



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

Award-Winning Veteran Correspondent to Deliver Keynote at OPC Scholar Luncheon

BY JANE REILLY

C.J. CHIVERS, Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent for *The New York Times*, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon on Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, 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 he was especially pleased to have Chivers headline the Foundation's signature event. "C.J. Chivers represents the very best values and work ethic in the business and he has the awards to show it. He has long gone into very difficult situations to get the story." He added, "we don't encourage our young people to go anywhere near combat, but they will be inspired by Chris' determination to be on the ground and tell stories in longform, a craft that was supposed to have disappeared in the era of social media."

Chivers spent the vast portion of his 20-year career at the *Times* as a foreign correspondent focusing on conflict, human rights and the arms trade on assignments in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Chechnya, Libya, Syria and elsewhere. He also served as Moscow correspondent from June 2004 through 2007 and was the paper's Moscow bureau chief in 2007 and 2008. He is now a long-form writer and investigative reporter who works



MICK CHIVERS

for *The New York Times Magazine* and the paper's investigations desk.

He won the OPC's 2011 Hal Boyle Award for conflict reporting in Libya and Afghanistan, and the 2014 Best Investigative Reporting Award for his series "Secret Casualties" on U.S. soldiers' exposure to chemical weapons. His magazine story "The Fighter" won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing. In 2009 he was part of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for coverage from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Chivers served as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf War and on peacekeeping duty during the Los Angeles riots in 1992.

The luncheon will also feature the presentation of 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 Richard

Pyle, whose long and accomplished Associated Press career spanned the globe and a half-century of crisis, war, catastrophe and indelible moments in news reporting, including the Cuban missile crisis, the resignation of Richard Nixon, the 9-11 World Trade Center attacks and Desert Storm. He will be remembered most for his Vietnam War coverage over five critical years, the last half as chief of the news organization's Pulitzer Prize-winning Saigon bureau.

Holstein noted, "I used to hang out with Richard at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan late in his career and then again in New York when he was transferred home. He was one of the all-time greats, spending nearly half a century chronicling the world's toughest stories. Unlike a lot of burned-out wire service correspondents I've known, he was easy to approach and talk with. He was a gentleman and I regarded him as a friend."

Holstein remains 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

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OPC
Overseas Press Club
of America

Save the Date

80th ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
April 18, 2019

CIPRIANI
25 Broadway

Keynote
Martin Baron
Executive Editor, The Washington Post

Host
Lester Holt
Anchor, NBC Nightly News and Dateline NBC

OPC Awards Dinner Committee
Sarah Lubman (chair)
Paula Dwyer

Cocktail Reception 6:00 pm
sponsored by
REUTERS

Dinner and Program 7:00 pm

Post-Dinner Reception
sponsored by
DAIMLER

Individual Dinner Tickets
Member \$295
Member's Guest \$295
(limit of one at this price)
Non-Member \$750

EXTRA
VIP Reception 5:30 pm
Individual tickets \$100

OPC Awards Dinner Committee
Sarah Lubman (chair)

BLACK TIE

For more information, please contact OPC Executive Director **Patricia Kranz** 212.626.9220
patricia@opcofamerica.org or visit www.opcofamerica.org

To purchase tickets, click on the image above or visit the OPC website at opcofamerica.org.

'OPC Foundation' Continued From Page 1

democracy as a whole," he said.

The 2019 winning recipients are from Brown University, Columbia University, Davidson College, Harvard University, Tufts University, University of California-Berkeley, University of London, University of Missouri, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill 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 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, said Holstein, the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists in action is as valuable as any monetary awards.

For the fifth 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," said Holstein. "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, Bloomberg, *The Wall Street Journal*, GroundTruth Project and possibly the *Los Angeles Times*. The fellowships ensure that the awardees gain valuable experience and insight working with veteran editors and reporters. In 2018, 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 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 2019 recipients: Allen Alter; Tom Con-tiliano of Bloomberg; John Daniszewski of the AP; Bob Dowling; Tim Ferguson; Joe Flint of *The Wall Street Journal*; Allan Dodds Frank; Holstein; Adam Horvath of *The Wall Street Journal*; Caitlin Hu of CNN; Larry Martz; Marcy McGinnis; Kate McLeod; Maria Mercader of CBS News; Russell Midori of CBS News; Ellen Nimmons of the AP; Jim Pensiero; Charlie Sennott of the GroundTruth Project; Michael Serrill; Steve Swanson of the Bronx Botanical Garden; Ed Tobin of Reuters; and Karen Toulon of Bloomberg.

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. The reception begins at 11:30 a.m. on the Yale's Club's Roof Terrace followed by luncheon in the Grand Ballroom. The event ends promptly at 2:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For further information, contact Jane Reilly, the OPC Foundation's executive director, at 201 819-2639 or: foundation@opcofamerica.org. ❖

The Half King: An OPC Favorite Closes

BY BRIAN BYRD

AFTER 18 years in business, The Half King bar and restaurant in Chelsea closed its doors at the end of January 2019. Earlier that month, the owners held a farewell party, packed with longtime patrons. Among them were members of the Overseas Press Club. Since 2014, OPC hosted several monthly mixers in the bar's private room.

When Sebastian Junger, Scott Anderson and Nanette Burstein opened The Half King, I was living in Chelsea, which was still rough around the edges. At the time, I was covering the AIDS crisis in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya. When I got home, I needed a place where I could sit, decompress and recharge myself. After a difficult assignment, you need a place to share your experiences with fellow journalists, photojournalists, or writers, knowing you never have to end the conversation with, "well, I guess you just had to be there." More than a social outing, going to The Half King helped preserve my mental health.

When you first walked in, The Half King had an English pub feel to it. The dark wood interior, salvaged from a 200-year-old barn, gave it an old-world atmosphere. The bar was named after the eighteenth-century Seneca chief known as the "Half King," who in 1754, became an ally of a young Lieutenant Colonel named George Washington. When asked how they came to name the bar after the chief, Junger said, "We were just intrigued by his story. He killed Jumonville (an Ensign in the French Army) because the French had killed his father; that essentially triggered the French and Indian War; and without the defeat of the French on the colonial frontier, the colonists never would have dared throw off the English. Plus, it's just a cool sounding name."

Places like The Half King are increasingly rare. They serve as anchors of a community – both physically and spiritually. "We wanted to create a place where people in the journalism and publishing professions could meet," said Junger. And for nearly two decades, this is



CAITLIN OCHS

Left to right: David Andelman, Sebastian Junger, Brian Byrd, Robert Nickelsburg and Scott Anderson.

what The Half King offered: a place to socialize, gossip, and work. It was that rare establishment where the creative community could share their work with the public, through readings, screenings and photo exhibits.

At the end of the farewell party, I was reminded of Ted Kennedy's 1980 concession speech: "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." The Half King may have closed, but its dream will live on. ❖

Jaime FlorCruz Displays 'China Junk' in Manila Exhibit

BY JAIME FLORCRUZ

IT MAKES sense to declutter and downsize, a la Marie Kondo. I've been trying to do just that, with modest success. This exhibit may be a step forward.

Of course, we must be smart about what we discard and what we keep.

I treat these things, stuff, not as mere dusty collectibles but as living records and reminders of my past, of China's as well, and of my 47-year journey in China.

I believe in the need for introspection, soul searching if you will. It's my way of taking stock of myself and, as I write try to write my memoir, to reminisce and to discern. To me these objects show what is not seen. They tell us about life, culture and values. We need to treasure them lest we fall into the trap of historical amnesia.

I acquired and have kept this China junk

not for monetary considerations. I did so perhaps because I am a China and history buff and they appealed to me as study materials. As a writer and storyteller they appealed to me because I see stories in them. Old pictures, carvings, clothes, hats and fabrics, furniture, whatever, they tell stories to me. Many of them happen to be aesthetically attractive too.

"Let the past serve the present, let the foreign serve China." That's a Mao quotation that resonates. We can learn things from this old junk.

A section of the exhibit shows some of my "maomorabilia": Mao pins, banners, posters. Red Guard arm bands.

One of my favorites is a vintage poster which shows Mao inspecting a China-de-



ANA FLORCRUZ

Jaime FlorCruz, left, speaks with guests at his exhibit in Intramuros, Manila.

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OPC Holiday Party Kicks Off 2019 Calendar

Photos: John Naughton



Left to right: Linda Fasulo, Deidre Depke and Patricia Kranz.



Pete Engardio, left, and Bill Collins.



Left to right: Andy Katell, Emma Daly and Evelyn Leopold.



Eleanor Natili, left, and Farwa Zaighi

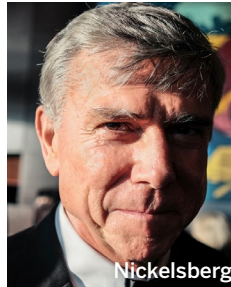


Past and current OPC presidents, left to right: Michael Ser-rill, Bill Holstein, Pancho Bernasconi (current president), Deidre Depke and Allan Dodds Frank.

Robert Nickelsberg Returns to Guatemala After Three Decades

OPC member and former Governor Robert Nickelsberg has been awarded a fellowship at the Logan Nonfiction Program, which is part of the Carey Institute in Rensselaerville, New York. He plans to write about his return to Guatemala's Ixil region, where from 1981 to 1984 he worked on stories for *TIME* magazine on the massacres committed by the Guatemalan Army during its civil war. He returned this January to find survivors more than three decades later.

The images on this page were shot on Jan. 4 and Jan. 5 this year. Nickelsberg wrote that "the first two frames [below] were taken in Nebaj, Guatemala where I'd last been in May 1984 and the third photo in San Juan Cotzal, Guatemala where I'd been on January 20, 1982. Both cities are in the Ixil region and were in the heart of guerrilla territory where civilians were heavily massacred during the early 1980's." He was able to find half of the 14 people he photographed in 1982 and 1984.



Juana Cordova Marroquin, 56, holds a picture of her and her sister-in-law taken by Nickelsberg on Jan. 20, 1982. Nickelsberg wrote: On that date, a group of journalists were flown by helicopter into San Juan Cotzal, in the ethnic Mayan Ixil region of Guatemala. This was a day after a massive attack, Jan. 19, by the Ejército Guerrillero de los Pobres, or EGP guerrillas, on a military base in San Juan Cotzal. The government publicly reported 12 soldiers were killed. We saw 5 to 6 dead soldiers being unloaded in Santa Cruz de Quiché earlier in the day – the attack was a significant one and General Benedicto Lucas Garcia, leading the military response, was fuming with anger. Jim Willwerth and I were there for *TIME* magazine. Pamela Yates and her film crew were along. Dial Torgerson from the *Los Angeles Times* was also present. The woman shown in the picture, 20 years old in 1982, was being interviewed by us while she collected water. The water spigot is no longer there. Fear was clearly on their faces. The local residents knew a violent response by the military was inevitable and were clearly anxious about their fate. True to form, 67 civilians were killed by the army in response to the attack. I went back to Cotzal and found the woman who recalled the event 37 years ago. She'd been hired to work inside the military base for cooking and doing laundry. She'd been asked not to come to work on Jan. 20 as there was going to be a birthday party for an army officer the night before. The EGP guerrillas were the uninvited guests that early morning. From questions I'd asked on my return, 37 army soldiers were reportedly killed in the attack, far too many than what the military wanted to admit. The woman on the right is Juana's sister-in-law, Manuella Cordova Ordoñez. ❖



Josefa Cedillo Marcos, 48, left, and her niece, Juana Cedillo Perez, 40, hold a picture taken by Nickelsberg for *TIME* magazine in May 1984 in Nebaj, Guatemala nearly 35 years later on Jan. 5. Both survived the violent 36-year civil war and numerous massacres perpetrated in the ethnic Mayan Ixil region by the Guatemalan Army. They witnessed civilians being killed and still recall the trauma all of them experienced. Over 200,000 civilians were murdered, the majority by the Guatemalan Army, with 40,000 disappeared, many still unaccounted for since peace was declared in 1996. Josefa's mother, on the right in the photo, had passed away due to health reasons.



Pedro Antonio Cedillo Marcos, 36, holds a picture taken by Nickelsberg in May 1984 in Nebaj, Guatemala on Jan. 5. Pedro, center in the black and white picture, was 2 years old in 1984. Pedro and his two sisters survived the violent 36-year civil war and numerous massacres perpetrated by the Guatemala Army in the ethnic Mayan region. Pedro is now a high school physics teacher. His two sisters are also school teachers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Donna Airoidi

Freelance
New York
Active Resident

Jack Dodson

Freelance
Haifa, Israel
Active Overseas, Young
(29 or under)

Sydney Low

Photographer
Asterisk Images
Kew, Australia
Active Overseas

Christopher Miller

Correspondent
for Eastern Europe
Radio Free Europe/
Radio Liberty
Kyiv, Ukraine
Active Overseas, Young
(30-34)

Adoum Moussa

Freelance
Agadez, Niger
Active Overseas

Sonali Prasad

Freelance
New Delhi, India
Active Overseas, Young
(29 or under)

PEOPLE

By Farwa Zaidi and Chad Bouchard

OPC SCHOLARS

Isabel DeBre, the 2018 Stan Swinton winner, made the most of her OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Jerusalem. She was hired on as a reporter and will remain in Jerusalem until the summer of 2019. In her application for the OPC Foundation in 2017, DeBre wrote about an influential club at the American University in Beirut that became a formidable political force in Lebanon.

Hiba Dlewati, the first Sally Jacobsen winner in 2018, has just been hired as a reporter for Al Jazeera English. She is based in Doha, Qatar. Dlewati had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the AP bureau in Beirut. After her study of medicine in Damascus was cut short by the Syrian War, she moved to the U.S. and finished her bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan in Flint. She has written extensively about Syrian diaspora and the world of shady brokers who book boat passage for refugees traveling from Turkey to Greece.

After an award-winning stretch as an investigative reporter for The Associated Press, **Jeff Horwitz**, Fred Wiegold winner in 2009, will be leaving Washington, DC for San Francisco where he will be covering Facebook for *The Wall Street Journal*. Most recently, Jeff was the 2018 recipient of the Knight Bagehot Fellowship's annual Christopher J. Welles Memorial Prize, for his reporting on the Paul Manafort saga.

Katie Paul, the 2017 Irene Corbally Kuhn winner, is leaving the Middle East after stints in Damascus, Beirut, Amman and most recently as a senior correspondent for Reuters in Dubai and Riyadh. She will now be based in the Reuters bureau in San Francisco. Paul's new beat is social media, covering Facebook, Twitter and other companies that are based in America but responsible for the flow of information across the planet. Katie had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Buenos Aires.

The New Yorker published a new long-form piece from **Ben Taub**, the 2014 Emanuel R. Freedman winner, about Iraq's treatment of suspected jihadists and how it would set the stage for an



DeBre



Paul

to Michael J. Green for *By More Than Providence: Grand Strategy and American Power in the Asia Pacific Since 1783*. The award honors books that make an outstanding contribution to the understanding of foreign policy or international relations. The prize is for non-fiction works from the past year. In early December, Gessen received a Hitchens Prize for a body of work that ex-

presses a commitment to "free expression and inquiry."

Author and journalist **Steve Coll's** book *Directorate S: The CIA and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan* was nominated for the "long-list" for The National Book Award for Nonfiction. The book, published early last year, is a close look at secret security agencies in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The nonfiction award this year went to Jeffrey C. Stewart for *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke*, a biography of the father of the Harlem Renaissance. *Directorate S* was also named as a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award on Jan. 22. Coll is the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, and served as president of the New America Foundation, a public policy institute in Washington D.C. His first book, *Ghost Wars*, won him a Pulitzer Prize. Last March, Coll sat down with the OPC for a book night to discuss *Directorate S*.

Freelance reporter **Asad Hashim** was named as winner of the 2018 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize on Jan. 13. He was recognized for his coverage of the plight of ethnic Pashtuns and blasphemy issues in his native Pakistan. The award, named after one of AFP's most celebrated correspondents who died in 2007 at the age of 64, recognizes journalism by locally hired reporters in Asia operating in risky or difficult conditions.

UPDATES

It has been a tough month for many journalists. **BuzzFeed News** told staff on Jan. 25 that 43 of the division's 250 journalists would be laid off. The

ISIS resurgence. Taub's piece, "Iraq's Post-ISIS Campaign of Revenge," published in December, follows a brutal campaign by Iraqi government forces and Shiite militias that has resulted in hundreds of thousands of Sunni Muslims are being detained, tortured and executed or cast out of society because of suspected associations with ISIS. He was interviewed on NPR's "Fresh Air" in December to talk about the article.

AWARDS

OPC member and freelancer **Roopa Gogineni** won the Rory Peck award for News Feature in November. The Rory Peck awards honor the work of freelancers covering global news. Gogineni was recognized for her film *The Rebel Puppeteers of Sudan*, which focused on the creator of a satirical puppet show to share the news of the ongoing conflict in Sudan's Nuba Mountains. She filmed the piece in Sudan in 2016, and it was later broadcast on *The New York Times* website. Judges of the Rory Peck award acknowledged the risk Gogineni took by making the story with very little funding and little backing. Based in Nairobi, she has spent the last seven years covering the conflict in East Africa. She has been an OPC member since 2017.

Masha Gessen, winner of the OPC's 2016 Best Commentary Award, was one of this year's recipients of the CFR Arthur Ross Book Award in early December. She won the bronze medal for her book *The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*. She and three other winners of the award participated in a discussion on Dec. 4. The Gold Medal went to Stephen Kotkin for *Stalin: Waiting for Hitler, 1929-1941*, and the Silver Medal went

cut was just the first step in a planned 15 percent reduction in staff overall at BuzzFeed. HuffPost announced 20 employees were cut on Jan. 24 as its parent company, Verizon Media, laid off 7 percent of its staff. Overall, about 800 employees across several brands, including AOL and Yahoo. Cuts of about 400 jobs were also announced at Gannett newsrooms across the U.S.

Award-winning journalist **Susan Zirinsky**, senior executive producer at CBS News, has been named president and senior executive producer of CBS News. Her new role was announced on Jan. 6 by Joe Ianniello, president and acting CEO of CBS Corporation. Zirinsky started working for CBS in the network's Washington bureau two weeks after the Watergate break-in. Over the next four decades, she produced multiple award-winning documentaries and programs, covering a wide range of stories including the Gulf War, the student uprising in Tiananmen Square, the 9/11 attacks, the Paris terror attacks, and the mass shooting at a school in Parkland, Florida last year. Zirinsky is slated to begin her new role in March.

OPC Governor **David Ariosto** has moved from his post at Brut to a new gig as executive producer at GZERO Media at Eurasia Group. He previously worked as managing editor at Brut, and has also served as supervising producer of NPR's "All Things Considered." You can read about his new book *This Is Cuba* on Page 10.

Noticias Telemundo announced in December that it will launch its first-ever English-language daily newscast. The video news updates will be distributed exclusively via YouTube. The project won a Google News Innovation YouTube grant. This marks the first time a Noticias Telemundo production will be distributed outside of a Telemundo-owned platform.

OPC member **Kathy Gannon**, senior correspondent for Pakistan and Afghanistan for the Associated Press, filed a story with help from 2016 Fritz Beebe winner **Dake Kang** that follows the plight of Muslim ethnic Uighur women, spouses of Pakistani men

living in China, who have been taken from families and kept in "education centers." The piece, titled "Locked away, Forgotten: Muslim Uighur Wives of Pakistani Men," includes interviews with families searching for mothers and wives who have disappeared. Gannon lit the Candle of Remembrance during the 2015 Annual Awards Dinner and was the keynote speaker at the OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon in 2016. She survived a brutal shooting attack while covering elections in Afghanistan in 2014. Kang is a video journalist based in Beijing and contributed to the report.

OPC member **Jake Naughton** launched a Kickstarter for a book project he and his partner Juan Sosa have completed to chronicle their love story in photographs. The campaign raised more than \$25,000 from a total of 278 backers. The two have been working the project together for five years, collecting photos, designing and editing the book. The book, titled *When We Were Strangers*, will be published by Red Hook Editions and is due out in the spring of this year. On the Kickstarter page, Naughton describes the book as a look at "the ups and downs, the challenges and triumphs, the everyday little wondrous moments" of being in love. A recent update indicated that the book is already being printed, and the two creators will hold a book launch and exhibition opening at United Photo Industries in Brooklyn on Feb. 14. Naughton is a world recognized photographer who has been awarded numerous times for his photos. He has been an OPC member since 2017.

Jason Rezaian, journalist for *The Washington Post* who spent 18 months in an Iranian prison on bogus charges, testified with his family in a \$1 billion federal lawsuit against the Iranian government on Jan. 8. The lawsuit seeks damages for his 544-day ordeal, in which he was taken hostage and psychologically tortured by the Iranian government, as well as damages his family suffered. Jason's wife, Yeganeh Salehi, was also arrested and spent 72 days in solitary confinement. The lawsuit seeks \$44 million in compensa-

tory and economic damages and \$1 billion in punitive damages. Rezaian's attorney argued that his client was held as a bargaining chip in talks with Iran. Rezaian was the *Post's* correspondent in Tehran from 2012 to 2016 and is now a writer for its Global Opinions section. A book about his experience in Iran, titled *Prisoner*, was released in January. In 2017, Rezaian lit the ceremonial Candle of Remembrance at the OPC Awards Dinner.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Desmond Boylan, a veteran photojournalist for The Associated Press, died suddenly while on assignment in Cuba on Dec. 29. at the age of 54. Boylan was traveling to cover New Year's festivities in Central Havana for the AP when he reported feeling ill. He asked to rest on a local family's couch and passed away there. Boylan began working as a photographer for AP in Spain in 1989. He later worked for Reuters, covering the end of apartheid in South Africa, the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and war in the former Yugoslavia. Boylan traveled to Cuba in 1994, where he met his wife Gloria Gonzalez. He worked from Madrid and India, covering conflict in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan, and then moved back to Cuba in 2009, returning to the AP in 2014.

Peter Larkin, former foreign editor of CBS News, passed away early New Year's Eve with his family around him. He was 76 years old. His mission was to help Americans better understand events abroad and their impact on the U.S. He worked at UPI and at CBS News as a war correspondent in Vietnam and during the Indo-Pakistani war. Life-threatening battlefield wounds he sustained while covering the Vietnam war left him with lifelong pain. Despite this, Peter worked at CBS News for more than 20 years. Peter rose from foreign correspondent to CBS News London Bureau Chief, and he became Foreign Editor of CBS News, working closely with Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather. International news coverage directed by Peter won many awards and accolades. He leaves a daughter, Brett Elizabeth Larkin. Donations in his memory can be made to the Overseas Press Club Foundation. ♦

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

By Farwa Zaidi
and Chad Bouchard

Sudanese journalist **Faisal Mohamed Salih**, who was arrested for expressing his support of anti-government protests, has been freed. Salih was taken from his office on Jan. 3 by agents of the country's National Intelligence and Security Service. Salih reported that he was taken for questioning over his views on the protests that have erupted across Sudan in recent weeks. According to Salih, he had supported the protestors demonstrating peacefully, but was not part of any group organizing the protests. Demonstrations have rocked several cities in Sudan since they first started in December over a government decision to raise the price of bread. At least 19 people have been killed in clashes during the protests. Salih was the recipient of the 2013 Peter Mackler Award for ethical and courageous journalism. He is known for defying the Sudanese government and speaking out against human rights abuses.

Boubacar Yalcouye, editor of the Malian newspaper *Le Pays*, was sentenced to six months in prison on Dec. 27 on a charge of defaming Mali's supreme court's judges. Before his arrest, he had recently reported that the judges had received a bribe with nearly 1.4 million euros to uphold the validity of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's reelection this past August. His lawyers told RSF that they would appeal his conviction and sentence. In July of 2000, Mali adopted a press law that enables severe prison sentences and heavy fines. Defamation is punishable by between 11 days and 12 months in prison.

Nicaraguan police entered the offices of privately-owned cable and internet news station **100% Noticias** on Dec. 21 and arrested channel director Miguel Mora and news director Lucia Pineda Ubau. In a court appearance the next day, Mora was charged with crimes including "inciting hate and violence" and was not granted access to a lawyer. According to his wife, police also confiscated broadcasting equipment from the station. Nicaraguan authorities have, as of late, been cracking down on the country's

independent media. The raid on 100% Noticias was the second of its kind in just over a week.

Serbian reporter **Milan Jovanovic** was victim to an arson attack on his home on Dec. 12. Unknown assailants threw a Molotov cocktail at his residence, leaving the entire property ablaze. The attackers also fired multiple shots at the front door to keep the family from leaving the house while it burned. Jovanovic and his wife escaped through a back door and watched as their home, garage, and car burned down. Jovanovic is an investigative journalist who had recently reported on the "suddenly acquired property" of the head of the local Grocka municipality, as well as alleging corruption in the construction of sewage systems. Local authorities had cut down his water supply after this report. Jovanovic had complained to police and to the president about being harassed for his work. He had been beaten badly in October and had

received threats last July. He received first aid for minor injuries he sustained in the fire.

Spanish police searched the newsroom of **Europa Press** in Palma de Mallorca on Dec. 11. They seized equipment and documentation from the office as part of an investigation into leaked police information. Europa Press said the police presented a court order demanding that the editor hand over any documentation related to a large-scale corruption case that the news agency recently reported on. The editor, Antonia Lopez, told the police that journalists had a right to protect their sources, and refused their request. The police then seized a mobile phone, two company computers, and several paper documents in order to determine the origin of the leak.

Netflix vs. Press Freedom

Commentary by Farwa Zaidi

Netflix is one the biggest media providers in the world, with streaming services available in 190 countries and to 130 million worldwide subscribers. So why does the website feel the need to comply with the commands of Saudi dictator Mohammed bin Salman? Last fall, comedian Hasan Minhaj started a weekly news affairs show on the platform, called Patriot Act.

In the premiere episode, titled "Saudi Arabia," he examines the killing of *Washington Post* journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi officials. Minhaj heavily criticized the Saudi royals, specifically Mohammed bin Salman, and highlighted the largely overlooked human-rights crisis and Saudi war crimes in Yemen.

In January, news broke that Netflix had pulled the episode from its services in Saudi Arabia. The company said they did so to "comply with local law." The rule in question is Article 6 of the country's cybercrime law, which bans "production, preparation, transmission, or storage of material impinging on public order, religious values, public morals, and privacy, through the information network or computers."

Despite Mohammed bin Salman being praised as a "reformer," pulling an episode that criticizes him shines a spotlight on his stance against press freedom. The crown prince is still under investigation for Jamal Khashoggi's death, and his battle against Patriot Act only deepens his war on free press.

Billy Six, a German freelance journalist, has been detained in Venezuela since Nov. 17 on charges of spying, rebellion, and “violating security zones” and has not been allowed contact with anyone outside prison besides his parents. Six is facing up to twenty-eight years in prison on the charges, which have been brought before a military court. He was arrested by Venezuelan military counter-intelligence after entering the country through the Colombian border. He was transferred without an arrest warrant to a military detention center. Only his parents have spoken to him following his arrest, as he has been denied contact with anyone including the German embassy or a lawyer. His family told RSF that some pictures he had taken during Independence Day military parades in 2017 and 2018 are being cited as the reason for his arrest.

MURDERS

An ice box containing the head and hands of an unidentified male were left outside the offices of **Expreso**, a local Mexican newspaper, on Dec. 20. The package was accompanied by a threatening message directed at local journalists. A spokesperson for *Expreso* said that he was unaware of the identity of the victim and that all staff were accounted for. The written threat was not aimed at any specific news outlet or reporter and was not signed. An article published on *Expreso* the same day said that forensic investigators were working to establish the identity of the victim, but there have not yet been any updates. The last violent attack against the newspaper was in 2012, when unknown assailants attacked the office with explosives.

Mexican journalist **Alejandro Marquez Jimenez** was shot and killed in the city of Nayarit sometime between Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. His body was found in a ditch near the city’s airport with several bullet wounds. He had been last seen alive the day before, when he answered a phone call while eating with his family and then left his home. Marquez was the editor of the biweekly print and online newsmagazine *Orion Informativo*, which he founded two years ago. Prior to starting his magazine, he had spent eight years at a local newspaper called *Crítica Diario*. Marquez was politically active and supported the ruling political party of president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who assumed office on the day Marquez’ body was found. His magazine covered local politics in his region. ❖

Continued From Page 3

signed Dongfeng-brand sedan, probably circa early 1960s. A beaming Chairman Mao inspects what looks like a prototype of a Dongfeng (East Wind) sedan, escorted probably by Chinese engineers who designed and produced it. It’s a curious scene because Chairman Mao was known to preach “plain living and hard struggle.”

In the 1970s and 1980s, there were very few cars on the road, even in Beijing. They were all government-owned and for official use only. Now there are over 5 million cars in the Chinese capital, mostly privately owned – and many more are planning to buy one.

Dongfeng Motor Group, headquartered in central Wuhan City, was established in 1969. It now produces a fleet of sedan cars and trucks and in 2017 was No. 65 on the Fortune Global 500 list of companies with estimated revenues of \$93 billion and 180,000 employees.

One section shows posters of Chinese women as depicted during the early years of my China exile in the 1970s. Women then were shown strong and charming, sans cosmetics and elaborate hairdos, and doing jobs that men did. “Women prop up half the sky,” Mao declared.

I juxtapose these with a few old calendars and ads, popular in the 1930s and 40s, advertising cosmetics, beer, cigarettes and cosmetics featuring women in cheongsam dresses. This, I thought, must be what Maoists had in mind when they ransacked and burned “four olds.” Feminists today would surely see them as examples of “objectification” of women.

Years after the Cultural Revolution, these political posters went out of fashion. As people started to discard them, many ended up in Beijing’s antique markets. That’s where I found these posters. While most market-goers snubbed these old, fraying posters, collectors and history-buffs like me vied for the best and rarest of them.

My collection is not limited to Cultural Revolution relics.



We show an array of knickknacks – porcelain, wooden carvings, Tibetan bangles, old scissors, measuring rulers, bells—so that viewing them will be like peering into a kaleidoscope: you see a medley of collectibles.

I treasure many of these because they tell stories about their creators. They tell us about China.

In spite of the disastrous Cultural Revolution, I am happy to note that the Chinese industry and creativity are very much alive.

Even after retirement from the frontline of reporters’ trenches, I continue to serve as a “bridge” in my own limited ways by serving as a professor at Peking University’s School of Journalism and Communications, where I teach a course on media and news literacy. I frequently serve as a commentator in Chinese and foreign television programs and also give lectures in Philippine and U.S. schools and universities.

The exhibit opened on Jan. 19 in a museum in Intramuros, an old district of Manila. It was attended by over 200 invited guests and featured a Q&A on stage between Jaime FlorCruz as interviewee and two local journalists. The exhibit will close on Feb. 17. ❖

NEW BOOKS

By Farwa Zaidi

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

6:00 p.m.

Cipriani 25 Broadway
April 18

CUBA

IN THE summer of 2009, OPC Governor David Ariosto, now executive producer at GZERO Media at Eurasia Group, embarked on a two-year reporting assignment as photojournalist in Havana. He arrived in Cuba at a time of drastic development, with growing access to information straining against Cold War restrictions. Ariosto's new memoir, *This is Cuba* [St. Martin's Press, December 2018] chronicles his experience as a correspondent as well as subsequent visits over a period of nine years amid a shifting economy and big swings in U.S. foreign policy.

Ariosto wrote that he found Havana to be an "intriguing new world" as he reported on neighboring military coups, suspected honey traps, salty spooks, desperate migrants and dissidents. He set out to unravel some of the island nation's absurdities and mystique. The title, "This is Cuba," is a reference to the response he received when grappling with absurd realities of life in the country. In one scene, a Cuban press liaison says phrase this to him in answer to a question about why government officials commandeered his bathroom sink, "like that was some sort of code to mean things here were not only a little bit screwy, but that even those who had grown up here—who had few sources for comparison—knew it." He writes that the example of his missing sink had driven home an essential truth about reporting abroad. "even something like a sink can have the feel of a broader politic. Cuba was not just a story to be covered. It was to be lived."

Behind the stereotypes of classic cars, salsa, and cigars, there is a country where black markets are rampant, free speech is outlawed, privacy is rare, and sanctions wreak havoc on the citizens and economy. He describes the slow-moving socialist bureaucracy that hampers the economy's growth.

Despite these setbacks, the country continues to develop. Satellite dishes and internet

hotspots are multiplying. Tourism is booming, with many Americans eager to explore the country's beauty after the generations-old embargo lifted under the Obama administration in 2011. But Ariosto warns that lasting change does not come quickly. Soldiers are still stationed on either side of the Florida Straits, always poised for a return to the Cold War. He tracks aftermath of Fidel Castro's death and the hand-over of the presidency to Miguel Diaz-Canel, detailing the effects of change on the lives of Cubans. *This is Cuba* reveals clues that forecast a brewing crisis, that Ariosto believes will explain what is in store for

the island's future. Ariosto holds a Master of Public Policy degree from George Mason University and a Bachelor's of History degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He has worked for CNN, *National Geographic*, Reuters, Al Jazeera America and Brut. ❖

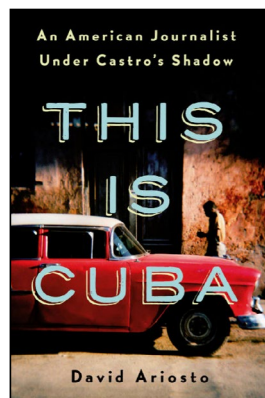
MEDIA

AS A 30-year veteran of the news industry with 18 years on the media beat, Joe Strupp has gotten a front-row seat to watch what he calls the "loss of true reporting and quality journalism and the increase in hype, opinion and unbalanced news." Strupp's new book, *Killing Journalism: How Greed, Laziness (And Donald Trump) are Destroying News and How We Can Save It* [Willow Street Press, November 2018] explores how the chase for clicks and ratings over the years has displaced depth, fairness and civics in journalism, and how President Trump's rise as a celebrity and politician have depended so dependent on the media he so readily attacks.

Strupp catalogues years of staff cutbacks, the increasing demand for around-the-clock coverage, declining ad revenue, flagging support for legal defense of the press, and fewer in-house watchdogs to keep the news fair and honest. He notes that six major companies own 90 percent of today's news media compared to 50 companies owning the same proportion more than three decades ago. In more recent years, Trump and his supporters have escalated attacks on the media, pushing consumers' trust and the industry's power into sharp decline. The president has defended some of the most discredited news sources, while turning the public against newsrooms with traditional standards of ethics, Strupp writes. But he suggests that the false attacks on traditional press for liberal bias have hidden the nature of the industry's key issues, "fewer journalists and greedy owners."

Strupp uses original research, including interviews several prominent media critics and other journalists, to track the loss of news professionals. According to the Pew Research Center, there has been a 37 percent decrease in newspaper jobs in the past ten years. The U.S. Labor Department estimates a loss of 14,000 journalism jobs over that time.

Joe Strupp is an award-winning reporter with nearly thirty years of experience in newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, and the Internet. He has appeared on numerous broadcast news outlets, including Fox News and MSNBC. TV host Jim Lehrer said that the book would appeal to "anyone who cares about the past, present and future of a free press in our democratic society." ❖





Alice Driver

CAMERIA HARKEY

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Alice Driver

ALICE DRIVER is a bilingual journalist, translator and video producer based in Mexico City. Her work focuses on migration, human rights, and gender equality. Driver has filed work for a slew of media outlets, including *National Geographic*, REVEAL at the Center for Investigative Reporting, PBS, *The Columbia Journalism Review*, *TIME*, CNN, PRI.org, CBC Radio, BBC News, *The New York Times* and *Cosmopolitan*. She has also published a book, *More or Less Dead: Femicide, Haunting, and the Ethics of Representation in Mexico* [University of Arizona, 2015] which she completed during a post-doctoral fellowship at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City.

Hometown: Oark, Arkansas (pop. 200).

Education: Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies from the University of Kentucky, postdoctoral fellowship at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City.

Languages you speak: English, Spanish, Portuguese.

First job in journalism: After I finished my postdoctoral fellowship, which supported the publication of my book, I began to work as a freelance journalist. I have never had a staff job in journalism.

Countries reported from: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Peru, Cuba, Nicaragua, Chile, Barbados, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Myanmar.

When and why did you join the OPC? I joined the OPC in 2017 after my editor at CNN recommended it to me.

What sparked your interest in migration and human rights reporting? I wrote a book about femicide in Mexico, *More or Less Dead*, and most of the victims were migrants so I knew that I wanted my next project to be about migration.

Major challenge as a journalist: My biggest challenge as a freelancer is that outlets don't adhere to contracts and don't pay me on time. This puts me at risk and creates a lot of stress and instability.

Best journalism advice received: "So much of the world needs the muscle found in true words. Please keep sending what your head and belly make as one loaf." – poet Nikky Finney who was my professor at Berea College in Kentucky where I did my undergraduate degree.

Worst experience as a journalist: One time, a migrant whom I met at a shelter got my phone number from the migrant shelter (I had left my business card with some of the workers there), and he wrote me both on FB and via text asking me for a large amount of money. The way that he asked made me feel like he was going to threaten me if I didn't respond. I blocked him on both platforms and thankfully did not hear anything else from him.

When traveling, you like to... I like wandering the streets and eating local food which is a good way to get a feel for a place.

Hardest story: I reported a story last year from Nicaragua and was in the country at a time when the streets were full of protests and pro-government forces were shooting citizens in the streets. I didn't witness violence but the streets of Managua felt volatile.

Journalism heroes: Ginger Thompson, Marcela Turati, Masha Geesen, Roxane Gay, Pamela Colloff.

Dream job: I am living my dream job, but I need to get to the point where outlets pay me on time and respect contracts (or to the point where I can afford to have a lawyer on retainer).

Favorite quote: I interviewed journalist Francisco Goldman a few years ago, and he said, "Identify what it is you want to do and without necessarily understanding it, completely commit. It's risky. It's like what Bolaño said in his famous Venezuela speech, 'What is good writing? It's not good writing. It's knowing that writing is looking into an abyss.' Sometimes the abyss will destroy you."

Place you're most eager to visit: I would love to work on a project in the Philippines and have discussed a few ideas with photographer Lynzy Billing.

Most over-the-top assignment: *TIME* magazine sent me on a five-day assignment covering the migrant caravan in Mexico with Magnum photographer Jerome Sessini. I love photography and so the over-the-top part of the assignment for me was being paired with a photographer who has managed to create iconic images over a period of decades.

Most common mistake you've seen: Reporters who don't learn languages or take the time to understand the cultural context of events when they are reporting outside of their home country.

Country you most want to return to: Brazil.

Twitter handle: @DriverWrites ❖

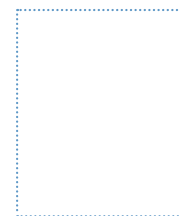
Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact patricia@opcofamerica.org.



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