

## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW, FPA WELCOMES NEW DECADE

By Dina Pinos

The Foreign Press Association's Annual General Meeting and Holiday Reception held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Foreign Press Center was indeed a special event with correspondents pleased to see old and new colleagues to commemorate the end of a rather turbulent year and the beginning of a new decade. Drinks and snacks were shared by all as discussions centered around the questions many have been pondering: what is in store for our upcoming year and how are we prepared to handle it? Nevertheless, good cheer was shared by many and prospects for the future were hopeful!

President Alan Capper addressed the Annual General Meeting of 2009 on a rather somber note - "It has been a difficult year for journalists in New York and across the country this year - 60,000 jobs were lost in the media world, with the fall-out rate for journalists being twice as high as any other professions". All news media were affected, with The New York Times laying off staff, the Washington Post closing their offices in New York and in Los Angeles, and magazines closing nationwide, including Gourmet Magazine after a 70 year run. The new voice is the various manifestations of the internet which has acquired the largest readership with an incredible rise of social media, including Facebook, Blogging sites, Twitter. Individuals can voice their news, opinions, music, photos, etc., all for free. This has translated to fewer correspondents in New York. The Foreign Press Center has seen a fall in their membership, a general fall in the number of press conferences and

events in the city. These trends have also affected the Foreign Press Association, yet on a positive note, President Capper informs, "The Foreign Press Association is doing pretty well and holding its own, and we are all looking forward to organizing new and exciting activities to welcome the new year 2010 and decade".

It was a busy year with numerous events held during 2009. The Taiwan Economic Development Office hosted a wonderful evening with a hip hop concert band from Taiwan where at least 30 FPA members were on their feet dancing. Both Cipriani Restaurant and the Cypriot Trade Commission held wine tasting events. Theodore "Ted" Sorensen, best known as President John F. Kennedy's special counsel, adviser and legendary speechwriter, spoke to FPA members and accounted for the 13 days of the Cuban missile crisis. In the Spring, FPA members enjoyed a lovely invitation at the home of the Finish Consulate General on 5th Avenue which coincided with the Helsinki Design Show held in the Meat-Packing District. Despite the tsunami weather conditions, maybe the wettest evening in New York for getting on an open-top bus, 100 members enjoyed the magic of New York on a Greyline Tour which included a boat trip with Statue of Liberty views, and hot dogs at the summer beach spot at the South Street Seaport. Only 6 attendees bailed out!!! Other events included a musical recital, a sailing trip around New York harbour on a sailing clipper and a delicious Ethiopian reception, at the closing reception of an exhibition, "The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia," at the Discovery Center.

First Wednesday's featured guest speakers such as Ruth Brayer, a forensic and hand-writing expert and Richard Torezano former New York Stock Exchange Communications Director, who spoke about the direction that Wall Street is heading.

Roberto Socas commented on the importance of bringing in new members as former members have been returning to their countries. Jokingly he added, that the FPA's net worth is actually billions and billions of dollars as the value of all its members is priceless. With Suzanne Adams' direction, and above all, personality and charisma, who has been the Director of the Foreign Press Association for 18 years and its lifeline, the Foreign Press Association has been able to keep its costs of operation down. She was described as a "lady who knows her own mind." The meeting came to a close with a heartfelt presentation of a gorgeous bouquet of flowers to Suzanne Adams by President Alan Capper and David Michaels, a small token of gratitude and appreciation for her ceaseless strides and dedication to the well-being of the Foreign Press Association.

Our sincere thanks, once again, to the Foreign Press Center for offering their wonderful facility to us, with special thanks to Mark Thorn and Marcella Simmons.

### SAVE THESE DATES

**March 3rd—First Wednesday with Greg Zuckerman**

**May 13th—FPA Scholarship Awards Dinner**

## 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This is to advise that the Election Committee of the Foreign Press Association, consisting of John Tanton, Betty Badinowski and Suzanne Adams met on December 23, 2009 to count the ballots for the 2010 Executive Committee. 61 ballots were received of which two were invalid.

The following Officers were elected unopposed:

**President**

Alan Capper

**Vice President**

David Michaels

**General Secretary**

Agnes Niemetz

**Asst. General Secretary**

Hadar Harel

**Treasurer**

Jan Latus

**Asst. Treasurer**

Roberto Socas

Elected to the Executive Committee:

Mario Fratti

Mika Horelli

Nasan Isik

Gabriel Levicky

Fernando Neda

Dina Pinos

Anjali Sharma

Alternates:

First: Claus Mueller

Second: Ada Hos-Peles

The following members will serve on the Committee of the FPA Scholarship Fund

**Chairman:**

Alan Capper

**President:**

Roberto Socas

**Secretary:**

Clarice Levin

**Treasurer:**

Agnes Niemetz

**Committee Members:**

Bill Blase

Andrew Frank

Nancy Kamel

Simon Locke

## SINCERE THANKS

The FPA Scholarship Fund is most grateful to the following members who have made a contribution to the "Fund." Please note that your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with section 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) of the Internal Revenue Service.

SUZANNE ADAMS

TONIO G.B. ARCAINI

BARBARA BERRY

DONALD N. BILLINGS

BILL BLASE

MAURO CALAMANDREI

GRIGORE CULLIAN

CHRISTIANA DITTMANN

CINDY FIELDS

MARIO FRATTI

NORMA FRIEDLAND

RAJA FUCHS

W. J. KACZMAREK

NANCY KAMEL

ELLEN RENEE KESTEN

BRIGITTE KNAUF

BRUCE McINNES

PEDRO OSORIO

DINA PINOS

FRANCESCA CERNIA SLOVIN

ANGELO SPAGNOLO

REBECCA WINTER-ARCAINI

SARAB ZAVALITA

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The New York Public Library launched its new website, [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org), with your specific needs in mind. The site went live yesterday with a host of features aimed at the changing needs of users in the digital age, including a [Media Center](#) with a variety of resources for working reporters. You'll find story ideas pegged to breaking news; eloquent, personal interview subjects ready-to-go; and exclusive multi-media content. You'll also find the Library's press releases, e-newsletter highlights, and other news about the Library.

## FPA FORUM

One of the main goals of the FPA is to help you build and maintain a good network and be informed about media related events in the city.

With this goal in mind, we formed the FPA FORUM - An on-line forum where members are invited to post media related information such as press releases and invitations.

If you are not already part of the forum, we would like to invite you to join us.

Once you are part of the forum you are welcome to e-mail anything you think will be of interest to other members and is media related.

Postings on the forum are NOT endorsed by the FPA. This is only a tool to improve communication among all of us.

If you are interested to join (must be an FPA member), please e-mail Hadar Harel at [h\\_h\\_v@yahoo.com](mailto:h_h_v@yahoo.com)

## FIRST WEDNESDAY MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Greg Zuckerman has been a reporter for The Wall Street Journal for the past twelve years. He writes the widely read "Heard on the Street" column about hedge funds and big financial trades. His new book, THE GREATEST TRADE EVER :The Behind the Scenes Story of How John Paulson Defied Wall Street and Made Financial History, will be the subject of our next FIRST WEDNESDAY on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. His publisher has generously offered a copy of the book to those of us who attend. And, of course, Greg will be happy to sign your copy. **Be certain to save the date, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

## FPA MEMBERS ATTEND CLOSING RECEPTION FOR “LUCY’S LEGACY”

By Randy B. Hecht

On October 25, the FPA, now in its 91st year, attended a reception at the Discovery Times Square Exhibition Center to honor a woman who makes mere nonagenarians seem like babies: the 3.18 million year old Australopithecus afarensis known affectionately in English as Lucy.

Discovered in 1974 by Donald Johanson in the Afar region of Ethiopia, Lucy is known in that country as Dinkenes, which means “you are beautiful” in Amharic. Until the recent discovery, also in Ethiopia, of the 4.4 million year old Ardipithecus ramidus nicknamed Ardi, Lucy reigned as “the oldest, most complete, and best preserved skeleton of any erect-walking human ancestor that has ever been found and completely excavated,” an exhibition fact sheet noted.

She had never left Ethiopia until 2007, when her US tour began at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, which curated the exhibit. It was an extraordinary experience to take the subway to Midtown, emerge into the bustle of Times Square, and come face to face with the celebrated hominid from another era.

Highlights of the exhibit included a 20-minute movie about Lucy and a sweeping display of information about and renderings of modern great apes, including humans and early humans. Additional exhibition rooms were dedicated to presenting a mélange of information about diverse aspects of Ethio-



**Babbie De Derian, David Michaels, Ambassador Fesseha A. Tessema, and Reta Alemu Nega, Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia**

*Photo by Zygmund Malinowski*

pian culture and history, from displays of crosses, Korans, and religious and decorative artifacts to posters that covered such topics as the Ethiopian calendar and system of timekeeping, Haile Selassie, Rastafarianism and even Jamaican reggae singer-songwriter Bob Marley.

October 25 was the closing day for the exhibition’s US tour, which also included a stop at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. A reception held to

celebrate the conclusion of the tour featured a buffet of Ethiopian foods and closing remarks made by His Excellency Mr. Fesseha Asghedom Tessema, Ethiopia’s Chargé d’affaires at the United Nations.

Members of the FPA were invited to attend the exhibition and reception as guests. FPA member Babbie De Derian arranged for our members to be invited to the event.

## WHAT’S IN A NAME?

By Suzanne Adams

Every year, about this time, my phone gets busy with calls from all over the world requesting information concerning the Golden Globes Awards. Of course, I refer the callers to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. On occasion I am asked about this organization and I have always hesitated to say what I thought I knew about them.

But now the truth has been revealed and I am taking the liberty of quoting from an article in The New York Times

“The awards are voted on by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, some of whose members are foreign journalists, but many of whom write infrequently for obscure overseas publications. The group has been criticized for being unwilling to open its membership to journalists from major publications abroad and for being open to influence from Hollywood studios eager to cater to the group”.

They state further, “The Foreign Press Association earns millions of dollars from the NBC telecast, and the net-

work benefits from lucrative advertising sales; about 20 million Americans watched the ceremony last year. Variety reported that the Globes took in over \$3.6 million last year for the non-profit Foreign Press organization”.

So, here’s to the **New York Foreign Press Association**, the oldest foreign press organization in the United States. Founded in 1918, we will celebrate 92 years on February 16<sup>th</sup>. *Let our good name prevail.*

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## CHRONICLE

By Suzanne Adams

I was so pleased that **Damiano Beltrami** invited me to his graduation from CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Damiano was the student Commencement Speaker. And he was eloquent. He mentioned that he was able to develop an independent study of Iraqi refugees with his award from us, the FPA Scholarship Fund. Bravissimo Damiano. I expect great things from you.

Congratulations to FPA Treasurer, **Jan Latus**, who was recently named Editor-in-Chief of the *Polish Daily News*. An excellent choice.

Forty years ago, a handsome, debonair renowned Hungarian journalist became a member of the FPA. It is with profound sadness that I learned that **John Fercsey** passed away after a very long illness. I knew John well and had the pleasure of working with him for many years.

I was truly saddened to hear about the death of long time member, **Irwin Friedland**. Irwin and his de-

voted wife Norma were regulars at FPA events. My heartfelt condolences to Norma. We will miss Irwin but hope to see Norma in the days ahead.

“London” a black and white photograph by **Renato Zacchia** has been selected to be part of the catalogue for the prestigious Premio Celeste 2009.

**Anna Steegmann** reports that the script she wrote “*New York Memories*” was accepted for the Berlin Film Festival. Look forward to the screening in NYC.

*The Wall Street Journal JAPAN* has recently been launched. Our member, **Misako Hida**, will be doing a weekly column from New York. Congratulations..

Condolences to **Susan Robins** on the passing of her beloved John Spoerri.

Mazel tov to **Rachel Eynan-Shargal** on the birth of her first grandson. It is a joy, indeed.

## COMMENTS PLEASE

Your Editors work hard attempting to improve our Newsletter. We would like to add a new feature. But we need your help. What would “*Letters to the Editor*” be without any Letters to the Editor.

We urge you to send us your comments, responses, questions, ideas, suggestions, news about what’s happening in your professional and personal life, and criticism. Yes, even criticism.

E-mail us: [fpanewyork@aol.com](mailto:fpanewyork@aol.com). We want to know what you think!

## REMINDER

If you have not paid your dues yet for the current year, we urge you to do so. Your membership is the strength of our organization.

## WELCOME ABOARD

**LORENZA CERBINI**  
*America Oggi/Italy*

**GRAEME CULLIFORD**  
*Sunday Mirror/UK*

**JANE ST.LIFER KENNEDY**  
*The Blue Book Magazine*

**SAJAN KURIAKOS**  
*Freelance/India*

**WILLIAM V. LENTINI**  
*William Capital Associates*

**MARIA RACHIDI**  
*Hungarian National Tourist Office*

**STEFANIE SCHULTE**  
*Borsen Zeitung/Germany*

**DIETA SIXT**  
*Goethe Institu/tGermany*

## Did you know?

### FPA membership offers

- **Health Insurance**
- **Restaurant Discounts:**
  - Alfredo’s of Rome 15%
  - Samalita’s 10%
- **COHEN’S Vision Savings**
- **FPA Membership Card** valid for entry at museums

For More details check our Web-site:  
[www.foreignpressassociation-ny.org](http://www.foreignpressassociation-ny.org)

## IMPRESSUM

FPA NEWS is a publication by the Foreign Press Association of New York, Inc., 333 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017 Tel (212) 370-1054 Fax (212) 370-1058 The cover of \$1 per issue is included in the \$95 Annual Membership dues. Copyright FPA NY, Inc. (ISSN 1077-0232). E-mail, snail-mail or phone corrections to Suzanne Adams; [fpanewyork@AOL.com](mailto:fpanewyork@AOL.com) Web-site: [www.nyforeignpress.org](http://www.nyforeignpress.org) Editorial Staff: Suzanne Adams, Agnes Niemetz, Jan Latus