



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

for impact on media

Arianna's Bridge

HUFFINGTON HELPS CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN OLD AND

BY JANE ENGLE

ARIANNA 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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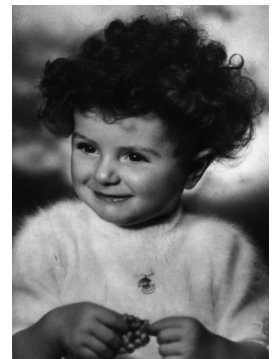


"The Gods of Greece," which celebrates the power of myths as guides to forgotten dimensions of ourselves.

"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.