

## A Summer of Surprise Media Sales and Deals

by Susan Kille

Much has happened on the business side of journalism since the *Bulletin* took a summer break.

The event media reporters least expected was for Jeffrey P. Bezos, the founder of Amazon, to buy *The Washington Post* and affiliated publications. The \$250 million sale announced August 5 was expected to close within 60 days. Everything about the sale was a surprise: that the Graham family would part with *The Post*, a price that would have been laughable a few years ago and, most particularly, the buyer.

But before a news cycle passed, the idea that for the first time someone with a digital background would be in control of a major newspaper grew intriguing.

**Don Graham**, chairman and chief executive of The Washington Post Co., said he believed Bezos offers the best chance for *The Post* to thrive after eight decades of Graham family ownership. Changes were inevitable even without a sale. Bezos's estimated fortune of \$25 billion means he doesn't need to turn a quick profit and can absorb losses. He is an innovator and a long-range



Jeff Bezos

thinker. He is keeping on **Marty Baron**, executive editor; **Fred Hiatt**, editor of the editorial page, and Publisher **Katharine Weymouth**, Graham's niece.

"When I learned of the news, I was as surprised as everyone else," said **Marcus Brauchli**, an OPC member and Baron's predecessor

told *New York* magazine. "But on immediate reflection, I thought that in the universe of potential buyers, among people who have long-term vision, who are civic-minded and public-spirited, Jeff Bezos was an eminently suited candidate."

"What Don Graham did in deciding to seek out a new owner for *The Washington Post* was a truly brave and unselfish act," said Brauchli, who after he stepped down as editor remained at the company as a vice president.

In a sale that was expected, even if the price seemed disappointing, The New York Times Co. sold its

(Continued on Page 4)

## Close OPC Election Decided at Annual Meeting

### EVENT RECAP: AUGUST 20

by Aimee Vitrak

The OPC Annual Meeting took place on August 20 at Club Quarters in Rockefeller Center. The venue was changed in early August when Club Quarters on 45th Street had closed its restaurant and bar. Services are promised to resume in the coming weeks with an outside firm operating food and beverage service.

The meeting began with election results. This year's contest, as requested by members at last year's meeting, had 10 people running for seven Active Board positions and four people running for two Associate Board positions. The election results are as follows: Charles Wallace, Martin Dickson, Martin Smith, Seymour Topping, Jane Ciabattari, Robert Nickelsberg and Evelyn Leopold. The Associate Board positions required Active Board members to



After the meeting, from left: Yvonne Dunleavy, Robert Nickelsberg, Cyma Rubin, Michael Serrill and Bill Holstein.

break the tie. The Associate Board members elected are Abi Wright and Daniel Sieberg.

Voting in the election was held on Balloteer.com with 87 ballots cast online and five members who requested paper ballots. The number of ballots cast in the previous election, which was not a contested election and used only paper ballots, had 62 participants.

OPC Foundation Executive Di-

(Continued on Page 2)

### Inside...

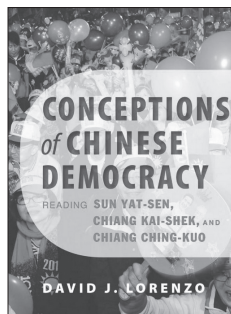
Taiwan Event.....	2
Helen Thomas Remembered.....	3
New Members .....	4
People.....	5-10
People Remembered.....	10-11
New Books.....	12

# A Forecast on Taiwan's Democratic Influence on China

**EVENT PREVIEW: SEPTEMBER 11**

The island of Taiwan — which considers itself the Republic of China but which mainland China considers a renegade territory — has enjoyed a robust form of democracy in recent years, proving that democracy can flourish in a Chinese culture. Can any of its experience be translated onto the Chinese mainland, where the political system is dominated by the Communist Party?

Addressing that question on September 11 will be David J. Lorenzo, an associate professor in the College of International Affairs, National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. He received a Ph.D in political science from Yale and teaches courses in international relations and political theory. His primary research is in the realm of political arguments, particularly the use of concepts and terms of discourse in the justification of policy positions, including those involving political freedoms like freedom of religion and democracy.



His latest book is *Conceptions of Chinese Democracy: Reading Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek and Chiang Ching-kuo*. The book describes how these leaders discussed democracy and compares Western and Chinese democratic traditions.

His talk titled “Can Taiwan’s democratization success be workable in Mainland China?” will focus on how different models of democracy in the Chinese tradition align with such large tasks as economic development. It draws upon discussions on those topics by both past Chinese leaders, current members of the Chinese Communist Party, and contemporary democracy activists in the People’s Republic of China.



**David Lorenzo**

The event will be held in the office building of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York (1 East 42nd Street, New York). The talk begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a brief conversation between the OPC’s Bill Holstein and Dr. Lorenzo and a Q&A session. Reception will follow. RSVP to Abby Lee at [abby@taipei.org](mailto:abby@taipei.org)

(Continued From Page 2)

rector Jane Reilly reported good news from previous scholars, see “OPC Scholars” page 5 for details.

Brian Byrd, head of the 75th Anniversary Committee, reported on proposals for events to celebrate the

Club’s anniversary in 2014. Some ideas include bell ringing at the New York Stock Exchange in April, lighting the Empire State Building in blue on the night of the Awards Dinner, a photo exhibit of past Robert Capa winners co-curated and hosted with the International Center for Pho-

tography and a series of receptions throughout the year.

Jonathan Dahl inquired about a redesign for [opcofamerica.org](http://opcofamerica.org) and those present agreed it is time for a fresh look for the website in the lead-up to the OPC’s 75th Anniversary year.

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# Helen Thomas, the Grand Dame of White House Reporters

by Edith Lederer

In an era when men controlled and ran the media, Helen Thomas became a trailblazer for women by speaking up and challenging presidents with questions that were often tougher than those asked by male colleagues. She wasn't afraid of backlash from politicians or the "boys" in the press room. She was an aggressive reporter in the best sense. Her goal was to probe for the truth and whatever that took, she would go after it.

But Helen also had a softer side. She was devoted to her large Lebanese-American family and to a very large circle of friends, young and old. She cared for her late husband and former AP competitor, Doug Cornell, for years after he got Alzheimer's and never complained. For many years, she went to dinner every Saturday night with a small

group of women journalists, many also pioneers in cracking the glass ceiling including her AP competitor at the White House, Fran Lewine, who was one of her closest friends.

I competed against Helen during Jimmy Carter's visit to South Korea when I was based in Hong Kong (from 1978-81) and we became close friends through Fran Lewine. When I came to the UN, I used to go to Washington D.C. often to stay with Fran, and I would be part of those Saturday night dinners.

Helen wasn't awed or blinded by the presidency. She loved America and believed that our democracy worked because journalists could ask presidents tough questions and keep them from becoming kings in glass cages. She often said she was asking the questions that ordinary people wanted answered. And if they made 10 presidents squirm, so be it.

From her 2000 OPC Awards Dinner keynote address, she began by saying she felt like an interloper but went on: "...I am here to tell you about walking through the minefields of the West Wing, seeking information that has been controlled, managed, manipulated and spun before it's handed out."

...

"I have never wasted my sympathy on presidents and that's because I think they have the greatest honor that can come to anyone and that is the trust of the American people."

...

"As for the press, we don't expect to win popularity contests. We are the self-appointed, self-anointed watchdogs of democracy."

by Sonya K. Fry

I can still see Helen standing at the podium in the living room of Club Quarters addressing a full house of members and guests in June 2002. She officially talked about her new book *Thanks for the Memories, Mr. President*, but she sidetracked and told us we should rally and do something about President Bush and his march to war. During the question and answer she relayed quips of the various U.S. Presidents she had covered. For Nixon, Thomas said that during Watergate, he always

had "two roads to travel and always took the wrong one." For Carter, his mother was asked if she was proud of her son and she asked, "Which one?"

The Sunday *New York Times* ran a front page story and CNN had extensive coverage. She had a long and distinguished career as a journalist and broke many barriers for women in journalism. Trailblazer, passionate, legend, inspiration, dedicated — these are some of the words of praise that resonated throughout the obituaries of Helen.



From left: Sonya Fry, Helen Thomas and Edie Lederer in November 2010

**Helen Thomas** was a legend as a White House correspondent but she will be remembered best for breaking down barriers against women journalists. Thomas, who was 92, died July 20 at her home in Washington D.C. As the first woman assigned to the White House full time by a wire service and the first to head a wire service bureau there, she covered every president from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama for United Press International and, later, Hearst Newspapers. She worked for UPI for almost 60 years before resigning in 2000, a day after it was taken over by a group with links to the Unification Church.

As dean of the White House press corps, she delivered her signature line at the end of every news conference: "Thank you, Mr. President." She asked tough questions and could be combative, particularly when she felt she was being denied access. She stepped into the spotlight during the Watergate era when she received late-night phone calls from Martha Mitchell, the wife of Attorney General John Mitchell, discussing the scandal. Thomas married a professional rival, **Douglas Cornell** of the Associated Press, in 1971. He died in 1982. She joined the OPC in 2001.

She retired from Hearst in 2010, amid a firestorm for saying in an interview that Israeli Jews should "get the hell out of Palestine" and "go home" to Germany, Poland and America. Thomas apologized, writing about the remarks, "They do not reflect my heartfelt belief that peace will come to the Middle East only when all parties recognize the need for mutual respect and tolerance. May that day come soon."

— by Susan Kille



(Continued From Page 1)

New England Media Group, which includes *The Boston Globe*, for \$70 million, a fraction of the \$1.1 billion the company paid for *The Globe* alone in 1993. The buyer is John W. Henry, principal owner of the Boston Red Sox.

Elsewhere, the industry news was about splits of even greater consequence than the summer buzz about the Murdoch divorce.

The months-long process to divide **Rupert Murdoch's** News Corp. into two entities was completed July 1 when 21st Century Fox, the more profitable entertainment arm that includes



**Rupert Murdoch**

Fox Broadcasting and a Hollywood film studio, began trading separately from News Corp., which is now the publishing arm that includes *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, HarperCollins and in the United Kingdom, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Sun*.

Investors had long complained that the 120 newspapers that had been part of the original News Corp. lowered profits. Those complaints grew after last summer when a phone hacking scandal at the company's British newspaper division prompted the abrupt closure of *News of the World*, one of the most profitable papers.

Murdoch is chairman and chief executive of 21st Century Fox, as well as executive chairman of News Corp. **Robert Thomson**, a former editor of *The Times*, managing editor of *The Wall Street Journal* and editor-in-chief of Dow Jones, is chief executive of the new News Corp. The publishing unit lost \$2.1 billion in the last financial year but starts its new life with \$2.6 billion in cash and no debt.



**Robert Thomson**

Meanwhile, a week after doubling its television portfolio by agreeing to buy 19 local stations for \$2.7 billion on July 1, Tribune Co. announced it would spin off its newspapers, which include the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Orlando Sentinel* and *The Hartford Courant*, while keeping the faster-growing TV stations, websites that are separate from the newspapers and its real estate holdings, including the Tribune Tower in Chicago. Months earlier the company said it was considering selling the papers. A split would not preclude a sale but waiting for a spinoff would make the sale tax-free to current shareholders.

A spokeswoman for Charles and David Koch said on August 22 that the brothers concluded it was not economically viable to buy the Tribune papers. When the combatively conservative billionaire industrialists ex-

pressed interest last spring, Tribune reporters, liberals and nonpartisan watchdog groups expressed concern. The spokeswoman confirmed a report on *The Daily Caller*, a conservative website, that a deal without websites that include CareerBuilder.com removes an important revenue stream.

The next day, Mark Walter, the controlling owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, said he could be interested in buying the *Los Angeles Times* and *Chicago Tribune* for the right price. Walter lives in Chicago and is a founder and chief executive of Guggenheim Partners, a privately held financial services firm with more than \$180 billion in assets. He may have close competition. While in town for a series between the Red Sox and the Dodgers, Henry toured the *Los Angeles Times* offices on August 26. Newspapers and baseball have played together before; *Tribune* owned the Chicago Cubs from 1981 to 2009.

The uncertainty for Time Warner's publishing division continues after CEO **Jeff Bewkes** said in August the company would delay a Time Inc. spinoff until early 2014. Bewkes announced in March that he would spin off Time Inc. to focus on the more profitable TV and film divisions.

And in both a split and a sale, *Newsweek* was separated from The Daily Beast and sold by **Barry Diller's** IAC/InterActiveCorp on August 3 to International Business Times, a digital news company, for an undisclosed price. IBT said it plans to build *Newsweek's* global online franchise. *Newsweek* stopped printing last December. In 2010, IAC paid The Washington Post Co. \$1 plus \$40 million in pension obligations to buy *Newsweek*.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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Robert Nickelsberg  
Charles Wallace



# PEOPLE... by Susan Kille [susan@opcofamerica.org](mailto:susan@opcofamerica.org)

## OPC SCHOLARS



Nicholas and Anna

**Nicholas Confessore**, a political reporter at *The New York Times* who won the 1998 Harper's Magazine Award, is now a husband. According to the wedding announcement in *The Times*, Anna Chloe Hoffman, who works at the Apartment Therapy website, and Nicholas Francis Alexander Confessore were married July 13 in Quogue, New York. Confessore was part of a team at *The Times* that won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news for reporting on the downfall of former New York Governor Elliot Spitzer.

**Jeff Horwitz**, the Fred Wiegold winner in 2009, is a 2014 Knight-Bagehot Fellow at Columbia University. He has been at *American Banker* since graduating from Columbia with a master's in business journalism. At *American Banker*, he has won five awards from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers for investigative and enterprise reporting. He was a finalist for a 2012 Gerald Loeb Award.

**Michael E. Miller**, who won the Stan Swinton award in 2009, received a 2012 Sigma Delta Chi Award for excellence in Deadline Reporting for a non-daily publication from the Society of Professional Journalists. He won for a *Miami New Times* report titled "Death Trap," which told the story of four robbers gunned down by police during a 2011 sting operation. Miller had an OPC Foundation internship

in The Associated Press bureau in Mexico City.

Having left for a long weekend, **Katie Paul**, the Irene Corbally Kuhn winner in 2007 and a contributor to OPC's Global Parachute website, was denied re-entry to Jordan, where she had spent the previous year. Although she never received an official explanation from Jordanian authorities, she did hear through back channels that she was considered guilty of "sedition against the government" and "Satan worship," and a friend was detained for questioning about Paul's reporting on Syria.

After "The Hard Life of Celebrity Elephants," his first piece for the *New York Times Magazine* was published on August 18, **Rollo Romig** said he is at work on a second story for the magazine. Romig, who won the 2008 Roy Rowan scholarship, left his job as the blogs editor at *The New Yorker* at the end of last year and has spent most of 2013 in India as a freelance writer. After graduating with a master's from New York University, he went to Phnom Penh as an OPC Foundation intern at the *Cambodia Daily*. He plans to return to New York in the fall and then head to Turkey next year.



An elephant festival in Kerala.

**Max Seddon**, who received the Stan Swinton scholarship in 2012, is now the Moscow correspondent for BuzzFeed, a news website. Seddon, who stayed on as a stringer for the AP in Moscow following his OPC

Foundation internship there, will cover Russia and the rest of the former Soviet Union.

**Tess Taylor**, who won the *Harper's Magazine* scholarship in 2004, is the author of *The Forage House* [Red Hen Press, August], a book of poetry that *Publisher's Weekly* calls one of the "year's most exciting poetry titles." Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, the *Boston Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Memorious* and *The New Yorker*. Taylor's book tour brought her to New York on August 20.



Tess Taylor

## WINNERS

**Abigail Pesta**, second vice president of the OPC, received two recent honors. The Association for Women in Communications bestowed a Clarion Award for online journalism for her Daily Beast report on a growing national movement of parents fighting sex-offender laws that jail their sons for teenage sex. Pesta won a second-place National Headliner Award for magazine feature writing for a trio of *Newsweek* articles on a variety of subjects: a sex slave turned radio host in Cambodia, a Louisville teen who tweeted against her attackers and a Detroit prosecutor tackling 11,000 unsolved rapes.

**Allyse Pulliam**, a New York City native with a photography degree from Pratt Institute, won this year's Emerging Photojournalists Award from Media for Social Justice. She won for work focusing on the difficulties of Myanmar's health care system. Before recently starting work at the *Times Herald-Record* in

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued From Page 5)

Middletown, New York, she spent a year and a half freelancing and working for non-governmental organizations in Southeast Asia.

## PRESS FREEDOM

**WASHINGTON:** James Risen, a reporter for *The New York Times*, has asked U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. to withdraw a subpoena requiring his testimony about a confidential source. Revised Justice Department guidelines for acquiring information from journalists call tactics like subpoenas “extraordinary measures” for use as a “last resort.” On July 19, a divided federal appeals court ruled that Risen must testify in the trial of Jeffrey Sterling, a former CIA official charged with leaking classified information.

**ISTANBUL:** In a trial that dragged on for five years, a special court convicted all but 21 of the 275 defendants for an alleged plot known as the Ergenekon conspiracy to overthrow Turkey’s Islamist-rooted government. At least 20 journalists were sentenced August 5 to prison terms ranging from six to 34 years. The highest-profile defendant, Ilker Basbug, a former chief of staff of the military, received a life sentence. The case divided public opinion, exposing deep divisions in Turkey between Islamists and secularists. Reporters Without Borders (RSF), who had representatives at the hearing, said: “We are here to yet again demonstrate our support for those who have been jailed because of their work as journalists and to point out that Turkey currently holds the world record in this category.”

**CARACAS:** The Committee to Protect Journalists condemned an August ruling by a Venezuelan judge banning publication of violent photographs and imposing hefty fines. Judge Betilde Araque prohibited the Caracas-based dailies *El Nacional*

## Egypt Erupts

by Susan Kille

After ousting President Mohammed Morsi, the Egyptian government installed by Gen. Abdel Fattah El Sisi has attempted to influence coverage of turmoil within the country by closing outlets that supported Morsi and accusing foreign journalists of bias and ignoring facts. Many journalists report being targeted. They have been forced to turn over photos and have been detained and attacked. Some have died.



Mick Deane

**Mick Deane**, a veteran cameraman with the British broadcaster Sky News, was killed on the particularly bloody day of August 14 when security forces stormed protests camps in Cairo and hundreds of Morsi supporters died. A Sky News colleague said a sniper shot Deane as he lifted his camera. The Committee to Protect Journalists said Deane was the first Western reporter to die on assignment in Egypt since the group started keeping such records in the early 1990s.

OPC’s Freedom of the Press Committee wrote Sisi the next day:

“The blood on the streets and squares of Egypt have sent shock waves around the world. It is not the role of the Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) to express opprobrium for the politics and policies at the heart of your country’s current ills. However, we are appalled at the deaths of several journalists and persistent reports of the targeting of reporters tasked with gathering information about recent events,” the committee wrote in a letter signed by **Howard Chua-Eoan**, FOP chairman, and **Michael Serrill**, OPC president.

“We demand that the Egyptian military and security forces foreswear any new threats to journalists assigned to shed light on the crisis in your country,” the FOP letter went on to say. “Furthermore, we urge you to take specific efforts to protect these reporters and correspondents — regardless of nationality — as they pursue the complicated truths that have emerged during this time of troubles.

“It is critical that journalists be allowed to do their job. Only with clarity can chaos be dissipated. Only with a full airing of the plight of the Egyptian people — of all political allegiances — can disaster be averted.”

Chua-Eoan said at the OPC annual meeting that the committee will continue to monitor the situation in Egypt, especially as the new regime develops its visa regulations for journalists.

At least three other journalists died in Cairo August 14: **Habiba Ahmed Abd Al-Aziz**, a journalist with the Dubai-based weekly Xpress making a personal visit to Egypt, was hit in the head by a shot fired by a sniper; **Mosab el-Shami**, a photojournalist for Rassd news website, died of gunshot wounds; **Ahmed Abdel Gawad**, a reporter for the state-run *Al Akhbar* newspaper, died while covering the crackdown at Rabaah al-Adawiya mosque.

Journalists injured that day included Reuters photographer **Asmaa Waguih**, who was shot in her foot, and **Tarek Abbas**, a reporter for the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Watan*, who had gunshot injuries to an eye and a leg.

*Al-Ahram* newspaper correspondent **Tamer Abdel-Raouf** was shot dead on August 19 as he and a colleague passed a police checkpoint in the northern governorate of Beheira.

Two Egyptian journalists died during earlier protests this summer. **Salah al-Din Hassan** with independent news website Shaab Masr, was killed on June 29 by a homemade bomb thrown into a demonstration in Port Said. On July 8, a sniper killed **Ahmed Assem el-Senousy**, a photographer for the Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice newspaper, who was covering clashes in Cairo.



and *Tal Cual* from publishing “images of violent content, guns, physical aggression, bloody scenes and naked cadavers” and fined both the equivalent of one percent of their 2009 earnings. The case stems from an August 2010 news report in *El Nacional* on rising crime in Venezuela that was illustrated with an archival photo that showed corpses piled up in a morgue. In an act of solidarity, *Tal Cual* published the image three days later as authorities moved to crack down on *El Nacional*. Both papers said they would appeal.

**KUWAIT CITY:** Activists, social media users and human rights defenders jailed for insulting Kuwait’s emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, were freed August 7 under a pardon announced to mark the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting associated with forgiveness. In a year-long crackdown on politically sensitive comments, dozens of Kuwaitis were charged with insulting the emir, especially online, and some were sentenced to up to 11 years in jail. Despite the pardon, it remains illegal to insult the emir.

**ISTANBUL:** **Yavuz Baydar**, a prominent Turkish journalist and ombudsmen for the pro-government *Sabah* newspaper, was fired July 23, a few days after *The New York Times* published his fiery op-ed criticizing the “shameful role of Turkey’s media conglomerates in subverting press freedom.” After the Gezi Park protests in Istanbul in late May, Baydar’s editors grew uncomfortable with his criticism of the government. After two of his columns were spiked, he wrote the piece for *The Times*. (And bravo to *The Times* for making it available online in Turkish.) The Turkish Journalists Union said



**Yavuz Baydar**

at least 72 journalists were fired or forced to take leave or had resigned in the six weeks after the start of the unrest.



**Kathleen Carroll addresses a U.N. Security Council meeting.**

**NEW YORK:** Speaking July 17 at the first U.N. Security Council discussion about the protection of journalists, four journalists said more must be done to protect reporters risking their lives in conflict situations. Associated Press Executive Editor **Kathleen Carroll**, vice chairwoman of CPJ, said “most journalists who die today are not caught in some wartime crossfire, they are murdered just because of what they do. And those murders are rarely ever solved; the killers rarely ever punished.” Also testifying were AFP Somalia correspondent **Mustafa Haji Abdinur**, who said he’s called “a dead man walking” because of the dangers reporting in Mogadishu; NBC chief foreign correspondent **Richard Engel**, who was kidnapped by pro-regime gunmen in northern Syria and held for five days in 2012; and **Ghaith Abdul-Ahad**, a foreign correspondent for *The Guardian* who was jailed in Libya and Afghanistan.

Editor **Pamela Jones** said she had no choice but close her award-winning website Groklaw because it cannot operate under current U.S. surveillance policies. In an August 20 post, Jones wrote she can’t oper-

ate Groklaw, which covered complex issues involving technology and law, without e-mail and since e-mails’ privacy can’t be guaranteed, she can no longer do the site’s work.

## MURDERS

**Narendra Dabholkar**, a prominent campaigner against religious superstition, was shot and killed August 20 while on a morning walk in the western Indian city of Pune. Dabholkar was editor of *Sadhana*, a weekly Marathi-language print magazine promoting scientific thought and that covers topics including caste, politics, and religion. Extremist Hindus were reportedly outraged by his campaign to outlaw the religious practices of some ascetics.

Two Guatemalan journalists died in August. **Carlos Alberto Orellana Chávez**, known for denouncing corruption as an anchor for a Guatemala City cable TV channel, is the fourth journalist killed in Guatemala this year. His body was found August 19 on a dirt road. Less than two weeks earlier, **Jesús Lima** died after being shot twice outside Sultana Radio, the station where he hosted a music and information program.

**Ahmed Sharif Hussein**, a technician for the state-run broadcaster Radio Mogadishu, was shot to death August 17, the same day that a firing squad executed a man found guilty of killing a journalist. Two armed men dressed in student uniforms attacked Sharif, the sixth media employee in Somalia killed so far this year, outside his home. On July 7, gunmen in the semiautonomous region of Puntland killed **Liban Abdullahi Farah**, who worked for London-based satellite channel Kal-san TV. Also in July, two journalists were shot in the southern port city of Kismayu, with one wounded critically. The execution of Aden Sheikh

(Continued on Page 8)



(Continued From Page 7)

Abdi for last year's murder of **Hasan Yusuf Absuge**, a reporter for Radio Maanta, was seen as part of the Somali government's efforts to stop attacks against the news media. This year, the government began offering rewards of \$50,000 for tips leading to the arrests of the killers of journalists.

**Azzedine Kousad**, a presenter on the Libyan satellite TV station *al-Hurra*, was murdered in Benghazi on August 11. Three gunmen opened fire on his car, fatally wounding him with six shots, before fleeing. A few days earlier, he reportedly received a telephone call threatening his life if he delivered a speech celebrating Eid al-Fitr, the festival marking the end of Ramadan. He died a day after he gave that speech.

The highest court in the Mexican Gulf coast state of Veracruz on August 9 threw out the conviction of the man charged with killing **Regina Martínez Pérez**, an investigative reporter for *Proceso* who was beaten and strangled to death in April 2012 inside her home. The court said torture was used to coerce a confession by Jorge Hernández Silva and that prosecutors had no other evidence against him. The OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee wrote President Enrique Peña Nieto last December and cited profound questions about the confession and other elements of the case. Authorities said the motive was robbery. Journalism advocates, who urge that the case be solved, believe the murder was tied to Martínez's work. Nine news professionals have been slain in Veracruz since the beginning of 2011.

Press advocates hailed the August convictions for murders of two journalists. João Francisco dos Santos was sentenced in Brazil to 27 years in prison for the 2010 murder of **Francisco Gomes de Medeiros**, a radio journalist and blogger. In

## VOA's Herman Tours North Korea

by Susan Kille

It's always good to leave on a high point. **Steve Herman**, an OPC member, recently ended his three-year assignment as Voice of America's Northeast Asia bureau chief based in Seoul with a nine-day reporting trip inside reclusive North Korea.

Herman and CNN's **Paula Hancocks** accompanied two decorated U.S. veterans of the Korean War who were on a mission to recover the remains of a fellow aviator whose aircraft crashed at the Chosin Reservoir during a brutal battle 63 years ago. According to the Department of Defense, more than 7,500 Americans who fought in Korea remain unaccounted for.

Flooding from monsoon rains prevented a visit to the crash site, but Herman got a rare look at rural areas where other reporters and Westerners have not been able to go. He also saw the sights of Pyongyang. Military escorts were always — or almost always — at hand.



**Suzanne Scholte of the North Korea Freedom Coalition speaking to Steve Herman, right, and other reporters at Imjingak, South Korea, May 4.** (Photo: R. Kalden/VOA)

As you might expect, a trip to the isolationist dictatorship brings surreal moments. Herman said he was praised for his comments in a mausoleum guest book after viewing the embalmed bodies of Kim Il Sung, the country's founder, and of Kim Jong Il, the founder's son and successor as leader, in glass coffins. But Herman did not write in the guest book.

"Additionally, I can say that I was not on the typical junket organized by a tour operator or the Foreign Ministry," Herman told the OPC. "We were under the escort of officers from the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army the entire time with a senior colonel (between a full-bird colonel and a one-star general) as our top minder. The only really scary moment I had was in a subway station when I turned around and could find none of my minders or anyone else in the delegation. I didn't know whether they had gotten back on a train or exited the station. After a few moments of near panic, with my still and video cameras at my side, I headed up the escalator and decided I'd turn myself in to the first person in uniform who looked at me suspiciously (so much for my fantasies of clandestine reporting)."

"I knew that I was already under scrutiny from the KPA officers who were convinced I spoke fluent Korean and was hiding it (I do not and was not) and that I was likely the intelligence minder for our group of Americans. Much to my relief when I exited the station I found the KPA officers and our delegation patiently waiting for me to appear and gazing at Pyongyang's Arch of Triumph."

The North Korea trip ended Herman's stint in Seoul and he is now based in Bangkok as VOA's Southeast Asia bureau chief. Prior to going to Seoul in 2010, he spent more than three years as VOA's South Asia bureau chief in New Delhi.

Herman was elected for five consecutive years from 1998 to 2002 as chairman of The Foreign Press in Japan after completing a one-year term as president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, where he remains a life member. In 2012, he served as president of the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club in 2012.

Turkey, two men were sentenced for the 2009 murder the murder of **Cihan Hayirsevener**, the publisher of *Güney Marmara'da Yasam*, a newspaper in the northwestern city of Bandirma. Hayirsevener was gunned down while investigating corruption involving the municipal government and members of an influential local family, the Kuruoglus. An Istanbul court sentenced the hitman, Serkan Erakkus, to life imprisonment and Ihsan Kuruoglu to 17 years in prison for ordering the killing.

Three *Filipino* journalists were murdered within 48 hours. On July 30, gunmen on a motorcycle shot and killed **Bonifacio Loreto Jr.**, the former publisher of the defunct *Aksyon Ngayon* newspaper, and **Richard Kho**, its former executive editor, outside a store in Quezon City on the island of Luzon. Two days later, a gunman in General Santos City entered the home of **Mario Sy**, a freelance photographer who regularly contributed to the local *Sapol News Bulletin*, and shot Sy dead in front of his wife and daughter. The publisher of *Sapol* said the murder could have been related to a photo report on local drug trafficking earlier this year.

**Jesús Nadin Gómez García**, manager of Radio Guadalajara, died July 29 after being shot twice in the face as he entered the radio station in the city of Buga, Colombia. Just before his murder, Gómez made a substantial withdrawal at a bank, which has led local authorities to suspect robbery was the motive. Police, however, said they will investigate to see if the killing could have been related to journalism.

The body of a Mexican crime beat reporter **Alberto López Bello** was found July 18 in the southern city of Oaxaca along with another victim, who was identified in news reports as an undercover po-



**Alberto López Bello**

lice informant. Police said both men had been beaten and shot. López had been threatened in the past in connection with his work.

Two weeks after Honduran radio journalist **Anibal Barrow** was kidnapped from his car, his body was found August 9 on the bank of a lagoon near the city of San Pedro Sula. The body, burned and dismembered, was identified by forensic tests. Barrow was traveling with his daughter-in-law, grandson, and driver when gunmen took control of the car; the other passengers were freed. The family said they did not receive any calls seeking a ransom,

A few days after the anniversary of the July 9, 2004 assassination of **Paul Klebnikov**, editor of *Forbes Russia*, the U.S. Department of State issued a statement in memory of



**President Obama listens as Samantha Power speaks after he nominated her as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.**

Klebnikov and Natalya Estemirova, a Russian journalist and human rights activist murdered in July 2009. Their killers have never been brought to justice. "The United States supports the efforts of brave journalists and human rights defenders around the world who expose corruption and human rights abuses," the statement read. "We urge the Russian Government to protect journalists and human rights defenders, in accordance with the international agreements to which Russia is a party."

#### UPDATES

**NEW YORK:** The U.S. now has had a former war correspondent as ambassador to the United Nations.

**Samantha Power**, who was sworn in on August 2, seemed destined for a storied career in journalism based on her freelance work covering the Balkan conflict from 1993 to 1996 for *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Economist*, *The New Republic* and others. OPC member **Roger Cohen**, a columnist for *The New York Times*, told *New York* magazine about a night in Sarajevo when he had passed out in a street after losing a vodka-drinking contest to a Russian. Power carried him back to the Holiday Inn. She won a Pulitzer Prize for her 2002 book *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*.

Al Jazeera America, the international news channel financed by the emir of Qatar, debuted August 20 with high-profile talent on the air and behind the scenes. **Ehab Al Shihabi**, Al Jazeera's executive director for international operations, oversaw the creation of the channel and will remain as interim chief executive. Its headquarters is in New York. **Kate O'Brian**, who had been an ABC News senior vice president, was appointed president by Al Shihabi in July, after hundreds of positions were already filled. At that time, he filled other top posts: former OPC board member **Marcy McGinnis**, who worked at CBS News for three decades, was named senior vice-president of newsgathering; CNN veteran **David Doss** became senior vice president for news programming; and **Shannon High-Bassalik**, formerly of CNN and MSNBC, was named senior vice president for documentaries and programs. Familiar names hired from rival networks include **John Seigenthaler** from NBC; **David Shuster** from MSNBC; **Sheila MacVicar**, formerly of CBS News, and **Joie Chen** and **Soledad O'Brien** from CNN. OPC Board member **Azmat Khan** is senior digital producer and reporter for *America Tonight*,

(Continued on Page 10)



(Continued From Page 9)

a documentary show. **Sana Bég**, an OPC member and intern, works as a news producer.

**Allan Dodds Frank**, a former OPC president and founder of the Club's Global Parachute website, succeeds **Myron Kandel** as president of The Society of Silurians in September. Frank's father, the late **Morton Frank**, publisher of the supplement *Family Weekly*, served as Silurians president from 1987 to 1988. Frank, who is currently working as a freelancer for national websites, started work at *The Anchorage Daily News* and went on to work for *The Washington Star*, *Forbes*, ABC News and Bloomberg.

**Calvin Sims**, an OPC member and former *New York Times* correspondent, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of International House, the New York non-profit program and residence center that promotes cross-cultural understanding and peace while preparing leaders for the global community. Since 2007, Sims had served as a program officer for the Ford Foundation, where he focused on the development of a free and responsible worldwide press. As a foreign correspondent, Sims was based in Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Seoul and Jakarta.

In an op-ed published in *The New York Times* on August 12, **Minky Worden**, an Associate OPC Board member, confronted leadership of the International Olympic Committee for condoning human rights abuses in host countries. Worden is director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch and edited *China's Great Leap: The Beijing Games and Olympian Human Rights*.

It wasn't a vacation that kept **Brian Williams**, the *NBC Nightly News* anchor and managing editor, off the air in August. He took a leave to recover from surgery to replace a knee

injured decades ago as a high school football player. He said he wanted to explain why he was away so no one would suspect he was getting a face-lift. He said it was the third surgery on his knee.

Ending a span that began with the 1987 launch at *Condé Nast Traveler*, former OPC Board member **Klara Glowczewska** is leaving Condé Nast on September 3. She became executive editor in 1992 and was named editor-in-chief in 2005. She is being replaced by **Pilar Guzmán**, who has been vice president and editor-in-chief of *Martha Stewart Living* since 2011. The company provided no information for Glowczewska's future plans in the media release.

**TORONTO:** **Chrystia Freeland**, a former OPC board member who has held several senior positions at Thomson Reuters, astonished the industry with her July announcement that she was leaving journalism to run for parliament as a member of Canada's Liberal Party. She said she was acting on her convictions and belief that social and political institutions have not kept up with profound changes in the economy. Her resignation as managing director and editor for consumer news at Reuters even surprised colleagues. She is also a prolific author, including 2012's *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*.



**Chrystia Freeland** at Reuters even surprised colleagues. She is also a prolific author, including 2012's *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*.

**BOSTON:** GobaPost, which was co-founded by OPC member **Charles Sennott**, announced in July a partnership that will allow NBC News to use GobaPost's video and other international coverage across digital platforms such as NBCNews.com and msnbc.com, as well as supplement NBC's on-air coverage.

The agreement was seen as a way for NBC to bolster international reports at a time when American TV news networks continue to cut back on overseas bureaus.

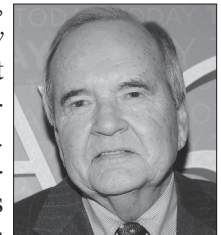
**MUMBAI:** News that a photo-journalist on assignment was attacked and gang-raped here on August 23 triggered protests in several Indian cities and comparisons with a similar fatal assault in New Delhi in December. The victim, 22, was attacked in a derelict textile mill. A male colleague who had gone with her to carry her cameras was tied up. Within a few days, police had arrested five men.

**PARIS:** OPC's reciprocal relationship with the Press Club de France in Paris through the European Federation of Press Clubs and the International Association of Press Clubs, entitles OPC members to a 15% discount at the Hotel Pullman Montparnasse located at 19 rue Commandant Rene Mouchotte. It is an upscale, modern business hotel in the 14th Arrondissement. Reservations can only be made through Stephanie Chezeaux at the press club in Paris: [schezeaux@pressclub.fr](mailto:schezeaux@pressclub.fr)

## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**John Palmer**, a longtime NBC News correspondent, died August 3 in Washington at age 77. The cause was pulmonary fibrosis. Palmer was based in Beirut in the 1970s and he covered the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the war in Cyprus and the civil war in Angola. He was later a correspondent in Paris and at the White House.

He met his wife, Nancy, a *Nightly News* producer, at NBC's Washington news bureau. One of his biggest scoops was breaking the news of the Carter ad-



ministration's failed 1980 attempt to

(Continued on Page 11)



(Continued From Page 10)

rescue the American hostages being held in Iran. He became news anchor of *Today* in the 1980s. He left NBC for other ventures in 1990 only to return in 1994 as a Washington correspondent. After retiring from NBC in 2002, he continued to work in journalism, including hosting roles on Retirement Living TV, a network dedicated to seniors.

**Naomi Barry**, an OPC member since 1964, died May 14. She was 95 and a long-time Paris resident who lived on the Quai d'Orsay. Considered the doyenne of *Gourmet* correspondents, she savored life and liked to describe herself and her friends as "great broads" — charming, sassy, intelligent women of *un certain age*. Her apartment, which overlooked the Seine and a bright neon sign announcing "Bateaux Mouches," was filled with original and valuable art, first editions of great books in French and English and ephemera appropriate to one who had left Westchester County, New York, in the 1950s for a rich life in Paris. Barry had a long and enviable career with *Gourmet* magazine and was its

first resident correspondent, penning her "Paris à Table" column. She also wrote regularly for the *International Herald Tribune*, detailing food encounters around the world. She published several books for *Gourmet*: *Rome at Table*, *Paris at Table* and *Adorable Zucchini*. In 2005, **Ruth Reichl**, who was then editor of *Gourmet*, wrote about Barry, one of the principal contributors to *Remembrance of Things Paris: Sixty Years of Writing From Gourmet*. "Reading fifty-year-old restaurant reviews would not normally be much fun; it takes a writer of extraordinary abilities to make you care about meals that you will never be able to eat," Reichl wrote. "Her reviews are like



little time machines that not only allow you to taste the food she is eating, but somehow transport you back to a city that no longer exists."

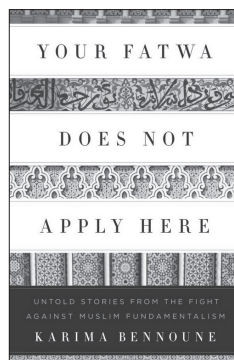
**An excerpt of Barry's writing from FootArts.com, October 2010:**

L'Ami Jean and L'Atelier head the New Wave in Paris restaurants that is edging out the branche (trendy) establishments, where the "with it" crowd is greeted with a kiss on each cheek and the rest of us are snubbed at the door. A remarkably noticeable revival in old-fashioned "welcome" with no ambitions of bistro chic is bringing in brisk business. Accueil à la française once had been a model for the profession abroad as well as at home. It was neither obsequious nor overbearing but sufficiently hospitable that folk cherished the memory of little French restaurants like old love letters. Then the art of the greeting slipped. The apologists blamed it on a change of society.

(Continued From Page 12)

**IN WRITING THE BOOK**  
*Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism*, [Norton, August] **Karima Bennoune** said she wanted to present the diversity among people of Muslim heritage and the wide range of relationships to Islam. She writes about people who use intelligence, creativity and steadfastness to resist religious extremism.

Bennoune, a human rights lawyer, is a professor at the University of California at Davis. In researching the book, she interviewed almost 300 people in 26



countries, including heroic writers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, artists, activists and, of course, journalists. She writes about their battles for tolerance, equality and freedom.

One story is about how Algerian journalists could not be stopped even when Tahar Djaout Press House, the headquarters of Algerian journalism, was decimated by a fundamentalist car bomb in 1996, killing 18 and wounding more than 50. **Omar Belhouchet**, editor of *El Watan*, and his staff produced the next day's paper in the rubble. Bennoune quotes journalist **Ghania Oukazi** who wrote in that paper: "The shredded bodies of our colleagues and passersby in

Hassiba Street will not allow us to give up."

Women, a target of fundamentalists, are among the leaders in the fight. After being arrested for protesting the 2009 flogging of journalist **Lubna Hussein** for wearing slacks in public, members of the Sudanese Women Empowerment for Peace were asked to promise never to do it again. They refused. One protestor was older and had known life before fundamentalist restrictions were imposed. She was also heavyset and when soldiers who threw other protesters into a truck could not lift her, she was told to go home. "Outraged," Bennoune writes, "she hired a taxi to follow the other arrested women to jail."

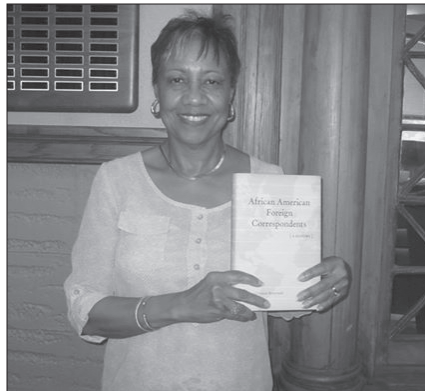
— by Susan Kille

# New Books

## NORTH AMERICA

**F**REDERICK DOUGLASS IS known as an abolitionist and black leader but he was also a foreign correspondent. Despite a vast output of reporting by black journalists over almost two centuries, until the modern era African American foreign correspondents had little acknowledgement in media histories beyond an occasional asterisk.

**Jinx Coleman Broussard**, who teaches media history and public relations in the ManSHIP School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University, has filled that gap in history with *African American Foreign Correspondents: A History* [Louisiana State University Press, June]. She writes that the book began with a question from a colleague, **John Maxwell Hamilton**, who is an OPC member, the Hopkins P. Breazeale Professor at the ManSHIP School and a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. Hamilton asked Broussard if she had ever heard of **John "Rover"**



**Jinx Coleman Broussard**

**Jordan**, an African American war correspondent for the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*. She had not. Her research on Jordan led to other black journalists who reported from all over the world.

Beginning in the mid-1800s with Douglass and **Mary Ann Shadd Cary** — the first black woman to edit a North American newspaper — and continuing into the present, Broussard highlights individuals and publications that brought a black viewpoint to international reporting. For example, when Douglass went to Britain in 1845 he did it to escape slavery and to publicize the treatment of blacks in America, but he also became the first African American correspondent. Douglass sent letters home about the reaction to his speaking tour and his book, *Narrative of Frederick Douglass*, as he compared racial attitudes in the United States and abroad. Many of

the letters were printed by the *Liberator*, **William Lloyd Garrison's** abolitionist newspaper, and then got the attention of **Horace Greeley's** *New-York Tribune*. After returning to New York, Douglass started his own abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*.

Black publications began to grow after Reconstruction to serve an audience that the mainstream media ignored or, worse, portrayed through racial stereotypes. Broussard gives insight into correspondents who in many ways upheld journalism's tradition of objectivity but with a civil rights perspective to give visibility to the marginalized, spur social reform and eliminate oppression.

Reporters from the modern era featured in the book include **William Worthy Jr.**, who after a 1953 reporting trip to Cuba, gained the right for journalists to report from anywhere in the world without regard to U.S. State Department regulations; **Howard French**, a Columbia University journalism professor and former senior foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*; and **Leon Dash**, a professor at the University of Illinois who reported in the 1970s and 1980s from Africa for *The Washington Post*. **Calvin Sims**, an OPC member and former *New York Times* reporter, is among others mentioned as media staffs became more diverse.

(Continued on Page 11)

**Taiwan Lecture:  
Can Taiwan's  
democratization  
success be workable  
in mainland China?**

**September 11  
Taipei Economic and  
Cultural Office  
1 East 42nd Street  
New York  
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New York, NY 10036 USA