

Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • September 2015

OPC Welcomes 'Extraordinary' New Board Members

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

During the Annual Meeting on Aug. 25, the OPC announced results of this year's election for Board of Governors. Over the last month, members cast ballots to select 12 Active board members and two Associate board members. Ninety-two electronic ballots were cast along with eight paper ballots for a tidy total of 100.

At the meeting, OPC President Marcus Mabry said he hopes for the club to build on successes of the last year. "I think we have an extraordinary Board of Governors that gives us the connections and the networks and the brain power and the experience and the youthful energy to allow us to move forward and capitalize on all the strengths from last year," he said.

Twelve Active members were elected. New to the board are: Hannah Allam, foreign affairs correspondent for McClatchy Newspapers; Deborah Amos, international correspondent for NPR; Molly Bingham, freelance journalist and filmmaker; Anupreeta Das, reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*; Scott Gilmore, international columnist for *Maclean's Magazine*; Steve Herman, Southeast Asia bureau chief for

Voice of America; Anjali Kamat, correspondent for Fault Lines; Mary Rajkumar, international enterprise editor for The Associated Press; and Vivienne Walt, correspondent for *Time* and *Fortune* magazines. Newly reelected are Robert Nickelsberg, former contract photographer for *Time* magazine; Martin Smith, producer for WGBH's *Frontline*; and Charles Wallace, financial writer and former correspondent for UPI, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Fortune* and *Time* magazine.

Members also elected two Associate board members. Daniel Sieberg,



Left to right: Yvonne Dunleavy, Marcus Mabry, Patricia Kranz, Jacqueline Albert-Simon and Bill Holstein.

global head of media outreach for the Google News Lab, was reelected, and returning to the board after a one-year hiatus is Minky Worden, director of global initiatives for Human Rights Watch.

Panel to Discuss Reverberations in China

EVENT PREVIEW: Sept 10

By William J. Holstein

Shockwaves have been emanating from mainland China in a way that the world has never seen. The government suddenly devalued the country's currency, the Shanghai stock market has fallen sharply and the pace of economic growth has slowed to levels not seen in decades. Plus, a major chemical disaster in the port city of Tianjin has raised questions about the corruption that has accompanied the Middle Kingdom's rise to wealth.

Panelists include Gady Epstein with *The Economist*, who has just transferred to New York after more than a decade in Beijing for *The Economist* and *Forbes* magazines and *The Baltimore Sun*; Gwynn Guilford, a reporter and editor for Quartz

who spent six years in China, including three researching Chinese companies and macroeconomic developments for hedge funds; and Elizabeth Economy, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and director of Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, and co-author of *By All Means Necessary: How China's Resource Quest Is Changing The World*. Former OPC president William J. Holstein, editor most recently of *Has The American Media Misjudged China?*, a book based on an OPC reunion of current and former China correspondents, will moderate.

Attendance is free, but please make reservations with Executive Director Patricia Kranz by calling 212-626-9220 or sending an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

Inside...

Preview: Greek Debt Crisis Panel.....	2
Preview: Documentary.Filmmaking....	2
Scholar Dispatch: Bangkok Bombs....	3
Malaysia's Crackdown.....	4
Atish Saha Goes 'On the Road'.....	4
People Column.....	6-8
Press Freedom Update.....	9-10
Q&A: Dana Thomas.....	11
New Books.....	12

Making a Winning Documentary

EVENT PREVIEW: Sept 30

By Patricia Kranz

The Greek debt crisis is a hydra of a story, with tentacles circling the globe from Athens to Frankfurt to Washington and beyond. Join the OPC and the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism on Sept. 30 to get tips from veteran journalists on how they made a complex economic story come alive.

Panelists are: Liz Alderman, the chief European business correspondent for the Paris-based *International New York Times*, who has written extensively on the impact of the debt crisis and austerity policies on the lives of average citizens, as well as the societal and political implications; Jack Ewing, the European economics correspondent for *International New York Times*, based in Frankfurt, whose primers on the financial sources of the crisis are must-reading for anyone who wants to understand what has happened; and Dody Tsiantar, a freelance journalist who has been teaching journalism at CUNY since 2006. Tsiantar is fluent in Greek and spent the summer in Greece reporting stories and blogs for the *Los Angeles Times*, Al Jazeera America, BuzzFeed, and Quartz. Marcus Mabry, president of the OPC and Editor at large at *The New York Times*, is the moderator.

Alderman and Ewing will participate from Europe via Skype. To RSVP, call 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.



EVENT PREVIEW: Oct. 1

By Patricia Kranz

In 2009, Jonathan Jones won the OPC Foundation's I.F. Stone scholarship for an essay he wrote examining how the American company Firestone managed to continue operating in Liberia during the country's brutal civil war. Fast forward six years, and a documentary based on his reporting is a nominee for an Emmy award. The film, *Firestone and the Warlord*, was created by ProPublica, PBS Frontline and Rain Media. Marcela Gaviria of Rain Media produced the film, and won a citation for the OPC's Edward R. Murrow Award this spring. The team also took first place in the 2014 Investigative Reporters and Editors award in the Large Multiplatform category, won an RFK Journalism Award and were named a finalist in the International Category for a 2015 Gerard Loeb Award. The Emmy winners will be announced Sept. 28.

Fresh from the Emmy ceremony, Jonathan and Marcela will come to the Club Quarters on Oct. 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to screen clips from the documentary and discuss how they turned a mountain of evidence into a compelling narrative. The team used diplomatic cables, court documents and accounts from Americans who ran a rubber plantation as Liberia descended into chaos. To RSVP, call 212-626-9220 or send an email to RSVP@opcofamerica.org.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT
Marcus Mabry
Editor at large
The New York Times

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Calvin Sims
President and CEO
International House

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Abigail Pesta
Freelance Journalist

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
Pancho Bernasconi
Vice President/News
Getty Images

TREASURER
Tim Ferguson
Editor
Forbes Asia

SECRETARY
Deidre Depke
Journalist and
Author

ACTIVE BOARD
Jacqueline Albert-Simon
U.S. Bureau Chief
Politique Internationale

Hannah Allam
Foreign Affairs
Correspondent
McClatchy
Newspapers

Deborah Amos
Correspondent
NPR

Molly Bingham
Freelance Journalist

Rukmini Callimachi
Foreign
Correspondent
The New York Times

Anupreet Das
Reporter
Wall Street Journal

Chris Dickey
Foreign Editor
The Daily Beast,
Paris

Scott Gilmore
International Columnist
Maclean's Magazine

Peter S. Goodman
Editor-in-Chief
International Business Times

Charles Graeber
Freelance Journalist
and Author

Steve Herman
Bureau Chief
Southeast Asia
Voice of America

Anjali Kamat
Correspondent
Fault Lines
Al-Jazeera

Azmat Khan
Investigative Reporter
BuzzFeed News

Dan Klaidman
Deputy Editor
Yahoo News

Paul Moakley
Deputy Director
Photography and
Visual Enterprise
Time magazine

Robert Nickelsberg
Freelance
Photojournalist

Mary Rajkumar
International Enterprise
Editor
The Associated Press

Lara Setrakian
Co-Founder & CEO
News Deeply

Martin Smith
President
Rain Media

Liam Stack
Breaking News
Reporter
The New York Times

Charles Wallace
Financial Writer

Vivienne Walt
Correspondent
Time and *Fortune*

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS
Brian I. Byrd
Program Officer
NYS Health
Foundation

Bill Collins
Director, Public &
Business Affairs
Ford Motor Company

Emma Daly
Communications
Director
Human Rights Watch

Daniel Sieberg
Global Head
of Media Outreach
Google

Minky Worden
Director of Global
Initiatives
Human Rights Watch

PAST PRESIDENTS EX-OFFICIO
Michael Serrill
David A. Andelman
John Corporon
Allan Dodds Frank
Alexis Gelber
William J. Holstein
Marshall Loeb
Larry Martz
Roy Rowan
Larry Smith
Richard B. Stolley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Patricia Kranz

OFFICE MANAGER
Boots R. Duque

EDITOR
Chad Bouchard

OPC **Bulletin**
ISSN-0738-7202
Copyright © 2015
Overseas Press Club
of America

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

OPC Scholar Reports on Bangkok Bombings for AP

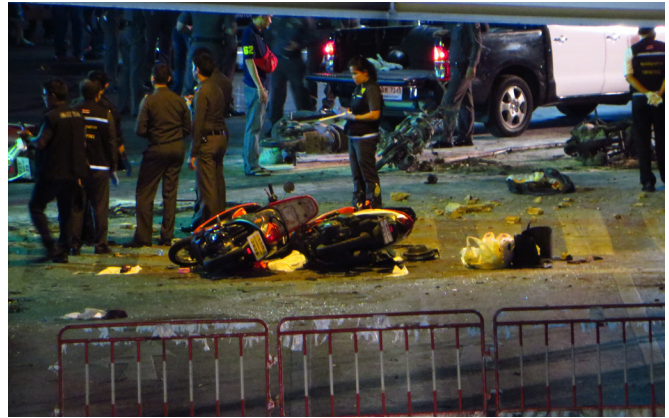
By Ted Andersen

This summer, my final week in Bangkok as an Overseas Press Club Foundation intern for the Associated Press occurred during the bombing that killed 20 and injured 125 in the center of the city. Another blast went off the next day, this time along my daily commute at Sathorn Pier on the Chao Phraya River. I took pictures at the scene of both incidents. AP and other outlets produced multiple reports, but amid all the coverage, the attacks remain shrouded in mystery.

Between the monarchy, the military government and their detractors, the intricacies of Thai politics are complex. My aim as an intern was to research every question and talk with as many experienced staff members and sources as possible. Doing so revealed to me a kingdom in crisis. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the oldest continuously serving monarch in the world, is now an 87-year-old hospital patient who has water on the brain and sits on death's doorstep without a chosen successor.

The military coup that brought General Prayuth Chan-ocha to power last May has strengthened the royalist control on power by prosecuting an increasing number of lèse majesté cases and tightening control over protest movements and digital freedom of speech. The August bombings, spun by the government as an attack on Thailand's tourism industry, may serve to galvanize the "caretaker" position of the same government that is using its power to silence critics. But with free speech and environmental protest movements cropping up throughout the country, perennial military control will certainly face future challenges to credibility.

The two bombs could be unrelated to the decades-long armed conflict between Muslim Malaysian separatists in the south, the recent deportation of Uighur refugees back to northwestern China or the "red shirt" supporters of ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, but all



Police survey the bombing aftermath in Bangkok.



Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri, Police spokesman, talks to media during the investigation.

have been offered as possible explanations.

The AP internship taught me how to balance both skepticism and openness in the face of an internationally important news event. It taught me how to move quickly and build sources in a foreign land. But most of all, it taught me that when the smoke clears and the dust settles, we may never get the clear answers we seek.

Ted Andersen

Ted Andersen

Member Recipes: Eggs Quai d'Orsay

Jacqueline Albert-Simon

As close as possible
to Eggs Quai d'Orsay...

- 5 eggs, (organic brown if possible)
- 1 Tbsp crème fraîche
- 2 ounces French or Danish salted butter
- Finely ground sea salt and white pepper



Seth Anderson (flickr)

Beat eggs until pale yellow. Add crème fraîche and butter (less butter is OK if you're getting nervous). Add a shake of sea salt and white pepper. Put into double boiler, lower pot at gentle boil and nurse until slightly less consistent than you like. Turn off heat, remove top pan and let settle to your perfect consistency. Serve with bacon if you like and toasted or grilled French bread.

SEND US YOUR FOOD STORIES AND RECIPES!

Thank you to OPC members Jacqueline Albert-Simon and Eva Schweitzer for sending recipes to kick off our new collection.

Food is a great way for correspondents to bridge gaps and find out more about the cultures we report on. We'd love to hear what you've discovered in your travels.

Look for more stories ahead in our Recipe section under the Resources tab of our website.

Send your ideas to patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Malaysia's Leaders Shut Down Critics Amid Scandal

By William J. Holstein

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak suspended the license of two newspapers that were investigating allegations of corruption, triggering a protest statement from the OPC on July 27.

The Edge Weekly and the *Edge Financial Daily* were both suspended for three months. They, along with *The Wall Street Journal*, reported that \$700 million was transferred into a bank account controlled by Najib and documented that it came from the government's investment fund, known as 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB). Najib has acknowledged receiving the money but said it came from an anonymous Middle East donor. He did not provide any further details.

The incident comes as Malaysia is attempting to become part of the Transpacific Partnership, a cross-Pacific trade deal involving the United States, Japan and 10 other nations. "If Malaysia wishes to be regarded as a rapidly advancing economy with a strong democratic tradition, as the U.S. State Department is describ-

ing the country, this is not the way to do it," the OPC said. "Prime Minister Najib is using draconian laws to silence the media in ways that are reminiscent of the most corrupt and repressive governments in the world."

The Edge Weekly and the *Edge Financial Daily* are both owned by the Edge Media Group, based in Malaysia. They have filed suit against the government's actions. Large protests have erupted in Kuala Lumpur to demand a credible explanation from Najib.

"This is the first time a serving Asian leader has been caught with his hand in the cookie jar with actual proof of money in his personal bank account," said Assif Shameen, an editorial consultant for the *Edge Singapore*, which is outside the Malaysian government's jurisdiction. He noted that Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and Indonesian strongman Suharto were able to siphon off huge sums of money from their governments, "but they could hide behind numbered Swiss accounts. In the post 9/11 world with anti-money laundering laws, corrupt dictators can't wire billions to Zurich any more. They need to keep the money in their own country."



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, right, is under fire for corruption allegations.

Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

OPC Award Winner Takes Wild Ride From Bangladesh

By Chad Bouchard

Bangladeshi photographer Atish Saha, after accepting the OPC Madeline Dane Ross Award this year, embarked on a months-long journey that he described as "a crazy Disneyland ride" across America.

Saha shared the award with Jason Motlagh for their coverage of the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse in April 2013 that killed more than 1000 people. With help from the OPC, Saha was able to attend the OPC Annual Awards Dinner and accept the award in person. He decided to extend his stay for several months to explore, take photos and scare up some work.

His travels took him to the heart of protests in Baltimore following Freddy Grey's death in police custody, across the country by Greyhound from New York to California, and into fringe communities that shook his conceptions of America.

He said the 2,800-mile bus trip was "the most disgusting thing I have ever done," with meal stops where the food was expensive and inedible. Along the way he was surprised to meet many young and poor military veterans, some of them asking for cigarettes and money. People who serve in the military in Bangladesh, he said, earn a decent wage.

After arriving in California, Saha visited a place called



In this 2013 photo taken in Dhaka, an activist takes another severely injured activist to the hospital after a deadly attack.

Atish Saha

Slab City in the Sonora desert about 150 miles from San Diego. He embedded himself for 18 days in the campsite shantytown, which is built on an abandoned military barracks that offers no running water or other amenities.

"My body was fried by the heat," which regularly hit 120 degrees Fahrenheit, he said. Saha photographed the community and plans to return to finish a series he tentatively calls "The Other America."

(Continued on Page 5)

Member Recipes: Eisbein (Pork Knuckle)

Eva Schweitzer

If you mention meat, most Berliners will think of pork, and their favorite is “Eisbein,” a cured, boiled knuckle of pork. But why is it called “Eisbein”?

Way back when, about a hundred years ago, the Spree River was covered in a thick layer of ice. Nothing could get through, and even the barges were frozen in. A mail carrier tied the long bones from a pig to his boots and skated over the ice. His idea wasn't new – skates had long been carved from the strong leg bones of pigs. So it seemed only natural to call a pig's leg “Eisbein” (ice leg).

Except in the culinary version, you leave the bone on the plate after gnawing it clean. Maybe that's what the mail carrier saw when he thought up his skates?

- **3 pounds cured pig knuckle, carved into four portions**
- **2 onions**
- **1 bunch soup vegetables (2 carrots, 2 leeks, 2 stalks celery)**
- **2 cloves**
- **2 bay leaves**
- **1 teaspoon black and white peppercorns**

1) Wash the meat thoroughly under cold running water, to remove bone splinters. Place in a large pot, cover with cold water, and bring to a boil.

2) Meanwhile, peel and chop the onions. Rinse the vegetables, peel, and chop coarsely. As the water boils in the pot, remove foam with a skimmer.

3) Add the vegetables, cloves, bay leaves, and peppercorns. Cover the pot and cook over medium heat for about 1 1/5 hours.

4) Remove the pork slices from the pot and place them in shallow bowls. Spoon broth over the meat.

Tip: Goes well with puréed peas and sauerkraut. Along with a schnapps and a beer, of course.

– Variation –

Degreased Pork-Knuckle Casserole

Remove the freshly boiled meat from the bones and cut into small pieces, trimming away the fat. Fill the bottom of a casserole dish with a thick layer of sauerkraut.

Spread the meat on top and cover with a thick layer of mashed potatoes. Drizzle melted butter over the top, and place the casserole on the middle rack of an oven preheated to 390 degrees; bake about 30 minutes. Serve garnished with browned onion rings.

The author enjoys this version of Berliner “Eisbein”; not everyone is a fan of all the fat in the original recipe.

Makes 4 servings



Ingrid Eulentan (flickr)

(Continued From Page 4)

Over the last few years, Bangladesh has seen a wave of religious violence that has claimed hundreds of lives. Tensions have flared over a war crimes tribunal prosecuting genocide and other crimes that date back to the 1971 war of independence.

Saha said Muslims in Bangladesh have slowly become more conservative as money and influence pours in from the Middle East and politicians take advantage. The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that 19 journalists have been killed in Bangladesh since 1992, four of them since January this year: Niloy Neel, Ananta Bijoy Das, Washiqur Rahman Babu and Avijit Roy.

Saha's close friend, political activist Shammi Haque, has been followed and threatened for speaking out against Islamic fundamentalists.

“Right now is the time we will decide what kind of country we want to be,” he said.

Earlier this year, he narrowly missed an attack when the bus he was riding in was firebombed just a few minutes

after he had gotten out. “People were jumping in front of my eyes and getting burned,” he said. No one was killed, but several of the riders were severely injured. Saha said the chilling thing about the attack is that life on the street resumed soon after the bus was engulfed in flames. “We got so used to it. And nobody even talks about it, like it's completely normal.”

He said the only way he can cope with the trauma of witnessing such suffering is to keep taking photos.

“It's like if music makes you high, you have to listen to it all the time. And if you don't listen to music, you feel empty, right?” he said. “When I don't take photos I feel I don't have anything to say. I feel bored, dumb and numb.”

Saha's photos have been published in *Time* magazine, *The Guardian*, *Vice*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, as well as many newspapers in Bangladesh.

Before he departed for California this spring, Atish sat down for a video interview at the OPC office to talk about his work in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza collapse. The interview is available to watch on the video section of our website.

PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

OPC SCHOLARS

Laura Rena Murray, who won the 2011 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship, has been named a Lambda Literary Fellow and was invited to join the 2015 class of the Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBTQ Voices. The retreat was led by leading LGBT authors/mentors. Laura is an investigative journalist who tackles public interest and accountability stories that highlight corruption, mismanagement and human rights violations across the world. She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, Al Jazeera America, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *SF Weekly*, 100Reporters and the Center for Public Integrity.

Two scholars have emerged as stars of *The Wall Street Journal's* coverage of China. **LingLing Wei**, who won the Reuters Scholarship in 2001, has been the Journal's lead reporter on China's decision to devalue its currency. And 2012 S&P Award winner **Eva Dou** is covering the technology sector, including the government's recent move to embed cybersecurity police units at major Internet companies.

James Reddick, 2015 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner, is now at reporter in Phnom Penh for the *Khmer Times*, an English-language daily started by OPC member James Brooke. As noted below, the paper is rolling out a nationwide distribution system this month. James has previously worked as a reporter in Beirut.



Reddick

2014 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner **Maddy Crowell** has published a long story and photos on Slate.com. The piece, part of a weekly series co-produced with

the website Roads and Kingdoms, delves into South India's Auroville, the world's largest spiritual utopia.

Emily Witt, the Flora Lewis Internship winner in 2009, has just written a new book entitled *Future Sex*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. It's described as a funny, fresh and moving antidote to conventional attitudes about sex and the single woman. Emily captures the experiences of going to bars alone, dating online, and hooking up with strangers.

2015 Jerry Flint Fellowship winner **Tim Patterson** has filed two stories from the AP bureau in Mexico City. His first piece is on the 90th anniversary of a cantina that some consider to be the home of mariachi music; the second is about the artisans who lovingly rehabilitate Mexico's old Volkswagen Beetle taxis.

2015 Stan Swinton Fellowship awardee **Miriam Berger** has written a major AP story from Israel about a new law allowing the force-feeding of prisoners on hunger strike. The prisoner's life must be in danger for the law to be invoked, and a judge must approve the feedings. The law has divided Israeli doctors, with some protesting that force-feeding is unethical while others argue that it's their duty to keep a patient alive. Miriam has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the AP bureau in Jerusalem.



Berger

AWARDS

2013 Robert Spiers Benjamin Award winner **Simon Romero** is among five winners of the Maria Moors Cabot Prize, international journalism's oldest award. Romero has reported for *The New York Times*

since 1999, most recently as Brazil bureau chief. Columbia University, which sponsors the prize, praised Romero for "fairness and thoroughness in highly polarized situations." The other winners include Mark Stevenson of the AP; Lucas Mendes of GloboNews, a 24-hour news channel; Raul Penaranda of Pagina Siete; and Ernesto Londono, also of *The New York Times*, who received a special citation.

New York Times reporter and OPC member **C.J. Chivers**, who won the 2014 Best Investigative Reporting Award for his remarkable story on U.S. troops' exposure to chemical weapons in Iraq, is now a finalist for an Online News Association Award. *The Secret Casualties of Iraq's Abandoned Chemical Weapons* is up for the Al Neuharth Innovation in Investigative Journalism Award. *The Times'* ebola coverage, for which **Adam Nossiter**, **Nori Onishi**, **Helen Cooper** and **Sheri Fink** won the 2014 Hal Boyle Award, is also up for an Online News Association Award in the Explanatory Reporting category.

The American Society of Journalists and Authors has given its Conscience in Media Award to three American freelancers whose names have become synonymous with the dangers of modern-day reporting: **James Foley**, **Steven Sotloff**, and **Austin Tice**. Foley and Sotloff were executed by the Islamic State in 2014, and Austin Tice was kidnapped in 2012 and is still missing. "These three men represent the highest values of journalism: courage, sacrifice and a firm commitment to the truth," said ASJA President Randy Dotinga. "Their bravery and dedication is especially inspiring to us as fellow independent writers." The Conscience in Media Award is given selectively and has been awarded

only 11 times since 1975.

Austin Tice has also been honored with the National Press Club's John Aubuchon Award for Press Freedom, along with the *Washington Post's* **Jason Rezaian** and Radio Free Europe reporter **Khadija Ismayilova**. All three journalists have been detained for doing their jobs: Rezaian is currently imprisoned in Iran, while Ismayilova is jailed in Azerbaijan. "We are looking to put a spotlight on the great work being done by journalists in the face of adversity," said National Press Club President John Hughes, "and to call attention to the cases of three journalists who are currently being wrongfully detained and who should be released immediately."

UPDATES

ROCHESTER, NH: On August 19, the one year anniversary of freelance journalist **James Foley's** death at the hands of ISIS, Foley's parents announced their son would be remembered with a 5K run in his home town of Rochester. According to the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation website, the race "will commemorate Jim's life and raise funds for American hostage advocacy, press freedom and educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth, which were passions for Jim." The James Foley 5K can be run virtually or in person. More details are available at foleyfoundation5k.org. Foley's legacy is being honored in other ways this fall, including a scholarship in his name at his alma mater, Marquette University; an Online News Association award; and a Middle East reporting fellowship sponsored by the GroundTruth Project.

BOSTON: The GroundTruth Project, founded and directed by OPC member **Charles Sennott**, has announced a \$1 million initiative to bolster coverage of climate change around the world. According to GroundTruth, the initiative "will build a robust and diverse editorial team of reporting fellows

and editors to lead a multimedia reporting project over the next three years that will track the impact of global warming." Applications for up to five reporting fellowships are being accepted on the organization's website.

NEW YORK:

Board member **Lara Setrakian** has launched a new project on the California water crisis. "Water Deeply" pulls together reporting from veteran journalists and freelancers along with op-eds and daily news summaries. The site promises a more thorough and contextual look at the ongoing drought in the style of Setrakian's other projects, "Syria Deeply" and "Ebola Deeply." The new site is partnering with the Associated Press and McClatchy to reach a broad audience.

OPC Board of Governors member **Rukmini Callimachi's** reporting on Islamic State's horrific use of systematized rape has sent ripples across the news universe. Outlets ranging from *Cosmopolitan* to the *Christian Science Monitor* have picked up the story and credited Callimachi. She has also been interviewed by broadcast programs including PBS NewsHour and Public Radio International's *The Takeaway*. Callimachi's reporting in *The New York Times* detailed how Islamic State has created a system to kidnap Yazidi women and hold them in sexual slavery – and how the promise of rape has been used as an enticement to recruit young men into the ranks.

Retired OPC executive director **Sonya Fry** recently visited **Ruth Gruber**, the OPC's oldest living member. Gruber turns 104 in September. In a long and storied career, she escorted Holocaust refugees



Sonya Fry, left, and Ruth Gruber.

to America, covered the Nuremberg trials, and spent more than 18 months traveling in Alaska by plane, train, truck, paddle-wheel steamer, and dogsled to write a groundbreaking social and economic study. Gruber won the OPC's Fay Gillis Award in 2009 – a special prize for women journalists that is given out on an ad hoc basis, only when there is an exceptional person to give it to. She keeps the award in a prominent place on her mantle.

Martin Smith, an OPC governor who ran for re-election, was not able to attend the Aug. 25 annual meeting to hear the results in person because he had his appendix removed that afternoon. In a note sent to the OPC following surgery, Martin said, "The surgeon thinks the infection likely came from my three weeks in Syria!!" Martin, a producer and correspondent at PBS Frontline, is recuperating at home. He was re-elected.

Former OPC *Bulletin* writer **Susan Kille** underwent lung transplant surgery in late August as she continues fighting a rare lung disease. Her husband Tom reports: "As they prepared to move her to the operating room someone asked if she was nervous, and she said no, she was excited!" Kille has been hitting all her postoperative milestones. Her family is grateful for the many supportive emails and Facebook posts from friends.

(Continued on Page 8)

Long-time OPC member **Sylvia (Sibby) Christensen** reported that she broke her hip this summer and expected to return home in late August following surgery and a month-plus tour of the hospital/rehab world. That didn't stop her from voting online in the OPC election on her iPod Touch hours before the deadline.

2009 Hal Boyle Award winner **Farnaz Fassihi** recently wrote about her experience of being attacked as a spy in the Iranian media. Fassihi is a senior correspondent on Iran and the Middle East for the *Wall Street Journal*. Conservative news organizations in Iran claim Fassihi acted as a go-between for the Obama administration and the opposition Green Movement in 2009. Fassihi writes in the *Journal* that it is heartbreaking to think that she might never be able to return to her homeland, but adds: "I take comfort in knowing that even my grandmother, who longs to see me one more time, has never asked me to stop doing what I do." The *Journal* has condemned the accusations as "outlandish and irresponsible."

KETCHUM, Id.: OPC member **Sheri Fink** appeared at the Sun Valley Writers' Conference in Ketchum in July. The *New York Times* investigative reporter spoke about covering humanitarian disasters, and about Five Days at Memorial, her award-winning book on how the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina played out at one hospital – Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans.

PARIS: OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** has been named UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety. The CNN chief international correspondent received the honor at a ceremony this spring. In her acceptance speech, Amanpour emphasized the role of journalists as "pillars of reform, freedom and de-

mocracy" whose task is to "strengthen civil society."

PHNOM PENH: OPC member **James Brooke** reports that the *Khmer Times*, the newspaper he launched in 2014, is going nationwide this month. The paper is establishing news racks in all major Smart Mobile shops in the 25 provincial capitals in the Kingdom.

DECATUR, Ga.: OPC member **Christopher Dickey** was scheduled to give back-to-back talks at the Decatur Public Library Auditorium on Sept. 2 and 3. The first was on the last book by his father, poet James Dickey. The second was on his own new book, *Our Man in Charleston: Britain's Secret Agent in the Civil War South*. The book tells the story of Robert Bunch, Britain's consul in Charleston from 1853 to 1863, who played a key role in preventing his country from getting involved in the American Civil War. Dickey, who lives in Paris, is foreign editor for The Daily Beast.

MARSHALL ISLANDS: OPC member **Coleen Jose** has published a story in *The Guardian* with other OPC members **Kim Wall** and **Jan Hendrik Hinzel** on a nuclear containment facility that threatens to spill tons of radioactive waste into the Pacific. The Runit Dome holds more than 111,000 cubic yards of debris from 12 years of nuclear tests. The concrete structure is already leaking, and scientists fear a catastrophic weather event could tear it open.

SACRAMENTO, Cal.: The McClatchy Company is denying rumors it plans to close its overseas bureaus. "We have not made any decision to close our foreign bureaus and are proud of the reporting our staff has provided to our readers over the years," McClatchy President and CEO **Pat Talamantes** said in a statement sent to Politico. The

newspaper chain currently has offices in Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul, Mexico City and Erbil, Iraq.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Longtime OPC member **Arnold Crane** died on November 2, 2014. Crane was a member of the White House Press Photographers Association whose work behind the lens took him around the world. He is perhaps best known for his portraits of great photographers, which were published in 1998 as *On The Other Side of the Camera*. "Over a period of more than four decades, Crane created a body of artistic work of immeasurable value and historic importance," wrote the e-zine The Handmade Photograph, adding that he created "sensitive photographs that both revealed and revered his subjects."

Foreign correspondent and investigative reporter **Ray F. Herndon** died on August 16 at the age of 77. Herndon covered the early days of the Vietnam War for United Press International. Peter Arnett of the Associated Press, who was also writing about the war at that time, recalled Herndon as a "fierce competitor in the daily grind of war coverage" and "fearless." He later worked in Singapore and Paris before moving back to the U.S. and long stints with the *Dallas Times Herald* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Former *Washington Post* diplomatic correspondent **Don Oberdorfer** died on July 23 in Washington. Oberdorfer joined the *Post* in 1968 and retired in 1993, covering stories including the Pentagon Papers, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War. His coverage of diplomacy took him to more than 50 countries. He wrote several well-received books, including *Tet!: The Turning Point in the Vietnam War* and *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Two reporters arrested while covering the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri last year face a court date on October 5, according to *The Huffington Post*. *The Washington Post*'s **Wesley Lowery** and *The Huffington Post*'s **Ryan J. Reilly** face charges of trespassing on private property and interfering with a police officer during the performance of his duty. The two were arrested at a McDonald's frequented by reporters covering the protests, which erupted after teenager Michael Brown was shot and killed by a police officer. Press freedom organizations have condemned the prosecutions.

U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry** has expressed concerns about press freedom in Malaysia. Kerry told reporters he had raised the issue with Prime Minister Najib Razak on a visit in August, Malaysian Insider reports. In late July the government suspended two publications for reporting on corruption allegations involving Najib. The OPC wrote a letter condemning the move. See page 3 for more details.

Prominent Syrian free speech advocate **Mazen Darwish** has been released after more than three years in jail. Along with colleagues **Hani Al-Zitani** and **Hussein Gharir**, Darwish was imprisoned on charges of "publicizing terrorist acts" and reportedly subjected to torture, according to *The Guardian*. Darwish and members of his staff are expected to be covered by political amnesty issued in June 2014. Darwish founded the Damascus-based Syrian Centre for Media and Free Expression. The literary organization PEN, which gave him its Pinter International Writer of Courage Award in 2014, had campaigned for his release.

Three Spanish journalists and a Japanese journalist are missing in Syria, and it remains unclear whether

they have been kidnapped. The three Spaniards – **Antoni Pampliega**, **José Manuel López** and **Angel Sastre** – were apparently detained by unknown gunmen at a checkpoint in Aleppo, according to *The Miami Herald*. Japanese reporter **Jumpei Yasuda** has not been heard from since June 20. The disappearances are raising concerns that radical groups such as Islamic State have resumed kidnapping foreigners there.

Three Al Jazeera journalists have been sentenced to three years in prison for "aiding a terrorist organization." **Mohamed Fahmy** and **Baher Mohamed** were present at the trial, while Australian **Peter Greste** was sentenced in absentia after being deported from the country in February. "They broadcast video footage that contained false news and aired it after editing it on Al Jazeera with the aim of harming the country," said Judge Hassan Farid as quoted by CNN. Governments and media organizations worldwide have condemned the verdicts.



German protesters carry a sign reading "treason" during a demonstration.

German prosecutors in August dropped an investigation into two journalists for Netpolitik accused of treason for reporting on online government surveillance. The accusations sparked public outrage, and a chief prosecutor was forced to retire in connection with the case.

A grim anniversary passed in August for freelance journalist **Austin Tice**, who has now been missing

for three years. Tice disappeared on Aug. 13, 2012. The U.S. State Department has said it believes Tice is being held by Syrian authorities, Al Jazeera America reports, but the Syrian government insists it does not know where he is. Tice's parents say they have word from credible sources that their son is alive and in a safe place.

Iran has handed down 10-year prison sentences to two people accused of spying for the U.S. and Israel, but it is not known whether one of them is *Washington Post* reporter **Jason Rezaian**. Rezaian faces charges of spying and assisting the U.S. government. He has been tried in four closed sessions and no further details of his case have been released, *The New York Times* reports. The Associated Press has quoted an Iranian diplomat as saying that there are no plans to swap Rezaian for Iranian prisoners currently held in the U.S. Rezaian has been imprisoned since July 2014.

Press freedom organizations are applauding a new Mexico City law aimed at protecting journalists. The law recognizes journalism and human rights work as being in the public interest, and guarantees the physical, psychological, moral and economic integrity of journalists who are in danger. It extends similar protections to their families and assistants. Reporters Without Borders hailed the new law, saying it "could set an example for Mexico's other states" – but the group also pledged to monitor its implementation closely. Eighty-nine journalists have been murdered since 2000 in Mexico, according to Reporters Without Borders.

The Pentagon has come under criticism for its newly-issued Law of War Manual, which says journalists may be treated as "unprivileged

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

belligerents.” This “broad and poorly defined category,” writes Frank Smyth of the Committee to Protect Journalists, “gives U.S. military commanders across all services the purported right to at least detain journalists without charge, and without any apparent need to show evidence or bring a suspect to trial.” Smyth argues the document’s impact may be even worse overseas, where it lowers the already-low bar for protecting journalists in conflict areas. *The New York Times* editorial board has called the new guidelines “dangerous.” But the Department of Defense counters that the paper is “misinterpreting the text of the manual, and misunderstanding the manual’s purpose and scope.”

A new website aims to help journalists working in or near Syria protect themselves. The Syria Media Safety Resource is a project of The Rory Peck Trust, the Committee to Protect Journalists and a coalition of international journalism organizations. The website provides safety and risk assessment tools, information on emergency assistance, and digital security resources, all in Arabic and English. It is available at rorypecktrust.org/resources/syria-media-safety.

Journalism organizations are critical of an Australian law that aims to prevent people working in refugee detention centers from reporting abuses there. The Border Force Act threatens two-year sentences for doctors and other professionals who discuss conditions at refugee centers without prior permission from the government. Refugees have become a political flashpoint in Australia, with Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s government taking an increasingly tough stance against rising numbers of asylum-seekers arriving by boat from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Iran and Myanmar.

The Committee to Protect Journalists is raising the alarm about plans to host the 2022 Olympics in Beijing. The group is calling on the International Olympic Committee to ensure that journalists can cover all aspects of the Games, including possibly controversial issues such as venue construction, protests, and allegations of corruption. “Beijing has consistently clamped down on the basic human right of free expression,” said the CPJ’s Bob Dietz. “The success of the 2022 Winter Olympics will depend not just on venues and ratings but also on respect for human dignity as enshrined in the Olympic Charter.” China was criticized for failing to follow through on pledges of press freedom at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Journalists on assignment for VICE are facing accusations of terrorism in southern Turkey. British citizens **Jake Hanrahan** and **Philip Pendlebury**, a translator and another colleague were arrested in the city of Diyarbakir in late August, according to the Poynter Institute, which says they were working on a story about rising tensions between the youth wing of a pro-Kurdistan Workers’ Party and police. Kurdish protesters frequently clash with security officials in Diyarbakir, and in recent years authorities have accused several journalists of associating with Kurdish organizations.

A photojournalist in Turkmenistan is being held secretly and has been denied contact with his lawyer and family, *The Guardian* reports. **Saparmamed Nepeskuliev** works for Radio Liberty and *Alternative Turkmenistan News*. He has documented water shortages, luxury villas for powerful officials, and problems with the health care system. Human Rights Watch has expressed concern for Nepeskuliev’s safety. “The Turkmen government tolerates no criticism and harshly punishes people who try to question govern-

ment policies,” said HRW’s Rachel Denber. Turkmenistan ranks 178th out of 180 countries in the 2015 World Press Freedom Index, placing ahead of only North Korea and Eritrea.

MURDERS

• Memorial funds have been launched for two television journalists killed in August while on the air in Roanoke, Virginia. The **Alison Parker** Memorial Fund at James Madison University will aid students in the School of Media Arts and Design, while the Salem Educational Foundation and Alumni Association has created a scholarship in memory of **Adam Ward**, reports TV station WDBJ, which employed both Parker and Ward. The two were shot to death by an embittered former colleague, who later committed suicide. Since 1992, eight other journalists have been killed in the U.S. while working or in connection with their work, the Poynter Institute notes.

• Photojournalist **Rubén Espinosa** was found dead in Mexico City on July 31 after fleeing threats in his home state of Veracruz. Three women who lived in the apartment and their housekeeper were also killed, according to *The Guardian*. Espinosa had reported being followed by people in Veracruz who took his photograph and harassed him. He had worked in the state for 8 years, including for the news magazine *Proceso*.

• South Sudan journalist **Peter Julius Moi** was killed by gunmen in the capital, Juba, on August 19th, the BBC reports. The murder came just days after President Salva Kiir allegedly threatened to kill reporters who did not toe the government line. “Freedom of the press does not mean you work against the country,” Kiir told reporters, adding that “this country has killed people.” The president’s office says he was quoted out of context.

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Dana Thomas

By Trish Anderton

Dana Thomas is the author of *Gods and Kings: The Rise and Fall of Alexander McQueen and John Galiano* as well the *New York Times* bestseller, *Deluxe: How Luxury Lost Its Luster*. She is a contributing editor for *T: The New York Times Style Magazine* as well as a regular contributor to *Architectural Digest*. She has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Elle Decor* and was the European editor of *Condé Nast Portfolio*. She lives in Paris.

Hometown: Washington, D.C. and Radnor, Pa.

Education: B.A. in Print Journalism, American University, Washington, D.C., 1988.

Languages: French and a bit of Italian.

First job in journalism: National desk news aide, the *Washington Post*, in January 1988. I was still in college at the time. And I was thrilled.

Countries reported from: France, Italy, Switzerland, Monaco, Spain, Germany, the UK, Sweden, Belgium, China, Japan, Mauritius, Morocco, Portugal, Hong Kong, Brazil.

Year you joined the OPC: 2002

What drew you to fashion and cultural reporting? I worked as a fashion model in the early 1980s in Paris, Milan, Germany and New York, to earn money to pay for college. My favorite classes outside of journalism, history and politics were humanities. I had a great hunger to write about politics, but also loved culture, and when I landed in the Style section of the *Washington Post* under Mary Hadar as a copy aide after my gig on the National desk, it all just seemed to come together – politics, culture, history, and the best writing in the business. Then Nina Hyde, the then-fashion editor of the *Washington Post*, needed a new assistant. Since I knew the fashion business and spoke French, she hired me. Before then, I had always thought of my time in the fashion biz – from the ages of 16 to 21 – as a means to an end, the end being a journalist. Never did it cross my mind that I could combine the two. Nina taught me that covering fashion was as important a beat as covering politics, business and culture – in fact, it was covering business and culture, and it was and is very political.

Major challenge as a journalist: Making a living. I'm not earning much more than I did 15 or 20 years ago – I was until 2007, but then it all came crashing back down. Yet the price of living has doubled – especially in France and the UK. I get requests to write freelance pieces today and am offered 50 or 75 cents a word – from major media outlets. And I'm a 25-year veteran with 22 years overseas and a *New York Times* bestselling author. It's equally frustrating and insulting. I turn them down.

Worst experience as a journalist: When *Newsweek* died. I spent 15 years in the Paris bureau – 1995 to 2010



Marcio Madeira/Zeppelin

Dana Thomas, left, speaks with Bernard Arnault at a Louis Vuitton show in Paris in the late 1990s.

– writing about fashion, culture, even politics and news when needed, under our wonderful bureau chief Christopher Dickey. It was a dream job in a dream city and we had such a great team, in Paris and New York. Watching that disintegrate in less than two years was devastating. I miss the original *Newsweek*. And I know I'm not the only one who does.

Journalism heroes: My first boss Ben Bradlee. I adored him. A journalist I never met: Tom Wicker, though his book *On Press*, which I read in high school, inspired me to pursue this as a career. Anyone who covers war. And Katherine Boo. She reports and writes about what we must know about but want to ignore or avoid. I've never met her, though we are the same age and were both living and working in Washington back in the late 80s and early 1990s. I admire her greatly.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Study languages. I started learning French in 6th grade. Know the history of where you want to be posted – far back as well as recent – so you know what you are talking about. Make friends with local (native) journos so they can explain to you how it all really works. And string for as many outlets as you can – even if you are on staff for a news outlet, do occasional glossy pieces (with permission of course). That really lets you spread your wings, writing wise, and gives you a chance to do so much more in your country. Different angles; different points of view.

Dream job: To run a features section or Sunday style magazine of a major U.S. daily.

Most over-the-top assignment: Two weeks at the Venice Film Festival, twice, for *Newsweek*. Getting paid to spend two weeks in Venice in the late summer? That was pretty grand.

Twitter and Instagram handle: danathomasparis

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

New Books

ESPIONAGE

THE BILLION DOLLAR SPY:

A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal [Doubleday, July 2015] is fact that reads like fiction. OPC member Hoffman spins a thrilling and exhaustively researched tale of how superspy Adolf Tolkachev helped the U.S. trump Soviet air power in the 1980s and beyond.

Tolkachev approached CIA operatives several times starting in 1977, offering to snoop for the U.S. The CIA turned him down repeatedly, fearing an entrapment scheme by the KGB. But when he passed the agency nearly a hundred pages of notes about Soviet radar systems and aircraft, U.S. agents realized they had an asset of rare value on their hands.

A senior engineer in a top-secret Soviet aerospace laboratory, Tolkachev would smuggle sensitive documents out of the office, take them home at lunchtime and photograph them with a Pentax camera. When it was too dangerous to remove documents from the office, he would duck into a bathroom at

work and snap photos with a hidden camera given to him by the CIA.

The spy's insistence on face-to-face meetings pushed the CIA to come up with some marvelous ruses, including one caper involving an agent dressed in multiple layers of clothing and carrying a concealed mask. The agent removes a layer of clothing, dons the mask, and leaps from a car just at the moment it turns a corner – losing, for just a moment, the KGB car trail-

ing behind. In that instant a passenger pulls a lever that causes an outline of the agent to pop, jack-in-the-box style, from a large fake birthday cake. By the time the Soviets catch up, they see the car driving on, apparently with all its passengers, and an irrelevant old Russian man walking down the street.

Hoffman's book is a thrilling and exhaustive take on Tolkachev's tale. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author had access to 944 pages of declassified documents, as well as key CIA veterans who were ready to share their experiences. The result is a book that will satisfy both history buffs and fans of espionage.

MEMOIR

"IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE to show too much affection," writes former OPC President Roy Rowan in *Keeping Love Alive* – and affection flows bounteously through this self-published memoir of his 61-and-a-half year marriage.

They met, appropriately enough, in the newsroom of *LIFE* magazine. He was an editor; she worked in the photo department. Before long, he got sent to Bonn as bureau chief, leaving her behind in New York. When he heard she was dating someone else, and might be serious about it, he panicked and phoned her on the transatlantic line from Graz at 6:00 a.m., New York time.

"Let's get married," he blurted. "Next week!"

Roy Rowan and Helen Rounds Rowan proceeded to travel the world and raise four boys together. The book explores the difficulties of marriage to a foreign correspondent, but also celebrates the perks. Along the way, Rowan shares plenty of stories about his work.

In Chicago, he spends three weeks following Jimmy Hoffa around full-time with a photographer, immersing himself in a culture of "star sapphire rings, monogrammed shirts, king-sized cuff links, and Cadillac sedans." In Saigon, he races to get the *Time* magazine office staff and their immediate families to safety as the North Vietnamese Army closes in. In New York – already retired and well over 60 – he spends two weeks as a homeless man in the dead of winter.

Keeping Love Alive is a heartfelt tribute, not only to Roy and Helen's extraordinary relationship, but to the life they lived: one full of big challenges, big adventures, and true love.

— **By Trish Anderton**



Upcoming Events

Mixer at The Half King
6:00 p.m. Sept 9

China Shocks: How Serious? What Do They Mean?
6:30 p.m., Sept. 10

Covering the Greek Debt Crisis
12:30 p.m., Sept. 30

How to Turn your Reporting into an Award-winning Documentary
6:30 p.m., Oct. 1

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Harriett Dedman
Columbia University
Student

Sean David Hobbs
Freelance Journalist,
Reporter and Novelist
Channel NewsAsia & TRT
Active Overseas

Lydia Tomkiw
Google Journalism Fellow
Committee to Protect Journalists
Associate Resident, 29 and under

Kim Wall
Freelance Journalist
Active Resident, 29 and under

Kaya Yurieff
Intern, Social Media Monitoring
Bloomberg News
Active Resident, 29 and under