

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • November 2014

OPC Forges Partnership to Promote Journalists' Safety

By Marcus Mabry

Your OPC has been busy! Since the new officers and board of governors took office at the end of the summer, we have dedicated ourselves to three priorities, all designed to increase the already impressive contribution that the OPC makes to our members and our industry.

We have restructured the board to dedicate ourselves to services for members, both existing and potential, whether those members are veteran reporters and editors, freelancers or students. In addition to services, we have reinvigorated our social mission, creating a committee dedicated to planning regular networking opportunities for all members. So if you are in New York – or coming through New York – look us up and come for a drink with members and potential members.

But I am most proud of the work that we are doing in conjunction with other journalism organizations to create, for the first time, a

compact between news organizations and journalists, in particular freelance, around safety and professionalism. We have only just begun, but our partners include the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders, the Frontline Club, the International Press Institute's Foreign Editors Circle and the OPC Foundation. We met in September at *The New York Times* headquarters to try to align efforts that many of our groups had started separately.

We will keep you updated on our efforts. In the meantime, please help us in our drive to bring our members the professional services



Clockwise from front left: Vaughan Smith, Millicent Teasdale, Patricia Kranz, Jika Gonzalez, Michael Luongo, Sawyer Alberi, Judi Alberi, Micah Garen, Marcus Mabry, Charles Sennott, Emma Daly and Judith Matloff dining after a panel of how to freelance safety. See page 3.

you need and the social events you want. And, just as important, get friends and colleagues who are not members of the OPC to join. We are stronger together.

Your President,
Marcus Mabry

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Club Mixers to Strengthen Networks

EVENT PREVIEW: Dec. 10

Clubs are meant to be social. So, as part of an effort to expand our networking opportunities, the OPC has arranged two evening mixers where members – and prospective members – can meet up, unwind and swap stories over food and drinks.

On Thursday, Nov. 13, we gathered in the back garden of The Half King Bar and Restaurant, where members and guests enjoyed half price on all food and drinks from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The pub, which is journalist-

owned and has served as a regular haunt of writers and correspondents since it opened more than a decade ago, is at 505 West 23rd St. just west of 10th Ave.

The club's newly created committee for social events has scheduled a second mixer for Wednesday, Dec. 10, also at The Half King, where members and guests will get a 20 percent discount on appetizers, entrees and drinks from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Keep an eye on the OPC website for more mixer announcements ahead as we plan networking events for the 2015 schedule.

OPC Board Changes

By Chad Bouchard

Members might notice a few changes to our masthead this month. Former OPC Secretary Jonathan Dahl of *The Wall Street Journal* stepped down to take the helm at digital news startup Ozy in California.

The board elected Deidre Depke to take his place as club secretary. Depke has worked as a reporter and editor in New York for 25 years. She currently manages a consultancy that works with new media startups.

Award-winning freelance journalist Charles Graeber stepped in to fill Depke's vacated spot on the board of governors.

Graeber was a candidate in this year's board election and is a contributor to publications including *Wired*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *Vogue*, *National Geographic*, *Bloomberg Businessweek* and *The New York Times*.

He won the OPC's 2011 Ed Cunningham Award for his piece for *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "After the Tsunami, Nothing to Do but Start Again." Each year, the Ed Cunningham Award honors the best international reporting in magazines.

Read more about this month's board changes in Susan Kille's People column on page 7.



Anya Schiffrin



Hope for Muckrakers

EVENT PREVIEW: DEC. 1

In *Global Muckraking: 100 Years of Investigative Journalism From Around the World*, OPC awards judge

Anya Schiffrin takes a close look at investigative journalism over the last century that has made a significant impact on the world.

On Monday, Dec. 1 at 6:00 p.m., Schiffrin will be on hand to discuss her work during a book night with food and drinks. Schiffrin is the director of the media and communications specialization at Columbia University's School of International Affairs.

The event will be held at Club Quarters at 40 West 45th Street. \$20 covers the program from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and beer or wine and hors d'oeuvres from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Robert Friedman of Bloomberg News, who is the head judge for the OPC Awards, will moderate. RSVP by emailing patricia@opcofamerica.org or calling the OPC at 212 626-9220.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

Event Preview: Dec. 17

Join the OPC and Controls Risks, the global risk consultancy, for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Dec. 17 at Club Quarters for an expert view on geopolitical challenges that may emerge in 2015.

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Panel of Experts Shares Tips on How to Freelance Safely

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

As traditional news outlets shrink overseas bureaus, freelance journalists bear more of the burden for foreign reporting, and they're doing it with less support and fewer resources than their employed counterparts. That puts freelancers at greater risk of injury or kidnapping, and underscores the need for more safety training and more support from strings and press organizations.

On Oct. 21, a panel of experts from organizations dedicated to the welfare of journalists tackled how best to freelance safely for an audience at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

Judith Matloff, a veteran foreign correspondent who teaches a safety training course at the Columbia University School of Journalism, said maintaining a support network of editors and colleagues is critical for staying safe and assessing risk. She said freelancers now face those risks without the benefit of formal mentors at big news outlets.

"What I find so frightening about the freelance environment is that people are just totally on their own," she said. "Freelancers have to accept their own limitations. If you don't have the money for training, don't go to a place like Syria. Don't make that your first assignment."

She called on news organizations to offer freelancers training and resources to get in and out of hostile environments safely.

OPC member Micah Garen, an independent multimedia journalist and founder Four Corners Media who has worked in conflict zones around the world, agreed that safe reporting requires a strong support community on the ground and in the newsroom.

"[Freelancers] don't have a major news organization that's going to have somebody on payroll who's doing threat analysis," he said.

Garen has faced several threats during the course of his work. He was kidnapped in southern Iraq and held for 10 days in 2004 while filming a documentary about the looting of archaeological sites. He was hit by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 2009, and later was caught in a massacre in Egypt. He attributes his survival mostly

to luck, but said avoiding danger depends heavily on caution and situational awareness.

"The most dangerous times are when you first show up there, and then when you're too comfortable," he said.

Sawyer Alberi, lead trainer for Reporters Instructed in Saving Colleagues, or RISC, who served two tours of duty in Iraq as a flight medic and one as a combat medic in Afghanistan, said journalists on any assignment should always prepare for the worst. "You have to know your medical resources. You have to know where the hospital is, to know what they have and what they don't have," she said.

Alberi added that freelancers should not overlook

basic travel medicine to cope with other dangers reporting abroad, like car accidents or traveler's diarrhea.

"The reality is that more people get sick than they do get blown up. That's statistically just true," she said. Echoing the advice of other panelists, she added that colleagues can help to reign in other journalists when risks are too high. "You need to do some gut checks to say if this is a stupid idea or not."

RISC trains freelance journalists in combat first aid.

Alberi said their course focuses on four key preventable causes of death on the battlefield: bleeding to death, airway management, trauma due to pressure waves from explosives (tension pneumothorax) and hypothermia.

Smith, founder of Frontline Club in London, is one of seven journalists who started a freelancers' collective called the Frontline Freelance Register, or FFR. The group requires higher training standards among its members, and is seeking better pay for dangerous work, more timely payment and overall better treatment for freelancers.

"But we're still too often portrayed as lesser journalists by [employed correspondents] when the hand-wringing about journalism safety starts," he said. "If we want to help freelancers, we must correct negative assumptions about them. In truth, freelance content has become indispensable."

He said that two-thirds of the group's 400 members are freelance out of choice, and one-third said they thought their editors don't care about their safety at all.

The audience included notable voices in the



Left to right: Judith Matloff, Micah Garen and Vaughan Smith during a panel on how to freelance safely at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs.

Chad Bouchard

(Continued on Page 5)

Expert Panelists Discuss Reporter-Embassy Relations

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

Professional relations between diplomats and foreign correspondents are thorny. The two sides are in some ways dependent on each other, but the relationship is also fraught with suspicion and tension.

On Nov. 11, the OPC convened experts to address some of the day-to-day challenges of such relationships during a panel titled “Useful Sources: What Should Be the Relationships of Reporters to Diplomats, Especially in Times of Crisis?” *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* contributor Allan Dodds Frank moderated.

The session was pitched at newly assigned correspondents who are not yet familiar with embassy protocols.

Dale Prince, director of the New York Foreign Press Center, kicked off the discussion with a primer on the responsibilities of a State Department press officer.

Prince said the “mutually beneficial exchange” between press officer and reporter “is only possible with trust and ground rules.”

Press liaisons are responsible for answering reporters’

questions truthfully, he said, and for timely responses to requests. They are not responsible for answering questions that should be directed at other branches of government, and can’t comment on intelligence or military operations. He referred to a set of ground rules published by the State Department that clearly define differences between terms like “on record” and “on background” interviews.

Seymour Topping, former *New York Times* and Associated Press correspondent, author and OPC board member, recounted a story from his reporting in which a Chinese diplomat asked him to write a story about China’s willingness to divide North and South Vietnam. China had no diplomatic relations with the U.S. at the time, so his article was used as a back channel, he said.

“That’s an example, of course, where you can do your job and make a contribution to the world at large,” he told attendees.

Edith Lederer, a longtime Associated Press correspondent, contrasted her experience as a correspondent during the Vietnam War, when reporters could secure near limitless jump seats in helicopters to cover the country, with

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‘A Path Appears’ Offers Meditations on Philanthropy

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

After winning worldwide praise for their book *Half the Sky*, which explored oppression and opportunity for women around the world, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn set out to help people make significant changes through philanthropy and fight hopelessness in the face of overwhelming problems in the world. Their new book, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*, includes vignettes about people who have made a difference by volunteering or making small contributions.

The husband-and-wife team discussed their work during a book night at Club Quarters on Friday, Nov. 7.

“It does feel to us that there is this broad yearning on the part of so many Americans to have an impact, to make a difference in the world,” said Kristof, an OPC award winner and longtime member of the club.

“And yet there’s concern about corruption, about inefficiency of aid groups, and a sense that the problems are so vast that – what can anyone do?”

Kristof described important changes over the last decade that have allowed researchers and groups like Charity Navigator and GiveWell to study what kinds of aid work best.

“For example, it turns out that the most cost-effective way to get one more child in school around the world is not what we tend to think of, which is building a new school, but is something much less common – it’s deworming,” he said.

He said children who suffer from intestinal parasites in developing countries miss out on education and their brain development can be hampered by anemia. The problem is easily treatable, at a cost of 50 cents per year to

de-worm a child through organizations like the Deworm the World Initiative.

WuDunn outlined some of the physiological benefits of giving. Research has shown neurological benefits for people who give.

(Continued on Page 11)



Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, left, greet Seymour Topping during a book night at Club Quarters. Topping hired Kristof in 1984 during his tenure as editor at *The New York Times*.

Lesley Topping

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Aurora Almendral
Reporter/Radio Producer
Makati City, Philippines
Active Overseas (Young)

Lea Bouchoucha
NYU Journalism
Student

Joel Brand
Joel Brand Consulting
Santa Monica, CA
Associate Non Resident

Thomas Brant
Institute of Journalism/
French Studies
NYU
Student

Makini Brice
Institute of Journalism/
French Studies
NYU
Student

Andrea Bucher-McAdams
Columnist/Reporter
Town & Village Newspaper/NYC
Active Resident

Andrew Burton
Photojournalist
Getty Images/New York
Active Resident (Young)

Asthaa Chaturvedi
Columbia University/Journalism
New York
Student

Sandy Ciric
Director of Photography
Getty Images/New York
Active Resident

Lisa de Bode
Reporter, Digital
Aljazeera America/New York
Active Resident (Young)

Margaret Donaldson
Institute of Journalism/French
Studies
NYU
Student

Susan Ellingwood
Editor, Room for Debate
The New York Times
Active Resident

Valerie Hopkins
Journalist/Editor
Balkan Investigative Reporting
Network
Kosovo
Active Overseas

James Jeffrey
Freelance
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(former OPC Scholar)
Active Overseas

Jo Ling Kent
Correspondent
Fox Business News/New York
Active Resident (Young)

Markos Kounalakis
Foreign Policy Columnist
The Sacramento Bee
San Francisco, CA
Active Non Resident

Jonathan Krohn
Freelance
Ainkawa, Erbil/Iraq
Active Overseas (Young)

Diana Le
Linguist/Independent Journalist
U.S. Marine Corps
Wahiawa, HI
Associate Non Resident (Young)

Anders Melin
Exec. Compensation Reporter
Bloomberg News
New York
Active Resident (Young)

Ben Taub
Columbia University/Journalism
Student

Jack Williams
Journalist
Caters News Agency/New York
Active Resident (Young)

Michael J. Williams
Global Enterprise Editor
Reuters/New York
Active Resident

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movement to improve safety for journalists overseas.

Charles Sennott, a co-founder of Global Post who was closely involved in the struggle to free James Foley, founded The Ground Truth Project, a nonprofit dedicated to “providing mentoring and training for the next generation of foreign correspondents.”

“This is a time to seize the moment of Jim [Foley]’s death, and Steve Sotloff’s death,” he said. “There’s a point in time here that we need to recognize. It’s a mo-

ment upon us to seize all of this energy and really affect change.”

OPC Foundation President Bill Holstein told attending students about the foundation’s 15 scholarships and internships to provide training for college students in the U.S. and Canada who want to become foreign correspondents.

“This year, for the first time, when we fly all the winners to New York, we’re going to provide situational awareness training,” by the Washington, DC-based Global Security firm, Holstein said.

PEOPLE... By Susan Kille susan@opcofamerica.org

OPC SCHOLARS

Anders Melin, who received a Reuters internship in 2013 from the OPC Foundation, in October was named executive compensation reporter for Bloomberg News. A native of Sweden, Melin spent his internship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.

John Ismay, who won the 2013 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, was listed first among those contributing to an Oct. 14 investigative report by C.J. Chivers in *The New York Times* about previously untold discoveries of chemical weapons in Iraq during the U.S. occupation of the country. Ismay, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who served in Iraq as an explosive ordnance disposal officer, wrote in the At War blog about his personal experience with chemical weapons in Iraq. Ismay and Chivers responded online to readers' questions about the munitions.



Ismay

WINNERS

James Foley, who was murdered by ISIS forces in Syria last summer, was named this year's recipient of the Nackey S. Loeb First Amendment Award, an annual honor given to New Hampshire residents who fight to protect the First Amendment. The award is named for the former president and publisher of the *Union Leader*, New Hampshire's only statewide newspaper.

Evelyn Leopold, an OPC board member and a veteran reporter at the United Nations, chaired the Dag Hammarskjöld Fund for Journalists Annual luncheon. The Oct. 28 lunch honored four young journalists who are finishing one-year fellowships

at the U.N. sponsored by the fund: **Olefumi Akande** from TVC News of Nigeria; **Abdel Aziz Hali** from *La Presse* of Tunisia; **Ana Maria Macaraig Leopold** from *Rappler* in the Philippines; and **Tuan Anh Pham** from the online outlet Dan Tri of Vietnam. Former Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay and singer-songwriter Angelique Kidjo, a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, were guests of honor.



Leopold

Kenyan journalist **Joseph Ma-thenge** in October received African Journalist of the Year honors, the top prize at this year's CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2014 Awards Ceremony. His work, which appears in *The Standard* in Nairobi, was chosen from entries from across the African continent.

Two Associated Press journalists working overseas, **Dalton Bennett** and **Muhammed Muheisen**, won the annual Oliver S. Gramling Journalism Awards, the highest AP staff honor. Bennett, a video journalist based in the United Arab Emirates, was described as "one of AP's go-to video journalists, specializing in compelling visual storytelling from Europe to the Middle East and beyond. Muheisen, chief photographer in Pakistan, was twice part of AP teams that won the Pulitzer Prize for covering the wars in Iraq and Syria.

Since 1990, the International Women's Media Foundation has honored some of the world's bravest — and most embattled — female reporters and editors with Courage in Journalism Awards. Awards were presented in October to **Arwa Damon**, a CNN war correspondent; **Solange Lusiku Nsimirem**, editor-

in-chief of *Le Souverain* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and **Brankica Stanković**, a reporter for RTV in Serbia. The IWFM has received a \$1 million grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to establish an annual award for photojournalism in honor of AP photographer **Anja Niedringhaus**, who was killed in Afghanistan in April.

UPDATES

MILWAUKEE: The Milwaukee Press Club inducted OPC member **Dickey Chapelle** into its Hall of Fame on Oct. 24. Chapelle, a photojournalist who covered the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, died in 1965 while photographing a U.S. mission in Vietnam. A Marine walk-



Wikimedia Commons

Dickey Chapelle

ing in front of Chapelle tripped a booby trap and an explosion blew shrapnel into her neck, killing her within minutes. She was one of the first American correspondents killed in Vietnam, and the first American woman journalist to be killed in combat. She served on OPC's Freedom of Information Committee and

testified before Congress to promote greater access for journalists and to loosen official restraints against them. She won the OPC's George Polk Award in 1962 for her coverage of Vietnam. OPC President **Marcus Mabry** sent a letter to the Milwaukee Press Club saluting Chapelle's induction. "Dickey was one of us," he wrote, "an involved OPC board member and an outspoken advocate for reporters trying to tell readers and listeners at home what was going on in Hungary, Cuba, Vietnam, and all those other places she traveled to, wrote about and photographed."

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif: **Jonathan Dahl** left *The Wall Street Journal*, where he was editor-in-chief of WSJ.Money magazine and executive director of page one, to become managing editor of Ozy, a digital news startup named after Shelley's poem *Ozymandias*. Ozy Media is a year-old online magazine backed by Laurene Powell Jobs and other Silicon Valley luminaries plus German publisher Axel Springer. Dahl, who resigned as OPC secretary as part of his shift to California, joined the *Journal* in 1985, and worked in the Dallas and Chicago bureaus in addition to starting a travel column and helping create the *Weekend Journal*. He had also been editor-in-chief and executive editor of *SmartMoney*. *The Financial Times* reported that Dahl would oversee about 12 staff members and 20 freelancers.



Dahl

OTTAWA, Ontario: **Chrystia Freeland**, a former OPC board member who is now a member of the Canadian Parliament, was inside the Centre Block of Parliament on Oct. 22 when she heard shooting as a gunman ran through the building after killing a soldier outside. She told MSNBC she took off her high

heels and ran. She said she was given a bulletproof vest to wear and she hid in the canteen used by staff.

SCARSDALE, N.Y.: **Seymour and Audrey Topping** celebrated



Sonya Fry

Seymour and Audrey Topping cutting their 65th anniversary cake

their 65th wedding anniversary on Nov. 8 with a party for family, friends and colleagues at their home.

The cake served at the party was a close replica of their original tiered wedding cake. Last month, Top and Audrey did an archival interview about their long careers in journalism which is on the OPC website. Top is a longtime member of the OPC and serves on the club's board.

NEW YORK: In her first interview since she was severely wounded in April in an attack in Afghanistan, **Kathy Gannon**, an OPC member and a veteran Associated Press correspondent, vowed to return to Afghanistan. She said she had re-lived the decisions that led to the death of her friend **Anja Niedringhaus**, an AP photographer, but would do nothing different. "We weren't careless or cavalier about the security arrangements ...," Gannon said in an interview at AP headquarters. Gannon said her physical recovery has been grueling and is still a work in progress.



Gannon

Deidre Depke was elected by the OPC board in October to replace **Jonathan Dahl**, who resigned, as club secretary. Depke has been a reporter and editor in New York for 25 years, working as senior news editor at *BusinessWeek*, as the foreign editor at *Newsweek* and as the editor of *Newsweek.com* and *The Daily Beast*. In addition, she worked as the general manager for *TheWeek.com*, concentrating on business development and technology creation. She currently manages a small consultancy that works with new media startups, including Tina Brown's Live Media company.

Calvin Sims, OPC's first vice president and president of New York City's International House, and **Charles Sennott**, co-founder of GlobalPost and a board member of the OPC Foundation, worked together for months to plan Generation Jobless, a two-day conference focused on finding solutions to youth unemployment that was co-sponsored by their organizations



Sims and Sennott

and held Oct. 24 and 25 at International House. Sennott is executive editor of GroundTruth, a nonprofit initiative training young foreign correspondents that has reported from 11 countries about youth unemployment. "The consequences of not addressing youth unemployment are dire and have the potential to leave young people around the world without a future," Sims said.

Azmat Khan, an OPC board

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member, will become an investigative reporter for BuzzFeed. In December she will join an investigative unit of 10 reporters led by **Mark Schoofs**, a former senior editor at ProPublica who was part of a team at *The Wall Street Journal* that won a Pulitzer for coverage of the Sept. 11 attacks. Khan currently leads the digital team at Al Jazeera America's flagship show "America Tonight" and had been a digital reporter and producer for the PBS series "Frontline." Her work earned an Online News Association award in 2012, the Gannett Foundation Award for Innovative Investigative Journalism in 2013 and an Emmy nomination in 2014.



Khan

Charles Graeber, an award-winning freelance journalist, has joined the OPC board. He won the OPC's 2011 Ed Cunningham Award for "After the Tsunami, Nothing to Do but Start Again" written for *Bloomberg Businessweek* and is the author of *The Good Nurse*, a 2013 best-selling book about America's most prolific serial killer, Charles Cullen, whose 16-year long nursing career left as many as 300 dead. He has contributed to publications that include *Wired*, *GQ*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *Vogue*, *National Geographic*, *Men's Journal* and *The New York Times*.



Graeber

Time magazine promoted **Brian Walsh** from senior editor to foreign editor in October and filled two top posts at international bureaus. Walsh served as Tokyo Bureau chief from 2006 to 2007 and joined *Time* in 2001. **Nikhil Ku-**

mar, who had been a senior editor, was named South Asia Bureau chief, based in New Delhi. **Aryn Baker** leaves her post as Middle East Bureau chief, based in Beirut, to become Africa Bureau chief, based in Cape Town.

Get the Picture, a documentary based on the book of the same name by OPC member **John Morris**, was shown at the Time-Life building on Oct. 17 for an audience of Time-Life alumni and OPC members.

The documentary, directed by Cathy Pearson, follows the remarkable and long career that Morris has had in photography. He was photo editor of *Life* magazine during World War II and a founder of Magnum Photo Agency who worked with many of the greatest names in photojournalism. The film features stories from prominent photojournalists such as **James Nachtwey** and **Peter Turnley**, who attended



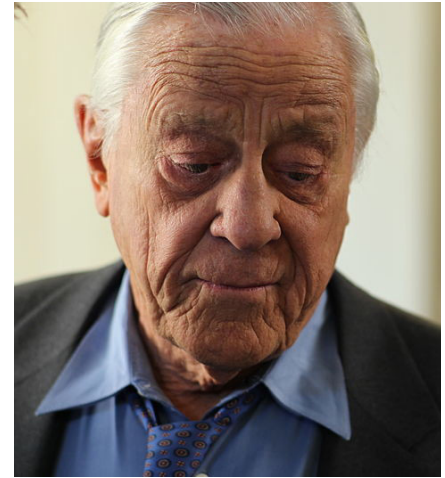
Norman Pearlstine and John Morris

the event. OPC member **Norman Pearlstine** generously sponsored the screening and a luncheon. This private screening was the first time that the film was shown in New York City.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Ben Bradlee, the legendary executive editor of *The Washington Post*, died Oct. 21 at his home in Washington.

Bradlee, who was 93, led the *Post's* newsroom for 26 years and transformed it into one of the world's leading newspapers.



Wikimedia Commons

Ben Bradlee

Under his tenure, the *Post* won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the Watergate scandal, which forced President Richard Nixon to leave office under threat of impeachment in 1974. Two years earlier, the *Post* joined *The New York Times* in defying pressure from the government not to publish stories based on the Pentagon Papers, a secret government account of the Vietnam War.

David Hoffman, an OPC member who served as assistant managing editor for foreign news at the *Post*, was among the thousands who gathered Oct. 29 at the Washington National Cathedral to say farewell to Bradlee. Hoffman tweeted: "Magnificent farewell to a remarkable man today. Ben Bradlee loved the lines 'I am the captain of my soul.' And so he was. Goodbye, captain."

The OPC was saddened to learn that **Sonya K. Fry**, who retired last spring as our executive director, suffered the loss of her sister, Linda A. Paranko, who died Oct. 30 after battling multiple sclerosis for more than 20 years. Paranko, who lived in East Lyme, Conn., had worked as a dental assistant and was an avid bowler and dancer before MS took its toll.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE... By Susan Kille

In the first public show of dissent within the Egyptian news media since the country's July 2013 military takeover, more than 350 journalists signed a statement posted Nov. 3 on social media networks protesting an Oct. 26 pledge by top editors from 17 state and private newspapers that they would refrain from publishing reports critical of the government.

Asserting that that the Egyptian press had been "the people's shield" against corruption and tyranny under the two previous presidents, Hosni Mubarak and Mohamed Morsi, the journalists attacked the "voluntary surrender" of press freedom by the editors as a curb on freedom of expression and "a victory for terrorism." Sacrificing freedom of expression, they said, meant that the news media was surrendering to the goals of militant extremists.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, **Jason Rezaian** of *The Washington Post* at press time was still being held without charge in Iran although the *Post* had reported his release could come soon. Rezaian was arrested on July 22. His family marked his 100th day of captivity with an open letter calling for Rezaian's release. The family said he is being held in solitary confinement in Evin prison, considered one of the world's most brutal and notorious jails. Three others arrested with Rezaian have been released.



Rezaian

"It is inexplicable and utterly unacceptable that Jason Rezaian, the *Post's* Tehran correspondent, remains in Iranian custody," said **Douglas Jehl**, an OPC member and the *Post's* foreign editor. "After 100 days, the time is long overdue for the Iranian authorities to release Jason and to allow him to be reunited with his family."

It seems each month, if not more frequently, another major press

freedom issue arises in China. *USA Today* has become the latest newspaper to come under pressure from Chinese authorities seeking to control the flow of information into the country.

The state-run China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, which controls distribution of imported newspapers, on Oct. 15 requested that *USA Today* submit an electronic version of its international print product for review prior to its shipment from Hong Kong. The paper quoted a spokesman for the government-controlled distributor saying that the *International New York Times*, *Financial Times* and *Wall Street Journal Asia* participate in the practice, which was introduced in 2013.

"We will comply with local law and supply a PDF, but under protest," **David Callaway**, an OPC member and the paper's editor-in-chief, said in a statement. "The suppression of information in China will not change our editorial selection of news stories under any circumstances."

One of the biggest threats to press freedom is the lack of justice for the hundreds of journalists murdered around the world. A report released in late October by the Committee to Protect Journalists found there is rarely a penalty for killing a journalist.

In the past 10 years, 370 journalists have been murdered in direct retaliation for their work and in 90 percent of those cases, no perpetrator was convicted, CPJ said. Most of those killed were local journalists reporting on corruption, crime, human rights, politics or war. A climate of impunity emboldens killers and leaves journalists with little choice but to censor themselves or to flee into exile.

The report was released in advance of the first International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists on Nov. 2, a date selected last year by the United Nations. Or-

ganizations vary in their counts of the work-related deaths of journalists, depending on how media workers are defined or whether journalists were targeted for their work or died for another reason while working. The U.N. reports that in the past 10 years, more than 700 journalists have been killed for doing their job but agrees with CPJ that nine out of 10 murders go unpunished.



Recent deaths include:

- **Aung Kyaw Naing**, a freelance journalist who was once a bodyguard for Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, died Oct. 4 while in the custody of the Myanmar army. His body was ordered exhumed and an investigation is continuing. Naing, also known as Par Gyi, was detained Sept. 30 while covering clashes between the army and ethnic rebels. Three weeks after his death, the army released a statement saying that during interrogation Naing said he was an information officer for a rebel group. The Army said Naing was shot while reaching for a soldier's gun during an escape attempt. The rebel group denied affiliation with Naing, who contributed to a number of publications.

- **Serena Shim**, a Lebanese-American journalist, was killed Oct. 19 in an auto crash in Turkey that her employer called suspicious. Two days earlier, she claimed the Turkish intelligence services had threatened her over her reporting of the siege of

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Kobani. Turkish media reported that the driver of a cement mixer had been arrested and the local governor pledged a detailed investigation.

- A woman who worked with her husband at a radio station in Peru died Oct. 17 while trying to defend her son and husband. **Gerson Fabián Cuba** was hosting his program on Radio Rumba when the gunmen entered the station and began insulting and beating him. Local news reports said when the journalist's son protested, Fabián Cuba's wife, **Gloria Limas Calle**, used a broomstick to try to drive away the gunmen. Limas Calle, who wrote ad copy and often cleaned the studio, was shot in

the chest and the assailants fled.

- **Pablo Medina Velázquez**, a Paraguayan journalist who wrote about the country's illegal drug trade, and his assistant, **Antonia Maribel Almada Chamorro**, were shot dead on Oct. 16. Police had provided Medina a bodyguard following numerous threats in connection with his investigations, but he was not protected at the time of the murders.

- Police in Cambodia arrested a police chief, a military police officer and a soldier as suspects in the murder of **Taing Try**, a freelance reporter and a member of the independent Khmer Journalists for Democracy

Association, who died Oct. 12 from a gunshot while investigating illegal logging. The three men arrested are suspected of trafficking in illegal timber.

- Two news cameramen died within two days in Iraq. The Islamic State publically executed **Raad al-Azzawi**, who worked for Salahuddin Television, in Tikrit on Oct. 10. Reporters without Borders said that the Islamic State earlier had threatened to execute Azzawi because he refused to work for the group. On Oct. 12, **Imad Amer Lattufi** was killed by a roadside bomb while traveling with the police force in Anbar province. He was a member of the police's media department.

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that of the First Gulf War in Kuwait, when interviews with soldiers were not allowed, information was tightly controlled and reports censored.

"What we have seen in my lifetime as a war correspondent and a foreign correspondent, have been much greater attempts to control the message that the U.S. government wants to send out."

She recalled sneaking into Afghanistan in 1979 and contacting the U.S. Embassy to make sure someone knew she was in the country. She added that non-U.S. embassies can also become key resources. Later when civil war had broken out in Afghanistan, the Turkish embassy kept track of the whereabouts of all foreign journalists and became "a kind of protector."

"If you didn't show up or call to say you were delayed, they would go and look for you," she said.

Lindsay Krasnoff, historian of the State Department, spoke about the development of relations between reporters and embassies during World War I. The two sides grew close because of journalists' reliance on diplomatic transportation to get to the front, and the embassy's reliance on reports from journalists who went to locations

they couldn't go.

"There was certain trust on the part of U.S. diplomats that the information that they gave the journalists who visited them, and on the other side there was certain restraint and self-censorship on the side of journalists to maintain the diplomat's trust in terms of not publishing all that they witnessed," until the information became less sensitive she said.

Andrew Nagorski, author and former Newsweek correspondent, recalled examples from his personal experience covering Southeast Asia and working as bureau chief for Newsweek in Russia, where he was expelled in 1982.

Nagorski remembered meeting a CIA agent who gave him battlefield intelligence on deep background in exchange for a pair of jogging shoes. He said it was clear that the U.S. embassy wanted to get the story released without implicating

Washington, and as a reporter he found the level of detail irresistible. His story, and the other stories from the evening, illustrated the push and pull felt by every reporter depending on diplomatic sources.

"We've seen a range here, starting with the issue of trust, and then the issue of tension, and both are inherent in any relationship between journalists and diplomats," Nagorski said.



Left to right: Andrew Nagorski, Lindsay Krasnoff, Edith Lederer, Seymour Topping and Dale Prince during a panel on reporter-embassy relations.

Chad Bouchard

Meet the OPC Members: a Q&A With Spencer Platt

By Susan Kille

Spencer Platt has received many honors as a photojournalist, including the World Press Photo of the Year award in 2006 for an image showing a group of young Lebanese in a convertible driving through a South Beirut neighborhood devastated by Israeli bombings. Platt, an OPC member since 2013, is based in New York.

Current assignment: Senior staff photographer for Getty Images

Hometown: Brooklyn

Age: 44

Education: Clark University, English major

Languages: Spanish (poor)

First job in journalism: *Star-Gazette*, Elmira, N.Y.

Countries where I've reported from: Afghanistan, Liberia, Iraq, Ukraine, Congo, Lebanon, Romania, Albania, Italy and France.

Best advice about photojournalism I've received: Any hotel room above \$150 per night will only make you want to stay in bed. Always stay at a place you can't wait to leave in the morning. This is from Carolyn Cole of the *L.A. Times*.

Worst experience as a journalist: Covering the hysteria surrounding Ebola ranks among the worst.

When traveling, I ... always bring a kettle and French press. Good coffee is a necessity. Also a corkscrew.

Hardest stories to photograph: The 2002 invasion of Iraq and the Tour de France.

My journalism heroes are: Don McCullin, Larry Burrows, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Capa.

Dream job: I have it!

Favorite quote: From Ryszard Kapuscinski: "A journey, after all, neither begins in the instant we set out, nor ends when we have reached our door step once again."

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ple who give, she said, and more than half of the people in one study reported a higher degree of pleasure than those who received gifts.

"It turns out that being compassionate and volunteering actually elevates your health outcomes," WuDunn said.

OPC board member Seymour Topping, who moderated



Michael Goldfarb

Spencer Platt at a refugee camp in northern Lebanon last summer.

Advice for photojournalists who want to work overseas: Choose an uncomfortable and difficult location others have ignored. Work it to death.

Place most eager to visit: Algeria. Reading Camus began a desire to see, smell and taste this land.

The most over-the-top assignment: Waiting for a shark attack along a Florida beach; it didn't happen but the beach was great.

The most common mistake I've seen: Not being well informed over a story.

My pet peeve about editors is: I have fantastic editors.

The country I'd return to: Lebanon, always.

Twitter handle: @spencerplatt1

Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Contact Susan Kille at susan@opcofamerica.org.

the discussion, asked whether the authors thought the world needed a central charismatic figure like Nelson Mandela to galvanize global movements for change.

"There is a deep human yearning for transformational figures or in the world of policy, for silver bullets," Kristof said. "Change more often happens not from silver bullets, but from silver buckshot...from modest changes that collectively add up," Kristof said.

New Books

ANTHOLOGY

VANITY FAIR BILLED ITSELF as the “modern magazine” of the Jazz Age and that justification is seen in *Bohemians, Bootleggers, Flappers, and Swells: The Best of Early Vanity Fair* [Penguin Press, November]. OPC member David Friend worked with his boss, *Vanity Fair* editor Graydon Carter, to edit the anthology of 72 essays, poems and profiles published from the magazine’s debut in 1913 to 1936, when during the Great Depression, it was folded into *Vogue*.

Clarence Darrow writes about equality, Noël Coward has a parody called “Memoirs of Court Favorites,” e.e. cummings presents “When Calvin Coolidge Laughed,” F. Scott Fitzgerald explains what a magazine should be, Dorothy Parker tackles topics from why she hated actresses to why she stayed single, Carl Sandburg writes about Charlie Chaplin while Walter Winchell gives a “Primer on Broadway Slang.”

Other bylines include Jean Cocteau, Robert Benchley, T.S. Eliot, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Ford Maddox Ford, John Maynard Keynes, D.H. Lawrence, Walter Lippmann, Edna St. Vincent Millay, P. G. Wodehouse, Thomas Wolfe and Alexander Woolcott.

Friend, the editor of creative development at *Vanity Fair*, was *Life* magazine’s director of photography during the 1990s. He established the Internet site for both *Life* and *Vanity Fair*. He is the author of *Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11* [Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2006]. His awards include an Emmy and a Peabody. As a correspondent, he covered conflicts in Afghanistan, Lebanon and elsewhere.

Friend has worked with Carter to edit seven other anthologies from *Vanity Fair*, which was revived by *Condé Nast* in 1983.

MEMOIR

FOR NEARLY A HALF CENTURY H.D.S. Greenway was a byline on news reports from events and conflicts around the world. David Greenway’s account of his experiences in *Foreign Correspondent: A Memoir* [Simon & Schuster, August] is both a memoir and a modern history of America trying to impose its will in places and on people it does not understand.

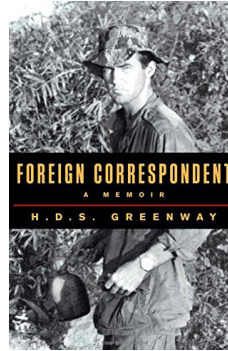
Greenway acknowledges he worked in a golden age of international reporting, a time when newspapers were “making more profit than most of their advertisers, and there was enough money around to fuel dreams of expansion.” When he was hired by *Time* magazine in 1962, Henry Luce told him to always travel first class. Those days are gone, as are deadlines that fall only once a day. Bureaus have closed and fewer colleagues gather around distant watering holes.

Greenway worked in London and Washington before *Time* sent him to Vietnam in 1967. He joined *The Washington Post* in 1972 and continued reporting from Vietnam, where he was wounded and received a Bronze Star for rescuing a Marine. He left Saigon by helicopter from the American embassy as the city was falling. His career took him to 96 countries and he tells the stories of the leaders, civilians and fellow correspondents he met.

In 1978, he became national and foreign editor of *The Boston Globe*, where he established bureaus in London, Tokyo, Canada, Moscow, Latin America and Jerusalem. He was a “writing foreign editor” and filed articles while overseas hiring stringers and making contacts.

After his retirement in 2000, he has written columns for the *Globe*, the *International Herald-Tribune* and *Foreign Affairs*.

— By Susan Kille



Upcoming Events

**Book Night/Reception
With Anya Schiffrin:
6:00 p.m. Dec. 1**

**Overseas Press Club
Mixer at The Half King:
6:00 p.m. Dec. 10**

**Control Risks Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Dec. 17**