

## A CELEBRATION OF THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FPA AND THE YEAR OF THE RAT

*By Hadar Harel*

“Let’s have an event together, celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FPA and the New (Luna) Year!” suggested Ben Shao after Suzanne Adams, Director of the FPA mentioned the significant event to be celebrated in 2008. What a wonderful opening to our organizations’ birthday celebrations.

After cocktails we were directed to the auditorium. Suzanne Adams and Ben Shao each gave a short introduction that was followed by the keynote speaker of the evening, Dr. Joseph Wu, Taiwan’s representative to the U.S.

“It is our New Year celebration and I am supposed to say nice things. I will try to say nice things about the Chinese” opened Dr. Wu.

For the next hour the members of the FPA were given example after example of the Taiwanese struggle to function like any other independent country while China is initiating political and economic moves to avoid this from happening.

“US-Taiwan relationships continue to be strong, Taiwan is a success story of a Democracy” stated Dr. Wu. Saying that, Dr. Wu referred among other things to the strong import and export ties between the two countries, \$60M in export and the fifth agricultural buyer from the USA.

Taiwan’s high tech manufacturing continues to be number one in production and exporting goods.

“80% of laptops are produced in Taiwan” said Dr. Wu with a little smile “and we definitely don’t produce poisoned toys” (referring to the scandals published lately about a variety of Chinese toys with lead based paint and other dangerous materials).

On the other hand, according to Dr. Wu, Taiwan is aware that the US is facing some challenges. They are tied up in Iraq and Iran and sometimes needs China’s cooperation on those and other issues. “But China took advantage of the situation to expand internationally and we are worried” admitted Dr. Wu.

China, who has diplomatic influence in Africa, forced some countries that historically had good ties with Taiwan to cut these relations. “We hope the new American administration will be able to fix this situation in 2009”.

The worries about China expanding international control go beyond Taiwan according to Dr. Wu. “We share these feelings with our friends in Japan, a loving peaceful country”.

An interesting statement taking into consideration the history: In 1949, on losing the Chinese Civil War to the CPC (Chinese Communists), the KMT (the Chinese Nationalist Party, the Kuomintang) retreated from Mainland China and moved the ROC (Republic Of China) government to Taipei, Taiwan’s largest city. On the mainland, the Communists established the PRC (People’s Republic of China), claiming to be the sole representative of China including Taiwan, which is known as “One China Policy”. The Taiwanese, on the other hand, who were already under Japanese control, made a claim as a separate country

Despite China’s attempted “we try to participate in International activities” said Dr. Wu and continued, “But Taiwan is the only country excluded from many activities and institutions included in the UN. For example – the International Fire Fighters game. This is not a political event! China ordered the Taiwanese firefighters’ badge to be

read as ‘Taiwan-China’. The Taiwanese refused and end up not participating in the event”. He also pointed out that Taiwan enjoyed a good relationship with Korea, but ‘China forced the Korean University to register Taiwanese students as Chinese and the list goes on and on”.

Dr. Wu claimed no one helps Taiwan in its struggle while “if you visit Taiwan you will see it has nothing to do with China. In order to get into Taiwan, you will need a visa from Taiwan”.

“While Taiwan has only twenty allies, China has more than one hundred. We understand, that although we applied to the UN over and over again for membership, we fail year after year; but we have dedication”.

“We are about to have a referendum in Taiwan about the request to join the UN as Taiwan, while the Taiwanese opposition will have their own referendum whether to join as China. But, either way, a referendum is a democratic peaceful act.”

Answering questions from the FPA members, Dr. Wu stated that Pentagon officials are very helpful and that Taiwan got US assurance that it will always be on Taiwan’s side.

To the question of how Taiwan deals with China in terms of treatment towards African countries, Dr. Wu said “Taiwan put together last year \$6 billion in help and support packages. We are not intending to compete with China financially. What we do is to help those that really need help.

And what about direct relationships with China? “Of course we want to avoid a conflict with China, we want to

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*Taiwan continued from Page 1.*

sit and talk. There is some tourism from China to Taiwan, they are always surprised to find a loving modern country. They especially like to watch our TV talk shows” Dr. Wu said with a smile. “As for economic relations between the two countries – there are some. Taiwan permits her citizens to invest in China. Some say there should be even more investment in China while others say it is already too much and too risky. We can see that Taiwanese stay for longer periods of time in China, whether we like it or not, we can say nothing. We are a democracy”.

After a very informative briefing by Dr. Wu, Alan Capper, the president of the FPA took the podium and thanked Dr. Wu, Ben Shao, Suzanne Adams and the rest of the Taiwanese staff for hosting this event. “In the spirit of the Super Bowl that took place just a few days ago, who thought the NY Giants would win over a team that didn’t lose all season. But they believed in themselves and they did win. We can all take an example from them.”

Upon leaving the auditorium we turned to the third part of the evening – from dumplings to noodles; the FPA members enjoyed a wonderful dinner with a variety of Chinese traditional delicious dishes.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*By Suzanne Adams*

I am delighted to announce that our panel of judges selected five students to receive scholarship awards on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the FPA Awards Dinner.

The students are from Nepal, India, Iraq, Nigeria and Germany. They will be featured in the next issue of the Newsletter.

This diversity is so exciting and exemplifies what the FPA Scholarship Fund is all about.

Hopefully you will be able to join us on May 13<sup>th</sup> at The Roosevelt Hotel, Madison Avenue at 45<sup>th</sup> Street. I am pleased to say that CARL BERNSTEIN will be our Keynote Speaker.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: OUR 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*By Alen Capper*

In 1917 a group of eleven foreign correspondents worked with President Woodrow Wilson’s press office to coordinate news from the United States to the Allied countries. In 1918, these journalists grouped together with the provisional title of “The Association of Foreign Press Correspondents in the United States”.

There were eight British, two French and one Italian. As a Brit I was pleased to note that our first President was British, Frank Dilmot of the London Daily Express. Since I also worked for The Daily Express I feel a distant kinship with the origins of our association.

This year the Foreign Press Association in New York celebrates our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having grown to over four hundred members, a wide portfolio of excellent member services and a compelling program of events to be held throughout the year.

America emerged as a World power at the end of the First World War. As its strength and presence increased the number of foreign correspondents based in the United States also increased. The use of the telegraph greatly increased the opportunity of sending news instantly back to the correspondent’s countries of origin. Those early members could not have imagined the tremendous advances in technology that would allow newsgathering and news distribution to become universal across an increasingly wide media spectrum. We have moved from the telegraph to the Internet in a remarka-

bly short period of time.

Today, the United States is still the world’s number one superpower and New York is its epicenter in media, finance, fashion, entertainment, global business, and media. There is also the United Nations underlining the importance of the city. Former Mayor Giuliani called New York “the center of the universe”, and for those of us based here as correspondents we can easily share that viewpoint. It is a pleasure and a responsibility to be a foreign correspondent here.

The Foreign Press Association in its programs, including “First Wednesday” provides opportunities for members to visit organizations ranging from Christies to GE Real Estate, from Bloomberg to New York Water Taxi. We arrange these occasions on the basis that it provides opportunities that individuals could not easily arrange for themselves. In addition to this 2008 is the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FPA Scholarship Awards providing a number of grants to foreign students at schools of journalism in the United States. You will be able to read the results of this year’s event in this issue of the newsletter.

In our 90<sup>th</sup> year we expect these programs to be more compelling than ever. The technology and the challenges of being a foreign correspondent today are far different from those faced by our colleagues back in 1918. Our role at the FPA will continue to be the provision of opportunity, assistance and good fellowship for all our members, and I wish all of us a memorable and exciting 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

## 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This is to advise you that the Election Committee of the FPA, consisting of John Tanton, Clarice Levin and Suzanne Adams, met on December 20, 2007 to count the ballots for the 2008 Executive Committee. 77 ballots were received of which two were deemed invalid.

The following were elected:

**President:**

Alan Capper

**Vice President:**

David Michaels

**General Secretary:**

Yolanda Gerritsen

**Assistant General Secretary:**

Agnes Niemetz

**Treasurer:**

Jan Latus

**Assistant Treasurer**

Roberto socas

The following candidates were elected to serve on the Committee:

Mario Fratti, Hadar Harel, Randy Hecht, Mika Horelli, Nevena Mandadjieva, Dina Pinos, Anjali Sharma

## NEW SERVICE COMPANY OFFERS FOREIGN TV BUREAUS THE ROOM TO GROW

Great Pitch Media has partnered with the Manhattan Center to convert production offices into a US/ NY news bureau cooperative. The 12<sup>th</sup> floor office suite has 3500 square feet of cubicle space. The building is fully wired for cable and internet use. The facility has two full, 3000 square foot TV studios and a smaller chroma key studio for live shots, interviews and talk back. 12<sup>th</sup> floor windows have beautiful shots of Empire State Building as a back drop.

Great Pitch Media's facility on 34<sup>th</sup> street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue is fiber

wired and can reach virtually all overseas operations that have satellite or fiber capability. The company can also provide original news/financial news/or lifestyles content in most languages. It is run by former NYC news anchor Gary Anthony Ramsay who has filed stories from Iraq, Kosovo, Haiti, Kuwait and the Persian Gulf. To see the space call 917-721-8395 or email:

[gramsay@greatpitchmedia.com](mailto:gramsay@greatpitchmedia.com) or go to [www.greatpitchmedia.com](http://www.greatpitchmedia.com) click TV Studio

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF FPA MEMBERSHIP

#### AMERICAN AIRLINES

10% discount on domestic and international flights

Travel dates:

January 1-April 30, 2008

Blackout dates:

Mar. 21-24,

Mar. 28-30

For Promotion Codes call

Suzanne Adams: 212/370-1054

#### HEALTH INSURANCE

##### RESTAURANTS

Alfredo's of Rome 15%

Samalita's 10%



### WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE CITY?

The FPA on-line forum (as a Yahoo Group) was launched on Oct. 16th, 2007. Since then, members of the FPA who joined the forum have enjoyed sending and receiving information about a variety of events around NYC, from events at the UN, Theaters and Museums to Gallery openings and Foreign Consulate activities.

The forum is open to all FPA members (subscription is free). If you would like to join, network or send and receive relevant information to and from fellow media members, please send an e-mail to **Hadar Harel** at [h\\_h\\_v@yahoo.com](mailto:h_h_v@yahoo.com).

NOTE - Events which are posted on the forum are not sponsored by the Foreign Press Association. If you wish to attend such an event, make sure to contact the organizers.

## SINCERE THANKS

The Scholarship fund of the FPA is most grateful to our 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 Code.

SUZANNE ADAMS  
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 ASAO TESHIROGI  
 GEORGE VILLASI  
 REBECCA WINTER-ARCAINI  
 SARAB ZAVALETA

# CHRONICLE

By Suzanne Adams

**Anna Steegman** has been selected as a semi finalist for the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award. Her book, *The Wrong Country*, centers on her adored father, an amputee Nazi war veteran, who she comes to hate as a teenager. Written in a humorous and detached voice, Anna takes the reader from Germany in the 60's to current day New York. She finds a way out of her predicament with the help of a German-Jewish writer and a flamboyant Jewish therapist. Sounds like a really good read. To add to her list of accomplishments, Anna's essay, *Mein Harlem* has been nominated for Best American Essay.

Received a lovely note from **Toshi Maeda**, a previous recipient of our Scholarship Award.. He writes, "Thank you again for all the help you gave me while I was in the U.S. I've been back in Japan for 2 years now and working for Reuters TV covering wacky stories from kissing pandas to androids."

Our President, **Alan Capper**, became a Granddad again. Daughter Caroline gave birth to her third daughter. Congratulations to Alan, Caroline and Aaron.

Wonderful news from **Nancy Kamel**. Her lovely daughter Ariane became a bride. Love to all of you on this beautiful occasion.

It is with sadness that I report the death of **Alfred Von Krusentstein**, Alfred served as President of the FPA in the 1970's. Born in Prague, he spent his childhood in Germany and came to the United States in 1959 working as a journalist for major publications. He retired in

1993 and moved to Coupeville, WA with his wife, Vera. Our condolences to Vera and her three sons.

And condolences to **Gabe and Anca Plesea** on the passing of Anca's mother, Anahid Ionescu. She had a long and fulfilling life and had the love and caring of Anca and Gabe.

We are also sad to report the death of the mother of **Anjali Sharma**. Anjali flew to India to be with her Mom at the end. Sincere condolences.

Our member, **Miriam Tenenbaum** and her husband Tuvia have written and produced a show entitled *Last Jew in Europe*. The show has been running in New York for the past year and will open on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the prestigious Teatr Na Woli in Warsaw, Poland. In theatrical parlance, "Break a leg."

The New Rochelle Council on the Arts will present a show of photographs of notable women by **Tony Vaccaro**. The show will run from March 9<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> in the lobby of The New Rochelle Public Library.

## GALA EVENT ON MARCH 11TH

### Special Evening for the FPA "A Conversation on Global Education"

6:30 p.m. Champagne Reception

7:00 p.m. Presentation by  
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.  
President, NYIT

7:30 p.m. Cocktails and Reception  
**New York Institute of Technology**

16 West 61st Street, 11th Floor  
RSVP Suzanne Adams  
[Fpanewyork@aol.com](mailto:Fpanewyork@aol.com)  
(212) 370-1054

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