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**50th Annual Southern California Journalism Awards**

Los Angeles Press Club
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**Awards for Editorial Excellence in 2007 and Honorary Awards for 2008**

**THE PRESIDENT’S AWARD**
*For Impact on Media*

**Steve Lopez**
Los Angeles Times

**THE JOSEPH M. QUINN AWARD**
*For Journalistic Excellence and Distinction*

**Ana Garcia**
Investigative Journalist and TV Anchor
KNBC News

**THE DANIEL PEARL AWARD**
*For Courage and Integrity in Journalism*

**Bob Woodruff**
Veteran Correspondent and TV Anchor
ABC
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For all finalists see pages 29-33

7 p.m. Dinner
7:45 p.m. Silent Auction Closes
7:50 p.m. Show Begins

FEATURES
Print Reporter, Columnist or Editor of the Year
(Newspapers under 100K)

DESIGN/LAYOUT
Designer of the Year

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
Photojournalist of the Year

NEWSCASTS
TV Journalist of the Year

ENTERTAINMENT
Entertainment Journalist of the Year

PRESIDENT’S AWARD: Steve Lopez

SPORTS
Sports Anchor or Reporter of the Year

BUSINESS

COMMENTARY
Radio Anchor or Reporter of the Year

QUINN AWARD: Ana Garcia

FEATURES
Health Journalist of the Year

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

PEARL AWARD: Bob Woodruff
Every reporter needs a good doc tale from time to time.

The Molina Healthcare story began more than 25 years ago in a small clinic in Long Beach, California when Dr. C. David Molina founded his community practice on the principle that every person deserves access to quality doctors, nurses and hospitals.

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Fifty Years of Journalistic Excellence

A welcome message from the president of the Los Angeles Press Club

WELCOME TO HISTORY IN THE MAKING. Welcome to the 50th anniversary of the Southern California Journalism Awards.

Tonight’s honors are testimony to the vibrancy and resilience of West Coast journalists at a time of unprecedented challenges in the news business. The news business is evolving and so, too, is the Los Angeles Press Club and our awards.

These awards were born during the Cold War, when Los Angeles journalism was dominated by the city’s many newspapers. Television was in its infancy. Developments like all-news radio were still years away. Women journalists were rare in mainstream media. Minorities, even rarer.

Today we see greater diversity in the newsroom and in the ways we provide information. The Press Club has been striving to embrace Internet journalists and bloggers—clearly the wave of the future.

Our goal at the club is to be a friend to reporters, editors and producers at a time of need. We just put on what we hope will become an annual evening seminar focusing on journalism jobs of the future—and the skills needed to secure them. We also recently hosted an evening with Los Angeles Times Editor Russ Stanton and a look at how Latino issues are covered in the wake of the LAPD’s beating of reporters covering the May Day March in MacArthur Park last year.

This year we inaugurated a new, national award program honoring the best in entertainment journalism. Not surprisingly, Los Angeles journalists were big winners.

Please join us as we raise the standards of—and raise a glass to—the news gathering profession.
WHAT WAS THE LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB like in 1958?

Consider the letter printed on page 15 of the year’s 8 Ball Final, yearbook of the then-monthly club newsletter. It came from a figure who noted that he was “an honorary member of the Club.” He went on to write, “The fact that the Club has grown to 2,300 members and that 1,100 of these are active in their profession is testimony to the vitality and importance of the Press Club in the Greater Los Angeles area.”

It was on letterhead that read “Office of the Vice President.” It was signed by Richard Nixon.

To say it was a different time in the world of Los Angeles journalism is putting it mildly. Ads in that 8 Ball came from the likes of Northrop Aircraft, Lockheed promoting its new Electra turboprop and U.S. Steel. In an 8 Ball article, late KCBS newsman Bill Siou described the challenges posed by “electronic journalism.” He meant television, not the web. He wrote, “The main difference between being a newspaper newsman and a television newsman is that in television you have to shave. Regularly.”

Not everything was completely different. For the 8 Ball, Bob Thomas of the Associated Press penned a piece about the troubles facing Hollywood. In a story titled “Anyone for Afghanistan?” he lamented the dying out of a favorite entertainment press perk, declaring “The big, free-wheeling junket appears to have been swept away in the wreckage of the film business.”

Photos from that time capture an era in some ways more innocent. George Snow of the Examiner shot a ground-level image of a kid pressed to the pavement wearing a “Midget Marble Champion 1958.” Others were serious, like Bud Gray’s photo, also from the Examiner, of an exhausted firefighter working to extinguish a blaze.

It was also a different time in terms of social propriety, and to say that the male reporters and editors of the era were horn-dogs isn’t an understatement. Images from the 1958 “Club Scrapbook” include one-time Press Club president Joe Quinn leering Jayne Mansfield as she signed the club’s guest book, and a passel of six journalists gathered around “Miss 8 Ball.” Yep, the Press Club had its own pin-up girl. The first Miss 8 Ball, in 1948, was Marilyn Monroe.

The February, 1958, 8 Ball shows male reporters from KTTV and the Herald-Examiner taking her measurements. It seems fair to say that while it was a hub for professional journalists and provided an opportunity to discuss the media...
concerns of the day, the Press Club in 1958 was also a social network. In reliving the highlights of the year, the 8 Ball shows photos from the club’s gin rummy finals and a live, adult lion brought into the bar. There were plenty of events, including some charitable pursuits, thanks to the 8 Ball Welfare Foundation, which on March 20, 1958, sponsored the premiere of the castable film ‘Teacher’ (Gable played a newspaper editor), raising $20,000 in the process. For the end of the year soiree, the 8 Ball reported, “the Christmas Party took a gay turn with the arrival of Walt Disney’s mighty mouseke-teers. The kids went wild.” [p.51]

There were regular evening gatherings, known as gang dinners, some with themes, some with speakers, some with both. Football star Elroy “Crazy Legs” Hirsch appeared in January for “sports night.” Vice President Nixon showed up in February, drawing a crowd of 800 people and speaking for 90 minutes. May brought the “afri-can safari night” gang dinner, and in October the club honored Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, describing him as “50 years a great friend of the press,” with Art Linkletter as the master of ceremonies. In the December, 1958, the club had a now now-disturbing “mistletoe show” gang dinner. The club charged $5 per couple for its New Year’s Eve party.

The club also hit a milestone in 1958, with the first L.A. Journalism Awards. Unlike today, there were only four categories, and also unlike today, the prizes included hefty cash payouts. The Harry Karl Award, for the outstanding news story of the year, went to Don Bailey of the Herald-Express, who received $1,000 for, as the October 8 Ball noted, “the dramatic story of a jet black horse named Tom Boy, who was condemned to death in the will of a wealthy mistres.” There were also $250 prizes for the best sports story and the best sports photo, and $500 for the recipient of what was known as The Wilshire Oil Co. Traffic Safety Award, honoring the best story or photo of the year on, uh, traffic safety.

But while the job of the press remains the same—get the story—it’s the differences that stand out. For example, in 1958 in Los Angeles, Hol-lywood celebrities were not carefully “handled” by a phalanx of publicists who only trotted them out to promote their latest album or film. The Club back then was based in the Ambassador Hotel, and a report from Club president Humphrey Owens recounts visits to the Club by Frank Sinatra, Eddie Fisher and “Red” Skeleton, that wonderful buffoon.” Don Rickles entertained at a dinner in June and images from the time show Liz Taylor dropping by, as well as a visit from Bob Hope.

In fact, the celebrities of the day went farther than many people in 2008 could fathom—the year-end 8 Ball included a quarter page ad from John Wayne and a full-page ad that read “To the Boys and Girls of the Press: Thank You for Everything, Sammy Davis, Jr.”
CONGRATULATIONS
Jewish Journal writers and artists received 13 finalist nominations for the Southern California Journalism Awards—OUR MOST EVER!

NEWS FEATURE
Julia Gruenbaum Fax, “Transcendence – A True Story for Yom Kippur”

SIGNED COMMENTARY
Judea Pearl, “A Mighty Heart”

COLUMNIST
Amy Klein • Gina Nahai

EDITORIALS
Rob Esham, “Shutting Jewish Mouths”

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN
Robert David Jaffee, “Creative Minds at Work”

SPORTS
Robert David Jaffee, “Joe ‘Master Blaster’ Weider, Still Going Strong”

HEADLINE
Jay Firestone, “One Camp, Two Camp, Red Camp, Jew Camp”

DESIGN
Dan Kacvinski and Carvin Knowles, “My Mother’s Table”
Dan Kacvinski and Carvin Knowles, “Jewish Gelt”

EDITORIAL CARTOON
Steve Greenberg, “President of Iran”
Jake Novak, “Schmooze or Lose”

WEBLOG, INDIVIDUAL
Brad Greenberg, “The God Blog”

INT’L NEWS FEATURE
Tom Tugend, The International Jerusalem Post, “The Born Identity of Kirk Douglas”

INT’L ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE
Tom Tugend, The International Jerusalem Post, “I Just Met a Girl Named Fatima”

INT’L COLUMN/COMMENTARY/REVIEWS
Tom Tugend, The International Jerusalem Post, “Who’s a hero?”

The 50th Southern California Journalism Awards
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
June 21st 2008
www.lapressclub.org

A LIFE IN JOURNALISM
Press Club mainstay Buster Sussman looks back on more than a half century of journalism

BY JON REGARDIE

What has Buster Sussman done in the field of journalism?
It might be easier to say what he hasn’t done.
Sussman is the laconic, 82-year-old mainstay of the Los Angeles Press Club, present at seemingly every event or meeting. He’s instantly recognizable by his trim white goatee, dancing brown eyes and eager demeanor. He’s always ready with a story, and oh, what stories he has.

Born April 16, 1927, in San Francisco, he was the son of a manager of a glass factory and a homemaker. Journalism was an early interest, and he still recalls his first interview: While in elementary school, he questioned a teacher about a book he had just read. “I enjoyed the army,” he says. “I had a fine time.”

His first newspaper job was with the Oakland Enterprise, what he terms a “country paper,” a small publication where reporters doubled as ad salesmen and, when necessary, helped print what he calls “the newspaper.”

He has returned to a more active role in the past five years. These days, he wants to help create online programs for the Club in conjunction with the Los Angeles Community College District, where he mentors journalism students. “My goal is to make the Club an international organization through educational pursuits,” he says.

An interest in journalism continues to guide him, the result of a natural curiosity that propels his involvement in myriad groups. Along with the L.A. Press Club, Buster has worked with organizations representing African-American, Vietnamese, Latino and Filipino journalism. He once worked with the Newspaper Guild in San Francisco.

A widower with two children and three grandchildren, Buster has led a life filled with adventures, stories and travel. By his own admission, he has jumped from job to job, never sticking in one place too long, yet always managing to put food on the table and take care of the family.

“Accomplished nothing. No great books, no Pulitzer Prize,” he says, and you know not to take him seriously.

“Life is like being at a party, where you go around and sample the food. Then you realize the party’s over.”

Buster, your party has a long ways to go.
From notable authors to the future of journalism jobs, it has been another activity-filled year for the Los Angeles Press Club. The club has worked to reach out to be a friend to journalists affected by downsizing and the digital transformation of the news industry. And our programming reflected it.

We offered an evening with the new editor of the Los Angeles Times, Russ Stanton, who talked about his direction for the West’s largest daily. We networked with a delegation of visiting foreign journalists to hear their thoughts on how the craft is changing.

A Press Club panel explored whether the Los Angeles Police Department had adequately reformed itself after newsmen were beaten during the May Day march through MacArthur Park last year.

For a look back at the city’s rich news tradition, veteran L.A. editor Alex Ben Block arranged a reunion of the Los Angeles Herald Examiner staff and its legendary editor, Jim Bellows. And looking forward, a panel of top broadcast, newspaper and wire service managers tackled the new skills that newsmen—both beginners and veterans—will need to compete with the digital transformation of the business.

All in all, a busy year—and it’s only half over!

The Los Angeles Press Club continued its tradition this past year of putting on great events and engaging the public.
REMEMBERING RUSSELT
AN APPRECIATION OF TIM RUSSELT

BY WILL LEWIS

The Los Angeles Press Club mourns the untimely death of veteran NBC News Washington Bureau Chief Tim Russert earlier this month at the age of 58.

Russert is best known as the well-prepared, persistent but always polite moderator of the longest-running television program in the history of broadcasting, “Meet the Press,” which he joined in 1991. He was the longest-serving host of the show. Under his tenure, it became the highest-rated Sunday morning interview program on American TV.

Prior to joining NBC News in 1984, he was steeped in Washington and Albany politics, serving as chief of staff to Sen. Patrick Moynihan and as New York Governor Mario Cuomo’s legal counsel and spokesman.

“Tim was one of the outstanding journalists of our time,” said Radio-Television News Directors president Barbara Cochran, who worked with Russert during her tenure as executive producer on “Meet the Press.” “He had a passion for news and a passion for politics and combined them in a remarkable career. He reinvigorated the Sunday morning interview format and made these programs must-viewing across the nation.”

Russert, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., and a devoted family man, wrote a best-selling memoir about his father, an Irish-Catholic garbage truck driver and World War II veteran, “Big Russ and Me—Father and Son: Lessons of Life.” He followed that up with a book based on the huge mail response to “Big Russ,” titled “Wisdom of our Fathers: Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons.”

In this historic election year, Russert appeared regularly on MSNBC, joining Brian Williams and Tom Brokaw to provide insight and analysis. The Clinton campaign was more than annoyed on primary night, May 5—while the Indiana returns were still coming in—Russert declared, “We now know who the Democratic nominee is going to be and no one is going to dispute it.” He obviously enjoyed his work. While reporting on this year’s long, unprecedented race for the Democratic presidential nominee, he was quoted as saying off-camera, “It doesn’t get any better than this.”

Sundays will never be the same for the millions of “Meet the Press” viewers. Fans and colleagues alike will miss this distinguished broadcast journalist who, with the twinkle in his eye, signed off his weekly program with his trademark closing: “If it’s Sunday, it’s ‘Meet the Press.’”

I’d seen this guy downtown pushing a shopping cart and playing a two-string violin, lost in the music and oblivious to the rest of the world. One day I was scribbling names on the sidewalk and I asked who they were. Those were my classmates at Juilliard, he said.

That’s how I began writing about Mr. Ayers. And over time, this classically trained musician — homeless for years — became much more than a column. He became a friend and an inspiration.

His story has inspired readers as well. They’ve sort of adopted him, donating musical instruments and other supplies.

“The sheer generosity of readers amazes me.”

— Steve Lopez, Columnist

Our congratulations to Steve Lopez, winner of The Los Angeles Press Club’s President’s Award.

Article originally published in The Times on April 17, 2008.
Steve Lopez

FINDING A COMMON VOICE IN THE CACOPHONY

BY JANE ENGLE AND DIANA LJUNGAEUS

In 2002 Washington Post writer Howard Finz singled out Steve Lopez as a surviving example of the vanishing, big-city, hard-edged, witty metro columnist. At the time, nobody quite realized that the new hire at the Los Angeles Times might become the ears and eyes for a place so sprawling and so decentralized that it defies the old definitions of a metropolis.

Mixing his hilarious trademark jobs as describ- ing politicians with his superb storytelling, his in-depth examination of Skid Row and his seri- ous investigation of Sacramento’s ills, Lopez has brought to L.A. the urban-advocacy traditions of a Mike Royko melded with the savvy of a William Safire. Los Angeles Times editors, who deter- minedly lured him from Time Magazine long after he had initially turned them down, recognized his uncanny ability to zero in on key figures and issues of the day, then tell it like it was.

His 1998 piece on Rudy Giuliani for Time was headlined “Hizzoner the Hall Monitor.” In it, Lopez clearly had a field day, writing, “It was almost too perfect. The volcanic mayor of the new and improved New York City was on his way to speak at Our Lady of Pompeii church. That’s Pompeii as in the city buried under the molten lava of Mount Vesuvius. What if Rudy Giuliani, in the middle of his big civility campaign, blew his top as the gathering of sensors digested their lunch of franks and beans?”

Yet it wasn’t just about colorful words, it was about the work. Within a short time of arriving in Los Angeles, Lopez and his energetically reported column had begun to win over even critics, who had wondered aloud how a guy who hadn’t lived in Southern California in many years could become the area’s metro columnist. Lopez revealed to his longtime former newspaper, the Philadelphia Inquirer, in an interview last spring, “I was offered this job a year before I took it, but turned it down. I thought it was too difficult a city to write a local column in. Los Angeles being a city of transplants, you have to work harder to find common ground for readers that don’t have a heck of a lot in common.”

He added, “I just liked the idea of being abroad of something again, so I took the job.”

And so would follow hundreds of maddening, entertaining Steve Lopez columns, about Arnold and Gray, Antonio and Mirthala, Paris and Baca — and about scores and scores of less-er-known Californians who traveled below the radar but had fascinating stories to reveal.

In a column earlier this month, Lopez wrote simply and elegantly of Juan Romero, the busboy who knelt by a bleeding hotel in 1968. Lopez recalled how, five years earlier, he had cracked Romero down, finding a man still intensely affected by that tragic day. “We went out for a couple of beers, and Romero began squirming and twisting himself up. When he finally found a way to let it out, it was for his own sake as much as mine.”

Earlier this year, Times colleague Patrick Goldstein de- scribed just how successful Lopez has been at finding the com- mon ground he was so worried about when he resisted taking the job. As Goldstein wrote in his “The Big Picture” column in Calendar, “Lopez is the conscience of our paper as much as he is of our city, whether he’s chiding our feckless mayor, expos- ing the sorry state of our public schools or shining a light on our neglect of the homeless.”

During his countless hours on the city’s meanest streets, Lopez developed a poignant friendship with a mentally ill violinist, and now has authored a non-fiction book about his experiences with his friend Nathaniel Ayers, “The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship and the Redemption Power of Music,” which was published in April by Putnam. In its review of “The Soloist,” Publishers Weekly praised Lopez’s “self-effacing humor, fast-paced yet elegant prose and unspar- ing honesty”— all qualities found in his columns. (Besides “The Soloist,” Lopez has penned three novels and is at work on another.)

Lopez will not be immortalized merely by his rich body of award-winning journalism, but also by the silver screen. “The Soloist” is becoming a feature film, with Robert Downey Jr portraying Lopez and Oscar winner Jamie Foxx as Ayers.

His column explores subjects as varied as Los Angeles’ dreadful traffic jams and his own early stirrings of religious awakening. And he often revisits his favorite topics, unleashing his signature sense of humor. Among those favorites, Lopez has anguished and delighted readers by creating something of a mini-beat focused on Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s transpor- tion aide, Jaime De La Vega, who drew Lopez’ ire because he drives a Hummer.

In Lopez’ most recent installment in the saga, De La Vega once again didn’t call Lopex back for comment. So Lopez went to a Hummer dealership in Pasadena to get the dealer’s take on how tough it must be to sell such a behemoth just now, with gas prices approaching $5 a gallon in Los Angeles. The columnist ended up conversing with an eager young sales- man. “The exchange unfolded like this:

He threw open a door to reveal an interior slightly smaller than the Staples Center.

And if someone asked him about the vehicle’s impact on global warming?

“I’d just ask them how much longer they’re going to be living.”

Is De La Vega taking notes? These aren’t bad lines to use when someone asks why the transportation chief in a city with legendary pollution is driving a Hummer. And the salesman wasn’t finished extolling the advantages of super-sizing.

“If you get into an accident, nothing will happen to you,” he said. “You’ll just kill the other person.”

Why is this kid not the sales manager?

A California native, Lopez lives in Los Angeles with his wife, two sons and daughter. His Times job is his seventh newspa- per stint in a career that has also included, among other pub- lications, Sports Illustrated, Entertainment Weekly, San Jose Mercury News and Oakland Tribune.

He has been honored with many national journalism awards for column writing and magazine reporting. And now, Steve Lopez is the Los Angeles Press Club’s 2008 Recipient of the President’s Award.
AN ANCHOR APART
AN APPRECIATION OF THE LATE HAL FISHMAN

BY CHRIS WOODRY

T was the end, Hal Fishman stood apart.
In an age when other anchors merely read from the "prompter, Hal Fishman took a direct role in preparing KTLA Channel 5’s nightly 10 p.m. newscast. He wasn’t just an anchor. He wasn’t even an executive producer or news director. Rather, he was managing editor—a title more akin to a newspaper city room than a slick high-tech TV studio.

Gruff? You bet, but only in the pursuit of quality. "He was the driving force in the newsroom," recalls KTLA veteran Maria Waller, who considers Fishman to have been her mentor. "He was my harshest critic and my staunchest supporter."

Fishman loved the news. Like all good newsmen, Fishman merely read from the ‘prompter, with equal fervor. Fishman sometimes covered stories from the pilot’s seat of his own plane.

Unlike other anchors, Fishman resurrected clearly labeled commentary in every newscast. His thoughts covered a wide variety of subjects, from Middle East policy to local city issues. Fishman got his start in Los Angeles as a college professor. A Brooklyn native who earned a master’s degree in political science from UCLA, Fishman was teaching at Cal State-Los Angeles when he was invited by KCOP Channel 13 to host an on-air politics course for the 1960 election. His “American Political Parties in Politics” was such a hit that KCOP offered a regular political segment on its newscast. He joined KTLA in 1965, the year that the Watts riots thrust Los Angeles into the national limelight—and independent Channel 5’s news operation right along with it.

Over the years, Fishman would become part of just about every major story out of Southern California—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy’s assassination, earthquakes and brush fires, the 1984 Olympics, and notably, the Rodney King beating, which was broken on KTLA. Though he would move to short stints at a couple other stations over the years, Fishman always returned to KTLA.

He won numerous journalism awards over the years. The Press Club named his newscast, later to be called KTLA Prime News, as Best Regularly Scheduled Newscast following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He won Emmy and Golden Mike awards. On the anniversary of his 40th year in broadcasting, KTLA named its newsroom after Fishman, its sole anchor since 1976.

Fishman has a star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame, presented by another KTLA veteran, the late Johnny Grant.

As the years went by, Fishman understood the new realities of attracting ratings in local news, but might not have always been comfortable with trends like live wall-to-wall coverage of police pursuits.

"It was disappointing to him," Waller says. "Watching a car chase is the epitome of dumbed-down news" in Fishman’s book.

He also hated speculation, and was always searching for solid answers.

Waller says her friendship made a lasting impression. Even now when she reports a story, she says she often asks herself, "I wonder what Hal would think of this?"
Bob Woodruff is not your typical war hero. He’s never fired a shot or killed anyone in battle. He is this year’s recipient of the Daniel Pearl Award for Courage and Integrity in Journalism, bestowed by the Los Angeles Press Club in conjunction with Judea and Ruth Pearl, parents of the Wall Street Journal reporter slain by extremists in Pakistan in 2002.

A native of Bloomfield, Michigan, Bob attended Colgate University in the early 1980s before graduating from Michigan Law School. At Colgale he was a star athlete in both lacrosse and soccer, exhibiting the competitive spirit and intensity that would always serve him. Somehow, he found the time to take up rugby and Mandarin Chinese, and by 1989 found himself teaching law in Beijing, China. When the Tiananmen Square uprising began, he was hired by CBS as a local translator, and saw journalists doing the kind of work that inspired him deeply. That monumental experience planted the seed that altered his career ambitions forever.

He left his lucrative law career for a low-paying gig as an ABC affiliate in Redding, California, followed by another stint at the CBS affiliate in Richmond, Virginia. Then, in 1996, he joined the Chicago bureau of ABC News, where he covered major national and global stories. Soon recognized as one of ABC’s top correspondents, he filed stories on everything from the Asian Tsunami to North Korea’s nuclear ambitions. After the September 11 attacks, he was one of the first Western reporters inside Pakistan, and was stationed in Kabul during the war to destronhe the Taliban. During the initial invasion of Iraq, he was in his natural element, embedded with the First Marine Division, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

He was named co-anchor of ABC’s World News Tonight in December of 2005, but once again left the safety of his anchor desk to stand shoulder to shoulder with fighting men in Iraq, believing there was no other way to present a truthful picture of the battlefield.

On January 29, 2006, while reporting from the war zone, he was seriously wounded by a roadside IED that detonated twenty feet away. According to medical reports, he came within a millimeter of dying that terrifying day. The initial eight-hour operation removed din, rocks, and shrapnel from Bob’s head and neck, brain swelling was alleviated by cutting away a 14-centimeter section of the left side of his skull. He was then placed in a medically-induced coma, and his wife, Lee, three brothers and four children kept vigil for weeks.

Doctors, “Will he still love me?” For a long time, there were no answers. When Bob was finally awakened from his coma after several weeks, doctors were stunned when he began speaking immediately. But his thoughts and memories were fragmentary and elusive. He had forgotten the names of his children—or that he had twins.

Because the left side of the brain controls reason, logic and speech, there was great apprehension about his future. No one was sure how much his damaged brain’s rearranged synapses might permanently alter him—his personality, perhaps even his identity. His wife, Lee, asked attending doctors, “Will he still love me?” For a long time, there were no answers. When Bob was finally awakened from his coma after several weeks, doctors were stunned when he began speaking immediately. But his thoughts and memories were fragmentary and elusive. He had forgotten the names of his children—or that he had twins.

Bob lost no time embarking on the grueling journey back to health and full-scale functioning as a journalist. It took thirteen months, an ordeal chronicled in the book written by Lee and Bob, “In An Instant: A Family’s Journey of Love and Healing,” published in February by Random House. The book is described by Publishers Weekly as “an important, wise, and inspiring guide to coping with tragedy—and an extraordinary drama of marriage, family, war, and nation.”

The Woodruffs could not have imagined the road they would travel. During the long and ultimately successful recovery process, they learned that many injured service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan were not as fortunate, and that their families paid a very personal cost of war. Traumatic Brain Injury, combat stress, and other combat-related injuries can require extensive treatment, in a system that is often bewildering. And thousands face such problems, with The Rand Corporation recently estimating that as many as 300,000 soldiers have some form of TBI.

Bob and Lee established the Bob Woodruff Family Foundation to meet the vital needs they identified during their struggle. The Foundation works with industry and government to develop
Bob Woodruff reports on “May Day” from Cuba during the week of April 29th—his first overseas reporting since being severely injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq in January 2006. (ABC/Steve Fenn)

speech he gave several weeks ago at the University of Michigan, Bob had this to say about his career change following the events at Tiananmen Square: “The kind of work I was doing did not feed my soul, and so I made a fairly radical move at the time. I left my six-figure law firm job with a two-month-old baby at home and accepted a job as a TV reporter in a tiny California town for $12,000 a year. We qualified for food stamps.”

Clearly, Bob believes that passion and good journalism can make our country a better place, whether that means revealing the truth about a war and its devastating effects on returning servicemen, explaining the scope of an international crisis or delving into the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

On a more personal level, while dealing with Bob in preparation for his acceptance of the Pearl Award, we at the Los Angeles Press Club could not help but notice his courteous humility and wicked sense of humor (something apparent to anyone who saw his recent appearance with Jon Stewart on The Daily Show). It seems almost surreal that anyone could have survived such a devastating, life-altering experience, yet emerged with so much generosity and grace.

Reporting, that can change lives.

Congratulations to Bob Woodruff on receiving The Daniel Pearl Award for Courage and Integrity in Journalism.
The passion and dedication Ana has for her work is also reflected in her role as a parent and in her work with The Good News Girls, representatives from various news outlets including KNBC 4, KCAL 7, KFML 9 and KTTV Fox 11.

The women of Los Angeles television news, The Good News Girls, established the Good News Foundation, a non-profit group, in 2006. The mission statement affirms the organization’s dedication to "making a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of people in need and at-risk in greater Los Angeles."

“These are the most amazing women. I have such respect for all of them,” Garcia said. "We all get criticized for always reporting bad news but we are trying to bring good news, a little bit at a time."

Garcia believes working with the women has made her think even more about the good things they can do giving something to children who have so little but who are trying so hard.

If Garcia were to win the lottery tomorrow, her passion for travel would probably take over and she would spend several years seeing new and exciting places. Until then, she will continue to spend quality time with her family, help young women realize their dreams and anchor the 5 p.m. news.

Yet her love of investigative reporting will not diminish. "It is the absolute thing that makes me passionate about what I do." Ana said of her investigative assignments. "Sometimes we get lost in the [B.S.] of the day and it is important that we acknowledge how lucky we really are. I have the best job in the world. I am really happy. I am in a great place. I remember that every morning. It makes me humble."
Alec Ben Block is a senior columnist and show-business historian for Hollywood. Today, a well-known entertain- ment journalist, author and broadcaster, he is currently editing a book about great movies for George Lucas Books. His wide-ranging career has included stints as editor of two top Hollywood trades. The Hollywood Reporter and Television Week, associate editor of Forbes Magazine, and movie critic and assistant city editor at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner. For five years, he was heard on XRCO’s “Cab Sheets” show recapping Hollywood news. A popular bloc, Block is regularly called on as a commentator on TV and radio, including CNN, Fox News, KNBC, NBC, and KABC. He recently won his third award from the Los Angeles Press Club, where he has served as executive director. His many honors also include the prestigious journalism award from the Caucus for Television Producers, Writers and Directors.

Paris Barclay is an Emmy® award-winning director of such shows as ER, NYPD Blue, House and The West Wing.

He served as the co-executive producer and principal director of the CBS series Cold Case, which completed 12 episodes of the critically acclaimed new HBO series In Treatment where he also was co-executive producer.

Barclay is currently the First Vice President of the Board for the Directors Guild of America, breaking barriers by serving as the Guild’s first African American officer. He is the recipient of the 2007 Robert B. Aldrich Service Award for distinguished service to the Directors Guild, joining such illustrious past recipients as Arthur Hiller, Gil Cates, and Robert Wise.

Barclay also received a NAACP Image Award for Best Drama Series as co-creator, writer and director of the groundbreaking drama City of Angels.

KTLA/CW’s Stan Chambers is unique among television newsmen, he’s been with the same station for 60 years. And in a major market like Los Angeles, Paris celebrates where news personalities come and go almost as quickly as one switches channels, such longevity is no small accomplish- ments.

In 1949, Stan reported on what he considers the most memorable story of his career: the Kathy Fiscus well tragedy. While playing in a va- cant lot near her San Marino home, four-year-old Kathy slum- bied into an abandoned well. Within minutes after the rescue operation began, Stan was at the scene. "We were so wrapped up in the tragedy and reporting the story that we didn’t really have a chance to wonder if anyone was watching, we had no idea of the impact we were making," said Stan. The story, with its tragic ending, set a precedent in TV reporting and helped build KTLA’s reputation for on-the-spot news coverage.

Chambers’ has been honored for his work in journalism, and he also has two annual awards named after him.

PIT HARVEY is one of the best-known anchors in Southern California, having joined KCET-TV in 1989 and anchored Prime 9 News since its launch a few months later.

Besides those duties, Harvey regularly reports on issues of concern to the region and the world. This year, she snagged an exclusive interview with a couple who lost their three children in a horrific truck crash in Orange County. Her work, and subsequent investiga- tions into the trucking industry, led to calls for better safety regulations.

Also this year, Harvey received the Gemini Award for excellence in TV broadcasting from Southern California’s chapter of American Women in Radio and Television. Her past accomplishments include helping launch CNN Headline News in Atlanta, becoming one of its original anchors. She later anchored CNN’s Daybreak newscast. She is a former winner of the Los Angeles Press Club’s Joseph M. Quinn Award.

STEPHANIE MILLER mixes humor with progressive politics on her syndicated “Stephanie Miller Show,” heard locally in the morning drive slot on KTLA-AM. She is also heard on Sirius Satellite Radio and via podcast.

In a political year, Miller couldn’t be more in demand. She has appeared on Fox News and on cable networks such as MSNBNC and CNN.

Miller may be one of radio’s more liberal voices, but her faith is rooted in conservative politics. Her late father, William E. Miller, was Barry Goldwater’s running mate in the Republican’s failed 1964 bid for the presidency.

Growing up in Buffalo, N.Y., she was far more entranced by comedienne Carol Burnett than with radio. Yet Buffalo is where she scored in radio before moving to New York City for graduate study, New York and Los Angeles, including stints at KABC and KFI.

PATT MORRISON is a writer and columnist for the Los Angeles Times, a NBC radio host and an author. Known for her wit and versatile intellect, she is equally comfortable discussing national poli- tics, Southern California issues, the Iraq war and Britain’s royal family. In 2001, Ms. Magazine named her one of its “Women Who Made a Difference.”

Besides winning the Los Angeles Press Club’s Joseph M. Quinn Award in 2000, Morrison has been honored with six Emmys and four Golden Mike Awards as host and commentator on KCET’s “Life & Times Tonight.”

Even more noteworthy, Morrison had a hot dog named after her at Pink’s.

A two-time Press Club president, she is the author of “Rio L.A. Tales from the Los Angeles River” and co-author, with Cecilia Rasmussen, of “Angels Walk,” a series of Los Angeles historical markers and guidebooks.

WARREN OLNEY, considered the dean of Southern California broadcast journalists, has been reporting and anchoring television and radio news for more than 30 years.

Since 1992 Olney has been based at KCPR-FM, where he hosts two daily shows, “Which Way, L.A.?” and “To the Point,” a national program heard in 38 cities, including New York, Seattle and Buffalo.

He also served a anchor of KCET-TV’s “Life & Times Tonight,” a nightly public affairs show.

Olney and his radio programs have been honored with nearly 40 national, regional and local awards for broadcast excellence. He is the only person to have twice named “Broadcast Journal- ists of the Year” — for his work in both radio and television — by the Society of Professional Journalists. Los Angeles. He is a past recipient of the Los Angeles Press Club’s Joseph M. Quinn award and was “Radio Journalist of the Year” in 2001.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, he has focused on issues such as stopping the expansion of LAX, promoting mass transit, enhancing community security, protecting tenants’ rights and affordable housing.

Prior to his cable TV career, Rosenhaid was a member of the Southern California Public Relations Committee, and on political campaigns, including Robert Kennedy’s 1968 presidential bid.

Sam Rubin has become one of South- ern California’s most recognized televi- sion entertainers reporters. His color- ful yet knowledgeable style has made him a fixture on the “KTLA Morning Show,” a highly rated locally produced program.

There’s a hardly a star in Hollywood who hasn’t been interviewed by Rubin. He has hosted the syndicated special “Live From The Academy Awards,” which has been nominated for an Emmy, and also “Sneaks,” a series of movie-preview shows produced in conjunction with the Los Angeles Times. A recipient of a Golden Mike Award and other honors, Rubin also reports for Tribune’s WGN-TV in Chicago, KNX radio and CNN.

HARRY SHEARER has been entertaining audiences of “Le Show” with his gift for satire and sketch material since 1983. The weekly radio program, produced at KCWY, is syndicated and broadcast across the country and overseas.

With a long career in both radio and TV credits, the versatile Shearer has been called “a one-man renaissance assault force on the understanding of our culture” by Los Angeles Magazine.

A Los Angeles native, Shearer was a child actor in the 1950s on radio, TV and in movies. More recently, he has appeared in such films as “The Simpsons Movie,” “A Mighty Wind,” “The Aristocats,” and “For Your Consideration.” He may be best known for his work as co-creator and co-star of the much-boo- tamed “This Is Spinal Tap,” portraying heavy metal mock-rocker Derek Smalls.

On “The Simpsons,” the long-running, prime-time animated series, Shearer is never seen but always heard as Mr. Burns, Smithers, and Ned Flanders, as well as dozens of other characters.

CHRIS WOODWARD, president of the Los Angeles Press Club, is a reporter for USA Today. He previously worked at the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Herald Examiner and other publications.

A journalism graduate of California State University, Long Beach, Woodward is an avid sailor and master of the 20-foot sloop Muckeher.
Congratulations to all the KCRW Radio Finalists for the 50th Southern California Journalism Awards and to Emcee Harry Shearer and Presenter Warren Olney
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 of Arizona, New Orleans, Houston, Milwaukee, East Bay, Cleveland, Colorado, Syracuse, New Orleans, Minneapolis, Houston and the East Bay.

Los Angeles Press Club members who participated this year included Jon Beaupre, Jane Engle, Will Lewis, Diana Ljungaeus, Fred Mamoun, Ezra Palmer, Anthea Raymond, Jill Stewart, Buster Sussman and Chris Woodyard. For the fifth straight year, the judging process was led by board member Michael Collins.
The Los Angeles Press Club congratulates all the finalists and winners of tonight’s 50th Anniversary Awards Gala.

Join us as we look forward to another great 50 years!
50th Annual Southern California Journalism Awards

GALA PRODUCERS

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 fifth year Ljungaeus has co-produced the awards event.

Anthea Raymond
Anthea Raymond was KPCC’s first Senior Editor and supervised its team of reporters for nearly two years. She was also Executive Producer of “Bloomberg Politically Speaking,” and Show Editor of NPR’s “News and Notes.” Her reporting and writing has won many awards, including an Emmy nomination and several Golden Mikes. She has taught at USC, UCLA, Hunter College, and Santa Monica College. In a previous life, she coordinated international exchanges while Associate Director of UCLA’s Arts and Entertainment Management Program. This is her fourth awards show.

Special thanks to:
Carla Carlini, Patty and Andrew Freeman, Pam Halstead, Meena Hartenstein, Wendy Hughes, Vinnie K. Malhotra, Frank Megna, William Mitchell, Charlotte Osterdal, Rouslan Ovtcharov, Christal Smith.

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ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT’S AWARD