

R E C O R D

Vol. LVIII, No. 38

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 10, 2008



NPC Luncheons

Mon., Nov. 17, **Marin Alsop**, music director, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Wed., Nov. 19, **Steve Preston**, secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Tue., Dec. 16, **Katharine Jefferts Schori**, presiding bishop, U.S. Episcopal Church Tue., Jan. 13, **James Mulva**, chairman and CEO, ConocoPhillips.

NPC Newsmakers

Tue., Nov. 18, 10 a.m., **Rep. Steny Hoyer**, D-Md., majority leader, U.S. House of Representatives, on "The Upcoming Agenda for Congress and the next President" Mon., Dec. 8, 4 p.m., The Bertelsmann Foundation presents the results of its "Religion Monitor 2008: a Global Report on Faith and Spirituality."

Scalia Among 90 Authors At Nov. 18 NPC Book Fair

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, veteran journalists **Helen Thomas** and Roger Mudd, and professional wrestler Bret Hart will be among 90 authors at the 31st Annual NPC Book Fair Tuesday, Nov. 18. One of the Club's premier events, the fair -- open to the public -- will also feature Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla.; Kerry Kennedy, youngest daughter of Robert Kennedy; sports author William Nack; former *New York Times* columnist Russell Baker and ABC News correspondent Jim Wooten, featuring the work of their friend and colleague, the late David Halberstam; author James Reston, Jr.; former Rep. Ben Jones, D-Ga., star of "The Dukes of Hazzard;" adventure author Stephen Coonts; and historian **Eleanor Herman**. Also in attendance will be renowned artist Wendell Minor, who has designed the commemorative poster for this year's event. Others attending will be Reps. Loretta and Linda Sanchez (both D-Calif.), the first sisters to serve in the House of Representatives; Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Ca.; Sen. Jim DeMint, R-N.C.; celebrity chefs, including *Bon Appetit* editor-in-chief Barbara Fairchild, Kennedy family chef Neil Connolly, and "Made in Spain" star José Andrés. All authors will sign their books, but no outside books are permitted.



Singer Billy Joel entertains at Oct. 23 Luncheon. See story, page 3.

PHOTO BY
CHRISTY BOWE



Howard Dean, Democratic National Committee chairman, jokes with Melissa Charbonneau at the Nov. 5 Luncheon.

PHOTO BY CHRISTY BOWE

To Explain Election Dean Cites Hope, Unity; Duncan Cites Spending

The Democratic and Republican National Committee chairmen paid homage to their candidates, American voters, and the political process Nov. 5 at a sold-out National Press Club Luncheon. A proud and admittedly sleep-deprived Howard Dean, Democratic National Committee (DNC) chairman, announced that America chose hope over fear and unity over division when it elected Barack Obama with 52 percent of the vote (349 electoral votes, as of the morning of Nov. 5) compared to 46 percent (163 electoral votes) for McCain. Dean noted that four years ago the Luncheon held the day after the election was a different experience for the Republican National Committee (RNC). Indeed, Robert M. (Mike) Duncan, RNC chairman, was an active member of the party when George W. Bush was re-elected for his second term in 2004. Today, the RNC chairman congratulated Obama and the other democrats who won their races. He said that Sen. John McCain led a heroic campaign and is a credit to his party and country. Duncan attributed McCain's loss to the fact that Obama was able to outspend Republicans by 3- or 4-to-1 in some states, and referred to Obama's effort as "the most successful Republican moderate campaign since Dwight Eisenhower."

—HOPE KATZ GIBBS

Club Closing for Thanksgiving

The Club will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27,
until Monday, Dec. 1.



Speakers Committee member **Lori Russo** enjoys a moment with Sprint CEO **Dan Hesse** at the Oct. 24 Luncheon she organized.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL H. COHEN

Sprint Is OK, Says CEO, But Fears Regulation of Internet

Sprint CEO Dan Hesse told an Oct. 24 Luncheon that despite the Wall Street meltdown, his company has a positive cash flow and “plans to revolutionize the wireless industry,” but warned against moves toward “net neutrality” proposed by some Democrats. “Regulating the Internet has horrendous implications,” declared the ex-AT&T executive. Reacting to current economics, Hesse evoked laughter when he said a friend told him the financial nosedive is worse than divorce because “I lost half my wealth but still have my wife.” But, Hesse said, Sprint “can get through this as long as we have a good cash position,” noting that the company is riding a wave of “robust growth in Internet use of mobile phones” with 262 million U.S. customers. Worldwide, he said 6.6 billion people use mobile phones, with 1,000 people per minute signing up. Noting that “business is saving billions” by using mobile phone technology, he predicted that mobile phones will generate \$860 billion a year in increased productivity.

—JERRY BASTARACHE

Club’s Oldest Member Is 108; Longest Tenured Is 70 Years

As the Club marks its Centennial, several members have been around for most of that time. The longest-serving NPC member is **George Bookman**, 94, of New York City, who joined in 1938, just 30 years after the Club was formed. Now retired, Bookman worked for *U.S. News*, *The Washington Post*, and *Time* magazine. **Harry F. Byrd, Jr.**, also 94, of the Rockingham Publishing Co. in Winchester, VA, also joined in 1938 following Bookman. Then in 1940 came **Austin Kiplinger**, **Diana Denny**, and **Penn Kimball**, followed by **William Payne** in 1941, then **Carl Hartman** and **Geraldine Rhoads** in 1942. Rhoads is also a Lifetime Member, along with **Estelle Jackson**, who joined in 1953. But these veterans are not the oldest members. That title is held by **Bradley Nash**, 108, of Harpers Ferry, WV; **Milton Ferguson**, 105, of New York City, and **Alden Waite**, 101, of Berkeley, CA. Celebrating longtime members, the NPC Owls held their annual “Hoot” Oct. 16 (Silver Owls have 25 or more years as members, Golden Owls 50 or more). Past Club President **John Cosgrove**, 90, says there are now some 700 Owls still hooting, so hang in there -- the best is yet to come!

—JERRY BASTARACHE

Alsop, First Major Woman U.S. Conductor, Is Nov. 17 Speaker

Marin Alsop, who became the first woman music director-conductor of a major American symphony orchestra – the Baltimore Symphony – a year ago, will speak at a Club Luncheon Monday, Nov. 17. Her topic will be “Creating an Innovative Society Through Arts-Based Education.” The daughter of parents who were both musicians, Alsop began studying the piano at age 2, the violin at age 5, and at age 9 saw Leonard Bernstein conduct.

Nader Asks Liberals to Press Demands on Dem Nominees

Ralph Nader does not agree with the right wing of the Republican Party on any issue. But, he said at an Oct. 24 Newsmaker, he does admire the way that it makes GOP presidential nominees pay attention to its agenda. In contrast, he observed, the Democratic Party’s liberal and progressive wings don’t make the same demands of Democratic nominees – which sets back the causes that inspired Nader to run as an independent candidate for the third election in a row. “Votes have to be conditioned,” he said. In Nader’s view, Democratic presidential nominee (now president-elect) Barack Obama was receiving support of liberals despite embracing policies they oppose, such as backing the bailout of financial markets, voting for a bill that allows domestic eavesdropping on potential terrorism suspects and supporting offshore drilling. Nader was critical of the mainstream media for ignoring his campaign, and expressed disappointment that the National Press Club had not invited him to address a Luncheon.

—MARK SCHOEFF JR.

Join the Club... And See The World?

Not exactly. But you can join your fellow members and see a great deal of the world. First up is final call for the Dec. 2-8 trip to Hong Kong for pre-Christmas shopping and sightseeing. Cost is \$2,165, double occupancy including airfare, but you must act now. Five nights at the Harbour Plaza Hotel in Kowloon are included and optional sightseeing in Macau and Mainland China are available. Seven trips are planned in 2009, with Dublin first up (over the Martin Luther King Jr. extended weekend), and Egypt available Feb. 14-25. Want to avoid airports? Watch for the Harpers Ferry excursion next summer. And you can choose from a Baltic cruise in July or an Adriatic cruise in August. Full details are available from **Pat Schoeni** at (703) 548-2539 or **Richard Meyer** at (703) 356-6884.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

President Offers Aid on Web Use to Members

Could you use a little one-on-one coaching about how to best use the online information about events in the Club and the professional lives of Club members? If you call or e-mail me, I will ensure that someone shows you the easiest ways to keep posted. I make this offer because of something that happened last month: One of our veteran members told me he was delighted by that day's Speakers Luncheon but not pleased that he hadn't heard about it in advance. The event, you see, was organized after the previous *Record* had been put to bed. A notice was in the *Wire* and on the Club's Web page, but this member wasn't aware of it. So I showed him the e-mail he gets every other week when the *Record* is published and the almost-daily *Wire* that is chock-full of the events we sponsor. Perhaps you, too, are not quite sure how to read or print out the *Record* you receive every other Friday. Or perhaps you don't know what the *Wire* is and how to read it. Let us help. Please call me at (202) 662-7517 or e-mail me at president@press.org. I'll have someone work with you so you have the most up-to-date information about the Club and don't miss a Speakers Luncheon you'd really like to attend. Also, members for whom we do not have an e-mail address have been contacted by mail. If you received such a letter, please let us know your e-mail address.

—SYLVIA SMITH



Norman Rockwell's painting, "A Country Editor," hangs outside the Reliable Source.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL H. COHEN

Rockwell Painting to Travel

The Club has been honored by a loan request for one of our prized possessions -- Norman Rockwell's painting, "A Country Editor" -- to hang in an exhibit of Rockwell's work at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. The 1946 painting currently hangs outside the Reliable Source and depicts an old-fashioned newspaper office with messengers, upright typewriters and a picture of a GI on the wall. The Board of Governors has voted unanimously to approve the loan for the exhibit, which is planned for Nov. 7, 2009 through May 24, 2010. Negotiations are underway for the museum to pay insurance and shipping costs to and from the exhibit. The museum will offer the art that watches over the NPC day in and day out to a wider audience.

Play to Depict Mussolini

The Events Committee will present a staged reading of the play, "Margherita," by **Anthony Gallo**, Monday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. This historically-based two-act drama examines the 25-year relationship between Margherita Sarfatti and Benito Mussolini from 1911 to 1936 by recreating a three-day encounter in 1939. Reserve at (202) 662-7501.

Billy Joel Dazzles NPC With Singing, Stories

He was billed as talking about celebrity endorsements of political candidates at his sold-out Luncheon appearance Oct. 23, but Grammy award-winning singer, songwriter and pianist Billy Joel quickly went for the questions, of which there were many, from Club President **Sylvia Smith** and an audience full of longtime fans. The epitome of affluent, aging, urban cool in a medium gray suit and black t-shirt, the 59-year-old Joel was also refreshingly self-deprecating about his performing abilities. "I am a piano player, and not all that good, despite what people might think," Joel said. "The guy in the lobby is probably a better pianist than I am. I happen to be able to figure out how to write songs and I can sing in key when I try." He told amusing stories of the pop legends he has worked with — including Ray Charles, Paul McCartney, Elton John, and, just recently, Bruce Springsteen, often punctuating the stories with snippets of their songs that he played at the gleaming baby grand piano brought in for his use.

—RICHARD LEE

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Carol J. Horner, 63, a member since 2004, died in October. She was in the Journalism Department at the University of Maryland. Previously she worked for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Record* of Hackensack, N.J. **Francisco Aguirre**, 88, a member since 1952, died in September. He published *Americas Daily* **Jerry Hannifin**, 91, a member since 1955, died in September. A former F-18, B-52 and private pilot, he reported for *Aerospace Reporter* and *Time* **John Russell**, 73, a member since 1984, died in October. He worked for the Department of Justice.

COMING EVENTS

Mon., Nov. 10	Meeting	Speakers Committee, noon
	Meeting	Young Members Committee, 7 p.m.
Tue. Nov. 11	Breakfast	NPC Freelancers, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
	Meeting	Book and Author Committee, noon
Wed., Nov. 12	Professional Event	"Social Media, Search and More," 6 p.m.
	Meeting	Travel Committee, 6:30 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 17	Luncheon	Marin Alsop, music director, Baltimore Symphony
Tue., Nov. 18	Book Event	31st Annual NPC Book Fair, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
	Social Event	Roast Beef Buffet, Reliable Source, 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 19	Meeting	Photography Committee, noon
	Meeting	History Committee, noon
	Luncheon	Steve Presto, secretary, HUD
	Forum	U.S. election view from abroad, 6 p.m.
Thu., Nov. 20	Wine Dinner	Eric Ripert (POSTPONED)
Fri., Nov. 21	Social Event	Fourth Estate Award Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 24	Social Event	Staged reading of "Margherita," by Tony Gallo, 8 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 1	Meeting	House Committee, noon

NOTE: Luncheons, 12:30 p.m., members \$16, guests \$28, general admission \$35. Reserve for Luncheons 24 hours a day at (202) 662-7501. Club Newsmakers, open to all members and those with press credentials, 9 a.m., exceptions noted. **Members will be held financially liable for themselves and their guests should they fail to cancel reservations 24 hours in advance.** Pick up advance tickets at front desk. To make banquet or press conference arrangements, call (202) 662-7515. Fourth Estate Dining Room open 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. For Fourth Estate reservations, phone (202) 662-7638. Reliable Source: Monday through Friday, bar service 11 a.m.-11p.m., food service 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, bar service 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., food service 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For Reliable Source reservations, phone (202) 662-7443. **NPC FITNESS CENTER** open Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **FOR TAPES OR TRANSCRIPTS** of NPC Luncheons, call (888) 343-1940. **NPC LIBRARY** open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. **24-HOUR EVENTS LINE:** (202) 662-7595. FAX: (202) 662-7569. **EMPLOYMENT HOTLINE:** (202) 879-6795. **WORLD WIDE WEB:** www.press.org. **ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:** (202) 662-7505, pwaldron@press.org. **SUBMISSIONS:** record@press.org.

The Record (ISSN 0279-927) is published biweekly, except during the weeks of Independence Day, Labor Day, Christmas and the first week in August, by the Publications Committee, National Press Club, Washington, DC 20045. Periodical rate postage paid at Washington, DC. And at additional mailing offices. Subscription: \$50 a year to members (included in dues). Postmaster: Send address changes and circulation inquiries to Membership Office. Members call (202) 662-7505. Deadline for copy: noon, Thu. E-mail record@press.org.

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NEWSPAPER
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(ISSN 0279-927)

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