



# Overseas Press Club of America

## BULLETIN

### CBS 'New Generation' Anchor to Address OPC Foundation Scholars

BY JANE REILLY

**J**EFF GLOR, the anchor of the "CBS Evening News with Jeff Glor," the network's flagship evening news broadcast, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon on Friday, Feb. 23, at the Yale Club. The event begins with a reception at the club's Rooftop Terrace at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon in the Grand Ballroom, which ends promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Bill Holstein, president of the OPC Foundation, said the choice of Glor to headline the Foundation's signature event was especially significant for this year's scholars, since he represents a new generation at the helm of network broadcast news. He noted, "Glor is at the heart of the legacy media's attempts to transform itself to compete with many different forms and formats in a changing and volatile



Jeff Glor

news climate."

Glor, an Emmy-award winner and veteran CBS News journalist, has reported across the globe for virtually all CBS News broadcast and digital platforms in his 10 years with the network. He has anchored numerous breaking news stories, most recently in the field for Hurricane Irma and in the studio for the Las Vegas shootings. Glor was a lead anchor on CBSN, CBS' 24/7 streaming news service,

during its critical launch period. As CBSN continues to grow, Glor will maintain a prominent presence on the digital streaming channel. As a correspondent for "CBS This Morning" and "60 Minutes Sports," he filed reports from Alaska, Africa, Greenland, Ireland and Newfoundland, among others.

Also at the luncheon, the Foundation will award a combination of scholarships and fellowships to 16 graduate and undergraduate college students aspiring to become foreign correspondents. Holstein is especially pleased to announce the first award in the name of Sally Jacobsen, who died unexpectedly in the spring of 2017. A former vice president of the Foundation and a widely experienced Associated Press correspondent, she was the first woman to serve as the news service's international editor, overseeing coverage of wars, terrorism and a stream of history-making events. Her

*Continued on Page 2*

#### INSIDE

OPC Holiday Party 2

Hong Kong Hands Reunion 3

Call for Entries 3

People Column 5-7

Press Freedom Update 8-9

New Books 10

Q&A: Roopa Gogineni 11

### The OPC Remembers Past President Marshall Loeb

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

**P**AST OPC President Marshall Loeb, who helmed the club from 2006 to 2008, died at age 88 on Dec. 9 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Loeb was a business journalist credited for bolstering the success of *Money* and *Fortune* magazines. After a year as a city reporter for

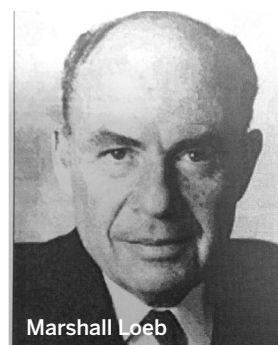
The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, he joined *TIME* magazine in 1956 as a writer, rising over the years to business editor and nation editor. He retired from Time Inc. at 65, and edited *The Columbia Journalism Review*, regularly aired financial advice on CBS Radio and served a short stint as host of the PBS television program "Wall Street Week."

Loeb joined the OPC in August

1988 and had been a member for almost 30 years. After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, he served as a correspondent for United Press in Frankfurt, Germany. An article marking his retirement from *Fortune* called him "one of the most visible and influential editors in the magazine industry."

Past OPC President Michael

*Continued on Page 4*



Marshall Loeb

# Holiday Party Launches OPC Events for 2018



Emma Daly, Robert Sullivan and  
OPC President Deidre Depke



Left to right: Colleen Jose, past  
OPC President Michael Serrill,  
and Dave Fondiller.



Left to right (at table): Dave  
Fondiller, Kumiko Makihara,  
Andy Katell and Clarissa  
McNair.



Left to right: Minky Worden,  
Albert Goldson and Sonya Fry.

## **'OPCFoundation'** *Continued From Page 1*

39-year career took her from a Washington economics correspondent to Brussels to the pressure-packed job at AP's New York headquarters, where she lead scores of international correspondents through the years of 9/11 and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Sally was part of the very soul of the Foundation board, having played an integral role in launching the fellowship program and the sending of our first young fellow to the Bangkok bureau of the AP and then expanding the program to include other news organizations. With every fiber of her being, she believed in what we are doing," Holstein added.

Holstein is concerned with how the current economic model supporting international news will affect this generation of young journalists. "We think we are witnessing a decline in the number of young Americans who believe that becoming a foreign correspondent is a great and glorious cause. So we are increasingly playing the role of an institution that encourages young people to see the act of covering international stories as something that is valuable to themselves and to our democracy as a whole," he said.

The 2018 winning recipients are from Brown University, City University of New York, Columbia University, DePauw University, New York University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Missouri, University of Texas at Austin and Yale University. "These young people inspire me every year because they want to travel down what I regard as the sacred path of bearing witness. They just want a chance. Our imperative is to help train them and keep them safe as they explore the world," said Holstein.

Events for the 2018 winners will last three days starting on Thursday afternoon, when the Foundation will host two panels at Reuters for those award winners interested in either business journalism or television news. That evening, Reuters editor-in-chief Stephen Adler will host the traditional reception for current and past winners of OPC Foundation awards at the wire service's Times Square headquarters. On Friday, besides addressing a distinguished audience of more than 200 luncheon guests at the Yale Club, the award winners will meet with Holstein and veteran international journalists in a pre-luncheon breakfast and with several foreign editors following the luncheon. For many, says Holstein,

January 2018

the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists in action is as valuable as any monetary awards.

For the fourth year in a row, on the Saturday after the luncheon, the OPC Foundation will offer a full day of risk assessment and situational training for the winners at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Frank Smyth, president and founder of Global Journalist Security, a hostile environment training firm based in Washington DC, will again lead the program. Those who participated in the past called the experience invaluable. "We have a responsibility to make sure our winners engage in the world's stories in ways that keep them safe," Holstein said. "We will continue to do what we can, as fiscal sponsors of the ACOS Alliance, to see that journalists throughout the world have the training and support they need to do their jobs as well and as securely as possible."

Up to 12 of this year's winners will receive fellowships to work in the foreign bureaus of the Foundation's media partners, including the AP, Reuters, *The Wall Street Journal*, GroundTruth Project and Forbes. The fellowships ensure that the awardees gain valuable experience and insight working with veteran editors and reporters. In 2017, the Foundation funded fellowships in bureaus across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East. The Foundation picks up the cost of the airfare and one to two months of living expenses for the winners.

Holstein is grateful to Bloomberg, which again hosted the judging in December, and to the dedicated panel of judges who chose the 2018 recipients: Allen Alter; Bill Collins; John Daniszewski of the AP; Joe Flint of *The Wall Street Journal*; Allan Dodds Frank; Sharon Gamsin; Tim Ferguson of *Forbes Asia*; Holstein; Adam Horvath of *The Wall Street Journal*; Larry Martz; Marcy McGinnis; Maria Mercader of CBS News; Kate McLeod; Ellen Nimmons of the AP; Jim Pensiero; Charlie Sennott of the GroundTruth Project; Michael Serrill; Steve Swanson of the New York Botanical Garden; and Karen Toulon of Bloomberg.

Lydia Polgreen, HuffPost editor-in-chief, was previously announced to be the speaker but she had to cancel because of a scheduling conflict. Luncheon tickets are \$85 for OPC members and \$150 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its three levels of giving: Benefactors, \$9,000; Patrons, \$6,000; and Friends, \$3,000. Tables seat 10. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For further information, contact Jane Reilly at 201 493-9087 or [foundation@opcofamerica.org](mailto:foundation@opcofamerica.org). ♦

# Hong Kong Hands Share Memories Spanning Five Decades

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

**C**ORRESPONDENTS WHO covered Hong Kong and China gathered on Dec. 12 to swap stories and reminisce at a special OPC reunion. The evening featured comments and storytelling from notable journalists as well as representatives from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, which co-sponsored the gathering.

Bill Holstein, who worked in Hong Kong as deputy Asian editor for United Press International from 1979 to 1981, said the city served as a platform to launch his career that continues to focus on issues in Asia.

"We want to acknowledge that it was a place that touched our lives and that we remain connected to," he said during an introduction.

Joanne Chu introduced herself as the new director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in New York, having arrived in July last year. She pointed out similarities between Hong Kong and New York, both of which are centers of finance and cities with "a strong presence of international media."

Clement Leung, the Hong Kong Commissioner to the US based in Washington, DC, dropped by the reunion to chat with journalists. Hong Kong has a separate trade mission to the US as a result of the "one country, two systems" policy of reunification that followed the end of colonial rule in 1997.

"Given the state politics in DC, I always try to get out for some fresh air," Leung joked. He recalled a recent return to Hong Kong in November for a meeting of heads of mission. "When you land at the airport you feel the energy, you feel the vibrancy, and the intensity, but of course I enjoy the efficiency and the pace," as well as the food, he said.

When Leung mentioned his daughter is now studying journalism in Hong Kong, Holstein piped in to recommend he "tell her to pick a different field."

"That's what my wife said," Leung responded. "Our family practices 'one family, two systems,'" he said. Leung's wife studied journalism, so the two do not always agree on government matters, he added.

"Hong Kong Hands" at the event collectively represented experience spanning five decades, and "centuries" of

coverage, Leung said on the sidelines.

Yvonne Dunleavy, who worked for the *Hong Kong Standard* in the 60s, remembered seeing signs of trouble brewing in the early days of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, as revolutionaries marched in formation in navy blue uniforms while holding copies of the "Little Red Book" and chanting "down with the governor!" in protest against British colonial rule.

Soon it escalated into a full-fledged civil war, she said. "Trucks and busses were overturned, people working for the British government were threatened by sympathizers in Beijing, saying 'there's a list and you're going to be on it when the Maoists come.'"

Dunleavy remembered being chased into a hotel while carrying film for *Life* magazine, and later narrowly escaping her car being overturned by protesters.

Richard Bernstein, who covered business in Hong Kong and China for *TIME* magazine, went to Hong Kong in 1975 at the end of the Cultural Revolution and stayed until 1979.

He said he feels nostalgic about those years, when the city was orderly and stable and growing in prosperity.

"It never stopped thrilling me to just be in this place. It reeked of a kind of post-colonial exoticism."

He said Westerners who became journalists after studying Mandarin and China at the time formed a fellowship of "China watchers" who monitored news of the mainland from Hong Kong, often depending on scant information like the Survey of the China Mainland Press, which published translations of Chinese radio broadcasts.

"Despite sparse resources I think we got the story right," he said. "That there was a power struggle involving [Premier] Zhou Enlai on one side and the Gang of Four on the other, and a contest between a more reformist group and a more hard line ideological group."

Andrew Tanzer, who worked in Hong Kong for *Forbes* magazine and others, told the gathering that he first went to Asia on a \$3000 award from the Overseas Press Club Foundation in the early 80s to pursue a project in Taiwan.

He went to work for the Far Eastern Economic Review in 1983, replacing someone who had been kicked out by the Taiwan government.

Tanzer discussed his newly released book, *Robert Kuok*, about a "secretive" overseas Chinese tycoon from Malaya who made his fortune on the sugar futures market in the 1960s and spent 40 years living in Hong Kong.

Tanzer had interviewed Kuok for a cover story in *Forbes* magazine in 1997 – a story Tanzer said helped to start the Forbes "billionaires list" franchise – and later worked on his memoirs.

The book follows the businessman's life as a Chinese emigrant in Johor Baru, where he attended British colonial schools and was classmates with several future Malay prime ministers and Singapore's longtime prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew. The book has made waves in Southeast Asia because of Kuok's comments about prominent political figures, Tanzer said. Kwok goes on to work for Mitsubishi and plays a controversial role in getting food into China during the Cultural Revolution.

The book had a limited release in English in Asia, and is slated to be available in the U.S. in March. ♦

# Call For Entries



Eligibility Period:  
January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA  
ANNUAL AWARDS**

Honoring the Best in International Journalism  
[www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org)

The deadline to submit entries for this year's OPC awards is fast approaching! Please help spread the word about the OPC's 22 awards for international coverage in Newspapers, News Services, Digital, Magazines, Radio, Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons, Books and Photography. Visit the OPC website for more information.

**ENTRY DEADLINE**  
**11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**  
**on January 31, 2018**

**AWARDS DINNER**  
**April 26, 2018 at Cipriani 25 Broadway**



**'Marshall Loeb'**  
**Continued From Page 1**

Serrill, who served from 2012 to 2014, said Loeb was a legend who "helped to invent modern business journalism, considered a journalistic backwater until the 1980s. He also, in the course of reviving *Fortune*, helped to make business coverage global, offering reports and profiles from moguls around the world."

Past OPC President Allan Dodds Frank, who served from 2008 to 2010, called Loeb a "pillar of the Overseas Press Club of America and the much larger world of financial journalism."

"He was a charming true gentleman with a sly sense of humor that illuminated his prodigious gifts as a storyteller. He also had the great skill set that makes a superb editor," he said. "Marshall was a wonderful listener, terrific incubator of ideas and an even better counselor about how one should proceed. At both *Money* and *Fortune*, he nurtured dozens of reporters and editors while invigorating the spirit, content and profits of those publications. He was a great mentor, leader, confidante and friend. We will miss him and never forget him."

Past OPC President Richard Stolley, who served from 2004 to 2006, remembers his friendship with Loeb when the two worked at Time Inc., where Stolley served as editor of the *Life* and was founding editor of *People*.

"The managing editors (the term for top editor) at Time Inc. had a weekly lunch, and I often sat next to Marshall because he was good company," Stolley said. "When I came back from three years as the weekly *Life* senior editor in Europe, Marshall encouraged me to join the OPC, for which I am eternally grateful." Stolley said his own years as OPC president were "made possible for me because of Marshall and his urging me to look into the OPC."

Past OPC President Larry Martz, who served from 2000 to 2002, called Loeb "a tough competitor."

"I remember many years ago, when I was business editor at *Newsweek* and he had the same job at *TIME*, when I was going through the morning papers I'd see a big story and wonder, 'How is Marshall Loeb reacting to this one?' And I'd try to order up reporting on some angle he might overlook. It didn't often work out. Marshall was thorough, and a good editor."

Past OPC President Bill Holstein, who served from 1994 to 1996, remembered asking Loeb to run in the club's election. "A number of us former and future presidents persuaded Marshall to run for president in 2006, which he did," Holstein said.

"Soon after, he and I had lunch and he disclosed that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Within a few months, the disease began to manifest itself. Then Executive Director Sonya Fry and I, and others, stepped in to stabilize the club's management. But more importantly, even suffering a serious illness, Marshall hung in there and fought for the causes he believed in, such as press freedom around the world. His name alone gave us big credibility in the profes-

sion because he had been so successful at *Fortune* and was so universally admired. He was still working for MarketWatch when the disease took hold and he kept that going as well. He was remarkably courageous in the face of what promised to be a long illness. And he was a gentleman throughout, a rarity in today's media landscape."

Former OPC Executive Director Sonya Fry called Loeb "a true gentlemen."

"Marshall was always gracious even though it was obvious that the Parkinson's was taking over his body. At some point near the end of his presidency, when walking was very compromised, he still took all his duties seriously, like coming to the OPC office with a Russian health aide to sign checks, certificates and make sure that the programs and awards dinner were progressing. Marshall was a lovely, caring man with a will to succeed and conquer no matter the odds."

OPC member Tim Ferguson also lauded Loeb's contribution to the industry. "For business journalists of a certain age, the Loeb era at *Fortune*, coinciding with those of Jim Michaels at *Forbes* and Steve Shepard at *Business Week*, was a golden one."

Bill Rukeyser, OPC Foundation board member, remembered Loeb for his friendship and professionalism.

"Marshall Loeb was a good man – unfailingly courteous, considerate and loyal to friends, colleagues and especially his beloved family. He succeeded me at both *Money* and *Fortune* as managing editor, the title Henry Luce had awarded to each top editor of a Time Inc. magazine to denote that all of them were No. 2 to the editor-in-chief: him. Though neither magazine was in dire circumstances, Marshall's intelligence, brilliant editorial radar and legendary energy ("All anybody wants to talk about is my glands," he once complained to me) raised both to greater success. I miss him."

In an email message forwarded to the OPC, Gordon Crovitz, former publisher of *The Wall Street Journal*, called Loeb "a leader among the generation of American journalists who made business news as fascinating, engaging and instructive as any form of news. Thanks in large part to Marshall, it's now hard to imagine that business, finance and technology were once considered dry topics."

Current OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz added that "Marshall Loeb was a very loyal and supportive member of the OPC. Every December he mailed a very generous donation check to help support the club's work."

# PEOPLE

By Chad Bouchard

## OPC SCHOLARS

**Anupreeta Das**, former OPC governor and winner of the Reuters scholarship in 2006, has been named deputy business editor of *The Wall Street Journal*. An announcement to *Journal* colleagues called Das “one of our finest, most creative, most versatile reporters and a trusted mentor to many in our newsroom.” Since joining the *Journal* in 2010, she has covered mergers, finance and investing and serves as part of the paper’s financial enterprise team. Before joining the *Journal*, Das covered tech, media and telecom deals for Reuters.

**Paul Sonne**, Swinton winner in 2008, is leaving *The Wall Street Journal* after more than 8 years to join the national staff of *The Washington Post* to cover the Pentagon. Sonne had an OPC Foundational fellowship with The Associated Press in Moscow. He also interned with *The New York Times* in Moscow before joining the *Journal* in London, covering business and political news. While in London, Paul and his colleagues won the Malcolm Forbes Award for best international business reporting in newspapers. He later returned to Russia to serve as Moscow correspondent for the *Journal* from 2013 to 2016, covering the Kremlin as relations between Washington and Moscow soured. Since then, he has covered national security from the Washington bureau.

**Diksha Madhok**, Theo Wilson winner in 2011, has been named digital director of ThePrint, a news media start-up in India. Madhok has also worked as India editor at Quartz and as a reporter for Reuters in New Delhi.

**Katie Paul**, Irene Corbally Kuhn scholarship winner in 2007, is transferring from one Reuters bureau to another in the Middle East. After several years in Riyadh, she is moving to the Dubai bureau where she will be a senior correspondent covering business throughout the Gulf. Katie had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Buenos Aires.



Das



Sonne

**Edward Wong**, former Beijing correspondent for *The New York Times* and 1998 David Schweisberg scholarship winner, wrote a longform feature about China’s growing global role and its use of force, writing that the “emerging imperium is more a result of the Communist Party’s exercise of hard power, including economic coercion, than the product of a gravitational pull of Chinese ideas or contemporary culture.” OPC Foundation President Bill Holstein wrote on his blog that “all of us at the foundation are touched that we helped launch Ed Wong, who has become an important voice on issues that Dave [Schweisberg] was passionate about.” Holstein worked with Schweisberg in Hong Kong, and both served as chief of the Beijing bureau for UPI in the 80s.

## WINNERS

2016 Hal Boyle Award winner **Hannah Dreier** has received a 2018 Ochberg Fellowship from the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. The weeklong program focuses on exploring issues surrounding psychological trauma and ethics challenges connected to journalists’ work. Dreier won her OPC award while covering political turmoil in Venezuela The Associated Press, and is currently a reporter at ProPublica, focusing on immigration.

OPC Governor **Josh Fine**, along with several colleagues at HBO Sports With Bryant Gumbel, has received an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for a global investigation into the International Olympic Committee. The same story, “The Lords of the Rings,” also won the OPC’s inaugural Peter

Jennings Award last year. Fine and his colleague, **David Scott**, who also worked on the IOC story, won 2014 The David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award for “The Price of Glory.” Also receiving an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award was OPC member **Amy Mackinnon**, formerly of Coda Story, who shared an award with the team that worked on “Russia’s New Scapegoats,” a radio documentary about Russia’s anti-gay movement. The award was shared with collaborators Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX. Since reporting on the story, Mackinnon has returned from stints in Moscow and Tbilisi to pursue a masters degree at the CUNY journalism school.

## UPDATES

**Facebook** sent shockwaves through the media industry in early January when it announced it would rein in news content and official business and organization pages on users’ “feeds” to prioritize posts from family and friends. Facebook has been neck-and-neck with Google over recent years as top provider of digital news. The announcement sent Facebook shares falling 4.5 percent and costing founder Mark Zuckerberg an estimated \$3.3 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Media analysts say prioritizing content from friends would worsen the so-called echo chamber in which people only see and discuss content that supports their own assumptions. Facebook faced governmental scrutiny last year for its role in spreading

*Continued on Page 6*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### **Omnia Al Desoukie**

Freelance  
Dubai  
Active Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)

### **Ruchi Kumar**

Freelance  
Kabul  
Active Overseas, Young  
(30-34)

### **Anna Pujol-Mazzini**

Freelance  
London  
Active Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)

### **Norman Stockwell**

Publisher  
& Reporter/Photographer  
The Progressive  
Madison, WI  
Active Non-Resident

### **Cassandra Vinograd**

Freelance  
London  
Active Overseas, Young  
(30-34)

*Continued From Page 5*

misinformation and hate speech. Financial Times CEO John Ridding told Poynter that challenges in the new information ecosystem will require a subscription model that allows publishers to manage access to their content and make a direct connection with readers, or else “as the large majority of all new online advertising spend continues to go to the search and social media platforms – quality content will no longer be a choice or an option.” Jacob Weisberg, editor-in-chief of the Slate Group, told *The New York Times* that the change “looks like the end of the social news era.”

**NEW YORK:** An investigation spanning several months by OPC Governor **Azmat Khan** and OPC member **Anand Gopal** into underreported civilian casualties in Iraq continues to make ripples after it was published in the new York Times Magazine late last year. In “The Uncounted,” Khan and Gopal found that airstrikes in Iraq are killing civilians at 31 times the rate that the US-led coalition forces reported. In an interview about the piece for Al Jazeera, Khan said on-the-ground reporting at airstrike sites in ISIS territory revealed that one in five bombings resulted in a civilian death.

OPC Governor **Lara Setrakian** has co-founded a campaign to stop sexual harassment and assault in local and national newsrooms. “Press Forward” plans to analyze best practices to create better working environment, and will ultimately publish a “blueprint” for media organizations. Members of the independent group are current and former journalists, and receives support from the Greater Washington Community Foundation. It is slated to launch early this year.

The New York Public Library and the Chicago Public Library both named *How Dare the Sun Rise*, a book co-written by **Sandra Uwiringiyimana** and OPC Treasurer **Abigail Pesta**, among the best books of 2017. The memoir follows Uwiringiyimana’s story as a young woman who escaped a childhood massacre in Africa and fled to Amer-

ica, where she struggled to adapt to a new life attended a middle school in New York.

OPC Governor **Emma Daly**, who serves as director of communications for Human Rights Watch, wrote an extensive piece in December detailing the efforts of journalists and human rights activists to report on war crimes during the Yugoslav Wars of the 90s. Daly, who was Balkans correspondent for *The Independent* from 1990 to 1997, wrote that “human rights activists helped put war crimes firmly on the international agenda – with help from journalists who often didn’t understand the legal implications of the horrors they reported on every day.” Her piece, titled “Beyond Justice: How the Yugoslav Tribunal Made History,” coincided with the closure of the Yugoslav tribunal, which indicted a total of 161 people after 24 years. Daly spent a total of 18 years as a journalist, mostly as a foreign correspondent, at a number of outlets including *The New York Times*, the *Independent*, *Newsweek*, the *Observer* and Reuters.

OPC Third Vice President **Pancho Bernasconi** of Getty Images spoke to digital culture news site Uproxx about a specially curated gallery of images to honor the “love and resiliency” of survivors of tragic events

over the last year. The “Images Of Strength” collection includes 18 photos that show Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, survivors of gun attacks in Las Vegas, Sutherland Springs, Texas and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, soldiers embracing children in Iraq and first responders in the aftermath of hurricanes Maria and Harvey in Puerto Rico and Texas and the earthquake in Mexico City. Bernasconi told Uproxx in a Q&A that images depicting moments of strength and compassion provide crucial context for stories about crisis. “The world can have a conversation through a shared sense of an image or a truth,” he said. Bernasconi also underscored the need for photojournalists to stay vigilant when covering conflict or working in disaster zones. “You as a professional work with your editors and the people you know and trust to mitigate [risks] as much as possible. And, we have to trust our photographers,” he said.

OPC Governor **Rukmini Callimachi** is warning that the decline of ISIS has been overstated, saying that the terror network is now more deadly than the Taliban. In separate podcast interviews, Callimachi told PRI’s *The World and World View*, a foreign affairs podcast produced by *The Irish Times*, that although Islamic State’s territory has reduced in size



Left to right: OPC members Alan Riding, Vivienne Walt, Sonya Fry and Jim Bittermann during a lunch at the Traveller’s Club on the Champs Elysees in Paris. Fry went to Paris for the John Morris Memorial at the American Cathedral where Bittermann spoke about his friend and colleague.



by 98 per cent in Syria and Iraq, the US Pentagon reports that its numbers in Yemen have doubled over the last year. Her interviews follow Callimachi's reporting in the *Times* over the last month on two IS bomb attacks in Kabul on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, and a gun assault against members of a Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo on Dec. 29.

The OPC's 2016 Best Commentary winner, **Masha Gessen**, delivered the Robert B. Silvers lecture, titled "The Stories of a Life," on Dec. 18. The lecture was created by Max Palevsky and named in honor of Silvers, the co-founding editor of *The New York Review of Books*, who died in March last year. Her talk was featured on the New York Public Library Podcast in January.

**WASHINGTON, DC: Hannah Allam**, BuzzFeed reporter, former OPC Governor and a current member, was interviewed on NPR's Morning Edition about her coverage of allegations of sexual harassment surrounding Dallas-based Muslim celebrity preacher Nouman Ali Khan. Allam told the public radio program that many Muslim women face additional challenges when deciding whether to report abuse involving cultural and religious taboos. Allam spoke to one of Ali Khan's accusers for a BuzzFeed piece in December with details of how he allegedly manipulated female followers into sham marriages and then paid them to stay silent.

**LOS ANGELES:** Newsroom employees at the **Los Angeles Times** voted in early January on whether to form a union for the first time in the paper's 136-year history. The workers are calling for higher salaries, better benefits and working conditions, and pay equality for women and minorities. The vote to join NewGuild would affect about 380 employees. *The New York Times* reported that the move has sparked tensions between the paper's management and employees, with management urging for staff to vote against the move and saying in an email that "The question to you is do you want to preserve your independence and

the independence of the *Los Angeles Times* or do you want someone else negotiating on your behalf?" Results are slated to be released on Jan. 19.

**LONDON: Carrie Gracie**, former China editor for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), resigned from her post in Beijing citing a "secretive and illegal pay culture" of pay inequality compared to male international editors at the broadcaster. During an interview on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour, Gracie said she was offered a 33 percent pay increase but rejected it because she wanted equality, not more money. She said she could not resume her post in China and "collude knowingly in what I consider to be unlawful pay discrimination." BBC was forced to disclose employee salaries last July, revealing that two thirds of the highest paid on-air talent were male, and the top seven earners were men. The UK-based National Union of Journalists has filed complaint with the BBC on behalf of 121 female employees over pay disparity.



Saberi

MICHAEL DAVIES

CBS News has hired OPC Governor **Roxana Saberi** as correspondent based in London. Saberi served as a freelance correspondent for the network news service and for its affiliate, Newspath, since 2016. She has also served as fill-in anchor for CBSN. Saberi, who is fluent in Persian, previously worked as correspondent for Al Jazeera America, and

reported on Iran for several years. In 2009, she was arrested while working on a book about Iran and held for 100 days at the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran on espionage charges. An announcement on the CBS site said Saberi "brings a wealth of unique international and national reporting experience."

**BUENOS AIRES:** An Argentinian fact-checking site has released a piece of software that automatically identifies claims in online media and matches them with existing fact checks. The tool, **Chequeabot**, uses machine learning to assist fact checkers in newsrooms. Poynter.org reported that the software scans text from 25 media outlets in Argentina, automatically flagging claims from politicians and other sources. The bot has already helped to flag erroneous trade surplus numbers from the country's foreign ministry in a newspaper interview, and to unpack statements about the electricity grid that the energy minister made during a press conference. The organization that developed the software, Chequeado, received a fellowship in 2016 from Poynter's International Fact Checking Network to work with Full Fact, a nonprofit based in the UK that is developing similar automated tools for English-speaking newsrooms.

## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

The former editor of the *Guardian*, **Peter Preston**, died on January 6 at the age of 79. Preston began his career at the paper in 1963 and served as editor for two decades, from 1975 to 1995. Preston helmed the *Guardian* through a period of historic news events and is credited with helping the paper survive a price war with *The Independent* by overseeing a redesign in the mid-80s. His final column on press and broadcasting was published on New Year's Eve, in which he said journalists' biggest new challenge is to re-establish "some modest degree of public respectability" and trust among readers amid attacks from President Trump and others around the world. Preston is survived by his wife Jean, four children, and eight grandchildren. ❖

# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

The **The Committee to Protect Journalists** reports that at least 42 journalists were killed during the course of their work in 2017, which represents a decline in numbers overall for the second year in a row compared to record highs over the last decade. According to a report from the organization, the decrease is due to fewer armed conflicts. Mexico was a notable exception, where six journalists were killed due to their reporting, marking a historical high. In 2016, 48 journalists were killed, and before that the number had ranged from the low 60s to the mid 70s, partially due to coverage of conflict in the Middle East. The report also notes that 2017 was the first year Syria was not one of the most deadly countries for journalists. Eight of the journalists killed this year were women. That represents 19 percent of the total, compared to a historical average of about 7 percent.

A delegation of global press freedom groups has embarked on a fact-finding mission to gather data on the state of press freedom in the United States. **The CPJ and IFEX** convened the group, which includes representatives from organizations including Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Article 19, Index on Censorship and the International Press Institute. The group plans to meet with “high-level policy makers” in Houston, Texas, Columbia and St. Louis in Missouri, and Washington, DC. In a release Christophe Deloire, RSF’s secretary general, said that under President Trump’s leadership, “the US has become a treacherous place for media workers and journalists in a way we haven’t ever seen before.” According to data US Press Freedom Tracker, at least 32 journalists were arrested, 39 physically attacked, and 16 journalists had their equipment seized in the US in 2017.

The CPJ has given **President Donald Trump** the dubious top prize for “Overall Achievement in Undermining Global Press Freedom.” CPJ in January named five awards to highlight leaders around the world who go “out of the way to attack the press.” The list included Turkish

president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The organization said Trump “consistently undermined domestic news outlets and declined to publicly raise freedom of the press with repressive leaders.” Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi was given the award for “Biggest Backslider in Press Freedom.”

**Egypt** has ordered a criminal investigation into a report in *The New York Times* alleging that an intelligence officer told TV hosts that they should persuade viewers to accept President Donald Trump’s decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Press freedom advocates say the investigation is the latest move in a tightening of censorship ahead of presidential elections in March. The country has extended a state of emergency and used it to justify prosecutions of journalists and placed them on terrorist watch lists. Between May last year and January 11 this year, the government blocked access to at least 465 websites, including news websites, blogs, rights organizations, according to the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression and the U.S. based Open Observatory of Network Interference.

Celebrity TV host **Oprah Winfrey** gave a nod to journalists amid attacks on press freedom during a speech at the Golden Globes award ceremony in January. As she accepted Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement, she underscored the value of journalism and added “we all know the press is under siege these days. We also know it’s the insatiable dedication to uncovering the absolute truth that keeps us from turning a blind eye to corruption and to injustice.” She also cheered men and women who broke silence about sexual assault and harassment in the wake of accusations against producer Harvey Weinstein and other powerful men in the entertainment industry. The speech has sparked widespread speculation about a possible run for the White House in 2020.

The National Press Club, RSF and other press freedom organizations

are calling for the US Department of Justice to release Mexican journalist **Emilio Gutierrez**, who is being detained at a federal detention facility in Texas. Gutierrez has been seeking asylum in the U.S. for more than a decade after receiving death threats in connection with his reporting for *El Diario del Noroeste* newspaper in the northern state of Chihuahua in Mexico. The request was finally denied in July last year. After a wave of news reports and a visit from Texas Congressman Beto O’Rourke, the Board of Immigration Appeals has reopened the Gutiérrez asylum case and temporarily blocked his deportation, though he remains in detention.

OPC member **Kiran Nazish** with the Coalition of Women in Journalism is calling attention to the arrest of freelance journalist **Priyanka Borpujari**, who Mumbai police wrongfully detained for “inciting violence” while covering a protest. In a phone interview with HuffPost India, Borpujari said police “were trying to intimidate me, they kept snatching my phone away, and when I bent down to pick it up, they pulled my shirt. I came home with two-three bruises and contusions.” She said when she asked police how she had instigated violence, that the fact that she was present with a camera encouraged protestors.

Colleagues of South African freelance photojournalist **Shiraz Mohamed**, who was abducted by gunmen more than a year ago while working in northwestern Syria, say they have received proof that he is still alive. Gift of the Givers, the South African humanitarian NGO, told RSF that Mohamed’s family has correctly answered questions only he would be able to answer. On Jan. 10, 2017, Mohamed and two employees of Gift of the Givers were abducted by men who claimed they represented “all armed groups in Syria.” The two NGO employees were released soon after their abduction. At least 29 journalists, including 7 foreign journalists, are still being held hostage by armed groups in Syria, according to the World Press Freedom Index.

In Brazil, attackers in a silver car



ran **Gabriel Barbosa da Silva**, a part-time freelance reporter, cartoonist, and photographer for the São Paulo publication VerboOnline, off the road while he was driving his motorbike on Dec. 28. A passenger in the car then shot a gun three times, though none of the bullets struck da Silva. Da Silva had been covering a controversial garbage collection tax and was critical of the local government. He received a text message from someone claiming to be one of the attackers, according to VerboOnline's reports.

Tajik police arrested reporter **Khayrullo Mirsaidov** after he published an open letter calling for a crackdown on local government corruption. His letter on Nov. 8 was addressed to President Emomali Rahmon, as well as the governor and general prosecutor of the Sughd region. Mirsaidov was arrested and on Dec. 8 charged with "embezzlement, forgery, false reporting to police, and inciting ethnic and religious hatred."

Two Reuters reporters were arrested while working in the Myanmar city of Yangon on Dec. 12. On Jan. 10, **Kyaw Soe Oo** and **Wa Lone** were charged violating the country's Official Secrets Act. Police said the two were arrested for possessing "important and secret" documents connected to events in the country's western Rakhine state, where more than 650,000 Rohingya refugees have fled violence. The charge carries a possible sentence of up to 14 years in prison.

Documentary filmmaker **Comiti Paul Edwards** was arrested on Dec. 9 in Srinagar, a city in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, while producing a video on pellet gun injuries against protestors. Pellet guns have reportedly been used by authorities to quash protests, and have led to nearly 100 deaths and thousands of injuries, according to TheWire.in news site. Police said they arrested Edwards because of an issue with his travel documents and lacked permission to make a documentary on political or security-related issues. He was released on bail on Dec. 26. and handed over to a French Embassy official.

**Sudanese police** confiscated the entire print runs of eight newspapers due to their critical coverage of unrest following a spike in bread prices. Two of the papers *Akhbar Al-Watan* and *Al-Midan*, support opposition parties and four of the papers are independent, including *Al-Tayar*, *Al-Mustagilla*, *Al-Karar* and *Al-Assayha*. RSF condemned the censorship of critical voices, saying the move "contravenes international law" and is only "illusory as a way of ending popular discontent."

From June 20 to 23, 2018, press freedom research groups will hold an international conference, titled "**Freedom of Speech: dialogues and reflections from Law and Literature**," at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito campus, in Quito, Ecuador. The groups are calling for papers on several topics, with a due date in March.

The Press Freedom Foundation and other watchdog organizations are mourning the death of **James Dolan**, one of the co-creators of the digital document software SecureDrop, after he took his own life over the holidays at the age of 36. SecureDrop is an open source whistleblower submission system that journalists have relied on to protect sources and secure documents crucial to their reporting. In January 2013, Dolan's colleague and co-founder of SecureDrop, Aaron Swartz, committed suicide while he was under investigation for violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act related to allegedly copying academic articles from JSTOR.

## MURDERS

Veteran Mexican journalist **Carlos Domínguez Rodríguez** was stabbed to death in broad daylight in the border town of Nuevo Laredo on Jan. 13, marking the first journalist to be murdered in Mexico this year. The reporter had worked for 40 years, most recently for the Noreste Digital and Horizonte de Matamoros websites, and was critical of the local government wrote about frequent kidnappings and organized crime in the region.

**Naveen Gupta**, a stringer who'd been working for India's Hindustan newspaper, was shot and killed on Nov. 30, CPJ reported. The organization called in December for authorities in Uttar Pradesh to investigate the possible motive for his death. Naveen's brother, Nitin, had been with him at the time of his murder outside Nitin's office where his brother had gone to visit him. Nitin recalled Naveen talking to two men and seeing Naveen give his phone to one of them when about four assailants shot him. Nitin said his brother had written "fearlessly on multiple issues" during his decade at the newspaper, according to CPJ. ❖

# NEW BOOKS

By Chad Bouchard

## KIDNAPPING

**A**FTER JERE Van Dyk was freed from Taliban kidnappers in 2008, he found himself haunted by questions about his capture and about what went on behind the scenes to secure his release. Captured while covering the region for CBS News, he was held for 45 days and held in the no-man's-land between Afghanistan and Pakistan. In *The Trade: My Journey into the Labyrinth of Political Kidnapping*, [PublicAffairs, October 2017] Van Dyk documents his journey back to Afghanistan in 2014 and his personal investigation into his own kidnapping and liberation.

He was the second American journalist to be captured by the Taliban; the first was Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was killed by Pakistani terrorists in 2002. After Van Dyk was freed, he was thrust into an emotional journey common to many survivors, suffering waves of guilt for those who did not survive capture and for loved ones who lived in despair during his captivity.

Many of the people involved behind the scenes, it turns out, actively discourage digging too deeply for answers. CBS News warned Van Dyk not to write or talk about his ordeal, saying doing so could put other correspondents at risk. The FBI would only tell him cryptically that they had “brought all assets into play.” The US bans negotiation with terrorist organizations and most countries deny paying ransoms. Families in the US are told to keep the kidnapping of their loved ones secret.

Despite this resistance, Van Dyk delves into the shadowy “business” of hostage negotiations among governments, corporations, families and agents of the criminal underworld. His investigation takes him through tribal areas of Pakistan and tea houses in Kabul to the White House and homes of family members of people who were kidnapped, including an emotionally loaded visit with Daniel Pearl’s parents in Los Angeles.

“Van Dyk is a methodical and sensitive reporter, and his emotions are made vivid,” writes Janine di Giovanni in a New York Times book review, concluding that “there is no happy ending to Van Dyk’s tale. Perhaps, in the grim world of *The Trade* there never will be.

In 2010 Van Dyk published a book titled *Captive* about his days in Taliban control. In October last year Van Dyk spoke on an OPC panel with Kathy Gannon and David Rohde, with Bill Holstein serving as moderator. ❖

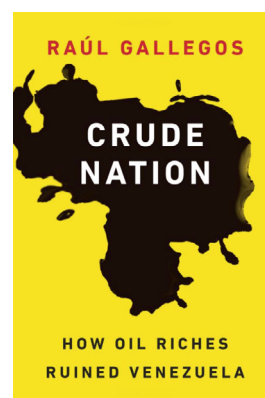
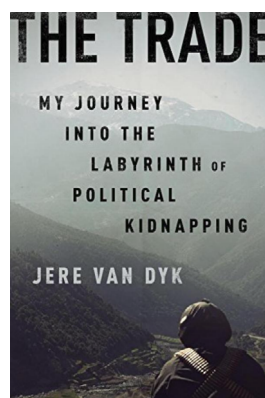
## VENEZUELA

**A**S VENEZUELA groans under the weight of President Nicolas Maduro’s dictatorship, economic crisis, endemic corruption and rampant starvation, the country serves as a model of the so-called resource curse. Despite having some of the world’s largest oil reserves, Venezuela appears to be teetering on the edge of collapse. In his new book, *Crude Nation: How Oil Riches Ruined Venezuela* [Potomac, October 2017], Latin America analyst Raul Gallegos proposes that the country’s collapse began long before Maduro’s ascension after the death of former President Hugo Chavez in 2013, with roots stretching back more than a century to the digging of its first major oil well in 1914.

Gallegos argues that Venezuela’s dependence on the cycles of a singular resource has warped its economy and political development. Short-term booms have spurred government spending sprees that make it vulnerable to inevitable downturns and exaggerated the divide between rich and poor. The book places the country’s current crisis and strongarm regime in context as just another cycle in a long history “of larger-than-life leaders who promised to use oil to quickly turn Venezuela into a modern, powerful nation, only to disappoint voters in the end.”

Gallegos, now a senior analyst with consulting firm Control Risks, formerly worked as a correspondent for Dow Jones Newswires and *The Wall Street Journal*. His reporting includes interviews with an extensive cast of subjects such as a retired policeman hoarding food and a plastic surgeon working connections to import breast implants. Gallegos offers several concrete, though idealistic suggestions for how to fix the economy with oil revenue used for rainy day funds and cash dividends to citizens. The book nevertheless serves as a cautionary tale, warning that “too much money poorly managed can be worse than not having any money at all.”

*The Naughty Nineties* examines how a decade of excess and sensationalism built a foundation for a Trump presidency and an accepting public. He covers a broad range of events and phenomena including the rise of fertility drugs, third-wave feminism, gay marriage equality, plastic surgery and shock-jockey entertainment like the Howard Stern Show. With scandal and sexuality dominating headlines and becoming part of the background noise, Friend believes the current political climate was inevitable. ❖





Roopa Gogineni

## Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Roopa Gogineni*

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

**R**OOPA GOGINENI is a freelance photographer and filmmaker who has worked around the globe, covering a range of issues including health care in India, food shortages in Sudan and turmoil in Somalia. She is based in Nairobi and Paris, and has completed first aid and hostile environment training. In 2017 she received Firelight Media's Short Film Grant, which she used to find a documentary on Sudanese political satire for *The New York Times*. Her work has also appeared in VICE, NPR, CNN, Al Jazeera, PRI and *The Guardian*. In 2016, Gogineni traveled to South Sudan with OPC member Nicholas Kristof to help document "killing fields" for *The New York Times*.

**Hometown:** Charleston, WV.

**Education:** BA Diplomatic History & African Studies, University of Pennsylvania; MSc African Studies, University of Oxford.

**Languages you speak:** French, Spanish, Telugu, deteriorating Arabic and Swahili.

**First job in journalism:** Photographing West African and South Asian migrant workers fleeing Libya during the Arab Spring.

**Countries reported from:** Somalia, Sudan, Chad, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria, India, Israel, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Spain, USA.

**When and why did you join the OPC?**

Joined in 2017. I've been a member of the Foreign Correspondents Association of East Africa for many years, which has been an amazingly supportive community and resource. I'm now working in other parts of the world and wanted to join a broader community of colleagues..

**How did you become interested in reporting from Kenya?**

I wanted to be near Somalia. It wasn't feasible to live in Mogadishu at that time, so I moved to Nairobi to get close.

**Major challenge as a journalist:**

As a freelancer, funding is always a challenge. I'm bad at pursuing grants, or pitching big projects, and tend to sink lots of my money in offbeat stories before anyone is convinced by them.

**Best journalism advice received:**

Don't wait for someone to send you somewhere. Carry oral rehydration salts. Dump cards every night and religiously backup hard drives.

**Worst experience as a journalist:**

I've had a couple bad experiences with commissioning editors who had certain ideas of what a story from Somalia or Chad should look like, and pushed me and my fixers into dangerous situations. In general, media has become more risk averse when sending foreign correspondents to cover war, but I'm always frustrated that there's not the same regard for the local journalists or fixers.

**Hardest story:** Reporting on a massacre in the Tana River Delta in Kenya, during a spate of violence between Pokomo farmers and Orma pastoralists. This particular

attack (carried out with machetes) left 38 dead, many of them women and children. I arrived shortly after it had happened and the survivors were in a daze. The hardest part for me was seeing the impermanence of the story in the news. There was no greater war, or geopolitical relevance, and that impacted the news value of this unconscionable violence. That calculus continues to be hard.

**Advice for journalists who want to work overseas:**

Move somewhere for a while. There's no substitute to living in a place with your ear to the ground. There are ways to support yourself that may not be so obvious from home in the US. I got a gig writing art reviews for a Kenyan newspaper, then photographed for an airline industry magazine. It was not the work I had set out to do, but it I learned from the experience and paid my bills.

**Favorite quote:** *Primum non nocere*

(First, do no harm). It's the aphorism taught in medical school, but could equally inform the practice of journalism.

**Most over-the-top assignment:** Producing a Somalia Idol TV series (a departure from journalism...)

**Most common mistake you've seen:**

Seeking "human" moments, raw emotion, at the expense of someone's emotional wellbeing. We're not psychologists, and there's a limit to our cultural competency. I think we have a responsibility to not further someone's trauma in the course of making a story. More generally, a lack of self-awareness.

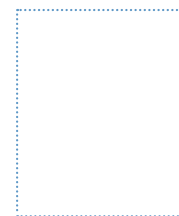
**Instagram handle:** @roopagogineni

Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact [patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org).





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