

Anne Garrels Observes Vast Changes in ‘Putin Country’

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

When Anne Garrels returned to the Soviet Union in 1992 to work as correspondent for NPR, she looked for a way to cover long-term changes in one particular community after the fall of the Soviet Union. She chose Chelyabinsk, an industrial “middle Russia” city about 1,000 miles east of Moscow.

On June 7, 2016, the OPC hosted a book night to discuss *Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia*, the result of more than 20 years of reporting in Russia and frequent visits to Chelyabinsk.

Garrels said during protests after legislative elections in 2011, Western media focused too much on what was happening in Moscow, to the exclusion of the rest of the country.

“It was distorting. If you were reading *The New York Times*, you would think the country was up in arms. But out in the provinces, that was not the case,” she said.

She said reports had missed out on alternative perspectives from people living outside the capital.

“By the benefit of high oil prices

and gas prices in 2000 when he came in, Putin gave people a sense of economic prosperity for the first time,” she said.

Garrels said as Russia opened to the West in the early 90s, people in Chelyabinsk were excited and optimistic. But slowly, they started to learn about the rest of the world and grew suspicious as NATO closed in on Russia’s borders. People felt like “betrayed lovers,” she said, as disillusionment set in and the West treated Russians like losers. “It was a toxic combination.”

She said Putin capitalized on those sentiments to build support for his nationalist policies, blaming the flagging economy on the West and pledging to become stronger and more self-sufficient.

“I think we need to explain why – it may be distasteful, we may not want to appreciate or understand why people like Putin, but I think that we need to.”

She said that currently the coun-



Bill Keller, left, and Anne Garrels

try is fraught with contradictions surrounding freedom. On one hand, young people are happy to be able to download whatever media they want, while on the other hand more people are being arrested for speaking out under vaguely worded extremism laws.

Bill Keller, editor-in-chief of The Marshall Project and former Moscow bureau chief of *The New York Times* who served as moderator for the event, asked Garrels about the role of religion and the Russian Orthodox Church as changes inundated Chelyabinsk.

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OPC ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 9th

Please watch your mail inboxes for updates about the upcoming OPC Board of Governors election. This year, the membership will choose officers, nine (9) Active members of the board and three (3) Associate members to begin two-year terms. Next month’s Bulletin will feature bios and messages from candidates.

The annual meeting, open to all members, will be held on Aug. 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Club Quarters, when election results will be announced.

To cast your vote, you will receive an email from the OPC with a link to Balloteer, our online voting service, or you can call the office for a paper ballot at 212-626-9220.

Nagorski Traces Nearly-Forgotten History in ‘Nazi Hunters’

EVENT RECAP

By Chad Bouchard

Following the end of World War II, the U.S. and its European allies pivoted immediately to a new mission: to stop the spread of Soviet Communism. The Cold War had begun, Nazis who would have been tried as war criminals suddenly became key resources in the fight against the communists, and the atrocities of the Holocaust seemed ready to be forgotten.

On May 18, 2016, the OPC hosted a book night to discuss OPC member Andrew Nagorski's book, *The Nazi Hunters*, which follows government agencies and private counterparts who sought justice despite policies Nagorski called “historical amnesia.”

He said for many of the people who joined the mission to track down war criminals, prosecution and justice were secondary to the desire to simply record what had happened – to make sure it would never be repeated.

“If the official position had been left alone, and there hadn't been individuals in government and outside of governments who really pushed this and made people confront this again, I think our whole understanding of what happened in this period would be far more limited and pretty myopic.”

In his book, Nagorski challenged some of Hollywood's myths surrounding Nazi hunters. The idea that



Andrew Nagorski, left, and Deidre Depke.

Israelis were scouring the globe to find war criminals, for example, is wrong. The Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, did not have the resources to chase Nazis in any meaningful way, he said.

But journals from Nazi fugitives like Adolf Eichmann and Josef Mengele show that they believed those myths and lived in paranoia that Nazi hunters were always on their trail.

Nagorski said prosecutors ran into hurdles early on because the courts had differing notions of what constituted guilt. German courts required individual charges for specific murders or other crimes with direct evidence

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Curbing the Risks as Attacks on Reporters Escalate

By Michael S. Serrill

It's dangerous to be an international journalist.

That message was delivered emphatically at the fourth annual Foreign Editors Circle meeting in May. More than 20 representatives of news outlets and associations, including me and executive director Patricia Kranz from the OPC, convened at the offices of public radio outlet WGBH and painted a dire portrait of a globe where unbiased reporting – let's call that truth-telling – is not just unwelcome, but often punished with imprisonment and murder. As the participants noted, Russia and China have reverted to a level of media repression not seen since the heyday of communism. (President Xi Jinping of China recently told editors there that their only function was to support his government's ideology.) In Europe, reporters are under pressure from Hungary to Greece to Spain. Regimes across the Middle East and Central Asia are cracking down harder than ever, with Turkish President Recep Erdogan going so far as to demand that a German media mogul rescind his support for a beleaguered Turkish comedian who mocked Erdogan.

Much of the daylong Boston meeting – co-sponsored by the Vienna-based International Press Institute, the Associated Press and Charles Sennott's GroundTruth Project – focused on the continuing dangers of reporting from war-torn Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Foreign Editors Circle and the OPC were early backers of the global effort to train and protect freelancers working in conflict zones. That initiative has blossomed into the ACOS Alliance – ACOS stands for A Culture of Safety – which now has more than 85 members representing major news organiza-



Charles Sennott

David Rohde of Reuters, leads a session at the Foreign Editors Circle meeting on May 13.

before a dangerous assignment. You can get a copy from the ACOS website acosalliance.org or from David at David.Rohde@thomsonreuters.com.

Among the checklist's provisions: that the editor determine the reporter has had conflict reporting experience, plus safety, first aid and other training; that the reporter complete a risk assessment before the assignment, and have a method for keeping in communication with the news organization and an emergency evacuation plan. Editors should make certain reporters are provided with whatever expense money and equipment – such as helmet and flak jacket – they will need on the assignment. One crucial requirement: that reporters have the capability to quickly scrub their phones, tablets or computers so that if he is arrested or taken captive local reporters and sources he has been working with will not be compromised. Some of the checklist items are necessarily macabre: what will the news organization do if the journalist is captured, injured or killed? Does the reporter have an up-to-date will?

"It's critical that editors and reporters talk over worst-case scenarios – and each side's responsibilities – before agreeing on an assignment," Rohde said in an email. "Both reporters and editors will benefit."

The latest battlefield in the war against independent journalism is on the Internet. At the Boston meeting, IPI's Javier Luque, speaking from Vienna on Skype, described a rising tide of "harassment of journalists, bloggers and citizen journalists" around the world. To fight the trend, IPI has launched a new program called On the Line, designed to give journalists around the world a secure outlet to report threats and intimidation. (Go to www.ontheline.media.) The program is now being tested in Turkey and Jordan. In the latter nation, Luque said, "traditional media has legal protections that online journalists don't." One threat to the online crowd: charges of defamation if they criticize government officials.

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Beth Murphy/GroundTruth

The fourth annual Foreign Editors Circle meeting was hosted by The GroundTruth Project at WGBH in Boston.

tions. ACOS board member David Rohde of Reuters – a kidnap victim in Pakistan – used the Boston forum to quiz editors on the responsibilities of editors before they send reporters, freelance or otherwise, into zones of conflict. After compiling recommendations from freelancers, ACOS developed the Assignment Safety Checklist – a set of questions that editors and reporters should discuss

Boosting Trans-Atlantic Ties at IAPC Meeting in Geneva

By Patricia Kranz

OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz and long-time OPC member Jonathan Kapstein participated in the 2016 General Assembly of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC) in Geneva, Switzerland in late May. Kapstein is a founding member of the Brussels Press Club Europe, which is less than six years old, and the club's current president.

OPC members are welcome to visit the Brussels Press Club or any of the more than 40 IAPC member clubs when traveling abroad. Most are in Europe and Asia, but the IAPC has a grant from the European Union to help develop and support press clubs in Africa. Next spring the association will hold a conference in Kigali, Rwanda to promote these efforts. At this year's meeting, Press Club Belarus was approved as a new member. For a complete list of clubs where OPC members are welcome, click [here](#).

The OPC is the only club based in North America that is a member of the IAPC. Delegates in Geneva expressed a strong desire to promote trans-Atlantic ties between press clubs, and approved a motion to hold a conference in New York or another American city in 2019 to network with US and Canadian press clubs.

Also in the works is the second International Freedom of the Press Conference to be held in May 2017, hosted by the Jerusalem Press Club under the auspices of the IAPC.

The association also sponsors a Freedom of Speech award every year, which in 2015 was presented to Al Jazeera journalists Peter Greste, Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed, who had been imprisoned in Egypt.

Guy Mettan of the Geneva Press Club hosted the



Patricia Kranz and Jonathan Kapstein of Press Club Brussels Europe.



From left: Guy Mettan of the Geneva Press Club, Martyn Bond of the London Press Club and Jonathan Kapstein.

gathering. The highlight was lunch at the United Nations Restaurant hosted by Michael Moeller, director general of the UN Office in Geneva, followed by a tour of the Palais des Nations.

(‘Nazi Hunters’ Continued From Page 2)

and witnesses to establish guilt. Since prisoners avoided eye contact with guards, survivors often could not identify the people who committed the crimes.

But this began to turn around when lawyers started arguing that guards working at death camps are guilty simply because of their contribution to the operation of the facility.

“If there’s a gang out there killing every family that has blue eyes, you don’t care who’s the shooter, who’s standing guard, who’s the driver – they’re all guilty. German courts refused to accept that.”

Nagorski traveled to France, Germany, Poland and Israel in the course of his research for the book. His family escaped from Poland during the war and emigrated to the United States. He said hearing stories when growing up prompted a

deep interest in the era. *Nazi Hunters* is his fourth book about World War II.

“I think one of the great legacies of this whole period is that the standard defense of everyone from Eichmann on down was ‘I was just following orders.’ What all these trials have established is that just following orders is not a defense, and in fact in some ways it condemns you when you know what those orders mean.”

(‘Curbing Risks’ Continued From Page 3)

One threat – perhaps the biggest – to international journalism doesn’t come through the barrel of a gun: a paucity of money. GroundTruth’s Sennott noted that at this juncture few major American news organizations employ any foreign correspondents simply because it is too expensive. At GroundTruth, he says he spends an in-

ordinate amount of time raising funds from foundations to sponsor his reporting projects. Said Sennott: “New revenue models are needed.”

Michael S. Serrill, a former president of the OPC, was a foreign editor for Bloomberg News, BusinessWeek and TIME.

Correspondents Discuss West Coast Group of OPC Friends

By Markos Kounalakis and Mary Kay Magistad

A new group of hacks out in California have been meeting in San Francisco. What started out notionally at the end of 2015 has now grown into a real team of individuals who share in the mission and principles of the OPC and are actively meeting, organizing and networking professionally on a regularly scheduled basis. The group is working with the Overseas Press Club of America to form a West Coast affiliate and is informally using the name OPC West. The OPC board of governors will meet in the fall to discuss how to formalize the relationship.

OPC West is off to a great start in 2016. The first three meetings have attracted over 60 participants, mostly foreign correspondents, overseas bureau chiefs and freelancers. A few OPC Award winners also attended the early meetings.

In April, around 35 former foreign correspondents gathered at Markos's home in San Francisco. The assembled group ranged from Vietnam War era correspondents and photographers to those more recently out of Afghanistan, China and Europe.

At that meeting, a group conversation centered around what OPC West could be and do, on how and how much to organize it, and on what steps to take next. An eight

person organizing committee met in May to work on logistics for the larger June event held at San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute.

The June 2 event had 38 people sign up – even though it coincided with the first game of the NBA Finals featuring the local team (a big screen, streaming solution satisfied all). The next meeting is planned for September and the number of members is growing steadily. A group survey is underway to uncover what services and activities members desire and to see who is willing to help do some of the work of organizing, planning, and hosting future meetings and events.

OPC West has a closed Facebook page that members can join, is creating an Instagram presence. Because OPC West members are located throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, future meetings are being planned for both Berkeley and Stanford/Silicon Valley.

Please send ideas, suggestions and questions regarding OPC West to: opclubwest@gmail.com.

And, of course, spread the word! If you know of current or former foreign correspondents in the San Francisco Bay Area – or who pass through the Bay Area on a regular basis – please put them in touch and we'll get them on the mailing list.

('Putin Country' Continued From Page 1)

She said after the Soviet Union fell, foreign missionaries from Baptist and Pentecostal churches quickly set up operations in the city and provided much-needed services like addiction treatment. The Orthodox church was slower to respond, but after making money from trade in tax-free cigarettes and alcohol, the church sharpened its propaganda and grew to become a more active community fixture.

Life for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in Chelyabinsk is surprisingly open, Garrels said.

Though homosexuality was decriminalized in 1993, under current law there is a ban on distribution of "propaganda" to minors that promotes so-called non-traditional sexual relationships. Garrels said that effectively means you can't talk about homosexuality publicly.

Garrels added that many people in the gay community resent liberal Westerners pushing for reforms in Russia, because gay rights are decades behind and should be allowed to progress at their own pace.

Garrels tracked changes in the lives of several Chely-

abinsk residents in her book. She talked about a dissident who once worked as a forensic scientist in the Soviet period, and became a funeral director in the years after the Soviet Union collapsed.

He was frustrated about paying an increasing number of bribes to city officials, so he eventually refused. His deputy was shot just as they were shutting the business down.

The dissident then became the first independent forensic expert in Russia. Judges began to call on him. He wasn't allowed to submit reports on politically sensitive cases, but he was able to make a small difference in the justice system.

Garrels said she's concerned about apathy among young Russians, with many of them wanting to leave the country for better opportunities abroad. She said kids she interviewed at a school for gifted students in Chelyabinsk were surprisingly patriotic.

"There was an element of Putin in all of them," she said.

PEOPLE... By Trish Anderton

OPC SCHOLARS

Alexandra Suich, who won the Theo Wilson Scholarship in 2008, is now *The Economist's* US Technology Editor in San Francisco. Previously she served as media editor, based in London and New York, where she wrote about the television, film, newspaper, music and marketing businesses worldwide. She started writing for *The Economist* in 2008. Alexandra was named Britain's Young Financial Journalist of the Year 2012 by the Wincott Foundation.



Suich

2013 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner **Christopher Harress** has joined the Alabama Media Group in Birmingham AL. Previously he was the defense reporter for *International Business Times*, where his four years as logistics officer in the British Royal Navy informed his daily reporting on the nexus of business, politics, international affairs and defense. As a freelancer, Christopher reported from Senegal, all across Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

WINNERS

OPC Second Vice President **Abigail Pesta** and colleagues at Cosmopolitan Magazine accepted the award for Outstanding Magazine Overall Coverage at the 27th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York. The magazine's inclusiveness of all sexual and gender orientations "sent a message of inspiration to its LGBT readers," GLAAD wrote. Among the stories Pesta has published in Cosmo this year: a lengthy interview with Chelsea Manning,



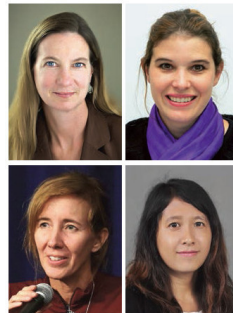
Pesta

and a story about two women who lost their jobs at a Catholic high school after marrying each other.

OPC member **Lynsey Addario** received an honorable mention for the 2016 Anja Niedringhaus Courage In Photojournalism Award, as did 2007 John Faber Award winner **Paula Bronstein**. The winner was **Adriane Ohanesian**, a freelance photojournalist based in Nairobi, Kenya. A.P. photographer Anja Niedringhaus was killed by an Afghan policeman on the outskirts of Khost, in eastern Afghanistan, in 2014; OPC member **Kathy Gannon** was seriously injured in the attack. Gannon serves on the advisory committee for the award.

The Associated Press team that received both the Hal Boyle and Malcolm Forbes Awards at this year's OPC gala has also won the English News & Features Grand Prize in the Hong Kong-based Human Rights Press Awards. "Seafood from Slaves," a series that helped free more than 2,000 enslaved workers in the Southeast Asian fishing industry, is the work of **Martha Mendoza, Margie Mason, Robin McDowell** and **Esther Htusan**. The Bob Considine Award-winner **Reuters** piece, "The Long Arm of China," won the HRP's English Online Grand Prize.

Mendoza, Mason, McDowell and **Htusan's** "Seafood from Slaves" has also won a 2016 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in the International Print category. **Evan Williams, Edward Watts,**



Mendoza, Mason, McDowell & Htusan

and Raney Aronson won the International Television category with the FRONTLINE episode "Escaping Isis," which received this year's David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award. The Robert F. Kennedy awards recognize outstanding reporting on human rights and social justice issues.

Sarajevo-based reporter **Miranda Patrucic**, who has exposed corruption throughout the region, and the investigative team at Mexican news site **Aristegui Noticias** have been honored with the 2016 Knight International Journalism Awards.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: OPC member **Santiago Lyon** was the subject of a lengthy profile in *The Globe and Mail (London)*. In it, the veteran photographer talks about dealing with the emotional impacts of war photography throughout his career, starting with the civil war in El Salvador at age 23 and continuing through conflicts in more than a dozen countries, including the first Gulf War and the Balkans. Lyon is now the vice president and director of photography of The Associated Press.

Buyouts are on offer in the newsroom and several business departments at *The New York Times* as the paper bids to "continue aggressive digital expansion while controlling costs." Packets were set to go out to eligible employees at the end of May, and they will have until mid-July to decide whether to accept. The company did not reveal how many buyouts it is offering. It has set its sights on doubling digital revenue by the year 2020.

Cuts have hit the digital news world as well, with **VICE** announcing in May that it would eliminate

15 jobs in New York and Los Angeles, as well as laying off its editorial team and foreign correspondents in London. The company is reorganizing its operations and plans to open offices in Hong Kong and San Francisco, *The Guardian* reports. **Mashable** cut about two dozen staffers in April, while **Buzzfeed** missed its 2015 revenue goals and downscaled expectations for 2016. *International Business Times* laid off about 15 employees in March.

The New York Times is suing the CIA and the U.S. Army for documents relating to abandoned chemical weapons found by U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The suit follows up on reporting by **C.J. Chivers** that showed how exposure to the deteriorating arsenal sickened at least 17 American service members. According to Courthouse News, *The Times* argues the official refusal to release the documents is “no longer sustainable” because the Army has already apologized to the servicepeople who were affected. Chivers won the OPC’s Best Investigative Reporting Award in 2014 for the work.

Valerie Komor, an OPC member, is leading the effort to preserve the vast trove of wire copy, reporters’ notes, images and videos at the Associated Press. As director of the A.P.’s Corporate Archives project, she’s working with a cloud storage firm to save the content and make it available to reporters and researchers. The collection goes back as far as 1848. Among its treasures: wire copy on President Kennedy’s assassination, complete with an editor’s notes in pencil.

OPC member **Alessandria Masi** shared her experiences using social media to connect with ISIS members in a recent blog post on the Commit-

tee to Protect Journalists website. Masi says she first began chatting with an ISIS fighter on Twitter in September 2014, after he commented about a piece she’d written. She says she tries to communicate with online sources “nearly every day for a month” before setting up a video chat or phone call to confirm their whereabouts – and she uses them only to understand the group better, and not as primary sources in stories. Masi is the Middle East correspondent for *International Business Times*.

OPC member **Ilana Ozernoy** is now vice president and deputy head of communications at News Corp. Previously, Ozernoy worked in the administration of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. A former war correspondent, Ozernoy has been a staff writer for *The Atlantic*, a staff foreign correspondent for *U.S. News & World Report*, and a correspondent for public radio’s “Marketplace.”

Nick Schiffrin, who shared the 2014 David Kaplan Award with colleagues from Al Jazeera America, is now working as a special correspondent for PBS NewsHour. Schiffrin was Al Jazeera America’s first foreign correspondent, based in Jerusalem; before that he worked for ABC News in London, New Delhi, and Afghanistan/Pakistan.

2015 Thomas Nast Award winner **Patrick Chappatte** went beyond the bounds of typical editorial cartooning in a special series for *The New York Times*. Chappatte and his wife, journalist Anne-Frédérique Widmann, worked with prisoners to document life on Death Row. Chappatte’s



Chivers



Ozernoy



Chappatte

drawings tell the stories – including one in which a prisoner is exonerated after a 20-year effort, and another about the psychological stress of solitary confinement.

WASHINGTON, DC: The family of veteran freelancer **Ray Thibodeaux** is raising money to help pay for his medical expenses after a cancer diagnosis. Thibodeaux has reported around the world from the conflict in Darfur to Bhutan’s first democratic elections. He has been a frequent contributor to Voice of America in both Africa and South Asia, reporting from over a dozen countries. He and wife Emily Wax, a former foreign correspondent and now national reporter for *The Washington Post*, live with their two toddlers in Washington. The fundraising page can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/raymedfund>.

CHICAGO: FRONTLINE received \$4.2 million and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting got \$2.5 million as part of the MacArthur Foundation’s expanded commitment to journalism. Other awardees included the Global Press Institute, public radio’s The World, and Round Earth Media. The foundation doled out nearly \$25 million in unrestricted funding to support “the core values of accurate, in-depth journalism and documentary storytelling while also supporting innovation and experimentation and building diversity in the field.”

LOS ANGELES: The *Los Angeles Times* is opening seven news bureaus around in the world in a bid to establish itself as a global leader in entertainment news, Poynter.org reports. The bureaus will be in the “entertainment-oriented” cities of Hong Kong, Seoul, Rio de Janeiro, Mumbai, Lagos, Moscow and Mexico City.

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Former OPC Governor **Jonathan Dahl** has joined search firm Korn Ferry as Vice President, Chief Content Officer. His responsibilities will include oversight of print and digital news content, according to the firm. Mr. Dahl previously served as Editor in Chief at two *Wall Street Journal* publications – *SmartMoney* and *WSJMoney* – and was a Page One editor.

DURHAM, N.C.: 2014 OPC Edward R. Murrow Award winner **Rachel Boynton** sat on the Grand Jury of this year's Full Frame Documentary Film Festival. Boynton's latest film – and the one that won her the Murrow Award – is *Big Men*, a documentary about an American company's pursuit of oil off the coast of Ghana.

LONDON: **Henry Chu**, who shared the 2015 Madeline Dane Ross Award with colleagues from the *Los Angeles Times*, has been named European Bureau Chief at *Variety*. Chu, who spent 25 years at the Times, will write and edit features for the magazine and direct daily news coverage across Europe for Variety.com.

2014 Olivier Rebbot Award winner **Jérôme Sessini**'s work was recently exhibited at Photo London, a festival bringing together 84 of the world's leading galleries. Sessini shoots for the Magnum photo agency.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

NPR photographer **David Gilkey** was killed in Afghanistan on June 5, along with interpreter **Zabihullah Tamanna**. Gilkey and Tamanna were traveling with the Afghan army on assignment when their unit came under attack. Gilkey won an OPC citation for an NPR special series in

2009 about life along Israel's West Bank barrier. He had covered numerous conflicts and disasters, including the earthquake in Haiti, the Balkans war and He joined NPR in 2007 after a stint with the *Detroit Free Press*. "As a man and as a photojournalist, David brought out the humanity of all those around him," said NPR's vice president of news, Michael Oreskes, in an email to staff. "He let us see the world and each other through his eyes."

60 Minutes icon **Morley Safer** died on May 19 at age 84. As a foreign correspondent for CBS, Safer brought the Vietnam war into American living rooms, changing the public's opinion of the war. He began his career as a foreign correspondent with Reuters in London and went on to cover the Middle East, Europe and Africa for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1970 Safer joined 60 Minutes, where he worked until his retirement just a week before his death. "No correspondent had more extraordinary range, from war reporting to coverage of every aspect of modern culture," said CBS News President David Rhodes in a statement. "His writing alone defined original reporting."

Any Cabrera, a veteran journalist with the Associated Press in Latin America, died at age 60 on May 23. Cabrera began working for the A.P. as a correspondent in El Salvador in 1983. She went on to report from Brazil before becoming an editor on the Spanish-language news desk in Mexico City. "Any was the calm voice of reason on the other end of the line, the unflappable editor who always knew what had to be done next," said Paul Haven, the agency's news director for Latin America and the Caribbean. "She was loved and admired by everybody."

CNN's **Will King**, who helped launch the cable news channel in 1980 and later shaped its international coverage, died at age 64 on May 19. King started as a video journalist just two weeks before CNN broadcast its first show. He went on to open the Frankfurt bureau in 1985. He returned to the U.S. and worked his way up the ladder as senior international editor, managing editor, and vice president of international news gathering. King "was a man of detail, and the bottom line was always about taking care of people in war zones," former senior vice president of news gathering Parisa Khosravi recalled.

David Beresford, who was known for his reporting on Northern Ireland and South Africa, died on April 22. He was 68. Beresford was born in South Africa and moved to Britain in the mid-70s, where he soon found his way to *The Guardian*. The paper sent him to Northern Ireland in 1978, where he began the work that would lead to his highly-regarded book about the IRA hunger strike of 1981, *Ten Men Dead*. In 1984 he moved to Johannesburg to cover the struggle against apartheid. In later years, he also chronicled his own battle with Parkinson's disease.

Stanley Burke died on May 28 at the age of 93. Burke served as a foreign correspondent for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, first at the UN in 1958, and later in Paris. He became deeply concerned about the Biafran war in the late 1960s and resigned from the CBC in 1969 when he was told to curtail his activism on the issue. Burke went on to become a newspaper publisher and environmentalist.

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Many journalists killed in the Philippines have “done something” to deserve it, president-elect **Rodrigo Duterte** said on May 31. “Just because you’re a journalist you are not exempted from assassination if you’re a son of a bitch,” he added. The Philippines is one of the most deadly countries for members of the news media, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists; 75 journalists have been murdered there since 1992.

Prominent investigative journalist **Khadija Ismayilova** has been released from prison on probation in Azerbaijan. Ismayilova was arrested in 2014 on charges of embezzlement, illegal business activity, tax evasion and abuse of power. Human rights advocates have called the charges baseless. The 40-year-old Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty contributor was convicted in 2015 and sentenced to seven and a half years in prison – a sentence that has since been reduced. “I am strong and full of energy. I will continue my work as a journalist,” Ismayilova wrote on Facebook shortly after her release.

A BBC team was ordered to stop reporting during President Obama’s visit to Vietnam in May, according to one of its members. “Even pointing a camera vaguely in the direction of an election poster was politely blocked by our minders,” wrote **Jonathan Head** in a story for the BBC website. Head said authorities falsely accused the team of holding an unauthorized meeting with a prominent dissident.

An aid worker has been detained in Iran and held in solitary confinement without charges for five weeks. Family members are pleading for the release of 37-year-old **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, a program coordinator with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which operates

separately from the Reuters news organization. Authorities in Iran have confiscated the passport of her 22-month old baby as well, Reuters reports. The Iranian government has not indicated why Zaghari-Ratcliffe is being held.

The St. Louis County police department has settled with four journalists who were arrested during the unrest in Ferguson in 2014. **Ryan Devereaux, Lukas Hermsmeier, Ansgar Graw and Frank Hermann** brought a federal civil rights lawsuit against the county alleging numerous violations, including against the First and Fourth Amendment. The settlement requires the county to pay \$75,000 and train all its police officers on media access and the right to record police activity, *The St. Louis American* reported. Devereaux writes for *The Intercept*; Graw is a correspondent for *Die Welt*; Hermann writes for German regional newspapers; and Hermsmeier is a freelancer. Other journalists arrested during the Ferguson protests, including *The Washington Post*’s Wesley Lowery and *The Huffington Post*’s Ryan Reilly, still face charges.

Columbia University is the future home of the **Knight First Amendment Institute**, which will “seek to preserve and expand First Amendment rights in the digital age through research and education, and by supporting litigation in favor of protecting freedom of expression and the press.” Columbia and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation announced the \$60 million project in May. The institute is currently searching for an executive director.

The **Committee to Protect Journalists** has launched what it calls a state-of-the-art system for reporting press freedom violations anywhere in the world, and for jour-

nalists under attack to request help. The CPJ worked with the Freedom of the Press Foundation to design the reporting site using SecureDrop, an “anonymous submission system engineered to resist even nation-state surveillance.” The site must be contacted via the anonymous Tor browser; instructions are available in the Journalist Assistance area of CPJ’s website.

Ten journalists held by armed groups in Yemen began a hunger strike on May 10 to protest their captivity, according to **Reporters Without Borders** (RSF). Most of the captives have been held for more than a year; a joint statement released by their families said they had been subjected to torture and denied medical care. RSF says 14 journalists and citizen journalists are currently being held by militant groups in Yemen, including Houthi rebels and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

The head of Egypt’s journalists union and two of its board members are facing trial on charges of harboring fugitives and publishing false news. **Yehia Qalash, Khaled el-Balshy and Gamal Abdel Raheem** have been charged in connection with a police raid on the union’s building. Authorities were seeking two journalists suspected of staging anti-government protests; the union resisted, called for sit-ins and demanded the interior minister’s resignation. Amnesty International has called the arrests of Qalash, el-Balshy and Raheem an “alarming setback for freedom of expression” in Egypt.

Three journalists held by Colombia’s Marxist ELN rebels were released in late May after slightly less than a week in captivity. Spanish

(Continued on Page 10)

columnist **Salud Hernandez** went missing on May 21 in rural El Tarra municipality. Correspondent **Diego D’Pablos** and cameraman **Carlos Melo**, who work for RCN Colombian TV, disappeared two days later in the same area while investigating Hernandez’s disappearance. Hernandez told El Tiempo newspaper that she had been detained against her will by the National Liberation Army but had been treated well and was in good health.

MURDERS

• Two journalists were killed in less than 24 hours in eastern India in mid-May. 35-year-old **Akhilesh Pratap Singh** was shot in the Chitra district of Jharkhand on May 13. Singh worked for a local news channel, according to NDTV. The next night, veteran journalist **Rajdev Ranjan**, the bureau chief of the daily *Hindustan*, was shot dead in Siwan district in neighboring Bihar state. Police have not released a motive for either killing.

• Mexican reporter **Manuel Santiago Torres González** was shot dead in Poza Rica, Veracruz, while walking home after covering a campaign event. The 48-year-old was the editor of the NoticiasMT news site, and had previously worked for national broadcaster TV Azteca, according to the CPJ. At least 14 journalists who lived or reported in Veracruz have been killed since 2010, according to the press freedom organization.

• Journalist **Sagal Salad Osman** was gunned down in Mogadishu, Somalia on June 5. The 24-year-old was attacked by three unknown assailants in the capital’s Hodon district near the University of Mogadishu, where she was a student, according to *Newsweek*. Osman was a host and producer for state-owned Radio Mogadishu. Members of the state-run media are often targeted by militant groups in the region, such as Al-Shabaab.

• **Alex Balcoba**, a reporter for the weekly crime tabloid *People’s Brigada*, was shot dead in front of his family’s watch in Quiapo, Manila, on May 27. The 56-year-old was shot in the head by a lone gunman, the Philippine Star reports. Balcoba is the second journalist to be killed this year in the Philippines, and the 34th since 2010, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

• Pakistani journalist and human rights advocate **Khurram Zaki** was killed in Karachi on May 7. Gunmen opened fire on him from motorbikes while he was dining in a restaurant, the BBC reports. Zaki, 40, was an editor of the anti-sectarian website Let us Build Pakistan. A splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for the shooting, saying it was in retaliation against Zaki and other activists for filing a court case charging a cleric with inciting violence against members of the Shia minority.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Benedetta Argentieri
Freelancer
Brooklyn
Active Resident – Young (30 to 34)

Atul Bhattarai
Freelancer
Kathmandu, Nepal
Active Overseas – Young (29 or under)

Kathleen Caulderwood
Freelance
Toronto, Canada
Active Overseas - Young (29 or under)

Thomas Goltz
Freelance
Livingston, Montana
Active Non-Resident

Sophia Jones
Middle East Correspondent
The Huffington Post
Turkey
Active Overseas – Young (29 or under)

Elias Lopez
Editor
The New York Times
New York
Active Non-Resident Young (30 to 34)

Richard Lyman
Warsaw Bureau Chief
The New York Times
New York
Active Overseas

Kiran Nazish
Freelancer
New York
Active Resident – Young (30 to 34)

Alexis Okeowo
Reporter
The New Yorker
Brooklyn
Active Resident – Young (30 to 34)

Nick Robins-Early
World Reporter
The Huffington Post
New York
Active Resident – Young (30 to 34)

Meet the OPC Members: a Q&A With Vivienne Walt

By Trish Anderton

Vivienne Walt has written for *TIME* magazine since 2003, and is also a contributor and roving correspondent for *Fortune*. She has reported from dozens of countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, though wars, terrorism, revolutions and natural disasters. Recently she covered the Arab Spring revolutions and their aftermath, Europe's migrant crisis, and the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels. A regular guest on TV and radio, Vivienne has also published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic*, and *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*. Since 2015 she has been on the OPC Board of Governors.

Hometown: Raised in Cape Town, emigrated to New York City, now based in Paris.

Languages: English, French.

Year you joined the OPC: 1997

What drew you to international reporting: Growing up, I had a front-row seat to world history, watching the unraveling of apartheid in South Africa. After that I had this totally misguided idea that my reporting was all going to be about earth-shattering events.

Major challenge as a journalist: Stop nit-picking over every word and hit the send button already.

Best journalism advice received: An editor of mine once gave me two sentences to live by: "There's no news in the newsroom" and "Go out and come back with something I don't know." I also have a sticker on my laptop which says, "Never assume. Always check."

Worst experience as a journalist: The worst experiences as a journalist are better than good ones in most other jobs.

When traveling, you like to ... Walk the streets with no preconceptions.

Hardest story: Almost always the story I'm currently working on. Nothing seems that hard once it's done.

Most memorable interview: Two that come to mind: Nelson Mandela, a week after his release from prison, in his garden in Soweto to where hundreds of ordinary citizens traveled from across the country to greet him. And Saif Gaddafi in Libya shortly before the Libyan Revolution erupted in February 2011, at his farm out-



Courtesy of Vivienne Walt

Vivienne Walt

side Tripoli, when he told me he wanted "Democracy, just like in Holland." Months later, I was watching him command a bloody crackdown against democracy protesters. And today he's in custody, sentenced to death. A good lesson in how to view interview subjects with a dose of skepticism.

Journalism heroes: This year's OPC award winners.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Buy an air ticket to a newsworthy place, and work really hard when you get there. The rest will follow. What are you waiting for?

Dream job: Working for editors who say "go for it!" when I pitch getting on the road to do great stories, and who also have ideas of their own for me.

Favorite quote: Half of life is showing up. (See above under "Advice for journalists who want to work overseas")

Place you're most eager to visit: Damascus the day President Assad resigns.

Strangest assignment: I'd say little is more surreal than being alone with a *TIME* photographer in a cold-storage room in Misrata, and the near-naked corpse of Moammar Gaddafi, the morning after he was killed in October, 2011, with a crowd of excited families lined up outside, waiting for a glimpse.

Most common mistake you see: Anonymous quotes from people giving standard information that is readily available.

Twitter handle: @vivwalt. Please follow.

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

New Books

CHINA

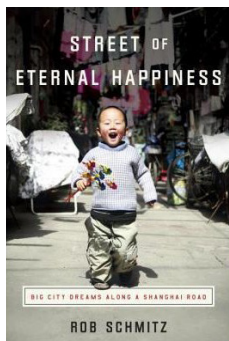
IN STREET OF ETERNAL *Happiness: Big City Dreams Along a Shanghai Road* [Crown Publishers, May 2016], Rob Schmitz chronicles contemporary China through the lives of ordinary people on his street in Shanghai. Schmitz, the China correspondent for public radio's "Marketplace," lives on "a tiny squiggle to the southwest of People's Square" called Changle Lu, which roughly translates to Eternal Happiness.

His neighbors include Zhao, who left a "useless" husband and moved to the big city to run a flower shop in an effort to ensure a better future for her sons; CK, a struggling sandwich-shop entrepreneur who sells accordions on the side; Wang Ming, a man whose talent for business landed him in a forced labor camp for over a decade; and Auntie Fu, who grew up hungry during the Great Leap Forward and now gambles her savings on get-rich-quick schemes. Throughout the book, their lives clash with the systems that hold everyone in place – both cultural structures and the omnipresent government.

"Nobody has rights here," says Old Kang, standing in the ruin of his partially-demolished house. He has

been homeless for more than eight years, after the government illegally sold the property out from under him. "It doesn't matter how developed China is – the system is what's important. If they don't change the system, economic development is useless."

Kirkus Reviews calls *Street of Eternal Happiness* "Probing human-interest stories that mine the heart of today's China." The New York Times writes that "Schmitz's eye for scenes and ear for dialogue give an immediacy to his stories that more expository works often lack."



STALINISM

BELIEVER: STALIN'S LAST *American Spy* [Simon and Schuster, September 2016] chronicles the life of Noel Field, an idealist and, in Kati Marton's portrayal, a rube, who spied for Stalin in the U.S. and ended up dragging not only himself but his wife, brother and adopted daughter through the horrors of the Soviet prison system. "The mystery at the core of Field's life is how an apparently good man, who started out with noble intentions, could sacrifice his own and his family's freedom, a promising career, and his country, all for a fatal myth," writes Marton. "His is the story of the sometimes terrible consequence of blind faith."

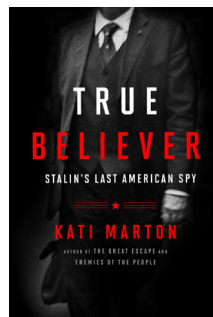
Field first turned to Communism in the early 1930s, amid the cruelty of the Depression. He fell in with the Bonus Army – destitute World War I veterans who flocked to Washington to ask for their service bonuses early. When General MacArthur torched their camp and pitilessly drove them across the Anacostia River, the young State

Department employee was crushed. "Field wanted a country that was better than the one he found, one that would feed and educate its most oppressed," Marton writes. "He was not alone." Field was recruited to the Soviet cause by Austrian agent Hede Massing.

Outed as a spy in 1948, Field fled to Czechoslovakia, where he was chloroformed and kidnapped by the KGB. Stalin wanted to clear out some party functionaries, and Field was useful: he could give false testimony tying them to the American intelligence apparatus. Field was never required to appear at the resulting show trials, but his words nonetheless helped usher fellow Communists to their deaths.

Field was held and tortured in Budapest for five years in solitary confinement. His devoted wife Herta came to Czechoslovakia with his brother in an effort to find him, was captured, and, in a remarkable stroke of cruelty, held in solitary confinement just three cells away –

while neither of them knew it. (Field heard her sneeze once and spent the rest of his stay convincing himself it wasn't her voice). The brother and the Fields' adopted daughter were also captured, imprisoned, and tortured.



Remarkably, after this personal tour through hell, Field and his wife remained loyal to the cause. Following their release in 1956, they opted to live out their days in Budapest. Noel was accorded a hero's burial.

Kati Marton leverages her access to Field family correspondence, Soviet Secret Police records and other sources to paint a fuller picture of Noel Field, a spy she has said "should be as well known as Alger Hiss or Kim Philby."

— By Trish Anderton

Upcoming Events

OPC Mixer
at The Half King
6:00 p.m. June 16

Annual Meeting
Open to all members
6 p.m. Aug. 9