

SAJA

South Asian
Journalists Association

2011 Convention, Job Fair & Awards Gala

Friday, June 17, 2011

The City University of New York
Graduate School of Journalism

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Columbia University
Graduate School of Journalism

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Welcome!

FROM THE SAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear SAJA friends,

Thank you for being a part of the SAJA family and supporting our mission and programs. For nearly two decades, we have worked to improve media coverage of South Asia and issues relating to the South Asian diaspora. We often serve as the first point of contact when a story breaks and reporters worldwide need information on topics connected with the region.

This year, we are pleased to have given out a record \$36,000 in student scholarships. The awards help students interested in journalism pursue their high school, undergraduate or graduate education. We have also increased the reporting fellowships such that they will be awarded twice a year. As a nonprofit organization, we rely on our donors to finance these awards and scholarships. We appreciate your help and look forward to working with you again.

We love to receive feedback from all of our members and hope the new web site serves as a good resource. Please also think about running for the SAJA board; we are all volunteers and strive to constantly improve the organization.

Enjoy the convention and introduce yourselves to the current board members this weekend. We are excited to meet you!

Jigar Mehta, *President*

Anusha Shrivastava, PhD, *Vice President*

Saturday, June 18

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
Lerner Hall, Fifth Floor • 2920 Broadway • New York, NY 10027

Breakfast and Registration

8 – 9 am

Plenary: South Asians Changing America

9:15 – 10:15 am
Room 555

NIK DEOGUN @nikdeogun

The new editor-in-chief and senior vice president of CNBC.

ANJULA ACHARIA-BATH @desihits

Co-founder of Desi Hits, a music company that collaborates with Lady Gaga, Britney Spears and Wyclef Jean, among others.

SAYU BHOJWANI

NYC's first immigrant affairs commissioner and founding director of SAYA (South Asian Youth Action); now founder of the New American Leaders Project, the only organization in the country focused on preparing immigrants and their children for civic leadership.

BHAIRAVI DESAI @nytwa

Executive director of New York Taxi Workers Alliance and one of the most influential labor organizers in America.

SHARAD DEVARAJAN

Co-founder of Liquid Comics, an entertainment company working with Nicholas Cage, John Woo and Deepak Chopra, among others.

PAWAN DHINGRA @dhingrapawan

Founding curator of HomeSpun, the Smithsonian Indian American Heritage Project.

Moderated by **PROF. SREE SREENIVASAN** @sree
SAJA board member and co-founder

**Panel 1A. The Story Behind
Publishing a Book**

10:30 – 11:30 am
Room 555

SCOTT MACDONALD

Senior managing director, Aladdin Capital Holdings, and author of more than a dozen books, including “When Small Countries Clash” and “Separating Fools from Their Money.”

TERIN MILLER @authormiller09

Author of “Down the Low Road” and “From Where the Rivers Come.”

ANUPY SINGLA @indianapplepie

Former CLTV news anchor (Chicago) and author of “The Indian Slow Cooker: 50 Healthy, Easy Authentic Recipes”

ALINA TUGEND @tugend

New York Times columnist and author of “Better by Mistake: The Unexpected Benefits of Being Wrong”

Moderated by V.V. GANESHANANTHAN @vasugi

Visiting professor of creative writing at the University of Michigan and author of “Love Marriage”

Panel 1B. Covering the Arab Spring

Room 569

SUBRATA DE @subratadeNBC

Senior producer, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams

ROB HARRIS @robharrisNYT

Video journalist, The New York Times

AZMAT KHAN @azmatzahra

Digital journalist, PBS Frontline

AHMED SHIHAB-ELDIN @arabisin

Co-host, The Stream, Al Jazeera English

Moderated by ISMAT SARAH MANGLA @ismat

Writer, Money magazine; co-founder and editor, NiraliMagazine.com

Saturday, con't

Workshop 1.

10:30 am – Noon

Business and Finance Reporting: A Crash Course in Covering How Big Money is Made, Spent and Sometimes Stolen

Room 568

KEVIN NOBLET @knoblet

Managing editor, wealth management, Dow Jones Newswires

JOANNA OSSINGER @ossingerj

Stock markets editor, Bloomberg News

WALDEN SIEW @waldensiew

Top news editor, Reuters

Moderated by ANUSHA SHRIVASTAVA, PhD

Reporter, credit markets, Dow Jones Newswires

LUNCH BREAK

Noon

On your own at restaurants and food carts in the area.

Workshop 2A. Social Media for Journalists: Practical Tips for a Changing Media Landscape

12:30 – 2 pm

Room 568

PROF. SREE SREENIVASAN @sree

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Workshop 2B. Video Journalism Abroad

Room 569

ADAM B. ELLICK @aellick

Video journalist, The New York Times

JIGAR MEHTA @jigarmehta

SAJA president, digital entrepreneur, co-creator of "18 Days in Egypt"

Panel 2. Breaking into Broadcast: How to Get the Skills You Need to Produce and Report on TV and Radio

1 – 2 pm

Room 555

SHAZIA KHAN

General assignment reporter, NY1 News

MONICA BUCHANAN @mbuchananNBC

Reporter, NBC Connecticut

ASMA KHALID @asmamk

Production assistant, NPR's Morning Edition

Moderated by AMITA PARASHAR @_amita_

Segment producer, Tell Me More with Michel Martin, NPR

Afternoon Networking Break

2 – 2:30 pm

Panel 3A. Getting the News Out Fast

2:30 – 3:30 pm

MATT BUCHANAN @mattbuchanan
Editor, Gizmodo.com

Room 569

SANJANA HATTOTUWA @groundviews
Creator and editor, Groundviews.org

PARVEZ SHARMA @parvezsharma
Filmmaker, writer, blogger

Moderated by SANDEEP JUNNARKAR @sandeep_NYC
Forbes.com media blogger

Panel 3B. Covering the Economy

Room 568

ANJALI CORDEIRO @anjalicordeiro
*Reporter, Dow Jones Newswires
The Wall Street Journal*

ANUPREETA DAS @preetatweets
Reporter, The Wall Street Journal

NAUREEN MALIK
Energy reporter, Dow Jones Newswires

Moderated by ANUSHA SHRIVASTAVA, PhD
Credit markets reporter, Dow Jones Newswires

Panel 3C. The Best Pitch of All: How Freelancers Do It

Room 555

BRIAN NIEMIETZ
NYC nightlife freelancer, New York Post, New York magazine, among others

HABIBA NOSHEEN @habibanosheen
Freelance investigative reporter, PBS, NPR, among others

KATHERINE PUSHKAR @pushie
Senior deputy editor, Better Homes & Gardens

VICTORIA WILL
Freelance photographer, Associated Press, W, BlackBook, among others

Moderated by ASEEM CHHABRA @chhabs
Freelance writer, Mumbai Mirror, The Boston Globe, among others

Saturday, con't

Panel 4A. 9/11: A Decade Later

3:45 – 4:45 pm

SUDHA ACHARYA

Room 555

Executive director, South Asian Council for Social Services

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatali

Author, "The Domestic Crusaders"

DEEPA IYER

Executive director, South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow

S. MITRA KALITA @mitrakalita

Senior housing reporter, The Wall Street Journal

Moderated by **SHARAF MOWJOOD @mowjood**

News associate, NBC News

Panel 4B. Incredible But True: How I Got My Dream Job

Room 569

ADITI KINKHABWALA @akinkhabwala

Sports writer, The Wall Street Journal

DANICA LO @danicalo

Editor, Racked.com

KEVIN NEGANDHI @kneghandiESPN

Anchor, ESPN

SUMATHI REDDY @rddysum

Restaurant reporter and columnist, The Wall Street Journal

CARLA SPARTOS

Food writer and editor, New York Post

Moderated by **ANJALI CORDEIRO @anjalicordeiro**

Reporter, Dow Jones Newswires / The Wall Street Journal

Panel 4C. Scoring a SAJA Reporting Fellowship

Room 568

ANGILEE SHAH @angshah

Freelance journalist

MATT O'BRIEN @mattoyeah

Staff writer, Oakland Tribune / Contra Costa Times

Moderated by **SANDEEP JUNNARKAR @sandeep_NYC**

Fellowships chair, SAJA board

Workshop 4. Long form Writing with Amitava Kumar @amitavakumar

Room 503

Writer, journalist, professor of English at Vassar College,

author of "A Foreigner Carrying In the Crook of His Arm a Tiny Bomb"

SAJA Film Shorts

Hosted by film critic Aseem Chhabra @chhabs
Followed by a Q/A with Soham Mehta

5 – 6 pm
Room 555

WEDDING NIGHT

Directed by Sabina England



A bride arrives in the United States from Pakistan for an arranged marriage with a Pakistani-American man. They meet on their wedding night for the first time. USA, 2010, 21 minutes, English

FATAKRA

Directed by Soham Mehta



Naveen left India to chase his dreams in America. Three years and a recession later, his wife and son finally join him. Fatakra (Firecracker) tells the story of the sparks that fly on their first day together as dreams collide with reality. USA, 2010, 19 minutes, English

Job Fair and Mentoring Sessions

Concurrent with main session • Lerner Hall, Fifth Floor

Meet with 20 companies at the SAJA job fair; no appointments necessary. Concurrent mentoring session slots have been scheduled ahead of time.

Job Fair

11:30 am – 4 pm

Companies represented:

Satow Room

The Asahi Shimbun, The Associated Press, Bloomberg, The Boston Globe, CBS News, CNN, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, Deadline Club, Dow Jones & Co., Fair Observer, JournalismNext, The Huffington Post, NBC News, The New York Times, Newsday, NY1 News, NYU, Patch

Print Mentoring Hour

1 – 2 pm

ALLISON BISBEY COLTER, *Leveraged Financed News*

Room 502

JED HOROWITZ, *Thomson Reuters*

DAISY MAXEY, *Dow Jones Newswires*

SUDEEP REDDY @reddy, *The Wall Street Journal*

New Media Mentoring Hour

2 – 3 pm

NEIL KATZ @neilkatz, *The Huffington Post*

Room 502

AZMAT KHAN @azmatzahra, *PBS Frontline*

MATTHEW ORR @matthew_orr, *The New York Times*

Broadcast Mentoring Hour

3 – 4 pm

RAVI AGRAWAL @ravigrawalCNN, *CNN*

Room 502

KIRAN KHALID @acereporter, *CNN*

INDIRA SOMANI, PhD @isomani, *Washington & Lee University*

HARI SREENIVASAN @hari, *PBS*

Freelance Mentoring Hour

4 – 5 pm

BRIAN NIEMIETZ, *NYC nightlight freelancer*

Room 502

KATHERINE PUSHKAR @pushie, *Better Homes & Gardens*

VICTORIA WILL, *freelance photographer*

Gala Awards Dinner

Roone Arledge Auditorium • Lerner Hall

Cocktail Hour

6 – 7 pm

Gala Awards Dinner

7 – 10 pm

Tribute to the late Amrit Kakaria

Keynote speaker Rebecca Blumenstein

International editor, The Wall Street Journal

Rebecca Blumenstein is the 2011 recipient of the SAJA Journalism Leader Award, SAJA's highest honor recognizing the outstanding achievement over the course of a career in international journalism, along with support for better coverage of South Asia and/or support of South Asians or other minorities in journalism.



Rebecca Blumenstein

Before being named international editor of The Wall Street Journal, Rebecca Blumenstein was managing editor of The Wall Street Journal Online. Previously, she was the China bureau chief, overseeing China coverage for the Journal.

Prior to moving to China in the summer of 2005, Ms. Blumenstein served as chief of the Journal's New York Technology Group, which covered the historic mergers and changes in technology that recast the telecommunications industry. Before that, she was the group's deputy chief and a reporter covering AT&T Corp. and WorldCom Inc.

Ms. Blumenstein joined the Journal in 1995 as a reporter in the Detroit bureau, where she covered General Motors. She began her journalism career at The Tampa Tribune and then later moved to Gannett Newspapers and Newsday, where she covered breaking news and the New York State legislature.

She received a 1993 Newswomen's Club of New York award for best deadline writing for her coverage of the aftermath of the Long Island Railroad shootings. In 2003, she was part of a team that won the Gerald Loeb Award for deadline writing for coverage of WorldCom. She oversaw the China team that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 2007. In March, she was named to the Aspen Institute's Henry Crown Fellowship for 2009.

Ms. Blumenstein holds a bachelor's degree in economics and social science from the University of Michigan, where she was editor-in-chief of The Michigan Daily.

2011 Scholarship Winners

High School: \$1,500 each

- **Rajeswari Ramanathan**
- **Joshua Roychowdhury**
- **Ritika Shah**

Undergraduate: \$3,000 each

- **Devin Banerjee**
- **Shanika Gunaratna**
- **Sonali Kohli**

Undergraduate

Engendered: \$1,000

- **Sarosh Arif**

SAJA CNN Broadcast—

Undergraduate: \$2,000

- **Anum Hussain**

Graduate: \$5,000 each

- **Rukmagat Aryal**
- **Suvro Bandyopadhyay**
- **Sumit Galhotra**

Graduate Engendered: \$1,000

- **Noor Zaidi**

SAJA CNN

Broadcast—Graduate: \$2,000

- **Nadia Zaffar**

Atlantic Monthly

New Media: \$1,500

- **Ashwin Seshagiri**

2011 Annual Journalism Awards Finalists

Category 1: The Daniel Pearl Award for outstanding reporting about South Asia or South Asians in North America (all media)

Along The Grand Trunk Road: Coming Of Age In India

And Pakistan, *NPR*

On Patrol (Series) by Christopher Chivers, *The New York Times*

The Shadow War (series) by Mark Mazzetti, Dexter Filkins,

The New York Times

India's Diabetes Epidemic Cuts Down Millions Who Escape Poverty by

Jason Gale, *Bloomberg News*

Afghan Women and The Return of the Taliban by Aryn Baker, *TIME*

Category 2: Outstanding story about the worldwide South Asians diaspora (all media)

An American Honor Killing by Abigail Pesta, *Marie Claire*

Nikki Haley by George Joseph, *India Abroad*

They've Struck Oil, But They're Not Rich by Sachi Cunningham,
Los Angeles Times

Bhutanese refugees series by Matt O'Brien and Jane Tyska,
Contra Costa Times / Bay Area News Group

Category 3: Outstanding business story about South Asia or the worldwide South Asians diaspora (all media)

The Organ Dealer by Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, *Discover*

Suicides in India Revealing How Men Made a Mess of Microcredit by
Yoolim Lee and Ruth David, *Bloomberg News*

Tax-Free Living in Pakistan by Adam B. Ellick, *The New York Times*

Category 4: Outstanding arts, culture or travel story about South Asia or South Asians in North America (all media)

Street Food Goes Gourmet by Preeti Chandan, *India-West*

How India's Success Is Killing Its Holy River by Jyoti Thottam, *TIME*

A Normal Man In A Not So Normal World by Amitava Kumar and
Preston Merchant, *The Caravan*

Behind the Scenes at the South Asian Spelling Bee by Dr. Mona Khanna
and Shar Adrias, *southasianspellingbee.com*

2011 Annual Journalism Awards Finalists con't

Category 5: Outstanding editorial/commentary on South Asia or South Asians in North America (all media)

My Mother's Last Sari by Madhulika Sikka, *Daily Beast*

Obama's Pakistan Dilemma by Matthew Kaminski, *The Wall Street Journal*

But Is It Racist? by Tanzila Ahmed, *Sepia Mutiny*

Photojournalist Notebook: Reflections on a Visit to Bhutan and Nepal by Jane Tyska, *The Oakland Tribune / Bay Area News Group*

Category 6: Outstanding photograph about South Asia or the worldwide South Asian diaspora (single or series)

Women of Afghanistan Under Taliban Threat by Jodi Bieber, *TIME*

The Mainali Family Journey Part 1 & 2 by Jane Tyska, *The Oakland Tribune / Bay Area News Group*

Along The Grand Trunk Road: Coming Of Age In India And Pakistan, *NPR*

Category 7: Outstanding coverage of the South Asian environment, including the Pakistan floods (all media)

Coal India Limited by Srinivas Kuruganti, *Blurb books*

Inside the Flood Zone by Reza Sayah, *CNN*

NPR Flood Coverage by William Craven, Julie McCarthy, *NPR*

Category 8: Outstanding story on any subject (all media)

More Airport Security Screenings for Sikhs (Series) by Anju Kaur,
Sikh News Network

Rwanda: Take Two by Pia Sawhney, *The Washington Post*

Warlord Reflection On Liberia's Bloody Wars by Seema Mathur
and Mike Martin, *CNN*

SF Police Chief: Muslims a Possible Threat by Anser Hassan,
Illume Media

The Most Wanted Surrogates in the World by Habiba Nosheen
and Hilke Schellmann, *Glamour*

Category 9: Outstanding editorial/op-ed/commentary on any subject (all media)

Let These Women Pray! by Asra Nomani, *Daily Beast*

Across the Border - Tech-savvy, Poverty-ridden by Sujeet Rajan,
The Indian Express North American edition

Detention Reform and Its Discontents by Anil Kalhan, *Dorf on Law*

Category 10: Outstanding photograph about South Asia, or the worldwide South Asians diaspora (single or series)

Judges did not select a winner in this category.

Category 11: Outstanding story on any subject by a South Asian student in the US or Canada (all media)

Rogue Militias Abuse Rural Afghans by Mujib Mashal, *Al Jazeera English*

The Heretics by Vivekananda Nemana, *Shoe Leather magazine*

\$325 a Week; Living as a Newspaper Vendor by Vishal Persaud,
The Wage Divide

Watch and Learn by Riddhi Shah, *The Boston Globe*

Canadian Women Getting Controversial Surgery to Mimic Virginity by
Tamara Baluja, *The Province*



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of Journalism

Dow Jones & Co.

India Abroad

NBC

State Bank of India

Asian American

Journalists Association

Mirchandani family

Pacific Gas and

Electric Company

Post-Convention Brunch

Join us for an informal networking brunch after the convention at
11:30 am on Sunday, June 19. Pay \$22 at the door.
Cash only, please.

Utsav • 1185 Avenue of the Americas

(Inset a bit from Sixth Avenue between 47th and 48th streets)
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