

## Board Election Features Packed Slate of Candidates

Last spring, an email was sent to members calling for nominations of candidates for the 2015 board of governors' election. Thanks to you and the nominating committee, we have a slate of 17 active members running for board seats, out of which 12 will be selected. In addition, four candidates are running for two open associate board seats. Each and every one of them are exceptional in backgrounds, experiences and accomplishments, making this one of the most competitive elections in recent memory. The strength and diversity of this slate is, in no small part, a reflection of the revised system in which OPC elects its board of governors. We hope members will find this process to be effective and transparent.

Now comes the hard part. On Tuesday, July 21 you will receive an email with a link to an online ballot. You will have until noon on Monday, Aug. 24 to cast your vote to fill the open board seats. Members who prefer a paper ballot can contact the OPC office and we will mail one to you. It is vital that each and every active and associate OPC member vote in this election. The OPC is only as strong as the board of governors who guide it, and our responsibility as members is to elect governors who reflect the great diversity of experience of the OPC membership.

Additionally, we have created a

Members Advisory Council whose main charge will be to advance ideas and programs that further solidify the OPC's position as an important resource for journalists. Areas of focus include press safety and freedom, membership, events, awards and others. Details and election results will be announced and discussed at the upcoming annual meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Club Quarters, 40 West 45th St. The meeting is open to all members.

As you can see, there is great momentum building within the OPC. The organization and its members have displayed new energy and creativity in programs and events, all in service to journalists here and around the world. These activities have given the OPC a reinvigorated presence in a field that strives to cap-

ture events as they unfold, and give them meaning and perspective.

I plan to vote and I hope you will too.

**- Brian Byrd**  
 Chairman,  
 Elections Procedure Committee

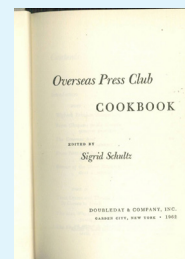


### ELECTION REMINDERS

- Watch your email inbox for a message from the OPC that will include a link to your electronic ballot on Balloteer, a secure online voting service.
- To log in, use the email address where you receive OPC electronic correspondence.
- Active members may vote only for Active candidates. Associate members may vote only for Associate candidates.
- For a paper ballot, call the office at 212-626-9220.

### OPC LAUNCHES AN OLD-FASHIONED RECIPE SWAP

In 1962, the OPC published a cookbook with recipes and stories from dozens of club members around the world. The Overseas Press Club Cookbook, edited by Sigrid Schultz, features dishes from Joseph Stalin's banquet, the secret café of Aga Khan III, wartime lunches and exotic delicacies like bird's-nest soup. OPC Foundation board member Felice Levin recently donated a copy for our archives. That gave us an idea. The OPC would like to gather recipes from current members to post on the OPC website. Did you discover a favorite dish while working abroad? Do you have any food stories for the website or the pages of the *Bulletin*? Please send your stories, recipes and food-related ideas to [patricia@opco-famerica.org](mailto:patricia@opco-famerica.org).



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# 2015 Election Slate

## ACTIVE NOMINEES (Electing 12)

### HANNAH ALLAM

I'm the foreign affairs correspondent for McClatchy Newspapers, covering the State Department and foreign policy as part of the national security team. I spent nine years reporting from across the Middle East and North Africa, first as Baghdad bureau chief during the war, and then as bureau chief in Cairo during the wave of rebellions known as the Arab Spring. I still travel overseas for my current beat, sometimes with Secretary of State John Kerry on official trips and other times unilaterally on assignment in conflict zones.

If I get to serve on the Overseas Press Club board, I would use the position to amplify two issues that are dear to me. The first is journalist safety, especially for freelancers working in dangerous areas. The second is what I consider the "democratization" of the sometimes rarefied world of foreign news – I'd love to see the work of far-flung journalists reach more Americans, particularly young people and communities of color.



### DEBORAH AMOS

I have been an international correspondent for three decades, covering the Middle East. My beat has mainly been chaos. I cover wars; invasions and the resulting humanitarian fall out. My career



includes stints at NPR, PBS, and ABC-TV. Awards include the George Polk and DuPont-Columbia, but I am most proud of recent teaching fellowships, mentoring journalism students at SUNY, Columbia and Princeton.

If elected to this prestigious board, I want to focus on best safety practices for freelance reporters, fixers, translators and drivers. I have worked mostly in the field and I know, first hand, the dangers of crisis reporting. There is more OPC can do to mentor the growing tribe of freelance reporters. I am interested in expanding OPC's profile on social media to reach the next generation of international correspondents.

### MOLLY BINGHAM

My work has been featured in *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and others. "Ordinary Warriors", published in *Vanity Fair*, won honorable mention for the OPC's Madeline Dane Ross Award. As co-director of the documentary film *Meeting Resistance*, I won the "Golden Award" at the 2007 Al Jazeera International Documentary Film Festival and the "Best Documentary Courage in Film-making" Award by the Women Film Critics Circle. I'm a former Nieman and Sulzberger fellow, and was named one of "20 Women to Watch" by the *Columbia Journalism Review* in 2012.



As the founder and CEO of Orb, a digital journalism nonprofit, I've been re-engineering the editorial process by fusing massive data analysis, the public's knowledge and

## OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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journalists. Each story is delivered in multiple formats and languages, enabling a diverse audience to unite around the issues that touch us all.

I would like to work with the OPC to encourage the exploration of solutions for journalism in these rapidly changing times. I'm excited about OPC's ability to spotlight and reward journalistic work that is innovative, impactful, and engaging. I'd very much enjoy being a part of these endeavors at OPC.

### ANUPREETA DAS

I write about Warren Buffett and his company Berkshire Hathaway for *The Wall Street Journal*. I also track the global flow of wealth by writing profiles of billionaires and where they are putting their money to work. I have previously reported for Reuters and several U.S. and Indian publications. I won an OPC scholarship in 2006.



The need for cross-cultural understanding in communications has never been greater than at this moment, when our world is so interconnected that an event in any one country can have global ramifications, whether it's the recent Ebola outbreak or low interest rates in the U.S. Readers, too, are increasingly global. As a cultural transplant myself, if elected to the board, I would work to enhance the abilities of all journalists to be culturally aware, thoughtful and sensitive to multiple contexts in their reporting.

### ROBERT DOWLING

I am running for the OPC board after some years of absence as a board member and officer. I serve on the OPC Foundation board.

I'd like the OPC to develop a broader international reach by streaming events and expanding overseas contributions to its website and expanding its Freedom of the Press Committee, where I previously served.

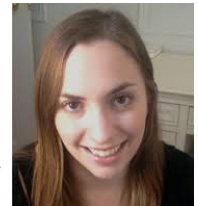


I retired as international managing editor from *BusinessWeek* (now *Bloomberg Businessweek*) in 2007 after 28 years as Washington correspondent, European editor and Asian edition editor. I developed a program in Global Business Journalism at Tsinghua University, Beijing from 2007 to 2009 edited the English edition of *Caixin* the Chinese weekly magazine. I currently write columns for *Caixin*, Gateway House, various regional U.S. newspapers and coach writers at St. John's College, Santa Fe N.M. I would hope to participate at times as a remote board member.

### YAFFA FREDRICK

I am the managing editor of *World Policy Journal*, one of the few U.S.-based magazines devoted to accurate and nuanced foreign news reporting. Working with reporters across six continents, I coordinate the production of our

quarterly print magazine and daily news site. Prior to that, I was a producer for PBS Nightly News and MTV International, producing award-winning segments on vigilante female justice groups in India, election fraud in Florida, gang violence in Chicago, and the growing refugee crisis in Syria.



Despite these wonderful career opportunities, I am still quite young and hope to bring this youth and drive to the Overseas Press Club board. And as the curator for the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers, a group of 20-something professionals in New York, I believe I have the requisite experience to build such a community. Providing a fresh and ambitious approach to attracting younger members, I can expand the organization from the bottom up and ensure its vitality for years to come.

### SCOTT GILMORE

I would like to join the board of the OPC, an organization I have long admired, to help it grow, innovate and become even more effective. I am an international columnist for *Macleans Magazine*, and was previously a Canadian diplomat who worked in Central and Southeast Asia. But I believe it is my most recent role as the founder and CEO of the New York-based charitable social enterprise Building Markets that would be most useful to the OPC. I have spent a decade building programs, expanding operations, establishing corporate partnerships, and most importantly fundraising.

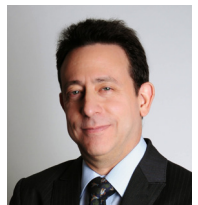


I strongly believe in the importance of the OPC. Its mandate and reputation make it uniquely important as journalists in the United States and overseas grapple with new challenges to their independence, while simultaneously reinventing their business model. It is my hope I can help the OPC as it continues to pursue its important goals.

### STEVEN L. HERMAN

I am a longtime OPC member working in Asia for the past 25 years and currently Southeast Asia bureau chief for the Voice of America, based in Bangkok, following previous VOA postings in New Delhi and Seoul.

I have held numerous leadership positions in journalistic organizations in the region, including president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan and the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club. Through my active involvement with the Asian American Journalists Association and the South Asian Journalists Association I am a mentor for younger members.



In addition to traditional reporting I am at the forefront of digital journalism as one of the most visible correspondents in Asia on Twitter @w7voa.

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As an OPC Active Overseas member, with your support, my involvement on the board can move the OPC forward in greater engagement with its members and the journalistic community at large via social media and emerging digital platforms.

### ANJALI KAMAT

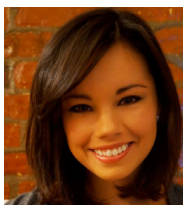
I'm a correspondent for Fault Lines, Al-Jazeera's flagship current affairs documentary program. I've reported from the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the U.S. since 2002. My recent stories have covered the civil war in South Sudan, labor trafficking on US military bases in Afghanistan (which won an Overseas Press Club award), Bangladesh's garment industry (which won a Peabody and an RFK Journalism award and was nominated for an Emmy), and abuses in post-Mubarak Egypt. I was previously a Cairo-based producer and correspondent for Democracy Now and covered the uprisings in Egypt and Libya. I speak fluent Arabic, Hindi, and Tamil and am on the editorial committee of the Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP). As an OPC board member, I would like to focus on supporting and amplifying the voices of under-resourced local journalists in conflict zones, many of whom, in their roles as "fixers," are critical to the work of foreign correspondents.



### JO LING KENT

I'm a correspondent covering the global technology sector at Fox Business Network and host a weekly tech podcast, "Fast Forward with JLK."

Prior to joining FBN, I was an investigative reporter for NBC Connecticut in Hartford and part of the team awarded a Peabody for coverage of Newtown. I covered the 2012 presidential campaigns with NBC News and spent five years reporting from Beijing for CNN and ABC News.



I graduated from LSE and Peking University (master's degrees in international affairs) and Rice University (BA). I was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar to China, specializing in legal aid for women. I serve on Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government's board of directors and co-chair the NYC chapter of Young China Watchers.

Since joining OPC, I've supported the organization's outstanding work, including judging the 2015 OPC Awards. If elected, I'll work to mobilize the next generation of journalists to not only join but also actively participate in our efforts to enhance OPC's stature.

### J. ROBERT MOSKIN

The OPC benefits from a board that includes a variety

of members. I would bring to the mix more than a half century of journalism and OPC membership. I was the managing editor of Harvard's daily *Crimson* and served overseas in World War II. Then, I served as an editor of *Look* magazine for nineteen years. As *Look's* foreign editor, I covered the globe, including three in-depth visits to the Vietnam War. The OPC honored my *Look* work in 1968 and 1971. I have had nine books published including a history of the U.S. Marine Corps and the first full history of the United States Foreign Service, published in 2013. Both contain my reporting around the world. Although I no longer chase wars, I can bring an intense interest in international journalism to the table. I would welcome the opportunity to serve the OPC once again.



### ROBERT NICKELSBURG

As a board member for the past two years, I focused on improving the visual editing and production of the 75th anniversary issue of Dateline magazine and oversaw the increased use of archival photography. This benefited not only the text stories in the 2014 issue but also highlighted the award winners and made it a noteworthy and quality publication. After winning the Overseas Press Club's Olivier Rebbot Award for my book, *Afghanistan-A Distant War*, I've given numerous presentations to foreign affairs groups, journalism classes and think tanks and have been able to highlight the need for strong visual coverage for international events and long-form journalism. This has proven to be a positive method to promote and highlight the Overseas Press Club. By serving on the Membership Committee, I want to continue to expand the OPC membership and feel I can attract more photojournalists, editors and documentary filmmakers.



### MARY RAJKUMAR

I am the international enterprise editor for The Associated Press, where I have edited two Pulitzer finalist packages as well as stories that have won awards from the OPC (Hal Boyle and Bob Considine), ASNE, National Headliners and many others. The work I've done includes a 2015 project on labor abuse in Southeast Asia that led to the rescue of more than 500 enslaved fishermen, and a test of freedom of information laws in dozens of countries. I currently serve on a Pulitzer jury.



I would be honored to join the OPC board. I am from Singapore, which has given me a deep appreciation for the importance of freedom of the press and the work the OPC does to secure it. I also have a keen interest in promoting

diversity within journalism, and would love to see the OPC build stronger ties with minority journalism groups with chapters abroad, such as the Asian-American Journalists Association.

### GARY REGENSTREIF

Most recently Reuters editor-at-large and advisor to a journalism non profit, I offer my experience in international news and commitment to champion a free press as an active OPC board member.

With press freedom at its lowest point in a decade, the OPC's efforts are more important than ever. Against that backdrop, I have been chairman of the Advisory Board of Press Start which, when it launches in September, will crowdfund support for independent journalism where the press is not fully free.



From postings in Caracas, Buenos Aires, Rome and Paris, I spent most of my 25-year career at Reuters covering Latin America and Europe as a correspondent, bureau chief and head of regional operations.

I have been delighted to be an OPC judge for three years. But I would like to contribute more: by seeking to boost its profile, increase membership, help foster more interest in international journalism and add to efforts to ensure a free press.

### MARTIN SMITH

I have been honored to serve these last two years. The club's new leadership has made great strides taking the OPC forward and I wish to continue to contribute wherever and however I can. While working full-time constricts my ability to do all I would like, I want to redouble my efforts and find out where my time and effort can be valuable. I continue to be interested in helping the club do more to support those who make foreign reporting possible: fixers, translators, stringers and drivers working abroad under dangerous circumstances. The risks in foreign correspondence are rising. Recently, new safety guidelines were introduced and supported by a broad cooperative alliance of signatory organizations. I want to support and expand this important work. Thank you.



### CHARLES WALLACE

I was a foreign correspondent for more than 30 years for UPI in Moscow and Nairobi, the *Los Angeles Times* in the Middle East (Beirut, Amman and Nicosia Cyprus) and Asia (Bangkok and Singapore), and *Time* magazine in Milan and Berlin. As an OPC board member and



chairman of the membership committee, I proposed reducing membership dues for younger and senior members, which was adopted in 2014. I edited the OPC's 75th anniversary issue of *Dateline*, which traced the organization's history over seven decades. I was co-chairman of the 2015 Awards Dinner and helped the OPC raise funds by selling tables to a number of organizations, a role I will continue to play going forward. I now work in New York as a columnist for the *Financial Times* and *Institutional Investor* magazine.

### VIVIENNE WALT

I am a seasoned correspondent, currently for *Time* magazine & *Fortune*, based in Paris, and reporting from Africa, the Middle East and Europe. I have reported from more than 30 countries, including from Ukraine and Nigeria this past year, specializing in conflict and its consequences. My work has also been published in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Wall Street Journal* and *National Geographic Magazine*. I am a regular guest on PRI's "The World" and France 24's "The World This Week."



I was raised in Cape Town, South Africa, then emigrated to New York, where I worked for *Newsday*. I have been an OPC juror since 2012, and headed this year's Ed Cunningham judges' panel. I am also a juror for the Prix Bayeux for War Reporting. If elected, I want to mobilize US correspondents overseas to get involved in the OPC, especially on issues of safety.

## ASSOCIATE (Electing 2)

### SARAH LUBMAN

I was a journalist for 17 years before joining Brunswick and got my start overseas in Japan and China, where I spent 6+ years working for various outlets (ABC News, UPI, *Washington Post*, NPR). International reporting remains near and dear to my heart. I have an endless appetite for complex, well-told stories and believe they deserve both support and celebration. During my previous tenure on the board, I helped the OPC speed up the transition to online award entries and access and worked with the group to update the award categories. I've also worked hard to drum up support for the dinner, enlisting not just Brunswick to buy a table but also clients such as McKinsey and Citi, which came in at the highest level and sponsored an award. I would love to put my communications experience to work on the OPC's behalf and would be honored to rejoin the board.



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## DANIEL SIEBERG

I am the global head of media outreach with the Google News Lab, which collaborates with journalists and entrepreneurs to build the future of media. Prior to joining Google, I worked as a technology correspondent for ABC News, CBS News and CNN. I also have contributed to MSNBC, BBC News and Discovery. I started my journalism career at the *Vancouver Sun* and have been nominated for multiple Emmy Awards for reporting. My first book, *The Digital Diet*, came out in 2011. I live in NYC with my wife and two daughters.

My goal for serving another term on the board of the OPC is to advise as much as possible on how to bring the organization and its members to work more with technology companies (e.g. Google) and foster a sense of innovation within the international reporting community.



## TOM SQUITIERI

Our profession needs passion, experience, creativity and determination to keep it strong. We all know the dangers facing journalism's future. During my previous time on the board I was able to add my perspective and depth to others seeking to maintain the OPC's vital role. That imperative still drives me.

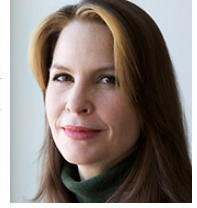
I was a full-time journalist for 34 years, honored three times by the OPC and the White House Correspondents' Association. I offer a vibrant blend of many areas of our profession, including writing a column for The Hill and teaching a college course on reporting, writing and surviving war zones.

My career began at an underground newspaper in western Pennsylvania, moved to my hometown paper and then to Washington, D.C., eventually at USA TODAY. Along the way I served multiple terms as secretary, vice president and treasurer of the National Press Club and made it to all seven continents.



## MINKY WORDEN

I am a longtime OPC member, past board member, and I am also on the OPC Foundation board. As Human Rights Watch's Director of Global Initiatives, I work with the media and develop and implement international outreach and advocacy campaigns. I previously served as Human Rights Watch's media director. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1998, I lived and worked in Hong Kong as an adviser to Democratic Party chairman Martin Lee and worked at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. as a speechwriter for the U.S. Attorney General. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, I speak Cantonese and German. I am the editor of *The Unfinished Revolution* (Seven Stories Press, 2012) and *China's Great Leap* (Seven Stories Press, 2008), and the co-editor of *Torture* (New Press, 2005). I have long drafted letters to repressive governments for the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee. I'm a frequent visitor to Overseas Press Club partners such as the FCC in Hong Kong, and I have occasionally hosted the "OPC Tchotchke Night" party



# Azmat Khan Exposes 'Ghost Schools' in Afghanistan

Since the early days of the war in Afghanistan, the U.S. has touted education as one of its premier successes in the country, trumpeting impressive statistics about the number of schools built, girls enrolled, textbooks distributed, teachers trained, and dollars spent. But a months-long investigation by OPC board member Azmat Khan for BuzzFeed News found those claims to be "massively exaggerated, riddled with ghost schools, teachers, and students that exist only on paper."

Based on visits to more than 50 U.S.-funded schools in seven Afghan provinces, Khan found a majority of schools resemble "abandoned buildings," that many were either never built or are no longer operating; and that projects intended to educate Afghan children have often lined the pockets of brutal warlords, reviled strongmen and corrupt contractors. Through on the ground reporting, internal U.S. and Afghan databases and documents, and more than 150 interviews, the investigation also uncovered that the U.S. knew about massive inflation in school statistics for years, but continued to tout them to Congress and the American public.

"The American effort to educate Afghanistan's chil-

dren was hollowed out by corruption," Khan writes, "and by short-term political and military goals that, time and again, took precedence over building a viable school system. And the U.S. government has known for years that it has been peddling hype."



A school refurbished with U.S. funding in Nangarhar province in February.

Azmat Khan / BuzzFeed News

# PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

## AWARDS

OPC members **Felix Golubev** and **Simcha Jacobovici** have won the Canadian Association of Journalists Prize for their documentary, "Tales from the Organ Trade." The film, which won the OPC's Edward R. Murrow award last year, shows how a kidney is sold on the illegal organ market and reaches a transplant recipient. Along the way, it challenges assumptions about the ethics of the organ trade. Golubev and Jacobovici were honored along with **Ric Esther Bienstock**, also an OPC member.



**Felix Golubev, left, and  
Simcha Jacobovici**

OPC member **Jerome Delay** has won an Associated Press Media Editors Award for his photograph of two young refugee girls from the Central African Republic. "Once again, we see innocent children amid conflict," the judges said. "But we also see hope. We see that even amid bleak circumstances, friendship blooms." Delay is AP's chief photographer for Africa. He has won or shared the OPC's John Faber Award three times.

OPC members **Gerard Ryle** and **Rod Nordland** have been honored with SOPA Awards from The Society of Publishers in Asia. Ryle won the Excellence in Explanatory Reporting award in Group B for "People's Republic of Offshore." The investigative story explored leaked

documents to shed light on the hidden offshore holdings of China's elite. Nordland received an Honorable Mention in the Group A Excellence in Human Rights Reporting award for "The Ballad of Zakia and Mohammad," the story of an Afghan couple facing death threats for attempting to marry against her family's wishes.

The US Marine Corps Correspondents Association has posthumously honored OPC member **Georgette Louise "Dickey" Chapelle** with the 2015 Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Sr. Distinguished Service Award. Chapelle got her start as a war photographer in Okinawa and Iwo Jima in World War II, and then covering the Marines in Vietnam in the early 1960s, often traveling with the troops. The Milwaukee Press Club inducted Chapelle into its Hall of Fame on Oct. 24.



**Chapelle**

2010 David Kaplan Award winner **Richard Engel** has won the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award from Quinnipiac University. The award, named for the former CBS News president, honors defenders of free speech. "Fred used to say that the job of the journalist is to explain complicated stories," Friendly's widow, Ruth, told Engel. "That's what you do, Richard. You illuminate and elucidate the news, at times risking your life."

The late CBS News correspondent **Bob Simon** was also honored at Quinnipiac's 22nd annual Fred Friendly First Amendment Award luncheon. Simon was recognized with the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award. "We all think of him as the quintessential foreign correspondent," said Jeff Fager, executive pro-

ducer of 60 Minutes, who accepted the award on behalf of Simon's family. "He wasn't seeking the spotlight. He thought of himself as just a regular reporter. He never inserted himself into the story." Simon died in a car crash in February in New York. Among his many awards was the OPC's President's Award for lifetime achievement, which he received in 2014.

## UPDATES

OPC member and former OPC *Bulletin* columnist **Susan Kille** is on the waiting list for a lung transplant at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center as she continues battling a rare lung disease. Kille left her part-time job at *The New York Times* in January due to her health issues. "Should I win this lottery and get a transplant, I could have a different and improved life for some years ahead," she writes. Please join us in wishing Susan the best of luck in her quest for recovery.

**NEW YORK:** OPC board member **Peter S. Goodman** wrote a Modern Love column for *The New York Times* on July 9. The piece deals with how he and his wife, Deanna Fei, have navigated challenges – first, the demands of his career as a foreign correspondent and hers as a writer, and then the experience of having a premature baby with significant health needs. His wife's book, *Girl in Glass*, has just been published. It's about the health struggles of their child, Mila, and the surrounding political and social issues. Mila's birth made national headlines when AOL CEO Tim Armstrong referred to her as a "distressed baby" and blamed her for increasing the company's health costs. Happily, Goodman, his wife and nearly three-year-old Mila are all doing well now.

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New York Times columnist and OPC member **Roger Cohen** is moving from London back to New York this month. Cohen, who was born in London, moved to Europe to work on his recently-published memoir, *The Girl from Human Street*, which was featured during an OPC book night in January.

OPC Board of Governors member **Martin Smith's** latest documentary aired on PBS's Frontline on May 26. *Obama at War* examines how a president who pledged to extract the U.S. from military conflicts has nonetheless found his administration mired in them. *Newsweek* called the film "first-rate," adding that it was "crisply written, reported and produced."



## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**Marlene Sanders**, a trailblazing television journalist for ABC and CBS, died of cancer on July 14 at the age of 84. Sanders became the first woman to anchor a network newscast when she filled in for Ron Cochran in 1964 at ABC, where she worked for 14 years. She was also the first female television journalist to report from Vietnam during the war in 1966. She is the mother of CNN and New Yorker journalist Jeffrey Toobin, who wrote on his Facebook page the "she informed and inspired a generation. Above all, though, she was a great Mom." Sanders co-authored *Waiting for Prime Time: The Women of Television News*. She taught at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and New York University.

Former Associated Press foreign correspondent **Stevenson Jacobs**, 37, died on June 8 in New York of an apparent heart attack. Jacobs covered political unrest in Haiti in the mid-2000s following the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Before that, he wrote for the AP in Jamaica and served as an editor and reporter in Puerto Rico. "He was kind-hearted, hard-working and people trusted him enough to tell him their most intimate stories," said Paisley Dodds, a former AP Caribbean news editor, as quoted by the AP. Jacobs was a partner and head of business development at ShearLink Capital at the time of his death.

**Dick O'Regan**, a longtime correspondent in Europe for the Associated Press, died in Geneva on June 1 at the age of 95. O'Regan got his start working for newspapers in Britain as a teenager, according to the AP. He decided to move to the U.S. during the early part of World War II, and during the voyage he saw a Nazi U-Boat torpedo a British Navy ship. He wrote a story and offered it to the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, which not only ran the piece but offered him a job. After a stint at the paper and another at the United Press in New York, he signed on with the AP and was sent to Germany to cover the aftermath of the war. He advanced to bureau chief in Vienna and later Frankfurt, where he oversaw news and business in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Eastern Europe and the Balkans. He eventually became director of AP operations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Longtime Associated Press reporter and editor **Laura Myers** died on June 19 at age 53. Myers grew up in Nevada and launched her career at the Reno Gazette-Journal in 1984. She began working for the AP in 1988, eventually becoming a top member of the editorial team. Myers was one of three senior editors in charge of war coverage during

the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. When not working as a journalist, Myers traveled extensively and pursued humanitarian activities, training journalists at Arabic and French-language newspapers in Algeria and building houses with Habitat for Humanity in Uganda and Mongolia. "She put her career on hold for years at a time to help the needy," said former AP Washington bureau chief Sandy Johnson.

Journalist and author **Donald Neff** died in York, Pennsylvania on May 10 at the age of 84. Neff began his journalism career in York in 1954. He joined the *Los Angeles Times* in 1960, working as a Tokyo correspondent, and then moved to Vietnam to cover the war for *Time* magazine. During his 14 years at *Time*, he served as bureau chief in Houston, Los Angeles, Jerusalem and New York. He wrote numerous books, including a trilogy about the Arab-Israeli conflicts of 1956, 1967 and 1973. In a review of his *Fallen Pillars: U.S. Policy Towards Palestine and Israel Since 1945*, *Foreign Affairs* magazine wrote: "Neff succeeds in showing the intensity of the political debates in the bureaucracy and the broader public arena. Even those who disagree with Neff will have to acknowledge the thoroughness of his research."

Veteran CBS Radio correspondent **David Jackson**, 70, passed away July 2 at his home in Kula, Hawaii. Jackson covered some of the biggest international news stories of his time. He was on the scene during the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989; he was also present when Pope John Paul II was shot in 1981, and in Germany when the American hostages being held in Iran were released in 1981. "He helped CBS News deliver the best broadcast journalism in the world," read the letter announcing his departure from CBS in 1999.



# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Court hearings continue in Iran for captive *Washington Post* bureau chief **Jason Rezaian**. The *Post* reports that Rezaian faced his third hearing on espionage charges on July 13. His lawyer told Rezaian's family that "Jason was in good spirits and answered some questions about the charges." While Washington raised the issue of Rezaian's imprisonment during nuclear talks with Iran, a historic accord announced the next day did not appear to change his situation. Rezaian has been detained for a year and could face up to 20 years in prison.

GroundTruth Project, wrote approvingly of the measures but said both the government and media organizations had a lot of work to do to implement them. "We can definitely do better," Sennott wrote in *The Huffington Post*, "and now we have to be sure we do."

Thailand's ruling junta has banned two recent events planned by the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand. A June 17 panel discussion on the country's controversial Lèse-majesté law was canceled after the club was told soldiers would blockade the building, according to *The*

per correspondent **Mohamed Adly**, photojournalist **Hamdy Mokhtar** of the opposition news website El-Shaab el-Jadeed, and freelance journalist **Sherif Ashraf** were all arrested in early July. All were charged with being members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, according to news reports; the latter three were also accused of spreading false information and working for Al-Jazeera, which is banned in Egypt. The government has also announced an anti-terrorism bill that would impose a minimum of two years in prison on journalists convicted of publishing news about terrorist operations that contradicts official statements.

*Novaya Gazeta* special correspondent **Pavel Kanygin** has been detained, beaten and expelled by Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. Kanygin told Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that representatives of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic handcuffed and interrogated him the day after he covered a rare peace rally in front of the separatist movement's offices. He says his captors accused him of using illegal drugs, working in separatist-controlled areas without accreditation, and spying for Ukraine and the United States. *Novaya Gazeta* is known for its reporting on alleged abuses by Russia and its allies.

Ethiopia has released six jailed journalists on the eve of a visit from U.S. President Barack Obama. Columnist **Reeyot Alemu** was freed on July 9 after four years in captivity, according to Public Radio International. Editor **Asmamaw Hailegiorgis**, freelancers Edom Kassaye and **Tesfalem Waldyes**, and bloggers **Mahlet Fantahun** and **Zelalem Kibret** were released the day before; they were arrested in April 2014. Alemu still faces one charge

(Continued on Page 10)



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

**President Barack Obama announces a shift in government relations with hostages' family members following complaints about threats and poor treatment.**

President Barack Obama has announced that the U.S. will no longer threaten to prosecute families who pay ransom in an effort to rescue their loved ones from foreign kidnappers. This and other changes come in response to complaints from victims' families, who have accused the government of both bullying and ignoring them during the nightmarish aftermath of a kidnapping. Obama emphasized that the government itself would still refuse to pay ransoms, however, saying that such payments risk "endangering more Americans and funding terrorism we are trying to stop." OPC member **Charles Sennott**, founder of The

*Diplomat* magazine. "This is an unacceptable imposition on the many other tenants in the building, and it is with great regret that we have decided to cancel," the FCCT wrote in a statement. Earlier in the month, the government put the kibosh on a discussion of human rights in post-coup Thailand. According to a new report from Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, 71 public events have been cancelled or censored by the government since the coup last May.

Press freedom continues to decline in Egypt, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Photographer **Wagdy Khaled**, newspa-

under the country's sweeping anti-terrorism law, while all charges have been dropped against the rest. "I'm hoping this might be a page turner in Ethiopia's poor track record on press freedom," Tom Rhodes of the Committee to Protect Journalists told the radio network. However, 12 journalists facing similar charges remained jailed.

Sri Lanka President **Maithripala Sirisena** has revived the country's Press Council, giving the government wide-ranging power over media outlets – including the ability to jail journalists for their reporting. The move immediately drew fire from press freedom advocates, including Reporters Without Borders. The council was dissolved in January 2015 when Sirisena won office on a platform that included support for press freedom.



**Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena prepares to take the oath of office in January this year.**

Turkish journalist **Canan Coşkun** faces up to 23 years and four months in prison for allegedly insulting government officials, the Committee to Protect Journalists reports. Coşkun's lawyer, Bülent Utku, told the CPJ that prosecutors launched a criminal investigation into Coşkun on the day she published an article alleging that Istanbul judges and prosecutors had enjoyed sweetheart deals on luxury real estate. The indictment issued on June 22 accuses the reporter of "insulting civil servants over their professional duties," according to local news organizations. Coşkun writes

for the daily newspaper *Cumhuriyet*.

The man who masterminded the killing of Colombian journalist **Orlando Sierra Hernández** has been sentenced to 36 years in prison in a case hailed as a landmark by press freedom advocates. **Francisco Ferney Tapasco González**, a former president of the Liberal Party in Caldas province, was convicted on June 24; brothers **Fabio and Jorge Hernando López Escobar** also received 28-year sentences for their involvement in the murder. The case was "a symbol of the fight against impunity in Colombia," writes the Inter American Press Association. Sierra Hernández, who frequently wrote about corruption in the local government, was shot by a hitman in front of his daughter in January 2002. He was deputy editor of the Manizales newspaper *La Patria*. Journalists and advocates campaigned for years to keep the case in the public eye. Ninety percent of journalist murders in Colombia go unpunished, according to the CPJ.

## MURDERS

- Reporter **Sandeep Kothari** was abducted in Madhya Pradesh, India on June 19 while riding on a motorbike with a friend, according to India's *Frontline* magazine. His burned body was found near train tracks in neighboring Maharashtra state two days later. Several people have been arrested in connection with the murder. Kothari was a freelance reporter who had written extensively about illegal sand mining in the region. "The employment conditions in the illegal mining sites are pathetic; it is nothing but bonded labour," *Frontline* quoted an unnamed senior journalist in the area as saying. "Anyone who raises his voice meets the most brutal treatment. Journalists, too, fear for their lives and hardly write about it, despite it being common knowledge. Kothari was one of the few who consistently wrote about the illegal mining activities."

- Freelance journalist **Jagendra Singh** died on June 8, a week after being attacked in his home in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Singh told a police official that strongmen and police officers aligned with a local dairy minister had carried out the assault, according to *The New York Times*. The veteran journalist had written several Facebook posts accusing the minister of involvement in illegal sand mining. The Committee to Protect Journalists has called for an independent inquiry into the murder. "Given the allegations of police participation, and India's poor track record of solving crimes in connection with reporting on local corruption, the involvement of an independent authority is essential," CPJ research associate Sumit Galhotra said in a statement.

- Media organizations are demanding investigations into the deaths of three journalists in Mexico. Radio journalist **Filadelfo Sanchez Sarmiento** was fatally shot outside the La Favorita 103.3 FM station in Miahuatlan de Porfirio Diaz in the southern state of Oaxaca on July 2. Sanchez had reported receiving death threats during elections in June. The same day, **Juan Mendoza Delgado**, a news website editor in Medellín de Bravo, Veracruz, was run down by a car. And on June 26, newspaper editor **Gerardo Nieto Alvarez** was found with his throat cut in Comonfort, in the central state of Guanajuato. "We call on the Oaxaca, Veracruz and Guanajuato authorities to ensure that impartial, independent and thorough investigations are carried out and that those responsible for these despicable crimes are arrested," said Reporters Without Borders programme director Lucie Morillon. Morillon also urged authorities to make sure investigators didn't rule out a link to the victim's journalistic work from the start of the investigation.



# Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Jonathan Kapstein

By Trish Anderton

**Jonathan Kapstein** is the president of the Press Club Brussels Europe, and a longtime business journalist. He has served as *Business Week* (now *Bloomberg Businessweek*) regional bureau chief in Rio de Janeiro, Toronto, Milan, Johannesburg and Brussels. Over the course of his career he has, in his own words, “interviewed indigenous dissidents in Peru, canoed upriver to Japanese pepper plantations deep in the Amazon, watched not a few US companies self-destruct through stupidity, observed oil crews and Eskimo artists in the High Arctic, shared tastes in reading with Pierre Trudeau, observed clashes between Cold War surrogates in Africa, traveled with other journalists in chartered planes flying below the arming altitude of SAM missiles, dined in Ethiopia with my solicitous host personally feeding spiced raw meat and hepatitis into my mouth” ... and much more. In recent years Kapstein has freelanced as a foreign correspondent while working in government affairs and communications in the chemical and airline industries. Kapstein has won an OPC award for Best Reporting from Latin America and has shared two other OPC citations for his work. He lives in Brussels.

**Hometown:** Providence, RI.

**Education:** BA Brown University, MS Columbia School of Journalism, International Reporting Fellowship, also at Columbia.

**Languages:** My McGraw-Hill World News colleague in Brussels once described me as someone who knew 20 languages – but only 200 words in each. Not quite true, but, hey, close...

**First job in journalism:** *Providence Journal*, then *Houston Chronicle*.

**Countries reported from:** Vietnam (very briefly), all the ones in South America, some Central American, Canada, Italy and several neighboring states, the sub-Saharan African nations, the Benelux countries, the Nordic bloc.

**Year you joined the OPC:** 1969 but with an interruption. Dropped membership while in the corporate world.

**What drew you to business reporting?** Good question. I had become more and more convinced that economics was driving politics in the post-modern world. At the same time I was always fascinated by international affairs. Put together it became international economic-politics, and Lew Young’s remake of *Business Week* was an open door.

**You’ve gone from business reporter to working in the business world. How do the two compare?** See my bio for the answer to that one.

**The Press Club Brussels Europe launched in 2011. How did it get started? What is its focus?** The Interna-



Courtesy of Jonathan Kapstein

**Jonathan Kapstein moderating a Press Club Brussels Europe panel with visiting officials from Beijing and the PRC Mission at the EU.**

tional Press Association started in Brussels in 1975 and still exists to facilitate relations with the EU institutions. But with several hundred foreign journalists here, there was also a need for a more social, more open venue that could provide press conferences, briefings, and a place to meet broader professional requirements. Thus, the Press Club Brussels Europe, which was founded five years ago.

**Best journalism advice received:** Always travel with a flashlight, a jackknife, toilet paper, and cash.

**Worst experience as a journalist:** The time a toilet exploded on a Caravelle aircraft flown by Cruzeiro do Sul airline. Fortunately I was out of range. Also, many other third world airline events.

**When traveling, you like to ...** read to relax.

**Hardest story:** Trying to write a cover story on a Swedish CEO while down with pneumonia.

**Journalism heroes:** Many.

**Advice for journalists who want to work overseas:** Get a sponsor and go to the action, write and write to build a freelance portfolio, and, above all, be lucky.

**Dream job:** Done it.

**Favorite quote:** The coda for my journalism career came one day when a Central Banker looked at me thoughtfully over an invitational farewell drink in his office. “You know, Jon,” he said, “you write with even-handed malice.” Not a bad compliment for a journalist, I think.

**Place you’re most eager to visit:** Egypt, India....

**Country you most want to return to:** All.

**Twitter handle:** None. I am experimenting with staying away from social media.

*Want to add to the OPC’s collection of Q&As with members? Please contact [patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org).*

# New Books

## WAR PHOTOGRAPHY

**A** DOUBLE ROW OF SOLD-iers bends down on one knee, heads bowed in prayer for a fallen comrade. A small Afghan boy dressed in white clutches the hand of a US soldier in bulky battle camouflage, who towers over him. A female captain reclines against a small mountain of gear, waiting for the next flight out of Bagram.

In *Afghanistan: On The Bounce* [Insight Editions, 2014], photographer Robert L. Cunningham and author Steven Hartov portray the working lives of U.S. soldiers in the field. While Cunningham's lens captures moments of high emotion, such as the memorial service for an Army sergeant, it also shows the day-to-day effort involved with keeping a military force fed, clothed, and on the move.

Cunningham has logged 132 missions as an embedded photographer with troops in Afghanistan. His photos take us into the lives of soldiers, whether they're

cleaning a machine gun while listening to music on an iPod, or racing a wounded Afghan National Army soldier to the hospital.

A photo of Air Force service members around a fire pit is especially poignant. It's an intimate, even happy moment, as members of the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group swap stories late into the night. But we see them from a distance, surrounded by a melancholy darkness, with a strip of barbed wire slicing through the space above their heads. A sense of loneliness and hidden threats lingers over the scene.



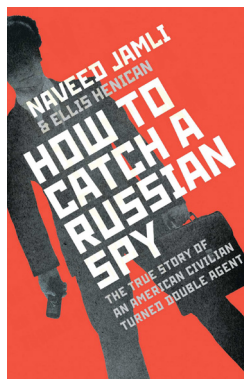
toward the countryside and ready to shatter the peace.

Veterans have praised *Afghanistan: On the Bounce* as a realistic reflection of life on duty. It's an unusually close look at America's longest war.

## TRADECRAFT

**N**AVEED JAMALI LEARNED the tricks of the espionage trade the way the rest of us do: by watching *Miami Vice*, *Magnum PI* and the Bourne movies. But after the Sept. 11 attacks he somehow convinced both the FBI and a Russian intelligence agent to trust him. His book, *How to Catch a Russian Spy: The True Story of an American Civil-*

*ian Turned Double Agent* [Simon & Schuster], is the story of the three years he spent trying to entrap the Russian spy and prove his abilities as a double agent.



Jamali wanted to become a Navy intelligence officer, but was told he didn't have enough experience. Conveniently, his parents just happened to be in regular contact with Russian agents already. They owned a shop in New York specializing in hard-to-get books and

documents, and for years they'd been giving the FBI information about the materials ordered by a series of Russian customers. Jamali called the FBI and persuaded them to let him take the operation further. He set out to capture his parent's latest Russian buyer, a taciturn middle-aged guy named Oleg.

Getting close to Oleg involves more dinners at suburban strip malls than high-tech Bourne hijinks. But Jamali does eventually get to record some meetings on an FBI-supplied watch, and is given the cool code name "Green Kryptonite." (He loves Green Kryptonite so much he gets it tattooed on him arm – in Morse code.) Along the way, the FBI provides him with some useful advice, such as "Under no circumstances are you to get into a drinking competition with Oleg."

When the operation reaches its critical moment, it's at a Hooters in Wayne, New Jersey – and a last-minute twist puts the whole carefully arranged bust in jeopardy. If this is starting to sound like a Hollywood movie, it could be soon. 20th-Century Fox is reportedly coming out with the film adaptation in 2017.

— **By Trish Anderton**

## Upcoming Events

**Annual Election  
Deadline:  
Noon, Aug. 24**

**Annual Meeting  
Open to all members  
6 p.m. Aug. 25**

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kim Gittleson  
BBC/Knight Bagehot Fellow  
Columbia University  
Active Resident 29, and under

Thalia Beaty  
Freelance  
Active Resident, 29 and under