

Author of 'Forgotten' Addresses Capacity Crowd

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

Author and freelance journalist Linda Hervieux drew a record-breaking crowd of more than 100 attendees at Club Quarters on Nov. 4 for an OPC Book Night to launch *Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War*.

Hervieux told the standing-room-only crowd that when she started researching the men of the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion – the only unit of African American combat soldiers to land on D-Day – a central question emerged.

"I wanted to know why I didn't know this history," she said.

The Barrage Balloon Battalion deployed balloons on tethers to tangle low-flying aircraft and prevent strafing attacks during the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

She tracked down the men and talked to their families, discovering that many of the veterans were speaking about their experiences in depth for the first time since the war. Mark Whitaker, former managing editor of CNN Worldwide and a reporter and

a top editor at *Newsweek*, moderated the discussion. He asked Hervieux why this unit of black soldiers had been picked for this dangerous assignment.

Hervieux said some people theorized that it was meant to be a suicide mission, but she thinks the decision to send them had more to do with growing pressure from groups like the NAACP and possibly even from Eleanor Roosevelt, who had advocated for better treatment of black soldiers, to provide more interesting and important assignments for them.

Black soldiers not only faced the horrors of war – they also experienced appalling racism on the homefront.

At their segregated training camp in Paris, Tennessee, African Americans from the north were shocked to find segregated rail cars and few places off base for the men to go because they were not welcome in town.

In Memphis, German prisoners of war enjoyed much greater freedom than the black soldiers, who were banned from restaurants that would



Carrie Crow

Linda Hervieux, right, points to a barrage balloon as moderator Mark Whitaker looks on.

serve Germans.

In Virginia, a black man could still be charged with rape for making eye contact with a white woman.

When en route from Tennessee to New York, black soldiers in segregated cars drew the curtains because "Dixie whites often fired at train cars carrying black men."

"The men of this generation really minimized how bad things were to their own children, because they didn't want them to be burdened with Jim Crow," Hervieux said.

Once they landed in England and Wales, however, the treatment was starkly different. There were no segregated train cars. Women gave them flowers and embraced them. They were greeted as celebrities.

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Special Rockwell Viewing for OPC Members

EVENT PREVIEW: Nov. 17

OPC members are invited to a special viewing of Norman Rockwell's famous work, *Norman Rockwell Visits a Country Editor*, at Christie's on Tuesday, Nov. 17 before the piece goes up for auction.

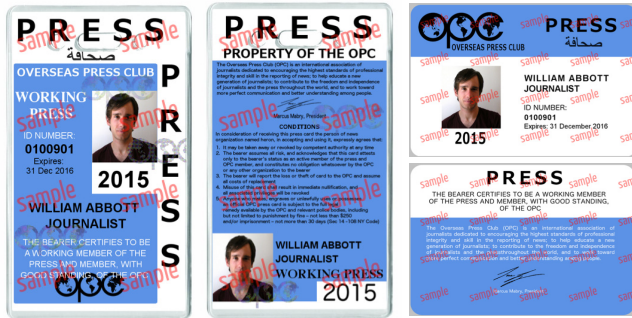
This opportunity is made available

to OPC members from the National Press Club Journalism Institute.

The evening will begin with a lecture from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by cocktails from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The event will be held at Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza.

RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16 to: RSVP@opcofamerica.org.



Working Press Members: Apply Now for an OPC ID Card or Badge

Time is running out for working press members to get an OPC photo ID badge.

The OPC is offering two ID options. If you have renewed your club membership and are working as an active member of the press, we will provide free of charge a durable, double-sided hard plastic ID card, similar in size to a credit card.

The second option is a government or press-pass style ID that can be hung around the neck, and includes holograms for extra security. This ID type must be custom printed, and will only be available to members in batch orders of 50 or more, at a cost of \$50 each.

If you are interested in the badge IDs, call the OPC at 212 626-9220 by Dec. 15. We will take credit card information for the \$50 cost, but will not charge your credit card until the requisite 50 people sign up. High-resolution jpeg photos should be emailed immediately to gabriellevalen@gmail.com.

NEW DATE AND VENUE: OPC GOVERNOR DANIEL SIEBERG EXPLAINS GOOGLE NEWS LAB

The OPC will host a discussion with OPC Governor Daniel Sieberg on **Thursday, Dec. 10** in room 308 of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism at **219 West 40th Street**. Please take note of the new date and location of this event.

Sieberg, the head of media outreach at Google, will discuss Google News Lab's collaboration with journalists and entrepreneurs.

Find out about newsroom training, Google Trends data, tools for election coverage, new multimedia storytelling platforms and more.

The event starts at 6:30 p.m.

To RSVP, call 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

HONG KONG HANDS TO GATHER ON DECEMBER 8

Anyone who worked as a correspondent in Hong Kong is invited to meet at 115 East 54th Street on Tuesday, Dec. 8 to swap stories over wine, dim sum and jazz. All attendees must RSVP.

To RSVP, call 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

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Marcus Mabry: Moving From The Times to Twitter

By Marcus Mabry

When I decided to leave *The New York Times*, I braced myself for a slew of questions and skepticism. “What?” “Leave *The New York Times*?” “Are you crazy?”

When I came to the *Times* from *Newsweek* more than eight years ago, friends and family had, literally, said to me, “Wow. Now you’re at a real news organization.”

And even among journalists, especially our tribe of foreign correspondents, editors and global news junkies, there are few institutions as highly regarded as *The New York Times*. *The Times* stands for something superlative in our business – and rightly so.

So when I made the decision to leave my editor job there for a post at Twitter, the social media company, I was expecting a lot of push back. The biggest surprise? Hardly any came.

From the highest levels of the *Times*, where my bosses and the publisher were classy as hell! to my literary agent – literary! – not one person in publishing didn’t understand why I was making the change.

My new job at Twitter, to be fair, would have been hard for anyone interested in the future of journalism to turn down. We are trying something totally new, developing an entirely new form of storytelling, taking the now ubiquitous building block of Twitter – the 140-character tweet – and using it to construct stories. Some news, some feature. With a whole bunch of video and photography mixed in.

This has never been done before.

What editor could turn down such a challenge?

I couldn’t.

Twitter Moments, which I now edit, launched a few weeks before I arrived. A team of curators – in the old days we could as them to re-write – scan the Twitter-sphere and the Internet for developing news stories and compelling feature stories.

For the uninitiated, the Twittersphere is the whole messaging system where anyone in the world can send a message to anyone else in the world. There are 500 million tweets on average every day. Journalists and celebrities use Twitter – a lot. For the former, it is an extraordinary way to stay up on the news and to share stories. For the latter, there is no more powerful tool for staying in contact with fans.

The power of Twitter – and all social media – to connect everyday people was never on greater display than during what was known as The Arab Spring of The Awakening. Although the historical events surrounding the pro-democracy uprisings in 2010 and 2011 have turned dark in many parts of North Africa and the Middle East, it was initially an exuberant embodiment of people power that forced sclerotic, despotic regimes to change, or die.

The Arab Spring originated in Tunisia in December 2010 and quickly took hold in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Ye-

men, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan.

And the young people who led those revolutions used Twitter to organize and mobilize and fight back. Some had long had private Facebook pages where they congregated away from the eyes of the regimes. That is harder today as the regimes have grown up in places like Egypt have insinuated themselves into these networks and/or monitor them, so they are never surprised again.

Twitter Moments is meant to be a way to get all the regular folks who don’t use Twitter to use it. We make stories just like a newspaper and we look a lot more like a website or a news app on your phone. We are definitely not aimed at the current heavy users of Twitter – namely journalists! We are intended for folks who are not familiar with it.

But I think a lot of journalists will find us useful in the way they have always found Twitter useful: when they need news in real time from sources on the ground, whether reporters, citizen journalists or just refugees living the news.

And, again, I ask, what editor could resist that opportunity?

Protecting Journalists Overseas

EVENT PREVIEW: Dec. 16

The OPC, Bloomberg LLP and the Ford Motor Company are co-sponsoring a reception and panel on journalist safety at Bloomberg midtown headquarters on Dec. 16. Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, and other experts will discuss how the media industry, governments, and journalists themselves can better protect the safety of those who cover global hot spots.

Other panelists include independent journalists Gregory D. Johnsen and Anna Therese Day. Both were Fulbright scholars. Johnsen recently left Istanbul, where he was writer-at-large for BuzzFeed News, and was nearly kidnapped in Yemen. In 2006 he was awarded the David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship from the Overseas Press Club Foundation.

Day, a founding board member of the Frontline Freelance Register, has written from numerous countries in the Middle East and elsewhere for CNN, Al Jazeera English, and CBS. She was named one of Google Zeitgeist’s top 30 Greatest Minds of Our Time in 2011.

Also invited is Raimonda Murmokaite, Lithuania’s permanent representative to the UN. Lithuania was the main force behind a May UN Security Council resolution to scale up efforts to protect journalists in conflict zones.

The evening will begin with a reception sponsored by Bloomberg at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

To RSVP, please call the OPC at 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

Groups Provide HEFAT Training for Freelance Reporters

By Jane Reilly

The Overseas Press Club Foundation is among a number of organizations that have stepped up to help implement a core element of the Global Principles and Practices task force: hazardous environment training for freelance journalists. With close to 80 signatories now supporting the list of principles that require such training, the task force recognized the need to make the sometimes prohibitively expensive training accessible to those who need it most. At its meeting in early October at the Dart Center of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Reuters investigative reporter David Rohde, a co-chair of the task force, announced that Thomson Reuters would cover the costs of 14 freelance journalists to attend a five-day Hostile Environment and Emergency First Aid (HEFAT) training course run by Hawthorne Proactive from Nov. 22 to 27 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

While Thomson Reuters was covering the bulk of the costs, applicants were responsible for their own travel to and from Belfast. More than 200 freelancers applied for the training course. The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, a Washington, D.C. based non-profit group that provides reporting grants to freelancers, selected the winners. Half requested financial assistance to cover their travel to Belfast. The OPC Foundation, the

Pulitzer Center, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and 2LIVES: Steven Joel Sotloff Memorial Foundation provided the funds.

The 14 freelance journalists represent a wide variety of experience and backgrounds. Those requesting travel assistance are from Bulgaria, Belarus, Pakistan, Gaza Strip, Nairobi, Iraq, and a Polish-American based in Turkey. The remainder are from the United States, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Denmark and the UK. They are print and radio reporters, photojournalists and filmmakers who work for local and international media organizations. Because many have already worked in conflict zones, they know of the critical need for journalists to have basic survivor skills. One wrote how his professional background had given him critical hands-on experience in different facets of war photojournalism starting with covering hot spot news (airstrikes and violent demonstrations) and ending with the ongoing invasions/wars, but the only safety training he had received was theoretical lectures in college.

An Iraqi journalist requested the training so he can “obtain the skills necessary to make doing my job safer. In the course of my work there is a threat of kidnapping and death. There are many gangs, militias and armed insurgents who target reporters and journalists who work

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OPC Scholar Covers West Africa for Reuters From Dakar

By Makini Brice

Makini Brice won this year's OPC Foundation's Flora Lewis fellowship, which has been extended in the Reuters bureau in Dakar. She has also received a Reuters-National Association of Black Journalists fellowship which will continue her stay for up to an additional nine months.

It was around 4:00 p.m. on an otherwise uneventful day when the bureau chief strolled from his desk to inform the Reuters newsroom about a rumor circulating that the army was holding the president and government ministers hostage in Burkina Faso.

As we'd come to find out, it wasn't just a rumor. For about a week, the citizens of Burkina Faso took to the streets to protest a coup d'état orchestrated by members of an elite army unit with close ties to the former president, Blaise Compaore, which the transitional gov-

ernment had planned to dismantle. Fears of a civil war were happily averted when coup leader Gilbert Diendere returned power to the interim president and – to my surprise – apologized for the putsch.

I've been at Reuters' Dakar bureau since the beginning of June and I've learned a lot so far: the depth of the conflict in northern Mali; the number of coups in Guinea-Bissau; and the meaning of the word “putsch.” The bureau here covers 23 countries in western and central Africa, stretching from Mauritania to the Democratic Republic of Congo. It's not uncommon to start a day in Conakry and end it 2,200 miles away in Brazzaville, especially during the recent unrest surrounding elections.

Before coming to the region, I had studied Journalism and French Studies, with an interest in Francophone Africa. Of course, all my knowledge of the region before step-



Makini Brice in a suburb of Dakar.

ping foot in Dakar was mainly comprised of research papers written by historians and sociologists and whatever information about sub-Saharan Africa that filtered through to New York. Despite my best preparations before my departure, I certainly could not tell you much about countries like São Tomé and Príncipe and Togo. And although I had freelanced throughout school and used the Reuters wire at the newsroom where I worked before graduate school, I

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PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

OPC SCHOLARS

Congratulations to 2015 Flora Lewis Fellowship winner **Makini Brice**, who not only had her OPC Foundation fellowship extended in the Reuters bureau in Dakar, but has received a Reuters-National Association of Black Journalists fellowship as well. The NABJ program recognizes “rising reporters, recent graduates or business professionals who demonstrate a clear commitment to a career in journalism and an ability to generate story ideas relevant for a Reuters audience, with a focus on multimedia, using text, video and/or graphics.” It will extend her stay for up to an additional nine months.

Devon Haynie, who won the Flora Lewis Fellowship in 2008, is now News Editor, International for *U.S. News and World Report*. The magazine is creating a new global team focused on news features and magazine-style journalism. In her new role, she’ll be covering international news stories and editing content from freelancers and others on staff. Devon spent her OPC Foundation fellow in the Johannesburg bureau of the Associated Press.



Haynie

2013 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship winner **Frederick Bernas** recently co-bylined a story in *The New York Times* about a fictional candidate who has touched off a debate over race and politics in Argentina. “Omar Obaca” was invented by an advertising company as a satirical figure, and has become wildly popular. Bernas is working as a freelancer journalist, filmmaker and photographer in Latin America.

2009 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner **Simon Akam** is a visiting fellow at the Oxford University Changing Character of War program. He will use his time to work on his book *The Changing of the Guard*, an examination of the recent evolution of the British Army, to be published by Penguin Random House imprint William Heinemann. Simon spent his OPC fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Istanbul. He worked at *The New York Times* and subsequently spent several years in West Africa as a correspondent for Reuters and the *Economist* before joining *Newsweek* in the UK.



Akam

AWARDS

OPC member **Marcus Bleasdale** is a co-winner of the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund Fellowship. He was honored for “Financing the Failure of a State,” which documented the turmoil in the Central African Republic and how it is affecting citizens. He shares the award with fellow photographer Mary F. Calvert.

International columnist **Mona Eltahawy**, who lit the Press Freedom Candle at the 2011 OPC Awards Dinner, was honored at the Women’s Media Awards on Nov. 5. Eltahawy, a freelance writer and commentator on the Middle East, women’s issues and other topics, won the Speaking Truth to Power Award. PBS News-hour co-anchors Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff received the Pat Mitchell Lifetime Achievement Award.

UPDATES

NEW YORK OPC President **Marcus Mabry** has left *The New York Times* to lead Twitter’s curated trending news feature, Twitter Moments. He will oversee the U.S. cu-

ration team. Twitter describes the new handpicked Moments feature as “the best of what’s happening on Twitter in an instant.”

Mabry announced the news, appropriately, on Twitter. He had been Editor at large at the *Times*.

OPC Secretary **Deidre Depke** has joined American Public Media’s “Marketplace.” She will serve as New York Bureau Chief for the popular public radio offering. Depke previously managed a small consultancy working with new media startups and is a former editor of the *Daily Beast*.

After seven years, former OPC President **David Andelman** is stepping down as Editor of *World Policy Journal*. Andelman will become the *Journal*’s Editor Emeritus and will focus on book projects as well as expanding his speaking engagements. He will also continue in his role on the Board of Contributors of *USA Today*.

Longtime OPC member **Micah Garen** and documentary filmmaker **Marie-Helene Carleton** have finished work on a way for festivals and competitions to use a cloud-based video platform, ScreeningRoom, to host, share and comment on videos during the submission process. ScreeningRoom launched in April this year at the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival in Toronto. The company’s mission is to help build sustainability in the film and journalism community. Future plans include more web-based applications, including community fundraising and micro-payment digital distribution.

Abigail Pesta, Second Vice President of the OPC’s Board of Governors, has inked a deal with Harp-

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erCollins imprint Katherine Tegen Books to tell the extraordinary life story of Sandra Uwiringiyimana. As a child in Africa, Uwiringiyimana survived a machete massacre. She later came to America and began photographing her fellow survivors. Now in college in New York, she is becoming a voice for forgotten people around the world. Pesta says "We'll tell her story in a young adult book that we will aim to get into schools across the country."

New York Times publisher **Arthur Sulzberger Jr.** has outlined plans for his succession. Sulzberger, 64, told the paper's employees during his annual "State of The Times" speech that a deputy publisher would be named within two years. Sulzberger underlined that his family is "deeply committed to *The Times* for the long term," according to CNN Money. *New York Magazine* reported in August that there were three contenders for the job: Sulzberger's son Arthur Gregg "A.G." Sulzberger; his nephew David Perpich, 38; and Sam Dolnick, 34, the son of Sulzberger's cousin.



Sulzberger

VICE News has launched its fourth European website. VICE News Italy joins the company's existing operations in the U.K., France and Spain. Editor-in-Chief Jason Mojica tells the Guardian that further expansions are planned in the Netherlands, Germany, Brazil and Australia before the end of the year. "These aren't outposts for American journalists to go work out of," Mojica adds. "They are local teams who know the lay of the land and are surfacing true enterprise journalism and stories that are generally unreported in mainstream media." Things are busy at VICE: it's launching four new verticals in 2016 – health, money, travel and gaming – according to

TheMediaBriefing.com, and a U.S. TV network plus a dozen European ones, CNBC reports.

VICE has hired OPC member **Alberto Riva** to be its U.S. Managing Editor. He will be based in Brooklyn. Riva had previously been senior world news editor at *International Business Times*, where he supervised reporters and freelancers around the globe and helped coordinate content between the IBT and *Newsweek* after the latter's purchase in 2013.



Riva

Time magazine has promoted OPC member **Bryan Walsh** from foreign editor to international editor. Walsh told *Politico* he was focusing on "trying to integrate the international edition with the brand as a whole" and "trying to figure out how we can best grow our audience globally." He added that the magazine is expanding its bureau in India to produce content for the large numbers of English speakers there.

BOSTON: OPC member **Aaron Schachter**, who shared the 2014 Lowell Thomas Award with Marine Olivesi, is leaving Public Radio International's "The World" for a post at the network's parent company, WGBH Boston. Schachter will serve as executive producer and editor in WGBH Radio's expanding newsroom.

ATLANTA: OPC member **Lynsey Addario** gave a sold-out talk at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in late October, where some of her photos are also on display in the "Women of Vision: National Geographic Photographers on Assignment" exhibit. The talk was part of the Atlanta Celebrates Photography festival.

CBS News correspondent **Lara Logan** drew a standing room only crowd for her featured address at the Radio Show in Atlanta on Sept. 30. Logan recently signed a new two-year deal with CBS News, according to the *New York Post*. She is still battling to recover from injuries she suffered in a sexual assault while covering the Tahrir Square uprisings in Egypt in 2011, and was hospitalized earlier this year. Logan and her crew won the 2006 David Kaplan Award for their reporting from Ramadi, Iraq.

BERLIN: Berlinica Publishing, founded by OPC member **Eva Schweitzer**, is bringing out a new title in December. *Leipzig! One Thousand Years of German History* celebrates the "city of books and music," where Martin Luther debated the future of Christianity and J.S. Bach composed cantatas. The author is Leipzig novelist and tour guide Sebastian Ringel.



OPC member **Anders Melin's** recent Bloomberg story on the \$32 million pension payout that is likely coming to Martin Winterkorn, the disgraced former head of Volkswagen, was widely cited by other media outlets. Winterkorn, Germany's second-highest paid CEO, stepped down in September after the stunning revelation that the company had outfitted millions of its diesel cars with software designed to fool emissions tests.

OPC member **Gail Edmondson** began a new job Oct. 1 as global editor at the management consulting firm Bain & Company. The position is based in Berlin. Edmondson was formerly a foreign correspondent at *BusinessWeek*.

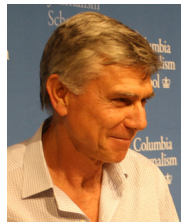
LISBON, PORTUGAL: Denis Redmont, an OPC member, has succeeded in declassifying the Political Police dossier compiled on him when he was an AP foreign correspondent under the dictatorship of Portugal's Antonio Salazar. He wrote about his file, and the anti-government activists he covered in those years, in a story for Politico.com. "The Portuguese have not forgotten about their past," Salazar writes. "They endlessly debate the dark days of the Salazar "Estado Novo" in their now uncensored media – like the mournful national Fado music that echoes in the country's heart."

LONDON: Francesco Guertera, former global finance editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, will join Politico Europe as associate editor and chief financial correspondent. Politico launched its European arm last spring, and plans to roll out a financial services news product early next year to tie together coverage of EU politics and regulatory policy with the world of finance.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA: The McClatchy newspaper company is closing its remaining foreign bureaus in Beijing, Mexico City, Istanbul and Berlin, and reorganizing its Washington, DC bureau, it announced on Oct. 12. "Our foreign correspondents, many of our most veteran reporters, will return to the U.S. to play prominent roles at home," the company said in a memo. The Washington operation will "place most of its emphasis on regional stories and political coverage."

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CALIFORNIA: Robert Nickelsberg, an OPC Board of Governors member, is known for his photographs of conflicts in places like Kashmir, Iraq, Sri Lanka, India and Afghanistan. But recently he documented a more intimate struggle:

his father's death at home in California. The photos ran on the Al Jazeera America website along with Nickelsberg's comments and those of his father's hospice nurses. Nickelsberg expresses admiration for the hospice workers, noting how well they work as a team and quoting their insights on death and dying.



Nickelsberg

WASHINGTON, DC: The National Journal will cut 25% of staff and reorganize into a paid subscription service, Atlantic Media has announced. Some of the departing staffers will go to *The Atlantic*, which is expanding and absorbing some of the *Journal's* functions. The company had already gone digital-only with the 46-year-old magazine earlier this year, cancelling its print edition.

OPC member **Sandy Ciric** sat on the judging panel for the 2015 Women Photographers of Washington exhibit, which debuted at D.C.'s FotoWeek in early November. The show, which features 26 images on women's issues, will later make the rounds of universities and galleries across the United States.

BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON: OPC member Alessandria Masi of the *International Business Times* wrote an interesting story in early November about Hezbollah's non-denominational military unit. The Saraya al-Muqawama, or Resistance Brigades, gives Sunnis and Christians a way to fight alongside Hezbollah's Shiites. "Lebanon is my country ... I am patriotic. I wanted to join the resistance and Hezbollah came by and they offered the ideology of resistance," explains one brigade member. A Hezbollah recruiter says enrollments are rising due to concerns about the strength of Islamic State in the region.

TEL ALO, SYRIA: OPC member Roy Gutman probed a new set of U.S. allies in Syria and found their loyalties mixed and their priorities often poorly aligned with the Obama administration's goals. The administration has recruited a local tribal militia and a Kurdish force to help roust Islamic State from its home base in Raqqa, Syria. Gutman found the groups downplayed the importance of Raqqa and wanted to pursue their own agendas, including fighting Wahabi Islam and capturing an unrelated stretch of land that is strategically important to the Kurds. The differences in goals, Gutman writes, "are the latest sign that Obama administration decisions to fix one problem could have long-term and unintended implications."

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Susan Topping, daughter of longtime OPC member Seymour Topping, has died of cancer at age 64. An actor and dancer, Topping performed in Joseph Papp's theater company and other companies in New York and Los Angeles. She was also a lighting designer, choreographer, director and writer, and was well known for her animal rescue work. "She was a very special person and a real fighter," Seymour told TheMountainMall.com.

BBC and ITN reporter **Sue Lloyd-Roberts** died Oct. 13 at age 64. Lloyd-Roberts was known for going undercover in dangerous locations. According to the *Guardian*, she was the first journalist into Homs, Syria in 2011, having herself smuggled in under a false ID and pretending to be deaf and mute. She continued to report from China after being given a seven-year sentence in absentia for a story she did on the human organ trade in 1994. "She went to dangerous places to give a voice to people who otherwise would not be heard," BBC director general Tony Hall told the paper.

OPC Members Remember ‘Stalwart’ George Burns

By Chad Bouchard

Longtime OPC member George Burns died in September at age 86. He served as treasurer of the OPC for many years and was a self-appointed club historian. Members remembered Burns affectionately as a “quiet pillar” of the OPC and a fixture at club functions.

“George Burns was the embodiment of what I consider a stalwart to be,” said Allan Dodds Frank, who served as OPC president from 2008 to 2010. “He was always calm, a sly wit and one who tended to looking over the OPC finances with a rational mind. His presence was calming to all of us and his willingness to work without ever seeking glory was remarkable. We miss him and his gallant demeanor.”

Jane Reilly, OPC Foundation executive director, remembered Burns for his “smile, his love of a good story – and he had many, and the way he brightened every room he entered.” She added that he was a generous friend, as evidenced by his support for the foundation’s Theo Wilson scholarship.

Longtime member and OPC Governor Jacqueline Albert-Simon described him as a “courtly” gentleman who seemed to have stepped out from a different time, with a “quick and dry wit” that was thoroughly modern.

To Bill Holstein, Overseas Press Club Foundation president, Burns was “The man who saved the OPC.” In a 2013 story for the *Bulletin*, Holstein wrote about meeting with a printer in 1995, when the organization was crippled with debt. The printer’s bill exceeded \$20,000, and the OPC didn’t have it.

“The news was dire, I told the printer,” Holstein wrote.



William J. Holstein, left, visits with George Burns in 2013.

“It was a tough meeting. But toward the end, George, displaying his best Irish charm, began talking to the printer about how he might be able to work something out after the meeting. A few days later, George called me to say that the printer, miraculously, had settled for an amount of cash that we actually could pay.” Burns had talked the man into accepting \$5,000.

“George and I retold that story to each other for the following 20 years. It was one of our finest moments.”

Born in Scranton, Penn., Burns began his career as a public information officer in the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the military, he ran the *Pismo Beach Times* in California and then tackled communications roles at PAN AM, TWA and Citibank.

(‘HEFAT’ - Continued From Page 4)

for foreign media institutions, especially American and British ones.” Another wrote, “My recent reporting from Cizre and Diyarbakir, the nodes of the PKK’s urban insurgency, and from Adiyaman, a petri dish for ISIS suicide bombers, has convinced me I cannot afford to postpone a HEFAT course any longer.”

Finally, a photojournalist wrote how he wanted the training not just for the insurance but because he knows it save lives. Wanting to be better prepared, he added, “The Hostile Environment training will give me knowledge which I need to be ready as a professional for assignments in hostile environment places like Eastern Ukraine.”

Typically HEFAT training lasts

four to five days and can cost up to \$3,000 per person. The Global Principles and Practices task force will continue to work with major media organizations and non-profits, like the UK-based Rory Peck Trust and International Media Support in Denmark, to make such training available for freelance reporters, especially those working in dangerous conditions and conflict zones.

(‘Dakar’ - Continued From Page 4)

certainly wasn’t a master of Reuters style.

Perhaps the greatest lesson that Dakar has taught me though has been one about patience. As someone who had never lived in a majority-Muslim nation before, when I first arrived, I was slightly thrown by the frequent *inshallahs* (“God willing”) that peppered people’s conversations: “I will see you tomorrow, *inshallah*”. At

the time, I resented the implication that I had so little control over my own destiny. By November, after having waited for hours for the beginnings of press conferences and interviews (once for a full day), begged taxi drivers to drive to the suburbs for accompanying photos and waded through urban floods, I have come to accept that sometimes fate does not reside in my hands.

Tomorrow I’ll have something new to learn, I’m sure. *Inshallah*.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

The U.N. marked its third annual International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on Nov. 2 with events around the world. The U.N. condemned the killings of 680 journalists between 2006 and 2014. Of those, it says 94 percent were local and 6 percent were foreign correspondents. Ninety-four percent of those killed were male. Less than 6 percent of the cases have been resolved.

The Committee to Protect Journalists has released its 2015 Global Impunity Index, which calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. For the first time since the report's inception in 2008, Iraq is not at the top of the list. It's been edged out by Somalia, which has 30 unsolved cases in a population of 10.5 million. Syria, the Philippines and South Sudan round out the top five. Colombia is a bright spot on the list. The CPJ says it has lowered its number of open cases due to "a decrease nationwide in political violence and to a government protection program for journalists."

Members of **Jacky Sutton's** family say they believe there was no foul play involved in the former BBC journalist's death. Sutton was found dead in a restroom at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport on the night of Oct. 17. Her family and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting issued a joint statement on Oct. 21 saying they had "reached the preliminary conclusion that no other parties were involved in her death." Sutton was IWPR's acting Iraq country director at the time of her death. The statement said her family and employer would get an independent assessment of the Turkish investigation once it is complete, and they remained open to new information.

The European Parliament has awarded its Sakharov human rights prize to Saudi blogger **Raif Badawi**, whose sentence of 1000 lashes for "insulting Islam" has caused an international outcry. Parliament President Martin Schulz is calling on the kingdom to pardon Badawi and release him so that he can accept the award. Badawi runs the website Free Saudi Liberals, which has been critical of the Saudi religious establishment. He was arrested in 2012, and last year he was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1000 lashes. He received the first 50 lashes in January but the punishment was suspended due to his health, and after intense international criticism. The Sakharov prize is given to "individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the fight for human rights across the globe."

The pressure on journalists in Turkey "severely escalated" in the run-up to that country's elections on Nov. 1, according to members of a joint international emergency press freedom mission to the nation in mid-October. They added that this pressure "significantly impacted journalists' ability to report on matters of public interest freely and independently." The mission included representatives from the International Press Institute, Reporters Without Borders, the Committee to Project Journalists, and other organizations. The party of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan gained a decisive majority in the election.

Just days before the Nov. 1 election, police in Istanbul broke into the offices of Koza İpek Group, shut down live television broadcasts and used teargas and water cannons against protesters outside the facility. The government has alleged ties between Koza İpek Group and a government critic accused of leading an illegal opposition movement. Turkish media reports that Fethullah Gülen,

who lives in self-imposed exile, denies those charges.



CPJ and VICE News have launched a petition on Chage.org calling for the release of Iraqi journalist **Imel Rasool**, who was arrested along with two British journalists while he was working as a fixer for Vice News in Turkey in August. "Western newsrooms increasingly rely on local journalists as foreign bureaus shut down and reporting from conflict areas grows more dangerous," the organizations wrote on the campaign's web page. "Without journalists like Rasool, international correspondents would struggle to navigate foreign terrain, and world news would have little local context."

Journalists in Kenya could face two years in prison or fines of up to nearly \$5,000 if convicted of defaming the country's parliament under a bill approved by lawmakers on Oct. 15. The measure still needs approval from the senate and president. One member of parliament said the bill would defend lawmakers against "mob justice." But Kenyan newspapers have condemned the proposal in "front page editorials under banner headlines," according to Reuters.

A Taliban website has declared employees of two Afghan TV networks "enemy personnel." The statement by the "military commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" accuses ToloTV and 1TV of spreading propaganda and exposing children to "dangerous substances

(Continued From Page 9)

such as irreligiousness, immorality, violence, gambling, intermixing and profanity and ... propaganda filled with hate and open enmity against Jihad and Mujahideen.” An editor at ToloTV told the *Guardian* the network would not change its coverage.

An influential Iranian lawmaker is hurling new accusations at imprisoned *Washington Post* correspondent **Jason Rezaian**. *The New York Times* reports that Javad Karimi-Qoddusi, a member of Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, alleged Rezaian had frequently shared information with the U.S. government and had cultivated contacts with enemies of Iran. Douglas Jehl, *The Washington Post*’s foreign editor, called the allegations “false and ridiculous.” On Oct. 11 an Iranian Judiciary spokesman said Rezaian had been convicted, but neither charges nor a sentence have been released. Rezaian has been detained for over a year.

About 1,000 runners and walkers participated in the first annual memorial 5K race in Rochester, New Hampshire for reporter **James Foley**. Some 700 more took part in the Oct. 17 event remotely from other locations around the world. Foley was executed by Islamic State in Syria in August 2014. “The turnout here is overwhelming and we are incredibly grateful,” Foley’s mother Diane told local news site Fosters.com. The race raised money for the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation. Six days earlier, hundreds of people attended a mass of remembrance for Foley at Marquette University, his alma mater.

Prosecutors in Indonesia are demanding a five-month sentence for British journalists **Neil Bonner** and **Becky Prosser**, who were allegedly caught working on a documentary while holding only tourist visas. The two were arrested on the island of

Batam on May 28. According to the *Guardian*, they were shooting a film with funding from National Geographic TV. Under Indonesian law, foreign journalists must apply for a special visa to report in the country – a process that can be lengthy and is not always successful.

Thai authorities briefly detained an editorial cartoonist and warned him he could be prosecuted for his work in the future, according to the Committee to Project Journalists. **Sakda Sae Iao** told reporters he was questioned for about 90 minutes at Royal Thai Army headquarters and was told that some of his cartoons are not accurate. They reportedly told him he could face prosecution if future drawings are found to be incorrect.



Tatsuya Kato appears at the Seoul Central District Court in January.

Prosecutors in South Korea are seeking 18 months in jail for **Tatsuya Kato**, formerly of the *Sankei Shimbun* newspaper. According to the International Press Institute, Kato published an article suggesting South Korean President Park Geun-hye was not available to respond to the disastrous sinking of a ferry in April of last year because she was having a secret dalliance with a male former aide. Park was strongly criticized last year for her response to the disaster, which claimed more than 300 lives.

MURDERS

● TV reporter **Hemant Yadav** was shot to death on Oct. 3 in Uttar Pradesh, northern India, *The Express Tribune* reports. Yadav worked for news channel TV 24 and was shot

near his home in Chandauli district. The Committee to Protect Journalists said it was unclear whether the shooting was connected to Yadav’s occupation. It was the second killing of a journalist in Uttar Pradesh this year.

● Syrian citizen-journalist **Ibrahim Abd al-Qader** was killed in the southeastern city of Sanliurfa, Turkey, where he had lived as a refugee for the past year, according to Reporters Without Borders. The 20-year-old contributed to the “Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently” (RBSS) information network and the website Ayn al-Watan. He and a friend were found decapitated. Al-Qader received an International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists this year for coverage of Islamic State atrocities in Raqqa, northern Syria.

● Syrian journalist **Salih Mahmud Leyla** was killed in a car bomb on Oct. 8, the Associated Press reports. Leyla, 27, worked for Turkey’s state-run news agency, Anadolu, which said the attackers were thought to be Islamic State militants.

● Cameraman **Christophe Nkezabahizi** was shot dead on Oct. 13 in Bujumbura, Burundi along with his wife and two of their children. Witnesses told the BBC that police entered the compound where the family lived in an effort to rescue some kidnapped officers and were shooting indiscriminately. However, UNHCR spokesman Rupert Colville told *The Guardian* (Nigeria) that the family had been rounded up and shot in cold blood.

● A reporter and columnist was shot dead in greater Manila on Oct. 31. **Jose Bernardo** was a Radio dwIZ correspondent and a columnist for Bandera Pilipino, according to *The Philippine Star*. He was shot outside a fast food restaurant in Quezon City. A restaurant worker was injured in the attack.

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Elena Becatoros

By Trish Anderton

Elena Becatoros has worked as the Southeast Europe bureau chief for the Associated Press, based in Athens, since mid-2007 after stints in London and New York. She has focused on covering the Greek financial crisis for the last five years, with assignments further afield when time permits. Becatoros began her foreign reporting career as an intern at the AP's Athens bureau in 1997.

Hometown: London and Athens (I grew up in both, and both are equally home).

Education: I have an MA in literature, University of London.

Languages: I am trilingual in English, Greek and French. Get by in Spanish. Struggling to learn Arabic.

First job in journalism: The English-language section of a local news agency in Athens, and freelancing for a UK weekly athletics magazine.

Countries reported from: Greece, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia (but after the war), Belgium, China, Turkey, Cyprus, Russia, Israel, U.K., U.S., Italy, Germany and France.

Year you joined the OPC: 2003.

What drew you to international reporting?: I always get restless after spending a while in one place, and knew as soon as I became a reporter that it was the international side of things I was drawn to. I was hired by AP after spending a couple of months as an intern and was sent to Albania almost immediately. I was hooked from day one.

Major challenge as a journalist: Knowing that you're only ever as good as your last byline.

Best journalism advice received: Be where others are not. And always be prepared for equipment failures.

Worst experience as a journalist: Losing friends.

When traveling, you like to ... read. I rarely seem to have time to read any more unless I'm on a plane, train or ferry.



Elena Becatoros reporting near the Swat Valley in Pakistan.

Hardest story: All told, probably the Greek crisis. It's been fascinating but relentless and frequently dispiriting, and there is no end in sight.

Journalism heroes: The local journalists who report on conflict and crisis in their home countries. Few things are harder to do when every event you cover affects you and the lives of your family and friends. There's no end to the assignment for them, they don't get to go home somewhere where they don't risk imprisonment or death.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Don't be discouraged by those who say you won't make it. But equally, don't try to be a hero and go running into a place like, say, Syria, without any backup or plan thinking you'll make a name for yourself. You might, but it's unlikely to be for the right reasons and the chances of you not returning in one piece are high.

Dream job: Roving correspondent.

Favorite quote: Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Place you're most eager to visit: Peru, Bolivia and Cambodia.

Most over-the-top assignment: The coverage of an underwater dance performance while scuba diving off Cape Sounio in Greece. Definitely one of the most amusing assignments.

Country you most want to return to: Pakistan.

Twitter handle: @ElenaBec

Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact patricia@opcofamerica.org.

New Books

HISTORY

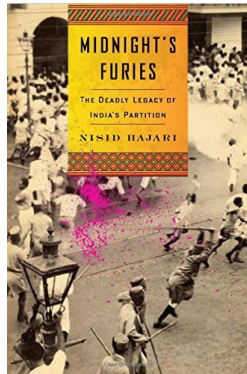
SEVENTY YEARS ON, THE hostility between India and Pakistan may feel like a historical inevitability. But it is not, argues OPC member Nisid Hajari in *Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition* [Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, June].

Hajari, the Asia editor for Bloomberg View, details the chaos of the 1947 partition and the forces that fueled it.

"At birth India and Pakistan would have more in common with each other – politically, culturally, economically, and strategically – than with any other nation on the planet," he writes. "Cold War strategists imagined Indian and Pakistani battalions standing shoulder to shoulder to defend the subcontinent against Soviet invasion." Instead, a rushed partition process – sped up by the British, who "had no interest in refereeing a civil war" – quickly de-

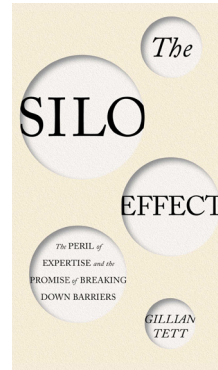
volved into horrific violence.

Hajari lays a portion of the blame squarely at the feet of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the father of Pakistan, and India's Jawaharlal Nehru. The two men "would play a central role in creating the rift between their nations," Hajari writes. "And it must be said, they did so for the worst reasons: inexperience and ineptness, vanity, intellectual arrogance, unspoken prejudice, and plain, petty dislike of one another."



The rift that began then lives on for a variety of reasons, including the dispute over Kashmir. Hajari argues that both countries would benefit from a rapprochement, and that it would be possible with "a dose of realism and political courage – both of which have been sorely lacking, in both capitals, since 1947."

Meanwhile, the situation only grows more dangerous, as militant groups flourish and both countries add to their nuclear stockpiles.



"[W]hile the world is increasingly interlinked as a system, our lives remain fragmented," Tett writes. "Many large organizations are divided, and then subdivided into numerous different departments, which often fail to talk to each other – let alone collaborate."

Siloing isn't always bad, of course: it's a way to handle the vast amounts of data that people and companies have to cope with in the Information Age. But it can "create tunnel vision, or mental blindness, which causes people to do stupid things."

Tett examines some examples, including the financial meltdown of 2008. She also explores companies that are fighting the tendency to Balkanize. Facebook, for instance, puts new hires through a six-week boot camp to create cross-departmental connections. Ohio's illustrious Cleveland Clinic reorganized to de-emphasize traditional medical specialties in favor of "institutes" focused on different parts of the body, encouraging, say, psychologists and neurologists to work together.

— By Trish Anderton

Upcoming Events

**Special Viewing
'Rockwell Visits
a Country Editor'
5:30 p.m., Nov. 17**

**OPC Mixer
At the Half King
6:00 p.m., Dec. 2**

**OPC Governor
Daniel Sieberg Explains
Google News Lab
6:30 p.m., Dec. 10**

**Under Fire: Protecting
Those Who Cover
Global News
5:30 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Program
Dec. 16**

ORGANIZATIONS

IN THE LATE 1990s, SONY had the drop on Apple when it came to portable digital music players. Sony had invented the Walkman cassette player in the late 1970s. It brought three digital devices to market before Apple launched the iPod in 2001. But Sony's players bombed, whereas the iPod...well, we all know what happened to the iPod.

The problem with Sony, Gillian Tett, an OPC member, argues in *The Silo Effect: The Peril of Expertise and the Promise of Breaking Down Barriers* [Simon & Schuster, September], is that the company was siloed; its departments were too busy protecting their own turf to work together on a new generation of products.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ken Aragaki
CUNY Journalism School
Student

Steven Beardsley
Reporter
Stars and Stripes - Europe
Active Overseas
(Under 35 years old)

Mazin Sidahmed
Columbia School of Journalism
Student

Deborah Wong
Columbia School of Journalism
Student