

OPC Scholar Begins Internship With Nairobi Mall Attack

by Jacob Kushner

Just days after I arrived in Nairobi as an OPC Fellow with the Associated Press, the news came via a phone call to a friend: The businessman from New Zealand whose BBQ I had just attend the week before had been shot in the chest.

The siege of Nairobi's Westgate Mall by al-Shabab militants went on to capture the newswires for days, as Kenyan police and military attempted to take back the mall and save the hostages believed to be held inside.

The last time I was at the center of a major breaking news event was in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I was stringing for the AP when a negligent U.N. peacekeeping mission there introduced the cholera bacteria, which began sickening and killing people across the country.

These were very different types of disasters, yet I found myself reporting on the Nairobi attack much in the same manner I covered the cholera outbreak, rushing back and forth

between the hospitals and morgues to learn as much as I could about the victims. In Nairobi as the siege dragged on, I met families mourning the sudden loss of loved ones who were killed while depositing a check or while chauffeuring a client to the mall.

For five days after the attack began I was so busy reporting across Nairobi that I didn't have time to stop by the AP office itself. When I finally did, I found the typically quiet and some-

what empty office abuzz with nearly a dozen staffers busily compiling stories and video and sharing information across the newsroom.

The day the attack began, Jason Straziuso, AP reporter and editor, had been just minutes away from the mall when he received a call from a family friend trapped inside.

"Reporters everywhere must separate their emotions from scenes of horror, but that's a near-impossible task when your friends are facing at-

(Continued on Page 2)



Jacob Kushner

New Book on China From Audrey Topping

Q&A

Audrey Ronning Topping recently published *China Mission: A Personal History from the Last Imperial Dynasty to the People's Republic*, an account of China as seen by three generations of her family. She discussed the book, which is reviewed on page 12, with **Susan Kille**.

Q: How long did you work on *China Mission*?

A: For 30 some years off and on. In 1975 I was in China on assignment for *The New York Times* and *National Geographic* when I heard about the discovery of the life-size clay soldiers guarding the tomb of China's First Emperor, who was buried in 210 BCE. It was the most important archeological find since King Tut's

tomb. I flew to the ancient capital of Xian and became the first Western journalist to witness the excavation of the incredible find. My story was a world scoop. I was awed by the working site resembling an ancient battlefield with legions of broken sol-

diers and horses half buried in the red earth of the Yellow River Valley. Then it struck me: Here I am witnessing the reincarnation of Emperor Qin Shihuang Ti. The history of China's first Imperial Dynasty was being revealed before

my eyes. And 2,200 years after the first dynasty, my grandparents would witness the fall of the last dynasty. While looking into the ancient site I decided to write a book about how

(Continued on Page 11)



Audrey Ronning Topping at a book launch party with grandson Ryan. Photos of her ancestors are in the background.

Inside...

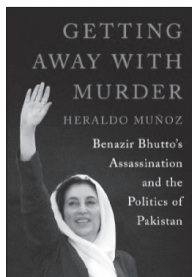
Preview: Book Night.....	2
Rowan/Topping Recap.....	3
Paris and London Previews.....	4
Global TV Wars Recap.....	4
People.....	5-8
People Remembered.....	9-10
Foreign Editors Circle Recap.....	10
New Books.....	12

Killing Bhutto: Getting Away With Murder

EVENT PREVIEW: DECEMBER 4

On December 27, 2007 a suicide bomber killed Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan. She was the head of a political family as important to Pakistan history as the Gandhis in India or the Kennedys in the United States.

Bhutto had recently returned from exile to challenge military dictator Pervez Musharraf in a democratic election. Speculations as to who assassinated Bhutto ran wild. The individuals behind the conspiracy have never been found, but in *Getting Away with Murder*, **Heraldo Muñoz** goes further than anyone else to unravel



the mystery of Bhutto's death. Leading a United Nations' inquiry, Muñoz delved into the murky world of Pakistani politics, the controversies and violence surrounding the Bhutto family and the unexpected role that the U.S. played in the tragic events.

OPC member **Tom Brokaw** wrote "This is a chilling account of deceit, corruption and murder at the highest levels of power in Pakistan, an American ally. A carefully researched and compelling tale of tragedy masked as a government."

Lally Weymouth, senior associate editor of *The Washington Post*, will be the Interlocutor. She interviewed Prime Minister Bhutto two weeks before the assassination which was Bhutto's last foreign interview. Lally is the daughter of **Katharine** and **Philip Graham**, both publishers of the *Post*. Previously she was the special diplomatic correspondent for *Newsweek*. The Book Night will be held at the Americas Society, 680 Park Avenue at 68th Street. Registration begins at 6 p.m., the Talk at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Reception. Please RSVP to Wilda Escarfuller at wescarfuller@as-coa.org.



Heraldo Muñoz



Lally Weymouth

(Continued From Page 1)

tackers lobbing grenades and firing bullets," he wrote in a firsthand account published later that day. "Over the next several hours my role as a reporter collided with my concern for close friends in mortal danger."

Once his friends made it out safely, it didn't take Straziuso long to return fully to his role as reporter and editor, calling me at 10:30 p.m. one night to tell me to streamline the copy I was sending him from the city

morgue: "Whenever you see a preposition, that means you can cut words."

As reporters work to unravel what really occurred at Westgate and make sense of the regional politics that fostered the attack, I've decided to stick around after my OPC fellowship ends and base myself out of East Africa for the coming year.

Jacob Kushner is the recipient of the 2013 N.S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT Michael Serrill Assistant Managing Editor <i>Bloomberg Markets</i>	SECRETARY Jonathan Dahl Editor in Chief <i>WSJ/Money</i>	Jane Ciabattari Freelance Writer NPR.org, <i>Daily Beast</i>	Santiago Lyon VP and Director of Photography Associated Press	Charles Wallace Financial Writer	Awards PAST PRESIDENTS EX-OFFICIO David A. Andelman John Corporon Allan Dodds Frank Alexis Gelber William J. Holstein Marshall Loeb Larry Martz Roy Rowan Leonard Saffir Larry Smith Richard B. Stolley
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Tim Ferguson Editor <i>Forbes Asia</i>	ACTIVE BOARD Jacqueline Albert-Simon U.S. Bureau Chief <i>Politique Internationale</i>	Deidre Depke Executive Editor <i>The Daily Beast</i>	Marcus Mabry Editor at Large <i>The New York Times</i>	ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS Brian Byrd Program Officer NYS Health Foundation	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Sonya K. Fry
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Abigail Pesta Freelance Journalist	Amar C. Bakshi JD/MBA student Yale University	Martin Dickson U.S. Managing Editor <i>Financial Times</i>	Robert Nickelsberg Freelance Photojournalist	Sarah Lubman Partner Brunswick Group	EDITOR Aimee Vitrak
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT Toni Reinhold Editor in Charge, New York Desk Reuters	Rebecca Blumenstein Deputy Editor in Chief <i>The Wall Street Journal</i>	Arlene Getz Editor-in-Charge Digital News Thomson Reuters	Ramesh Ratnesar Deputy Editor <i>Bloomberg Businessweek</i>	Daniel Sieberg Head of Media Outreach Google	OPC Bulletin ISSN-0738-7202 Copyright © 2002 Overseas Press Club of
TREASURER Dorinda Elliott Global Affairs Editor <i>Conde Nast Traveler</i>	Paul Brandus West Wing Report	Azmat Khan Senior Digital Producer <i>Al Jazeera</i>	Martin Smith President Rain Media	Minky Worden Director of Global Initiatives Human Rights Watch	
	Howard Chua-Eoan Former News Director <i>Time</i>	Evelyn Leopold Independent Journalist United Nations	Seymour Topping Emeritus Professor of International Journalism Columbia University	Abi Wright Director Alfred I. duPont — Columbia University	
		Dafna Linzer Managing Editor MSNBC.com			

40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

Topping and Rowan Recall Covering the Chinese Civil War

EVENT RECAP: OCTOBER 1

by Aimee Vitrak

The description of “legend” can be overused. The notion of a “legend” begs the question: how do you know when one has crossed over into the territory of unforgettable, admirable and heroic? The answer arrived on October 1 when two OPC members relayed their experiences on covering the Chinese civil war. **Seymour Topping** and **Roy Rowan**, made that long-ago and far-away event pertinent and relevant to the packed house in the Solarium Room at the 3 West Club. Topping and Rowan are the two surviving American correspondents who covered China’s civil war.

OPC Foundation President **William J. Holstein** set a cinematic scene for the crowd: The communists and nationalists had not chosen to engage with each other until the Japanese left after World War II. In 1946, Rowan had been in the American military and found a job driving Jeep convoys for a U.N. agency and Topping was still in American uniform as an infantry captain and took a terminal leave to begin working as a correspondent for the International News Service.

From there, Topping and Rowan bandied recollections about like they had happened that morning, which at 91 and 93, respectively, only bolstered their “legend” status. They tossed out dates of when they filed the story (Rowan: December 7, 1947) and word count (Topping: 85-word dispatch to the AP, which scored a scoop of the communists taking of Nanking), which cuts central to the core of a journalist: to other audiences those particulars are too granular, but to this crowd, they tell everything about a good journalist.

Rowan spent more than a year supervising truck convoys never knowing if the U.N. relief he was delivering was to a nationalist or communist village. “We were successful

but also under attack,” he said. “We took a bullet through the windshield and decided then and there to pack up and return to Shanghai. I was feeling despondent. I had no job; no prospects. When I arrived in Shanghai, there was a stack of letters for me including a rejection letter from the Columbia Journalism School.” He paused to let the crowd’s laughter settle. “In a gloomy mood, I walked to the then-Palace Hotel. I was standing next to this gentleman, he was drinking straight vodka out of a blue bottle sheathed in ice and asked if I wanted a drink and it turned out he was the Time and Life bureau chief in Shanghai.” And thus began Rowan’s career.

“I got a job, like Roy, in a bar as a correspondent based in Peiking,” Topping said. He covered the war for three years and worked for INS and then shifted to the AP. “Most important, in Nanking, I met the beautiful Audrey Ronning. I courted her assiduously and became engaged before she and her family were evacuated with other diplomatic families when communists closed in on Nanking.”

Topping slept in a cave on a cot in Yen-an while he waited to interview Mao, but the interview never happened. He was told Mao was in seclusion, but at that point, Topping hypothesized that Mao was planning military operations in Manchuria.

Topping said that Mao had asked President Roosevelt if he could visit Washington so they could come to some kind of understanding about the war, but Roosevelt never received the message. “If Mao had gotten to Washington...there could possibly not have been a Korean war or Vietnam war,” Topping said.

Rowan teamed up with photographer **Jack Birns** and their territory was the entire country of China. Rowan said they’d go out to the airport at 4 a.m. and take off with a former flying ace from World War II, one named “Earthquake Magoolin,”



Seymour Topping, left, and Roy Rowan before the talk.

to get around the country. They landed on dirt roads with no orientation as to what they’d happen upon.

Rowan and Birns were in Beijing and had an interview with Nationalist Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Rowan wrote in his notebook that Chiang Kai-Shek seemed like a sparrow — he was jumpy and nervous and repeated stock phrases like the communists are a cancer. “It was an unsatisfactory interview,” Rowan said. “The big point he made was that Manchuria was safely in his hands; he had 250,000 troops. So Jack and I decided to head to Manchuria a few days later and there the nationalists were in full retreat.”

Holstein asked, “Do you think that Chiang Kai-Shek had no idea what was going on in Manchuria or did he lie to you?”

“He lied to us,” Rowan said.

Rowan and Birns took many photos of the collapse of Manchuria but it was Saturday morning in Shanghai and *Life* used to go to press Saturday night in New York. “We put the film on a Pan Am flight to San Francisco, 40 hour trip minus 13 hours. *Life* set up a portable film processing outfit at the San Francisco airport; got a courier to carry the negatives to Chicago where a New York editor came out to Chicago and edited the film in a taxi cab. It went to press a day late, but it was a great scoop. There were no other Americans in Manchuria.”

More photos of the event and videos are at <http://opcofamerica.org> Rowan discusses the fall of Shanghai and Topping relays Chiang Kai-Shek’s troops fleeing to Formosa.

OPC to Hold Panel Discussions in Paris and London

OVERSEAS EVENT PREVIEWS: NOVEMBER

by Sonya K. Fry

The OPC has organized two panel discussions in Paris and London. Both cities have an abundance of OPC members who are helping to set up programs under the aegis of a Ford Foundation grant.

The Paris panel will discuss “The Human Cost of News Gathering” on Tuesday, November 12 at the American University of Paris. The statistics of journalists who are killed, kidnapped and targeted for murder continues to climb but the numbers are only part of the story. How does this situation affect news organizations that send journalists into conflict zones and how does the reporter respond to places of escalating conflict?

Panelists include: **Janine di Giovanni**, an award winning journalist and author who has covered every major global conflict since 1980; **Lucie Morillon** of Reporters Without Borders who contributed to the “Free Press and Journalists Safety” panel that the OPC organized in Warsaw in June; **Aidan Sullivan**, Vice President of Photo Assignments for Getty Images and creator of the cam-

paign “A Day Without News?”; OPC members **Jim Bittermann** of CNN International and **Vivienne Walt** *Time* magazine contributor will be co-hosts.

The London event takes place Tuesday, November 19 and is co-sponsored by the Frontline Club. The topic is: “Syria: Changing Media Coverage?” After the targeted death of **Marie Colvin** and French photographer **Remy Oehlik** in Homs in 2012, news organizations reassessed their responsibilities to coverage of Syria. Freelancers have often filled in the gap in this high-risk situation.

Panelists include: **Emma Beals**, a freelance journalist and founding member of Frontline Freelance Register, will speak to the problems of hiring freelancers in war zones; **Sean Ryan**, formerly foreign editor and now associate editor of *The Sunday Times*; **Stuart Hughes**, senior world affairs producer of BBC News will moderate.

Fabio Bucciarelli, Agence France-Presse photographer, winner of the 2012 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award from the OPC and recently a winner of the Prix de Bayeux photography award for war correspondents will serve on both panels. Panels for both events continue to evolve, please check opcofamerica.org for updates.

Global Newscasters Reach in America Is Low, Ambitions High

EVENT RECAP: OCTOBER 1

by Aimee Vitrak

The Ford Foundation East River Room was full of people curious about the global broadcasters who are newcomers to the U.S. market. The international media organizations are fueled largely by seasoned American journalists like panelist **Marcy McGinnis**, formerly of CBS News who is now Senior Vice President of News Gathering and moderator **Jim Laurie** who was an NBC correspondent in Saigon and now is a broadcast consultant. Both McGinnis and Laurie are OPC members.

Laurie asked for a show of hands from the audience for who had seen the channels represented on the panel: Al Jazeera America, CCTV and NHK. Al Jazeera America was the most recognizable of the three and reaches 40 million American households. Part of the issue behind the seeming obscurity of these channels is the difficulty each has had in securing a channel with cable and satellite providers, and even, as is the case with Al Jazeera America,

difficulty using its own material for a website due to legacy contractual issues related to the channel it purchased for broadcast, Current TV.

News anchor for CCTV **Elaine Reyes** said that to distinguish itself in the crowded marketplace, CCTV news is going wider and international with its coverage. “We want to cover undercovered areas of the world like Latin America, Africa. You’re not going to go to many other channels on the dial and see a live shot from North Korea with their missile launches. You’re not going to see a live shot in Havana or the protests in Brazil [on American TV].”

She gave an example of traveling a week before to Bali for the APEC Conference and when President Obama cancelled, there was a pause in the atmosphere as many of the western press corp left. Coverage of an important gathering like APEC is something Reyes said is fundamental to her news organization’s mission.

Laurie asked if in the crowded



From left: Jay Campbell, Elaine Reyes, Jim Laurie, Marcy McGinnis and Porter Bibb

American news marketplace if any of these channels can be successful?

Porter Bibb, media commentator, said, “None of these networks are suffering the way American news media has in terms of profit and loss. Al Jazeera, CCTV and NHK have basically blank checks to pay for what they do. They do very good journalism, but they’re either government or partisan controlled or perceived to be, which inhibits its reach. The distribution pipelines are hostile to anything that isn’t red, white and blue America. As a viewer, I want to see what Al Jazeera can cover from the Middle East.”

Videos from the panel are at <http://youtube.com/opcofamerica>

OPC SCHOLARS

Gregory D. Johnsen, winner of the 2006 David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship, was selected by BuzzFeed as the inaugural **Michael Hastings** National Security Reporting Fellow. The fellowship, which began October 20, is a yearlong position focused on national security and institutions of power, the cornerstone of Hastings' work. Hastings, who won a Polk Award for the *Rolling Stone* profile that led to the 2010 ouster of General Stanley McChrystal, was 33 when he died in a fiery solo car crash in June. **Ben Smith**, editor-in-chief of BuzzFeed said: "Gregory Johnsen has already proven himself one of his generation's wisest and most original voices on national security. He's the right writer to carry on Michael's legacy of fiercely intelligent and deeply compelling journalism about how America has shaped and been shaped by more than a decade of war," Johnsen is a Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern studies at Princeton University and the author of the critically acclaimed book *The Last Refuge: Yemen, al-Qaeda and America's War in Arabia*.

Ben Hubbard, who won the 2007 Stan Swinton Scholarship, and **C.J. Chivers** were awarded the 2012 Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism from Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism for their work in Syria. Hubbard won for his reporting for The Associated Press, but he and Chivers are now colleagues at *The New York Times*. Hubbard began his career with an OPC Foundation internship in AP's Jerusalem Bureau. Hubbard and Chivers went in and out



Hubbard



Chivers

of Syria multiple times in 2012, often traveling at night by foot to avoid detection. They gained the trust of rebel groups and reported amidst bombs, bullets and the constant threat of capture. "Syria is probably as dangerous as or more dangerous than any other country that a winner has reported from," said **Richard Stolley**, a former OPC president and a former managing editor of *Time* who was one of three judges for the award. "What was most remarkable was, under these awful conditions, how good their writing and reporting was."

Hannah Rappleye, who won the IF Stone Award from *Harper's Magazine* in 2011, is working as a reporter for the investigative unit at NBC, with a focus on criminal justice, immigration and human rights. A Soros Media Justice fellow in 2012, Rappleye has a story coming out in *The Nation* this winter that was funded by the Open Society Foundation. She will continue her freelance work in her new location, New Orleans.



Rappleye

James Jeffry, winner of the 2012 David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship, is returning to Ethiopia, a country that has fascinated him since his first visit there in 2000, when he spent six months teaching English to monks in Addis Ababa. He wrote about Ethiopian coffee for his graduate dissertation at the University of Texas. Jeffry intends to report primarily on business and entrepreneurship.

Sophia Jones, winner of the 2012 Reuters Scholarship, will be joining The Huffington Post as a Middle East correspondent for its

new global news site that launches in January 2014. Jones is currently a freelance journalist in Cairo. Her stories have appeared in *The Daily Beast* and *Foreign Policy*, among others. She also interned for Reuters at the Ramallah Bureau in the West Bank.

WINNERS

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) will award its 2013 International Press Freedom Awards to four courageous journalists who have reported in the face of severe reprisal: **Janet Hinostroza**, a television reporter in Ecuador and a target of the government's ongoing assault on free expression; **Bassem Youssef**, the host of a satirical Egyptian television show that has attracted 40 million viewers while drawing criminal charges for "insulting the president," "insulting Islam," and "reporting false news;" **Nedim Şener**, a leading investigative journalist with the Turkish daily *Posta* who is considered a terrorist by his government; and **Nguyen Van Hai**, a Vietnamese blogger who is currently serving a 12-year prison sentence. Also, **Paul Steiger**, founding editor-in-chief of ProPublica and former managing editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, will be presented with the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for lifetime achievement in the cause of press freedom. The winners will be honored at CPJ's annual award and benefit dinner November 26 at the Waldorf-Astoria.

OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** will be among the winners as the Newswomen's Club of New York presents awards during its annual gala, November 14 at the Down Town Association. Amanpour will be honored for an ABC news special tracing the common roots of the

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued From Page 5)

Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The **Marie Colvin** Front Page Award for Foreign Correspondence will go to **Alia Malek** of Al Jazeera. **Tina Brown** will receive the Front Page Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Gemma Tarlach, an associate editor of *Discover Magazine*, and **Steve Chapple**, a columnist for *U-T San Diego*, have received Kyoto Prize Journalism Fellowships that will enable them to travel to Japan in November to attend the 2013 awards ceremony, lectures and workshops of the Kyoto Prize — Japan's highest private award for lifetime achievement. They will meet and interview the 2013 Kyoto Prize laureates, Dr. Robert Dennard, an IBM Fellow; Dr. Masatoshi Nei, an evolutionary biologist; and Cecil Taylor, a jazz pianist.

PRESS FREEDOM

MOGUDISHU: **Radio Shabelle**, a Somali-owned private station that has had more than 10 of its journalists murdered in the past 10 years in gun attacks, went off the air on October 26, shortly after a raid by government security forces. According to the government, the station was closed because it was occupying a government building and was given adequate time to find an alternative location. **Abdimalik Yusuf Mohamud**, station director, disagreed. "This is politics and has nothing to do with the premise," he told Al Jazeera. "We only received one letter and we received it five days ago." The station, considered Somalia's most popular and influential domestic station in the country, often broadcasts politically sensitive stories.

BANGKOK: Five journalists, including a photographer for Agence France-Presse, who went to cover a roadside bombing on October 19, were injured by a second bomb that

went off about 45 minutes later. Two soldiers died from the first explosion. The incident was in the far south of Thailand, an area where rebels are active. CPJ called on both sides of the insurgent conflict to refrain from attacks that imperil journalists.



Hassan Ruvakuki said he was arrested for doing his job.

BUJUMBURA, Burundi: Journalist **Hassan Ruvakuki**, who had been jailed on terrorism charges, was granted a conditional release in October that allows him to go back to work. **Ruvakuki**, who works for French radio station RFI's Swahili service and for a local broadcaster, was arrested in November 2011 and given a life sentence in June 2012, a ruling condemned by press rights groups. The sentence was later cut to three years, and he was released in March for health reasons. Ruvakuki has maintained his innocence.

DODOMA, Tanzania: Media owners, publishers and journalism groups agreed in early October to not cover any news event and to not publish statements or pictures of the minister of information, culture and sports or that of the country's director of information. The indefinite coverage ban was in protest to a government ban on Swahili-language newspapers. On September 27, authorities suspended publication of *Mwananchi* for 14 days and *Mtanzania* for 90 days, citing seditious stories. A third Swahili-language paper, *Mwanahalisi*, has been suspended since July 2012. The October 9 statement announcing the coverage ban was signed by representatives from the Media Owners'

Association of Tanzania, Tanzania Editors' Forum, the Media Institute of Southern Africa, Tanzania Chapter, the Media Council of Tanzania, the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs, Dar es Salaam City Press Clubs and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders.

MALE, Maldives: On October 7, six masked men armed with steel bars and machetes started an early-morning fire that destroyed much of the headquarters of Raajje TV, a popular television station that supports former President Mohamed Nasheed, who was forced from office in 2012. The attack came a few days after the station reported on threats it had received. The men forced their way into the building after restraining and stabbing a security guard. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) reported that witnesses said police were called but did not respond until after the building was ablaze. With the help of other media, Raajje TV resumed limited broadcasting.

BEIJING: While the world awaited the announcement of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize winner in October, RSF issued a call to remember that dissident **Liu Xiaobo**, the 2010 laureate, will mark his sixth year of imprisonment in December. Liu was a co-author in 2008 of Charta 08, a manifesto that called for China's political and legal system to shift in the direction of democracy. Liu, a literary critic, writer and political activist, was arrested in December 2008 and sentenced a year later to 11 years for undermining the state authorities.

CARACAS: Press rights groups are concerned about President Nicolás Maduro's crackdown on media organizations, whose freedoms already were restricted by former President Hugo Chávez who died in March. In September, Maduro created an agency called the Strategic Center for Security and Protection

of the Fatherland. He said the agency would centralize intelligence information to help overcome plans, plots and attacks against the country. CPJ, however, described it as “a bald-faced attempt to intimidate the media and censor the news.” Also, TV station Globovisión is facing a fine of up to 10 percent of its annual income in an investigation of whether coverage of shortages of food, electricity and other essentials in Venezuela has “provoked anxiety.” Those widespread shortages include newsprint; print media, particularly local newspapers, are finding it hard to find the paper they need.

MURDERS



Family and friends pray at the funeral of Mohamed Mohamud.

Mohamed Mohamud, a Somali journalist, was shot six times in the neck, chest and a shoulder on October 22 and four days later died from those injuries, bringing to seven the number of journalists killed in Somalia this year. Mohamud, who reported for the private U.K.-based Universal TV, was shot early in the morning as he drove to work in Mogadishu.

Three journalists were gunned down within three weeks in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. On October 24, *Al-Mosuliya TV* cameraman **Bashar Abdulqader Najm Al-Nouaymi** was killed by a gunman using a silencer. **Mohammed Karim Al-Badrani**, a correspondent for Al Sharqiya television, and cameraman **Mohammed Ghanem** were

shot to death October 5 while on assignment in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. **Ali Wajih**, news director of the privately owned Al Sharqiya, told the AP that 16 staff members have been killed on the job since 2003, the year of the U.S. invasion.

Cláudio Moleiro de Souza, a radio station manager in northwestern Brazil, was shot and killed October 12 by an intruder inside the radio station. **Alberto Dutra Duran**, a colleague, was also wounded. The motive was unclear but RSF called on investigators to “seriously examine the possibility that it was linked to his work as a journalist.” Souza was the sixth journalist to be killed in Brazil since January.

The president of the Khyber Union of Journalists linked the October 11 murder of **Ayub Khan Khattak** to the Pakistani journalist’s coverage of a local drug mafia. Khattak, a reporter for *Karak Times* and for a TV channel, was shot dead by two gunmen outside his home. Pakistan is the second deadliest country for journalists so far this year, after Syria. A day earlier, three men used iron rods to beat **Sardar Shafiq**, a reporter for the Urdu daily *Ittehad* and former general secretary of the Abbotabad Union of Journalists. He was attacked while leaving his office.

José Darío Arenas, a newspaper vendor in Caicedonia, Colombia, who helped reporters cover a sensitive local story, was killed September 28 by gunmen while selling copies of *Extra Quindío*, a regional daily from the nearby Quindío province. The top story in the paper that day was about complaints by relatives of inmates who said they had been mistreated by guards at the Caicedonia prison. Reporters said Arenas had pitched the story idea, helped find sources and supplied photographs.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: *The New York Times* no longer has a Foreign Desk. On October 1, the newspaper now has an International Desk. The change reflects a growing global readership with different definitions of “foreign.” A third of monthly readers, or 16 million people, visit nytimes.com from outside the United States. The change came in the same month that the *International Herald Tribune* was rebranded the *International New York Times*. Combining the NYT staff with that of the former *IHT*, gives the company 31 international news bureaus, more than *The Times* ever had in the past. The full-time reporting staff totals about 75 people, not including substantial editing operations in Paris and Hong Kong. At a time when other news operations have cut back, *The Times* says it is committed to international coverage.

Thomson Reuters reported on October 29 a third-quarter profit of 48 cents per share, beating Wall Street expectations by 4 cents. Thomson Reuters Editor-in-Chief **Steve Adler** told staff members earlier that month that the company planned to cut as much as 5 percent of its newsroom staff. Continuing staff cuts in the face of a positive earnings report left many in the industry to cry foul. The company employs about 2,800 journalists worldwide, so the cuts translate to about 140 people. A week earlier Thomson Reuters CEO **Jim Smith** said the company plans to eliminate 2,500 jobs from its core financial and risk division in February 2014. In September, the company announced it was ending work on Reuters Next, an ambitious 2-year-old and much-delayed reworking of the company’s legacy web product built around creating streams of content, even from outside sources, tied to a specific news event.

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

Seymour Topping, an OPC board member, is this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of the Silurians. He has spent 67 years in journalism, beginning as the editor of his high school newspaper and going on to a career that included extensive international reporting. He was foreign editor and managing editor of *The New York Times*, administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes and SanPaolo Professor of International Journalism at Columbia University, where he remains an emeritus professor. The award will be presented at the Silurians' annual banquet November 14 at the Players Club.

After years of experimenting with ways to promote serious journalism, **Pierre Omidyar** revealed October 16 he was going to finance a new mass media venture where he will be joined by **Glenn Greenwald**, the journalist who brought *The Guardian* the scoop about National Security Agency surveillance contained in documents leaked by Edward J. Snowden. Ironically, Greenwald was a victim of a news leak about the venture that spurred Omidyar to step forward. Omidyar, who founded eBay and is now a philanthropist, wrote on his blog that last summer he considered buying *The Washington Post*, which sold to another tech billionaire, **Jeff Bezos**, for \$250 million. "That process got me thinking about what kind of social impact could be created if a similar investment was made in something entirely new, built from the ground up," Omidyar wrote. Certainly, much can be created with a couple hundred million dollars, but for now plans are unclear.

Stephen Shepard, founding dean of CUNY's journalism school



Omidyar

and an OPC member got to know the McGraw family in the 20 years he spent as editor-in-chief of *Business Week*. That tenure ended in 2009 when McGraw-Hill sold the magazine to Bloomberg L.P., but the friendship continued as did the family's interest in business journalism. Now, CUNY's journalism school is getting a new business journalism center, thanks to a \$3 million donation by the Harold W. McGraw Jr. Family Foundation, which was established in 2010 by the children of its namesake, the late chief executive and chairman of McGraw-Hill. Shepard said the Harold W. McGraw Jr. Center for Business Journalism will have two main goals: to find and recruit journalists for fellowship programs and to offer scholarships to students who choose to pursue CUNY's business and economics reporting concentration. Shepard, who will step down as dean at the end of the year, is staying on as a professor and said he promised the McGraws he would help look after the center.

OPC member **Norman Pearlstine**, who served as the editor-in-chief of Time Inc. from 1995 to 2005, is returning to the company to take on a new role as executive vice president and chief of content. Pearlstine is leaving Bloomberg LP, which he joined in 2008 with the title of chief content officer. Time Inc., which publishes *Time* magazine, is reorganizing as it prepares for a spinoff from Time Warner in 2014. The position of editor in chief has been eliminated: **Martha Nelson**, who has held the job since January, is leaving the company.



Pearlstine



Nelson

WASHINGTON: Jim Lehrer, an OPC member and former PBS

anchor, received a good review from *The Washington Post* for his newest play, "Bell," a one-man show about Alexander Graham Bell that opened a 10-day run at the National Geographic Society in September. The National Geographic, which is celebrating its 125th-anniversary, suggested to Lehrer the idea of writing about Bell, the society's second president. Lehrer has written four plays and 21 novels. *Top Down*, Lehrer's most recent novel published in October by Random House, is about the Kennedy assassination.

Jim Lehrer was also in the news in October when he and **Robert MacNeil** announced they have entered into talks to give WETA, a public TV station, their ownership stakes in "PBS NewsHour." MacNeil and Lehrer have been linked to the show since it began in 1975 and for many years were co-anchors. Since 1981, they have been the show's owners and co-producers through MacNeil/Lehrer Productions. WETA already co-produces the show, which has its studios across the street from WETA's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Lehrer and MacNeil wrote to NewsHour staff: "We felt the need to create a way to insure The NewsHour will always be in steady, professional journalistic hands and minds once we step even further away — to coin a phrase that fits our current happy elder status,"

Al Kaff died two years ago on October 25, 2011. We continue to miss his collegiality and daily presence in our e-mail inboxes. **Susan Kille** took over the People and New Books columns in December 2011 and we are grateful for her stepping in to fill such large shoes and doing a great job every month. This month's columns required a lot of juggling as her daughter, Lucille Kille Sawyer, was married in Manhattan on November 1 to Jonathan McNeil Keller. Best wishes to Susan and her expanded family.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

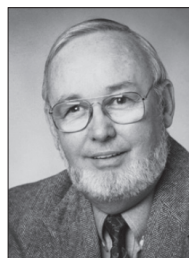
Jeffrey Blyth, an OPC member who covered major events around the world, died September 21 in New York. He was 87. As the New York-based correspondent for the London *Daily Mail* from 1957 to 1972, Blyth rode into Havana on Fidel



Castro's jeep, saw the building of the Berlin Wall, stood in the Dallas police garage when Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald and was in Los Angeles when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated. He covered the Hungarian revolution, the Suez Crisis and the Vietnam War. One of his biggest scoops came in 1956 when he persuaded Prince Rainier to give an exclusive interview on the eve of his wedding to Grace Kelly. His first big scoop was when, as shipping correspondent for the *Daily Mail*, he found the car in which the famous spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean had fled London and then abandoned near the docks of Southampton, England. Blyth, a past president of the Foreign Press Association of New York, was born in South Shields, England, and started his career at age 16 earning 7 shillings a week at the *Shields Gazette*. After the *Mail*, he was a New York correspondent for the BBC and the South African Broadcasting Company. He set up a company called Interpress, filing regular weekly reports on show business, media and travel for various British publications. He is survived by his widow, **Myrna Blyth**, who served as *Ladies' Home Journal* editor-in-chief from 1981 to 2002, during which she launched *More* in 1997 as a spinoff. She currently is AARP publications' editorial director.

Al Rossiter Jr., a longtime UPI science writer who became the wire service's executive editor, died Sep-

tember 23 in Washington, N.C. He was 77. He joined UPI in 1959 and after being appointed science editor in 1973, he won many awards for his coverage of the U.S. space program. Rossiter was named executive editor in 1987 after three top UPI editors left the company amid significant staffing cuts. He was executive vice president, responsible for editorial operations worldwide when he left UPI in 1992. He later served as assistant vice president at Duke University's office of public affairs and director of the Duke News Service until his retirement in 2001.



Kim Willenson, a former UPI and *Newsweek* journalist whose specialized in Asian affairs, died at age 76 on September 20 in Arlington,

People Remembered: Jerry Vondas

Jerry Vondas, an OPC member since 1979, was one of the most-read journalists in Pittsburgh until he was seriously injured in a car accident in March. He died August 20 at the age of 83 from an infection stemming from that accident.

For the last 15 years, Vondas was the feature obituary writer for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. He was known for celebrating the ordinary in lives as he told the stories of Western Pennsylvanians famous and unknown. Readers loved what he wrote, expressing themselves in letters, emails and telephone calls to the paper. And Vondas loved the job. "He was a constant in the newsroom, a fellow in his 80s still coming to work and looking forward to it," said Jim Cuddy, managing editor of "the Trib."



After starting off as a waiter and bartender while attending the University of Pittsburgh, he began his journalism career at the *North Hills News Record* in 1968. He joined *The Pittsburgh Press* in 1971 and stayed until the newspaper closed on Dec. 31, 1992. After a stint with the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh's newspaper, he joined the *Tribune-Review* in 1998.

Pittsburgh is one of the country's increasingly rare two-newspaper markets. A sign of the mark Vondas made is that the competition, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, wrote a tribute with a headline calling him a "longtime and caring Pittsburgh journalist."

His daughter, Maria Vondas Connelly, told the *Post-Gazette* that people often asked him if it was depressing to write obituaries. "He would say, 'This is a story about their life, not about their death,'" she said. "It helps people remember what they did in life and what they accomplished." He was able to memorialize them and to capture the human spirit with his writing talent. It's a gift to capture a person's essence. This was his calling."

In 2000, the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania presented Vondas with its first Service to Journalism Award for his decades of reporting excellence.

Virginia. From 1963 to 1973, he worked for UPI in Tokyo, Bangkok and Saigon. He worked for *Newsweek* from 1973 to 1987, first in New York and then as Tokyo bureau chief in the early 1980s. He later covered the Pentagon from Washington. In 1990, Willenson and his wife **Ayako Doi**, a journalist and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, founded the *Daily Japan Digest* newsletter, a Washington-based English-language publication. In 1987, he published *The Bad War*, a retrospective on the conflict in Vietnam. He was co-winner of an OPC award for reporting on the war between Ethiopia and Somalia in 1977.

Rolla J. "Bud" Crick, a founder of the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, died May 1 in Portland, Oregon. He was 95 and had traveled to more than 100 countries and all seven continents.

(Continued on Page 10)

In Response to Growing Dangers, Editors Shun Freelancers

by Michael Serrill

Whenever guns go off and hostilities break out, whether in Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya or Syria, freelance reporters and photographers appear at the edge of the battlefield, ready to risk life and limb to get the story. These days the opportunities for these men and women are dwindling, as mainstream media are increasingly wary of putting them to work unless they meet very specific criteria. Even if the freelancer goes in without a sponsor and comes out with a great story, she may not be able to sell it.

That was the consensus at the annual meeting of the International Press Institute's Foreign Editors Circle, held in Toronto October 31. The meeting included editors from various Canadian newspaper and broadcast outlets, plus foreign editors from the Associated Press, *Detroit Free Press*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Miami Herald* and myself, from the OPC and Bloomberg News.

The editors, despite severe cutbacks in overseas staff in recent years, said it is just too dangerous

to send non-staff reporters into situations where their status as non-partisan observers is not respected and they stand a good chance of being kidnapped, assaulted or murdered. Right now, for instance, few media outlets are risking sending anyone into northern Syria after a plague of kidnappings, the editors said. Though little known — because the media have agreed not to publicize information on individual cases — some 30 reporters and photographers are now missing and assumed kidnapped in Syria. The Islamic militants of the Al Nusra Front have reportedly targeted five journalists by name for seizure if they dare to enter the battle zone.

Even in situations where the danger is less, many news outlets are demanding that freelancers meet certain criteria. They have to have insurance and hostile environment training, something the Canadian Broadcasting Company provides all its reporters who put themselves in danger, according to CBC Director of News Content **David Walmsley**. That training is provided by a

private contractor whose staffers have military backgrounds. The company also tracks reporters and photographers while they are inside hostile territory and provides "extraction" services if needed. They counsel families and provide advice and assistance if a reporter is taken hostage.

Less prosperous outfits than the CBC, of course, can't afford the insurance and training to send either staff or freelance reporters into hostile situations. The result is that the reporting doesn't get done. With northern Syria a no-go zone for journalists, the extent of the slaughter there, and the condition of in-country refugees, is simply not known.

Our sister organization, Vienna-based IPI, describes itself as "a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists dedicated to furthering and safeguarding press freedom, promoting the free flow of news and information, and improving the practice of journalism." You can find them at <http://freemedia.at>

(Continued From Page 9)

At the beginning of World War II, he tried to join the Army Air Corps but was turned down because of a hernia. He was drafted a few months later. Crick told an officer that his dream job would be to start a *Stars & Stripes* in the Pacific Theater. The officer introduced him to a major with that goal. As a combat reporter, he was in Hiroshima shortly after the United States dropped the atom bomb. After leaving the service, he spent 42 years reporting in Portland for *The Oregon Journal* and then *The Oregonian*. He



Left, Crick reports from the South Pole 1957.
Right, Crick interviews people in Saigon in 1975.



covered everything, but especially the military. He was nominated for two Pulitzer Prizes. He was in Saigon the week it fell to Communist forces and in Iran when Ayatollah

Khomeini took power. In 1957, when the Navy drew lots to chose a journalist to go to the South Pole, Crick was chosen; an engine malfunction turned a planned 20-minute stop at the pole into a 23-day ordeal. After retiring, he volunteered to work for the Oregon Red Cross and was in New York City as their spokesman for three months after the destruction of the World Trade Center towers.

(Continued From Page 1)

the history of my own family was entwined with the history of China. The actual writing of *China Mission* took about three years but while it was cooking I published two books: *The Splendors of Tibet* and *Charlie's World: The story of an Australian Cockatoo and his American Family*.

Q: Descriptions in family letters to and from China bring this book alive with first-hand accounts. How did the Ronnings preserve these letters?

A: I think handwriting is a lost art. In the olden days, before email and Twitter, people like my grandparents, Halvor and Hannah Ronning, as well as my parents wrote intimate and thoughtful letters by dipping quill pens in India ink under the light of oil lamps. In those days, no one threw letters away. They were cherished and kept in special boxes or secret drawers. Later, some family letters were typed with carbon copies. My grandparents also sent letters about their work to mission headquarters both in Norwegian and English, which were kept in files.

Q: What was missing from the family archive that you wish was there?

A: In China my grandfather wrote a diary of letters to his brother Nils in Minneapolis, who took it upon himself to destroy letters he felt too intimate for others to read and I regret that. I also regret that I never met my grandmother or my great-aunt who died 20 years before I was born. As a child I was told I looked like my grandmother and I was curious about her life. I started writing the story of Hannah but Halvor kept taking over and became the strongest character. I knew my grandfather well and loved him deeply. He was a great storyteller and told many of the stories in the book.

Q: Do you have an anecdote to share about organizing the book?

A: The first draft ended when my family settled in Canada in 1928 shortly before I was born. It was gener-

ously accepted by LSU Press but the anonymous reader, who later turned out to be Andrew Burstein, suggested many cuts, but commented that it ended too soon. So I added the three last chapters and the epilogue.

Q: While making clear the deep Christian faith that began the Ronnings' relationship with China, the book is never moralizing. Was that a challenge?

A: No, not moralizing was never a challenge, perhaps because my grandparents and parents were not judgmental. They were more concerned with giving than taking and never felt superior to the Chinese or sorry for themselves. They spoke Chinese and understood the enormous problems facing China. Which is more than I can say for some other foreigners in China.

Q: Is there anything you did not put in the book but wish you had?

A: Oh yes! I am constantly thinking of what I left out and I would like to write the whole book over. I feel I have only revealed the tip of the iceberg but

writers have to know when to stop. I haven't learned that yet.

Q: What do you predict is in China's future?

A: Remember that China is the only civilization on earth that has come down through the ages intact. The women of China are a special breed, a strong force that has evolved through "survival of the fittest." They are demanding "Half The Sky" and although China has and will have great problems, both environmental and political, I believe that China is on the road to a special type of democracy with feminine Chinese characteristics.

Q: Your father made a "three wishes journey" to China. Where would you go on such a trip?

A: Well I might wish that my five daughters, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren will accompany me back to China to visit the Buddhist Temples Caves again — with a stopover in Norway to pay my respects to my ancestors in Telemark and a romp in Galapagos Islands.



From left: Audrey Ronning Topping, Chester Topping and Zhou Enlai in 1973.

(Continued From Page 12)

photos were published.

Eldon's life has had many pivots, but its great devastation was in 1993 when a mob in Mogadishu stoned and beat Dan to death. He was 22. After inheriting his mother's love of Africa and of telling stories, he was a photographer for Reuters covering the Somali civil war when he and three colleagues were killed. At the

time, Eldon was divorced and working on a film in Los Angeles. Dan had been angry at Eldon for leaving his father, but right before Dan died, he and Eldon had come to terms and realized how much they loved each other.

She overcame her grief, kept her sanity and found a new voice by preserving her son's memory and creativity and in encouraging others like him. Dan left behind 17 note-

books detailing his adventures and passions. Eldon created a traveling exhibit and best-selling book of the journals, filmed a documentary about Dan's life, and has worked to protect journalists in war zones. She and Amy founded the Creative Visions Foundation and a center in Malibu, California, that assists activist artists.

— by Susan Kille

New Books

ASIA

THE BOOK BY AUDREY Ronning Topping, *China Mission: A personal History from the Last Imperial Dynasty to the People's Republic* [Louisiana State University Press, October] is more than a family memoir. It is an engaging account of a turbulent century in China. Beginning with her grandparents in 1891, Topping writes: "Ronning was there for almost every event of importance."

Ronnings have been kicked out of China six times but they keep going back. Nine Ronnings were born in China and three died there. Topping tells their story through on-the-ground reports drawn from a treasure of family letters and diaries written over three generations, books by family members and her own reporting and research.

Hannah Rorem, Topping's grandmother, was just 20 when she sailed to China to be a missionary with Halvor Ronning, 29, and his sister, Thea. A month after they arrived, Hannah and Halvor were married.

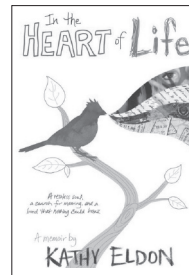
The couple, Americans with Norwegian roots, had seven children. Nelius, the oldest, had plans to be a missionary in China but died as a young man in Canada. Another son, Talbert, did become a missionary in China. Chester, their second child, served in China first as a teacher and then as a senior Canadian diplomat highly valued for his native speaking skills and deep knowledge of Chinese history and culture. And, as is common knowledge among OPC members, China is where Audrey Ronning meant the dashing foreign correspondent, **Seymour Topping**.

Audrey met "Top" in China during the outbreak of the Civil War. Chester and Top witnessed the fall of Nanking to the Communists. Audrey Topping has returned to China many times as a journalist and author, including 1966 to report on the Cultural Revolution for *The New York Times Magazine*; after getting her story and spectacular photos, she was escorted out of the country by Red Guards who called her a "Ronning dog of Imperialism."

China Mission, Topping writes, refers to the missionary efforts of her grandparents and uncle, but also to her father's diplomatic mission for the West to understand the complexity and beauty of China. The book

rewards readers with unique perspectives of Chinese history.

KATHY ELDON, AN OPC member, said it took 17 years and "a lot of blood, sweat and tears" to write her memoir, *In the Heart of Life* [HarperOne, October]. It is a revealing account of the disruptions of her life – loves, sorrows, challenges, tragedies, joys, guilt and more – and her recovery from what gives the book its subtitle: *A Mother Loses Everything Before She Discovers True Joy*.



Eldon was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and from an early age was fascinated by Africa. She graduated in 1968 from Wellesley College, where Hillary Clinton was a year behind her and Diane Sawyer a year ahead. She fell in love with an Englishman, married in 1969 and headed to London. In 1977, she moved to Nairobi with her husband and their two children, Dan, who was 7, and Amy, 3.

In Kenya, Eldon worked as a journalist and felt more at home than "I ever had in London, or even Iowa." The family experienced the failed 1982 coup and its aftermath. They took trips into the bush and had many friends. Dan sometimes joined her on assignments and some of his

(Continued on Page 11)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

"Human Cost of News Gathering"
November 12, Paris

"Syria: Changing Media Coverage?"
November 19, London

Book Night: Getting Away With Murder
by Heraldo Muñoz
December 4

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA