Walbert, San Diego Lawyer, "Book'em"

## **H2. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES (News Bureaus and Correspondents)**

Gary Cohn and Darrell Preston, Bloomberg

Isla Earth Radio Series

Eric Longabardi, Vic Walter and Brian Ross, ABC News/ TeleMedia News

Seth Lubove, Bloomberg

## **A7. PHOTO JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

Don Bartletti, Los Angeles Times

Michael Robinson Chavez, Los Angeles Times

Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times

## **K2. BEST NEWS STORY, College Newspaper**

Theresa Adams, Collegian Newspaper, Los Angeles City College, "Instructor Charged with Murder"

Theresa Adams, Collegian Newspaper, Los Angeles City College, "Nurse Betsy"

Virginia Bulacio, Jamie Hong, Victoria Safarian and Jessica Russell, Collegian Newspaper, Los Angeles City College, "Newspapers Tell Tale of Three Cities"

## **A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

Ana Garcia and Fred Mamoun, KNBC News

Robert Kovacik, KNBC News

Eric Longabardi, TeleMedia News

## **B7. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN (Newspapers over 100K)**

Christopher Hawthorne, Los Angeles Times "Watch This Space; L.A. Squared"

Christopher Knight, Los Angeles Times, "Precious Stone"

Ann Powers, Los Angeles Times, "Neil Diamond"

Mark Swed, Los Angeles Times, "Hurricane Mama"

## **C7. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN (Newspapers under 100K)**

Joel Beers, OC Weekly, "Bloodless Passion," "Float On," "Hare Raising," "Wacky Iraqi"

## **B8. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE (Newspapers over 100K)**

Scott Foundas, LA Weekly, "Forgiven"

Scott Gold, Los Angeles Times, "Enough About Me"

Randall Roberts, LA Weekly, "Port in the Storm"

Nancy Rommelmann, LA Weekly, "No Exit Plan"

Ella Taylor, LA Weekly, "Sacrelegious: Bill Maher's Cross to Bear"

## **C8. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE (Newspapers under 100K)**

Matt Coker, OC Weekly, "Rock Angel"

Alfred Lee, Los Angeles City Beat, "Something 2 Dance 2"

## **F4. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM (Radio)**

Rob Long, KCRW, "Martini Shot"

James Taylor, KCRW, "Theater Talk"

## **F5. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE (Radio)**

Gail Eichenthal and Mark Hatwan, KUSC, "Jeanette Bayardelle: You're On"

Gail Eichenthal, Mark Hatwan and Chris Stanley, KUSC, "The Mysterious Man-on-Wire"

Kim Masters, NPR, "Hollywood Magic"

John Rabe, KPCC 89.3, "Tom Jones"

Cason Smith, 90.1 KSAK, "A Voice in Your Life"

Soo An Youn, Matt Holzman, KCRW, "She-Pap"

## **G3. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN (Magazines)**

Tim Cavanaugh, Reason Magazine, "When Free Love Died: Why the Sexual Revolution Plays Only in reruns."

## **G4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE (Magazines)**

Alexis Chiu, People Magazine "Shania Twain story"

Monya De, Hyphen Magazine

Barbara Gasser, Entertainment Magazine, "Tommy Lee Jones interview"

Richard Siklos, Fortune Magazine, "The Player"

Cynthia Wang, People Magazine, "Michael Phelps story"

## **H3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE (News Bureaus and Correspondents)**

Champ Clark, Ken Lee, Frank Sweatlow, K.C. Baker and Alex

Tresniewski, People Magazine

George Pennacchio, KABC-TV

Richard Siklos, The Player

## **J3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE (International Journalism)**

Barbara Gasser, My Entertainment Magazine, "Tommy Lee Jones"

Barbara Gasser, SeitenBlicke, "Roland Kicking"

Tom Tugend, Jerusalem Post, "Carl and Rob Reiner"

Tom Walters and Adam Blair, CTV News, "Lucha Va Voom"

Tom Walters and Adam Blair, CTV News, "Charlton Heston"

## **A6. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

Izumi Hasegawa, HollywoodNewsWire.net

George Pennacchio, KABC-TV

Alex Pham, Los Angeles Times

Monica Rizzo, People Magazine

## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD—ARIANNA HUFFINGTON**

## **B9. SPORTS (Newspapers over 100K)**

Brian Dohn, Los Angeles Daily News, "It is positively a negative day for UCLA"

# 51 FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS

## C9. SPORTS (Newspapers under 100K)

Bob Keisser, Long Beach Press-Telegram "A Century of Dominance"  
David Nusbaum, Los Angeles Business Journal, "In the Swim?"

## F6. SPORTS (Radio)

Susan Valot, KPCC 89.3, "Olympic Badminton"

## C4. BUSINESS (Newspapers under 100K)

John Canalis, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Sidewalk Series"  
Richard Clough, Los Angeles Business Journal, "IndyMac's Last Gasps"  
Richard Guzman, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Money Troubles and Conflicts at El Pueblo" and "City Looks to Boost Olvera Street Rents"

Karen Robes Meeks, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Retail vacancies a drag on reinvigorating iconic L.B. Street," "Perceptions of crime cost Pine," "Classy, but costly"

Ryan Vaillancourt, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Igniting the Sparks"

## A13. BUSINESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR (Print/Online)

David Evans, Bloomberg Markets, "The Global Financial Meltdown"  
Steven Leigh Morris, LA Weekly, "City Halls 'Density Hawks' Are Changing LA's DNA."  
Staff, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Market Meltdown."

## A14. BUSINESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR (Broadcast)

Brian Watt, KPCC  
Susan Valot, KPCC

## B5. COMMENTARY (Newspapers over 100K)

Amy Alkon, Creators syndicate, Advice columns  
Mariel Garza, Los Angeles Daily News, Editorial  
Robert David Jaffe, Los Angeles Times, Op-ed  
Devra Maza, Los Angeles Daily News, "Love on the Lines"

## C5. COMMENTARY (Newspapers under 100K)

Thomas D. Elias, California Focus Syndicated, Column  
Dr. Mauricio Heilbron Jr., Press-Telegram, "A Heart That Can't Be Mended"  
Sue Laris and Jon Regardie, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Mayor should be honest about political future"  
William C. Lascher, Ventura County Reporter, Commentary  
Calvin Naito, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Los Angeles Times Ripe for Some Advice on Reaching Local Readers"

## B6. COLUMNIST (Newspapers over 100K)

Amy Alkon, Creators syndicate, Advice columns  
Gendy Alimurung, LA Weekly, "LaVida"  
Jonathan Gold, LA Weekly, Column  
Dennis McCarthy, Los Angeles Daily News

## C6. COLUMNIST (Newspapers under 100K)

Rob Eshman, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles  
Tim Grobaty, Press-Telegram  
R. Scott Moxley, OC Weekly  
Jon Regardie, Los Angeles Downtown News  
David Suissa, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

## D3. EDITORIAL CARTOONING (Newspapers/Magazines/Wire Service/Online)

Doug Davis, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Urban Scrawl"

## J4. INTERNATIONAL COLUMNIST

Tom Walters and Adam Blair, CTV News, "What about Main Street?"  
Izumi Hasegawa, HollywoodNewsWire.net, Battlestar Galactica

## I3. ONLINE COLUMN/COMMENTARY/CRITICISM

Bill Boyarsky, Truthdig, "The End of an Institution"  
Drew Carey, Reason, "Food Fight: Battle of the Bacon Dogs"  
Chris Hedges, Truthdig, "Party to Murder"  
Chalmers Johnson, Truthdig, "Managed Democracy"  
Rip Rense, The Rip Post, "Making Funny"

## I4. BLOGGING

Bill Boyarsky, Truthdig, On The Campaign Trail  
Bennet Kelley, Huffington Post, "Candy Bombers," "Obama and the End of Wal-Mart Nation"  
Ted Johnson, Variety / Wilshire & Washington, "September 5th – Arrested Development and The Night at St. Paul"  
Pat Saperstein, Eating L.A., Denise Hamilton Embraces Vanishing Hollywood in "The Last Embrace"  
Pat Saperstein, Eating L.A., "Cherrypicking in Leona Valley: Out of L.A. for the Day"

## A11. POLITICAL COVERAGE (Print/Online)

Bill Boyarsky, Truthdig, On the Campaign Trail  
Barbara Gasser, Kurier, "Faces from a Country in Crisis"  
Barbara Gasser, Die Welt, "Super Tuesday"  
Daniel Heimpel, LA Weekly  
Ted Johnson, Variety, The world of celebrity politics

## A12. POLITICAL COVERAGE, Broadcast

Warren Olney, KCRW, "To the Point"  
Frank Stolze, KPCC, Political Coverage

## A4. RADIO JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Larry Mantle: KPCC 89.3  
Patricia Nazario: KPCC 89.3  
John Rabe: KPCC 89.3  
Frank Stoltze, KPCC 89.3  
Brian Watt: KPCC 89.3

## JOSEPH M. QUINN AWARD—RICK ORLOV

## J2. NEWS FEATURE (International Journalism)

Barbara Gasser, Die Welt, "Super Tuesday"  
Rajesh Mirchandani, Regan Morris and Nick Atkins, BBC, "Vallejo Bankruptcy"  
Michael O'Sullivan, Voice of America, "Peace Jam"  
Tom Tugend, Jerusalem Post, "Cooper profile"  
David Willis, Regan Morris and Mark Walker, BBC, "Nevada Election"

## D2. PHOTO ESSAY

Don Bartletti, Los Angeles Times, "Undocumented fire victims"  
Jeff Gritchen, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Open heart surgery"  
Michael Robinson Chavez, Los Angeles Times, "Divided by death"  
Michael Robinson Chavez, Los Angeles Times, "Osettia"  
Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Orange County Fires"

## F7. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Radio)

Larry Mantle, Linda Othenin-Girard, Jackie Oclaray, Chumi Paul and Roger Rudick, Airtalk KPCC 89.3, "Understanding Prop 8's Passage"  
Larry Mantle, Linda Othenin-Girard, Jackie Oclaray, Chumi Paul and



Roger Rudick, Airtalk KPCC 89.3, "Jerry Brown"  
 Patt Morrison, Aimee Machado, Janice Watje-Hurst, Jonathan Serviss and Roger Rudick, KPCC 89.3, "RFK Tragedy Frozen in Time"  
 Warren Olney, KCRW, "Iraq War Fading from View"  
 John Rabe, Queena Kim, Frank Stolze, Marc Haefele, Kitty Felde, Adolfo Guzman-Lopez and Rico Gagliano, KPCC 89.3, "Tom Bradley"

## F8. DOCUMENTARY (Radio)

Jon Kalish and Sarah Spitz, KCRW, "Barrack 18"  
 Lincoln Myerson, Ariana Morgenstern, Sarah Spitz and JC Swiatek, KCRW, "McCabe's at 50"  
 Cason Smith, 90.1 KSAK, "A Voice in Your Life"

## E5. DOCUMENTARY (Television)

Bret Marcus, Angela Shelley, Justine Schmidt, Linda Burns, Michael Bloecher, Alexandra Gales and Brett Wood, KCET, "Inside Locke High"  
 Charles Stewart, Kimber Liponi, Fritz Coleman, Dave Fernandez, Jose Hernandez, Scott Meadows, Hernan Vasquez, James Hourani, Lindsey Jackson and Robert Long, KNBC, "A Child on Shindler's List"

## I2. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

Jon Gerung, The Los Angeles Daily News, "2008 Holiday Film Preview"  
 Jon Gerung, The Los Angeles Daily News, "The Dark Knight Returns"  
 Isla Earth Radio Series, Syndicated Radio Series  
 Robert Meeks, Joseph Dickson, Chris Berry and Paul Penzella, Presstelegram.com, "Examination of the Juvenile Justice System"

## B1. HARD NEWS (Newspapers over 100K)

Patrick McDonald, LA Weekly, "Proposition 8 Coverage."  
 Patrick McDonald, LA Weekly, "Obama's Gay Gold Mine."  
 Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly, "The Gangsters of Drew Street, Glassell Park."  
 Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly, "Billboards Gone Wild."  
 Staff, Los Angeles Daily News, "Complete Chaos: Metrolink, Freight Trains Collide."

## C1. HARD NEWS (Newspapers under 100K)

Andre Coleman, Pasadena Weekly, "Body of Evidence."  
 Alfred Lee, Pasadena Star-News, "Alleged Bribery Being Probed."  
 Joel Russell, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Univision Battle with Televisa."

## D1. PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times, "Kenya protest deaths"  
 Barbara Davidson, Los Angeles Times, "School Tragedy"  
 John McCoy, Los Angeles Daily News, "Aerial photo - fires"  
 Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times, "Surfing dog"  
 Wally Skalij, Los Angeles Times, "Kobe Bryant leaves the court"

## E1. BREAKING NEWS (Television)

Bret Marcus, Justin Schmidt, Linda Burns, Val Zavala, Joseph Angier et al, SoCal Connected, KCET, "After the Burn"

## F1. BREAKING NEWS (Radio)

Shirley Jahad, Frank Stoltze and Kitty Felde, KPCC 89.3, "Metrolink"

## H1. BREAKING NEWS (News Bureaus and Correspondents)

Cathy Franklin, City News Service

## J1. HARD NEWS (International Journalism)

Tom Walters and Adam Blair, CTV News

## B10. HEADLINE (Newspapers over 100K)

Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, "Apocalypse Eventually"  
 Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, "From Beer to Eternity"  
 Peter Fuertes, Los Angeles Daily News, "Deep-Sixed"  
 Peter Fuertes, Los Angeles Daily News, "Pac-to-Pac-to-Pac"  
 Peter Fuertes, Los Angeles Daily News, "Safety Concern"

## C10. HEADLINE WRITING (Newspapers under 100K)

Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate  
 Jon Regardie, Los Angeles Downtown News  
 Steve Silkin, Los Angeles Business Journal  
 Kevin Uhrich, Pasadena Weekly

## A10. ONLINE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Chris Hedges, Truthdig  
 Bennet Kelley, Huffington Post  
 Scott Ritter, Truthdig  
 Robert Scheer, Truthdig

## A1. PRINT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR (Over 100K)

Amy Alkon, syndicated columnist  
 David Evans, Bloomberg Markets  
 Miriam Jordan, Wall Street Journal  
 Patrick McDonald, LA Weekly  
 Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly

## DANIEL PEARL AWARD—ROBYN DIXON

# HOW THE AWARDS ARE JUDGED

The Los Angeles Press Club does not judge its own awards competition. Instead, our awards are decided by volunteer journalists representing press organizations from other cities across the country. In return, our press club judges other cities' competitions.

Each spring, press clubs ship many boxes of materials to one another, sharing a mutual commitment to honoring journalistic achievement. The reciprocal judging process ensures fair and impartial judging.

This year, organizations that judged us included the press clubs in Denver, Kansas, Houston, East Bay, New Orleans, New York, Wisconsin and Syracuse.

We judged the work of journalists in other cities in return.

This year, the judging process was led by Ezra Palmer.

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Kathy Cook - Author/Journalist

KCRW  
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## Awards Program

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## 51st Annual Southern California Journalism Awards Gala

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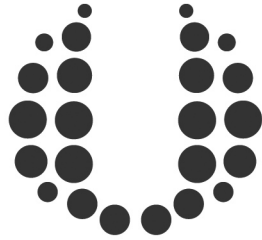
### Diana Ljungaeus

Diana Ljungaeus is Executive Director of The Los Angeles Press Club and a veteran journalist with a broad background as a researcher, reporter, scriptwriter and media producer. She began reporting at the tender age of 15 working in Sweden, England and, since 1996, in Los Angeles. Ljungaeus is also a

playwright and has worked as a storyline writer for Walt Disney. This is the sixth year Ljungaeus has produced or co-produced the awards event.

## Special thanks to:

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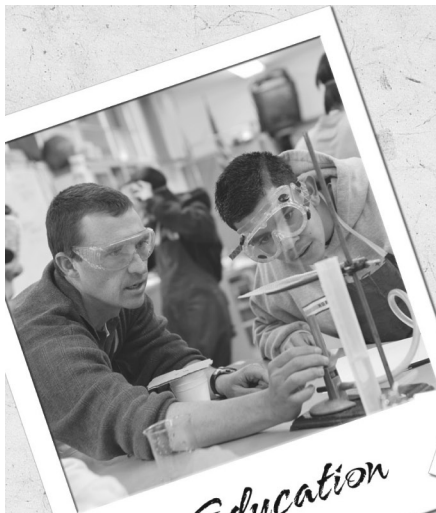
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