

THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM



**FIRST PRIZE
CLAIR MAC DOUGALL**

Like many young journalists, I have had a love-hate relationship with words for most of my life. But throughout my travels in South Asia and the Middle East I began to understand the power of words and their relationship to democracy and freedom. It was during my travels through countries full of poverty and political repression that I decided I wanted to use words to reflect truth and reality and take up the wonderful burden of being a reporter.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, I graduated with first-class Honors in political theory at Monash University in 2007 and moved to Delhi to work as an interning reporter at the Indian Express. I then worked as an editor of an agricultural weekly in an Australian town called Wagga Wagga, before coming to New York to study journalism at Columbia. After graduating I hope to work as a foreign correspondent in Africa.



**SECOND PRIZE
OYVIND GUSTAVSEN**

From Norway he received his first newspaper job as a 16 year-old. Hired by the national daily paper, *Vart Land*, he worked afternoons and evenings sorting out news, updating the photo archive and writing short stories. He was the youngest employee in their news department.

While serving in the Norwegian Army, he was appointed to the Press and Information Office at NATO's Joint Warfare Center. Facilitating press conferences and updating journalists with the latest news from the Kosovo operations gave him a taste of international reporting.

He took a deeper dive into foreign news during his internship in the Middle East as a correspondent for the Norwegian daily *Dagen*. Based in Jerusalem, he travelled to Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan covering the so-called Second Intifada.

Currently completing his M.A. in political journalism at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Oyvind has explored political movements within Native American communities. Upon graduation, he hopes to continue to create awareness of under reported issues by telling stories that pierce both the heart and the mind of his readers.



**SECOND PRIZE
SHREEYA SINHA**

Shreeya is a multimedia journalist based in New York. She's investigated oil revenue flows in developing countries, covered the legal aid crisis in New York and reported on psychological trauma in gangs.

She also uses social media platforms to report and raise awareness about the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and CNN International's Business Unit, where she also helps produce a daily show, *World Business Today*. Prior to joining the team Shreeya interned at CNBC-TV18 and CNN-IBN in India. She was raised in India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, before studying in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas, Boston, and New York.

She holds a B.A. from Brandeis University. That year The Carter Center funded Shreeya and her peers to examine socio-economic conditions in the West Bank and Israel. Now at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Shreeya uses multimedia to report in Harlem and the Bronx. She's set to graduate in May and hopes to continue her lifelong passion to give a voice to the voiceless and shed light on media dark issues.

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**THIRD PRIZE
PRITI PATNAIK**

I am a business journalist from New Delhi and a student at New York University's Business and Economic Reporting program.

I have worked in India for five years covering government finances and banking. I began reporting in 2004 for the *Business Standard*, a financial daily. A year later, *The Economic Times*, India's largest selling business daily, hired me to cover policy and regulation of the financial services.

Though it was enriching, I constantly wanted to improve my understanding of finance, since I was originally a science student with a background in microbiology and genetics. In September 2008, I enrolled into NYU's cross-disciplinary master's program.

Last year I spent a few months at Breaking Views learning to write financial commentary. Last summer, I interned at The American Lawyer reporting on bankruptcy and anti-trust. Earlier this year, I worked at Debtwire, part of the Financial Times Group which provided great exposure to niche reporting on distressed debt.

REMINDER

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



**THIRD PRIZE
DARIA SOLOVIEVA**

Daria Solovieva was born in Russia. Daria holds a BA degree in International Relations from Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. Since 2005 she has written on Russian and international affairs for the *World Politics Review*, *Russia Profile*, and *Economist* magazines. She has traveled to Mogadisho to cover Somalia's humanitarian conflict for the *Economist*. And in 2008 she joined the Wall Street Journal bureau in Moscow. Daria is currently completing an MA degree in business reporting from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University and will be joining Bloomberg News in the summer.

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.

**BABBIE DE DERIAN
NANCY DUNNAN
KRISTEN MOEHLMANN
MARIA PUGA
SOUL SMIRA
JOHN TANTON
TONY VACCARO**

IN MY OPINION

Slovakia Offers Home to Three Guantanamo Prisoners

By Gabriel Levicky

Shop On Main Street - <http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/44467/The-Shop-on-Main-Street/overview> which will offer you a taste of the past and offers contemporary relevant thoughts.

This is where I was born and raised by my parents, survivors of the holocaust. At one time there was a small town in Eastern Slovakia, home of a large Jewish population that was wiped out during and after WW2. Visit a reference to a film *The Shoah*. The historical irony demonstrates a political farce that this city, so dramatically changed and altered, now becomes a home for suspects from Guantanamo Bay. Talk about history! Now read this short article, referring to the latest political juggling.

Three detainees held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, have been sent to Slovakia, the U.S. Justice Department said on Monday, the latest transfers as the Obama administration tries to close the facility. The detainees, whom the Justice Department declined to identify at the request the Slovakian government, arrived there on Sunday. There are still 193 detainees at the Guantanamo prison.

The three individuals were being placed in a camp for asylum seekers in the eastern part of Slovakia, *Humenne* which is run by the interior ministry, according to Slovak police.

At a press conference in Bratislava in January, Foreign Minister Lajčák said that none of the three were suspected terrorists, nor had any ever been charged with a crime. Igor Slobodník, the ministry's political affairs director, called them "non-combatant militants", such as cooks or drivers within suspected terrorist organizations.

The Slovak foreign ministry said last week that it would take the three detainees under an EU-U.S. agreement aimed at helping President Obama to close the controversial prison. His January 22 deadline to shutter it has already passed.

A task force headed by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder wrapped up its work last week, recommending that about 50 Guantanamo prisoners face indefinite detention and another 35 or so should be prosecuted in criminal or military courts, an administration official has said. The remaining 110 detainees are slated to be released or transferred abroad, though the administration official said those circumstances could change if new evidence is found.

FIRST WEDNESDAY WITH GREG ZUCKERMAN

By Dina Pinos

First-rate Wall Street Journal reporter Gregory Zuckerman spoke about his book, "The Greatest Trade Ever," to the FPA prior to his upcoming book tour abroad. Mr. Zuckerman, the prize-winning reporter who broke the story in The Wall Street Journal, reveals the story behind John Paulson, founder of Paulson & Company, a New York hedge fund, who took advantage of the housing bubble. He made \$15 billion in 2007, in the greatest trade in financial history, a figure that dwarfed George Soros's billion-dollar currency trade in 1992.

John Paulson baffled many of the investment titans of the time. How did he do it? His fund purchased insurance contracts — referred to as credit default swaps — on securitized mortgage debt at the peak of the real estate boom. Their value soared when the subprime crisis arrived. Gregory Zuckerman argues that John Paulson's lucrative bets put him in the league of legendary investors such as Warren Buffett,

George Soros and Bernard Baruch. He also became one of the richest people in the world, wealthier than Steven Spielberg, Mark Zuckerberg and David Rockefeller Sr.

Paulson, who came from a middle class family and grew up in Queens, saw the financial crisis coming and benefited from it. His background was in mergers and acquisitions, and he knew little about real estate. Why was it that John Paulson, well respected but not a big guy of any sorts, and not others more likely, such as George Soros, Warren Buffett, Bill Gross, the bond specialist, and other mortgage experts did not do it? "Maybe not being an expert, one can see things differently," added Mr. Zuckerman. He watched the losses, figured out where the risky toxic mortgages were and bid against them. In 2006, he realized something few others suspected. The US housing market and the value of subprime mortgages were grossly inflated and were heading for a major fall.

John Paulson was not alone in making his billions. Other analysts were

portrayed in Zuckerman's book. Paolo Pelligrini, a 50-year-old Italian analyst was unemployed and phoned Paulson in 2005 asking for a job. He successfully assisted Mr. Paulson and profited enormously from the transactions.

A lively Q & A ensued with questions from our journalists. "What do bankers do for mankind?" asked one journalist. The author replied, "We need people who manage money to allocate capital efficiently. In other words, put money where it should be going. For example, allocating money into the right biotech companies." Another journalist stated that Paolo Pelligrini was an evil genius because he destroyed the lives of American people. Other bankers' actions have resulted in what is happening now in Greece. Mr. Zuckerman replied that these analysts did not create the situation, nor encourage the toxic mortgages. They took advantage of the situation and found ways to profit from them.

Our sincere thanks to Bill Blase for arranging this program.

BLUE MAN GROUP

By Suzanne Adams

February 21st was a cold, clear crisp evening. No rain. No snow. And 130 members and guests of the FPA were

privileged to attend a performance of Blue Man Group. The Group has gone through many changes since their inception in 1988. Yet it maintains an aura of creativity and a sense of sheer delight.

The three performers, obviously painted blue, drum and interact with the audience. They insist that "the whole show is about connecting with the audience, to get to that

heightened gestalt when someone scores a goal at a soccer game."

The interaction between the group and the audience is clearly a repetitive motif, be it sound or color. They attempt, in one sequence, a detailed explanation of how people are connected to each other in our urban society. The truth, ultimately revealed, is our sewage system.

Currently, Blue Man Group shows can be seen in New York, Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Orlando, Berlin and Zurich. Norwegian Cruise Lines offers a Blue Man Group performance in a 685 seat theater. To date more that 17 million people across the globe have seen Blue Man Group in performance.

If you have not as yet seen the show, give yourself a special treat. The Group can be seen at the Astor Place Theater, 434 Lafayette Street. The Astor Place Theater is the original home to Blue Man Group.



Alan Capper and Suzanne Adams with the Blue Men
Photo: David DeMond

BILL KELLER – KEYNOTE SPEAKER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER MAY 13TH

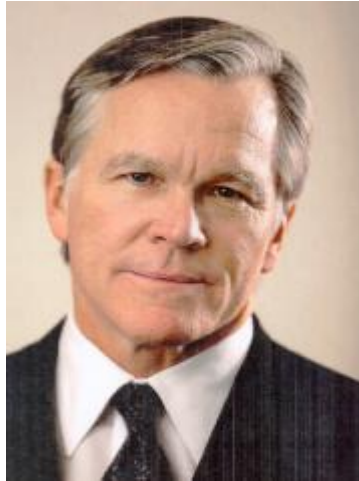
Bill Keller became executive editor of The New York Times in July 2003. Before that Mr. Keller had been an Op-Ed columnist and senior writer for The New York Times Magazine as well as other areas of the newspaper since September 2001. Previously, he served as managing editor from 1997 until September 2001 after having been the newspaper's foreign editor from June 1995 until 1997. He was the chief of The Times bureau in Johannesburg from April 1992 until May 1995.

Before that Mr. Keller had been a Times correspondent in Moscow from December 1986 until October 1991, the last three years as the newspaper's bureau chief. He won a Pulitzer Prize in March 1989 for his coverage of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Keller joined The New York Times in April 1984 as a domestic correspondent based in the Washington bureau.

Before coming to The Times, Mr. Keller had been a reporter for The Dallas Times Herald since October 1982. From 1980 until 1982, he was a reporter for the Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report in Washington, covering lobbyists and interest groups. He was a reporter for The Portland Oregonian from July 1970 until March 1979.

He is the author of "The Tree Shaker: The Story of Nelson Mandela," published in January, 2008 by Kingfisher.



Mr. Keller graduated from Pomona College with a B.A. degree in 1970 and completed the Advanced Management Program at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in July 2000. He is currently a member of the board of trustees of Pomona College.

Mr. Keller is married to Emma Gilbey Keller. Ms. Gilbey Keller is a writer and author of, "The Comeback: Seven Stories of Women Who Went from Career to Family and Back Again," published in September, 2008 by Bloomsbury, as well as a biography of Winnie Mandela. He has three children, Tom, Molly and Alice.

CHRONICLE

By Suzanne Adams

Satsuki Shigaki worked as U.S. shoot field producer for *The Cove* which was recently awarded an Oscar for best Documentary. We are so proud of you.

Greg Wyatt, husband of our member, **Fay Isik-Wyatt**, is a native New Yorker who currently holds the position of Sculptor-in-Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. He graciously sent me his exhibition catalog from the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, Italy, entitled *TWO RIVERS*. The two rivers in this case represent The Hudson and The Arno. In a word, it is *exquisite*. The catalog itself is a work of art.

From March 26th through May 22nd, the Jackson Fine Art Gallery in Atlanta will feature the elegant photography of **Simon Chaput**. This is the gallery that was instrumental in putting together the collection of Elton John. You're in good company.

We were saddened indeed to learn of the death of the Mother of **Gabriel Levicky**. She was a brave and resolute woman who survived both Auschwitz and Birkenau. Our prayers are with you, Gabe.

Alexandros Lambrovassillis has produced a book of photographs and short vignettes of 80 New Yorkers (including me) who reflect on their hopes and dreams. The *Benaki Museum* in Athens, Greece will host the exhibition of 80 portraits beginning on March 22nd.

Lovely **Laura Thompson** received *Le Cadre d'Or* 2010 prize for her book of poems, *Mosaic of Love* in the world poetry category. It's a delightful book which I shall cherish.

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