



BULLETIN

Panelists to Discuss Europe's Past and Present
30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

EVENT PREVIEW: OCT. 30

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

ON NOV. 9, 1989, the world watched in amazement as East Germans streamed through and over the Berlin Wall to cross into West Berlin, with Berliners from both sides of the city celebrating atop the Wall. The collapse of this iconic symbol of the East-West divide was not an isolated incident but the culmination of a series of political upheavals throughout the region that year. Taken together, they marked the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire and the Cold War. Journalists who covered those historic events and their aftermath will share their experiences with OPC members on Oct. 30 and offer insights into the future of Europe and global security.

The program is open to all. The OPC invites any journalists who covered Europe and the Soviet Union to come and reconnect with former colleagues and friends. The event gets underway at Club Quarters at 6:00 p.m., and a reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will follow from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visit opco-famerica.org to RSVP.

Panelists include:

- Carroll Bogert, president of The Marshall Project, a nonprofit media organization covering criminal justice



DAVID TURNLEY

This photo by David Turnley is from a portfolio of images that won him the Pulitzer Prize for work in 1989 that included the fall of the Berlin Wall.

and immigration issues in the United States. Bogert was previously deputy executive director at Human Rights Watch, running its award-winning global media operations. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1998, Bogert spent twelve years as a foreign correspondent for Newsweek in China, Southeast Asia, and the Soviet Union.

- John Daniszewski became vice president for standards and editor-at-large for The Associated Press in July 2016 after more than a decade leading its interna-

Continued on Page 4

INSIDE

China's Tech Theft
William J. Holstein 2

OPC Call for Entries 2

Christopher Dickey
& Rukmini Callimachi
Blast Trump on Syria 3

People Column 5-7

Fordham's Upcoming
Journalism Events 7

Press Freedom
Update 8-9

New Books 10

Q&A:
Benedetta
Argentieri 11

OPC Member Reports from Front Lines in Hong Kong

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

OPC MEMBER Suzanne Sataline has witnessed turmoil in Hong Kong from close range while covering protests, and experienced first hand how police are targeting and intimidating journalists.

She wrote an extensive piece for The Atlantic recounting how

over the last five months, "police tactics have grown more sudden, more violent, and more arbitrary against civilian demonstrators and the press."

Sataline is a freelance writer and editor based in Hong Kong and New York, and has been an OPC member since October 2016. She said in an email that the

OPC's press ID helped her during a scuffle with Hong Kong police to identify her as an American journalist, and that "ultimately, the credentials got me released."

But as she wrote in The Atlantic, Hong Kong colleagues working for local press are not faring as well as they bear most of the brunt of police pressure and violence.

However, international journalists like herself still face intimidation, she said.

Sataline recounted escalating police tactics since June when protests began, when police at first would simply move journalists away from protesters, using lights or strobes to disrupt video devices.

Continued on Page 4

William J. Holstein Urges US to Boost Defenses Against China's Campaign of Tech Theft

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

OPC PAST President William J. Holstein wrote an op-ed piece for The Wall Street Journal warning that the recent arrest of a California tour guide on espionage charges is only a symptom of Beijing's wider tech espionage campaign. His piece follows news that the U.S. Justice Department arrested Peng Xuehua for allegedly funneling classified American secrets to China's Ministry of State Security. He noted that FBI Director Christopher Wray said in July that most of the agency's 1,000 active investigations into intellectual property theft involved China.

"Beijing's tech theft is a danger to every American and every opponent of the Chinese Communist Party," Holstein wrote. "The line between commercial and military technology is often blurry – artificial intelligence, for instance, has many commercial and military uses. The party has also directly gone after military secrets. The Navy secretary said in March that his branch and its commercial partners are under 'cyber siege' by China."

Holstein outlines several tech theft cases that came to light in 2019, including fraud charges against Bo Mao, a professor in Texas, for allegations that he stole solid-state-drive technology from CNEX Labs; the conviction of Yi-Chi Shih, an adjunct professor from the University of California, on charges that he hacked systems of a company that makes circuits that use microwave frequencies; a lawsuit from Tesla Inc. accusing former engineer Guangzhi Cao of copying 300,000 company files before taking a job at a Chinese self-driving car startup, Xiaopeng Motors; and news that the FBI and Justice Department busted a four-year hacking operation from the group APT10 out of Tianjin that worked with China's Ministry of State Security, a campaign that used malware to penetrate U.S. cloud computing systems and gain access to IBM and the U.S. Navy.

Holstein called for the U.S. to hammer out comprehensive plan to fight tech espionage. He blasted the Trump administration for shortcomings on this front, noting that recent negotiations with Beijing make no mention of China's hacking and spying.

"It will require Manhattan Project-like intensity and focus to harden America's information-technology systems. It will take years and cost billions of dollars," he said. "U.S. government agencies will have to ask Congress for bigger budgets.



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. attorney David L. Anderson displays an SD memory card during a news conference on Sept. 30, in San Francisco, California. The U.S. attorney's office of the Northern District of California announced a criminal complaint against Xuehua Peng for allegedly delivering classified national security information to China.

Companies will have to devote more money and staff to IT, even if this puts pressure on profits."

Holstein said security experts have warned that some companies are reluctant to ask for help from Washington, possibly because they fear public blowback as a result of transparency. He said the U.S. has so far been sluggish in its response to China's espionage campaign, which is "subtle and long-term." He said companies and U.S. security agencies must work in concert to forge a rigorous strategy on how to respond.

Holstein is author of the recently published book *The New Art of War: China's Deep Strategy Inside the United States*. He spoke about the book during an OPC discussion in June with Barbara Demick, who served as Beijing bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times from 2007 to 2017. Holstein covered China from Hong Kong as deputy Asia editor in 1979 and won an OPC award in 1980 for best overseas economic reporting for stories about China's modernization drive. He has recently spoken about *The New Art of War* at New York University and at Columbia University with Andrew Nathan, as well as at a day-long event in September hosted by Silicon Dragon. ❖



Overseas Press Club of America

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Honoring the Best in International Journalism

ANNUAL AWARDS

Eligibility Period: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

www.opcofamerica.org

The OPC will begin accepting applications online on November 29, 2019.

GENERAL DEADLINE: January 31, 2020
CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD DEADLINE: January 10, 2020

ELIGIBILITY: Work must be published or broadcast in the U.S. or by a U.S.-based company or be accessible to an American audience for the first time during 2019 with reporting primarily outside the US.

ENTER ONLINE www.opcofamerica.org
QUESTIONS? Email info@opcofamerica.org

Christopher Dickey Calls Trump 'Delusional' on Syria Withdrawal

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

OPC SECOND Vice President Christopher Dickey has blasted President Donald Trump's decision to green-light a massive Turkish incursion, which he wrote would "open the way to ethnic cleansing," calling it a betrayal of the Kurds who led the fight against ISIS.

"His bluffing and bullying could not compensate for his ignorance addressing an extremely delicate situation, which is why he reversed course so many times, and continues to do so," Dickey said in an emailed newsletter with a roundup of coverage of the topic.

Dickey is foreign editor for The Daily Beast and a contributor to NBC and MSNBC, based in Paris.

On Oct. 18, he discussed Turkey's campaign against the Kurds during a remote interview from Paris with Brian Williams on the MSNBC show The 11th Hour, telling the host that the move would embolden escaped ISIS terrorists to target Europe, which Trump dismissed as a problem for Europeans and not the U.S. Dickey said Europeans responded to the decision with consternation, regarding it as "yet another example of what has been seen for a long time as the insanity of the American president."

Dickey reported that France was trying to negotiate with Iraq to take French ISIS prisoners out of Syria and put them in Iraq. He reacted to Trump's statement to press that the Kurds were "incredibly happy with this solution" that it "saved their lives," and calling it a "tough love approach."

"He's delusional," Dickey said, adding that in 2014 when ISIS was rolling into Iraq, Syria and up to the Turkish border "the only fighters who stood in its way, who held their ground against all odds, were exactly the same Kurds that Trump just betrayed."

Dickey wrote about several knock-on effects from the U.S. withdrawal in a series of pieces written for The Daily Beast, some of which were co-authored with colleagues.

He and national security correspondent Spencer Ackerman wrote about how Kurds were forced to turn to Russia for protection from Turkish forces, as Bashar al-Assad's troops returned to northeastern Syria for the first time in seven years. The piece quoted an op-ed in Foreign Policy from the Kurdish commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces, who said they would have to make "painful compromises" working with Moscow or Bashar, "but if we have to choose between compromises and the genocide of our people, we will surely choose life for our people."

The writers outlined how Trump had signaled in 2018 that the administration opposed open-ended U.S. presence in Syria, but the State Department and Pentagon were unwilling to face up to a final

withdrawal and convinced the Kurds not to plan for an American exit. With fair warning, Russia and Syria might have been able to head off the campaign of unfettered violence Turkey has waged in the vacuum.

Dickey and Ackerman wrote another piece on Oct. 14 examining how the U.S. withdrawal diverted surveillance resources away from ISIS and onto its own troops near the Iraqi and Jordanian border. Lack of monitoring of ISIS movements, and a lack of vi-

Continued on Page 5

Rukmini Callimachi Watches Turkish Invasion in Syria with Dismay

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

OPC MEMBER and former governor Rukmini Callimachi has closely followed escalating conflict in northern Syria after President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops. She is a New York Times foreign correspondent covering Al Qaeda and ISIS, currently at home on maternity leave. Callimachi warned of a growing humanitarian crisis, and expressed dismay that Turkey's invasion of Syria could revive ISIS and reverse hard-fought gains against the group.

On Oct. 6, the White House announced that U.S. forces would withdraw from the border to make way for a "long-planned" invasion from Turkey. Trump warned that he would "totally destroy and obliterate" Turkey's economy if the country did anything "that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits." With backing from Turkey, a loosely organized band of Syrian rebels linked to extremist groups, known as the Free Syrian Army, or FSA, launched an assault on northeastern Syria. The group executed Kurdish prisoners and killed unarmed civilians as well as Kurdish fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF.

Callimachi noted the next day that the U.S. had recently asked Kurds to remove fortifications

they had installed along the Turkish border, calling the move "a whole other level of betrayal." She also pointed out that ISIS had launched an attack in Raqqa, saying that "Many of us predicted that ISIS would be back, but I have to say I didn't think it would be this soon."

Callimachi also highlighted commentary from Washington Post



BYRON SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

A convoy of U.S. armored military vehicles leave Syria on a road to Iraq on Oct. 19 in Sheikhan, Iraq. Refugees have fled from the Turkish incursion in Syria into Northern Iraq since the conflict began, with many saying they paid to be smuggled through the Syrian border.

Continued on Page 5

‘Berlin Wall’
Continued From Page 1

tional news department as international editor, senior managing editor and vice president for international news. Prior to that, he spent 20 years as a reporter, editor and correspondent for both AP and the Los Angeles Times. He has worked in more than 70 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, including postings to Warsaw, Johannesburg, Cairo, Moscow, Baghdad and London.

- Jonathan Kapstein was assigned to cover the fall of the Berlin Wall while Brussels regional bureau chief for Business Week magazine. In a 2016 news interview with him available on YouTube, Kapstein highlighted the long-term impact of that epochal event. During his 22 years overseas for Business Week he already had been bureau chief in South America, Canada, Italy, and Africa. Kapstein earned the OPC award for best reporting from Latin America for a cover story on Brazil and shared other OPC citations ranging from coverage of the bloody and now largely forgotten Iran-Iraq Gulf War to the still relevant issue of how the European Union is transforming the continent. He was president of the Press Club Brussels Europe prior to moving home to the US three years ago after 48 years overseas.

- Andrew Nagorski was born in Scotland to Polish parents, moved to the United States as an infant and has rarely stopped moving since. He is an award-winning journalist and author who spent more than three decades as a foreign correspondent and editor for Newsweek. He served as the magazine’s bureau chief in Hong Kong, Rome, Bonn, Berlin, Warsaw, and two tours of duty in Moscow, first in the early 1980s and then from 1995 to 1996. In 1982, the Soviet government, angry about his enterprising reporting, expelled him from the country. His most recent book is *1941: The Year Germany Lost the War*. Visit www.andrewnagorski.com

The Moderator will be OPC past president Deidre Depke, the executive producer of The Takeaway, a morning radio news program co-created and co-produced by Public Radio International and WNYC. She joined the show after serving as managing editor of Marketplace, the business and finance public radio program. She has been a reporter and editor in New York for 25 years, working as senior news editor at *Business Week* magazine, as the foreign editor and an assistant managing editor for *Newsweek* magazine and as the editor of *Newsweek.com* and *The Daily Beast*.

The program will include a presentation of photos of the event by David Turnley and his brother Peter Turnley. David is a photographer who won the Pulitzer Prize for his work in 1989 covering covering the fall of the Berlin Wall and other revolutions that year. He has won three OPC awards, including the Robert Capa Gold Medal in 1989 for covering revolutions in Romania and China for Black Start and the Detroit Free Press. Peter’s photos have been on the cover of Newsweek magazine more than 40 times. He has won numerous awards, including the OPC’s Olivier Rebbot Award for best photographic reporting from abroad in 1989 for the Newsweek story “Ceausescu, the fall of a dictator.” Visit www.peterturnley.com. ❖



BILLY H.C. KWOK/GETTY IMAGES

Riot police secure an area in Mongkok district in Hong Kong on Oct. 20 as anti-government demonstrations in Hong Kong stretch into their fifth month.

‘Hong Kong’
Continued From Page 1

But as protesters grew more bold, police ramped up their use of force.

In her story, she mentions a harrowing exit during a clash between police and protesters in early October as she and her interpreter, Tommy Lau, ran with respirator masks on as they dodged bricks and Molotov cocktails, only to smash into police shields and get jostled and shoved, “I crashed into a billboard, saved by my skateboard helmet,” Sataline wrote. Her helmet bore a sticker with the word “PRESS” on it, and her OPC press credentials hung from her neck. Despite these clear labels, an officer hit her on her hand and the top of her head, and another pointed a baton inches from her face.

The OPC ID helped her to be released, shoved into a scrum of journalists separate from arrested protesters. She lost track of Tommy, the interpreter until later. He has now joined the OPC and an ID is on its way to Hong Kong, along with that of another colleague, student journalist Wong Wai Ling.

Sataline outlined other, more severe cases of violence against journalists, including the beating of William Pang, a volunteer offering tech support for Local Press who was wearing a clearly marked press uniform, as well as a list of abuses tallied by the Hong Kong Journalists Association. That organization has filed a lawsuit against the city’s police commissioner and other officials for violating press freedom protections outlined in the city’s constitution. ❖

**OPC Offers
Press IDs With
Chinese Script**

The OPC is pleased to be able to offer OPC press IDs labeled with “PRESS” in Chinese characters. This new option is in addition to IDs that are available with “PRESS” in Arabic script. Both options are available for the larger government-style badges for \$40, as well as the credit-card sized press IDs. See opcofamercia.org for more details.



‘Christopher Dickey’
Continued From Page 3

able partner on the ground, meant that “the basic prerequisites for mitigating any ISIS revival in Syria are gone. Many observers now expect ISIS to reconstitute itself in some form.”

Dickey wrote a longform piece on Oct. 18 with the descriptive headline “The Kurds Gave Their Lives to Defeat the Islamic State. Trump Just Pissed It All Away.” In the piece, which chronicles many milestones of the Kurdish campaign against ISIS since the fall of Mosul in 2014, he calls the recent troop withdrawal “the most disastrous foreign-policy debacle of his presidency,” adding that Trump’s comments about the situation appear to spit on the graves of former Kurdish allies, including dismissive playground references. “They’ve got a lot of sand over there. So, there’s a lot of sand that they can play with. Let them fight their own wars,” Trump stated in a press conference.

Dickey recounted the president’s conflicting statements about the Kurds, who at some points blamed “those he betrayed as if they were servants who failed him,” and at other times claiming credit for Kurdish successes, such as a statement to congressional leaders on Oct. 16 in which he declared “I captured ISIS.”

“Trump didn’t do any capturing in fact,” Dickey wrote. “The Kurds did that.”

Christopher Dickey is the foreign editor of The Daily Beast, based in Paris. Previously he was the Paris bureau chief for The Daily Beast and for Newsweek Magazine. He is the author of five nonfiction books and two novels. With the Contras (1986), Summer of Deliverance: A Memoir of Father and Son (1998); and Securing the City (2009) were chosen by The New York Times as notable books of the year when they were published. ❖

‘Rukmini Callimachi’
Continued From Page 3

columnist and associate editor David Ignatius, who on the eve of the pullout announcement said “Trump is opening [the] way for Turkish power grab in NE Syria that is a guarantee of future bloodshed and instability. The Syria mission was a rare success for US military power in the Mideast – now being squandered to appease Erdogan’s ambitions.” Ignatius lit the Candle of Remembrance this year at the OPC’s Annual Awards dinner to honor journalists killed in 2018, including his former colleague Jamal Khashoggi.

On Oct. 11, Callimachi rolled out a 21-part Twitter thread that included a video that the SDF sent to reporters, showing a group of ISIS prisoners escaping from the Navkur prison in Qamishlo near the Syria-Turkey border. The video showed an explosive detonation and several men running from a building. She cautioned at the time that the video needed further confirmation.

In the thread, Callimachi listed some of the most dangerous detainees now at risk of being freed, including Adrien Guihal, who claimed responsibility on behalf of ISIS for the Nice attack which killed 87 people, Canadian Mohammed Khalifa, the English-language narrator of ISIS propaganda, and Swiss Islamic extremist Damien Grivat, who is linked to attacks in

Paris that killed 130 people.

“Out of this toxic soup, the US has removed from the Kurdish-run jails the ‘Beatles’ who oversaw the captivity of Western prisoners held alongside James Foley. Super. But what about the captors of Rudaw cameraman Massoud Aqeel and thousands of others?” Callimachi wrote.

Two days later on Oct. 13, she reported that an SDF commander had confirmed that the camp at Ain Issa had fallen. The facility includes a section that holds hundreds of ISIS supporters including their wives and children. “An unbelievable mess,” the commander called it.

Callimachi published a screenshot from a pro-ISIS channel on the app Telegram depicting ISIS members celebrating the liberation of their supporters at Ain Issa.

“You know that game kids play on the beach? The one where they spend all day building an elaborate sandcastle only to then stomp it to the ground? That’s our ISIS strategy,” Callimachi wrote. “While [ISIS] was not defeated, we had made significant gains. 1000s were detained. Not after today.”

Reuters reported later that the Kurdish-led administration in northern Syria counted “785 people affiliated with I.S. have escaped the Ain Issa camp following shelling by Turkey.”

The International Crisis Group said in a recent report that Turkish intervention in Syria could spark an ISIS resurgence, and warned that instability in Iraq or “spill-over of U.S.-Iranian tensions” could enable its comeback.

On the same day Callimachi tweeted that a Turkish airstrike hit a convoy of civilians, including journalists, in northeastern Syria. Several were killed, but their identities had not been confirmed. She included an image of a message from journalists working with France 2 telling colleagues they were safe.

Callimachi later appeared on Dutch television news show Nieuwsuur to talk about the U.S. withdrawal, which she said a colleague compared to the fall of Saigon in 1975. “There is no doubt that what has happened this week is an enormous boon to ISIS,” she said.



Callimachi joined The New York Times in 2014 as a foreign correspondent, covering Al Qaeda and ISIS. She has garnered three OPC awards including this year’s Lowell Thomas Award for the podcast she hosts called “Caliphate,” which also won a Peabody award in the radio/podcast category in April. She won two 2013 OPC awards for her series of stories based on a cache of internal Al Qaeda documents she discovered in Mali, and is also a four-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. ❖

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amanda Florian

Shanghai Jiao Tong
University
Waxhaw, NC
Student

Adam Higginbotham

Freelance
Author/Journalist
New York
Active Resident

Lau Chi Ho

Freelance
Interpreter
Hong Kong
Student

Wong Wai Ling

Freelance
Journalist
Hong Kong
Student

PEOPLE

by Emily Brown

OPC SCHOLARS

Following **Daphne Psaledakis's** OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels this summer, Reuters has offered her a job on the foreign policy team in its Washington bureau. Psaledakis is the winner of the 2019 Flora Lewis Fellowship. She graduated from the University of Missouri in May with a dual degree in journalism and international studies. Psaledakis interned with Reuters in both Washington and Brussels, Belgium, where she returned for the OPC fellowship after graduating. She starts her new Reuters post in the last week of October.

Echo Wang, the Reuters Fellowship winner in 2019, has been hired full-time by Reuters in their mergers and acquisitions area. Wang had an OPC Foundation fellowship in Reuters' New York bureau.

Suman Naishadham, 2018 winner of the H.L. Stevenson Scholarship, is now a contributor for Bloomberg Tax, where she covers Mexican tax policy and cross-border trade. Previously, she was an intern at The Wall Street Journal, where she covered immigration and business news. Since joining, she has filed stories about Mexico's plan to tax digital services.

Tik Root, 2017 winner of the H.L. Stevenson Scholarship, wrote a story for TIME about ghost forests, one of the consequences of climate change. Ghost forests, Root writes, are "swaths of dead, white, trees are created when salty water moves into forested areas, first slowing, and eventually halting, the growth of new trees." The story was published in partnership with Newsy, who made a short documentary to pair with it.

Marina Villeneuve, winner of the 2013 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship, is now the New York State government and politics reporter for The Associated Press. She was previously their Maine statehouse reporter, a position she held since May 2016. Since starting her role in September, she has filed stories about the state budget, public finances, and Governor Andrew Cuomo.



SANGSUK SYLVIA KANG, MICHAEL DAMES



AWARDS

Ginger Thompson of ProPublica, winner of the OPC's 1995 Eric and Amy Burger Award, won the 2019 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism. The Columbia School of Journalism announced the award on Sept. 26. Thompson shared the OPC award with Gary Cohn in 1995 for their reporting on "Battalion 3-16," a Honduran army unit responsible for carrying out political assassinations and torture during the 1980s.

UPDATES

VICE acquired **Refinery29**, the female-focused culture and lifestyle publisher, in early October. The price was not disclosed, but according to CNN, sources say the deal is a mix of stock and cash worth less than \$500 million. "This is an expansive moment for independent media. VICE Media Group and Refinery29, two of the strongest independent voices in the industry, will continue to build a scaled global and diversified media company," said VICE CEO Nancy Dubuc in a statement. Both outlets have faced financial difficulties in recent years, resulting in several rounds of layoffs.

Vox Media, owner of Vox and tech website The Verge, acquired **New York Media**, the parent company of New York magazine, in an all-stock transaction late September. The value of the acquisition has not been disclosed. Earlier this year, New York magazine laid off 16 full-time employees and 16 part-time employees, about 5 percent of their staff. Pamela Wasserstein, the chief executive of New York Media, and Jim Bankoff,

the chief executive of Vox Media, both say that the deal was not done out of financial necessity. "We see a lot of mergers that are done for the wrong reason: because one or two companies might be desperate, or for financial engineering," Bankoff said to The New York Times.

OPC Governor **Martin Smith** served on the panel of Colby College's 56th annual Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award, which honored 66 journalists and media workers who lost their lives in 2018. As part of the award ceremony, Smith screened his PBS Frontline documentary The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, about the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

OPC member and former Treasurer **Abigail Pesta** wrote an op-ed for TIME on Oct. 10 about the USA Gymnastics abuse scandal and the #MeToo era. Pesta, who recently released a book about the scandal called The Girls, talked to 25 of Larry Nassar's abuse victims about the trauma they faced and the lack of help they received. "If anyone had listened," Pesta wrote, "hundreds of women could have been spared."

OPC First Vice President **Deborah Amos**, who covers the Middle East for NPR News, wrote a piece late September about Syrian war crime cases in Europe. One of the people she profiled was Omar Alshogre, who was tortured as a political prisoner in Syria. Alshogre was arrested in December 2012 at age 17 for protesting against the regime of President Bashar Assad and sent to Branch, 215, a military intelligence prison in Damascus notorious for "gruesome torture techniques." When he was released in June 2015, he weighed 75 pounds. His mother didn't recognize him. Now, he's a Syrian refugee in Sweden who's outspoken about the torture he endured. In the past few years, Europe has become the epicenter of prosecut-

ing Syrian war crimes, especially in Germany, who has 800,000 Syrian refugees.

OPC Governor and New York Times international correspondent-at-large **Rod Nordland** wrote a new piece for the Times on Oct. 24 related to his recent diagnosis of a brain tumor. He talks about Turkish novelist and journalist Ahmet Altan, who despite serving a life sentence in prison wrote a book titled "I will Never See the World Again" that was smuggled out of the prison and published. Nordland interviewed Altan before his diagnosis by secreting questions and answers past jailers. He wrote that while recently editing the interview he "recognized an affinity that I hadn't felt initially. We are both terminal cases – his life sentence, my brain tumor – and writing brings both of us solace, for different reasons." Nordland also filed a story with Fatima Faizi about Zarifa Ghafari, one of Afghanistan's first female mayors, with photos by OPC member **Jim Huylebroek**. Ghafari was elected

as mayor of Maidan Shar in July 2018 at age 26, but her first day was filled with so much chaos that she had to leave and return nine months later. "After she arrived for work that July day, her office was mobbed by angry men brandishing sticks and rocks," writes Nordland. "She had to be escorted out by Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate for Security, which sent a squad of paramilitary officers to her rescue." She still faces death threats, protests, and street harassment. The latter was Nordland's first story since his Aug. 31 essay about discovering he had a malignant brain tumor while reporting on the monsoons in India.

OPC member **Azad Essa** and photojournalist **Sorin Furcoi** have turned their 2017 Al Jazeera project, "Killed For Their Bones: On The Trail Of The Trade In Human Body Parts," into a book, titled *Out Of The Shadows*. Partnering with Amnesty International, the book will be used as an advocacy tool in hopes of raising awareness about the attacks on

people with albinism in Southern and Eastern Africa. The book launch took place on Oct. 18 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Cara Tallo, winner of the 2003 Lowell Thomas Award, is the new executive producer for All Things Considered, NPR's flagship news program. She has been with NPR for 20 years, working her way up from a Washington desk intern in 1999. Her Lowell Thomas award was for her work on NPR's "History of the Middle East" series.

OPC member **Robyn Dixon**, winner of the 2016 Madeline Dane Ross Award for her reporting on South Sudan, has been named the Moscow bureau chief for The Washington Post. She had been at the Los Angeles Times since 1999, where she served as the bureau chief in Beijing and Johannesburg. She begins her work in Moscow in November. ❖

Fordham to Host Two Journalism Events

EVENT PREVIEW: NOV. 2

THE NEW York State Associated Press Association, Fordham University's Communication and Media Studies Department, and WFUV Public Radio are hosting a full-day conference for journalism students, working reporters, and anyone interested in journalism's vital role in empowering our democracy.

The event will feature a wide array of presenters from some of the nation's most respected media outlets including, National Public Radio, The New York Times, The Associated Press, and ABC News. Sessions cover a wide range of topics from The Perils of Bothsideism and Covering the 2020 Elections, to How to Spot Fakes and Deep Fakes to Freedom of Information Tips and Tricks. The conference will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Fordham Lincoln Center campus, 12th floor lounge. Enter at 60th Street at Columbus Avenue. There is a small fee that covers lunch. RSVP via bit.ly/FordhamJ.

OPC member Beth Knobel is part of the team that is organizing the journalism conference at Fordham, as well as the Sperber Book Prize event. Knobel worked as a journalist for two decades before joining the Fordham faculty in 2007. She worked in Moscow for 14 years, and was the Moscow Bureau Chief for CBS News from 1999 to 2006. ❖

EVENT PREVIEW: NOV. 16

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY will award the annual Sperber Book Prize on Nov. 16. The award is given for the best biography, autobiography or memoir in journalism, and will this year will honor renowned investigative reporter Seymour Hersh.

Hersh, long-time reporter for the New Yorker and New York Times, has won nearly every prize in Journalism, including the OPC's 2004 Joe and Laurie Dine Award, one Pulitzer, two National Magazine Awards, and five George Polk Awards. From his exposure of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam early in his career to his documenting human rights abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq later on, Hersh has set the standard for reporting information in the public interest. He is receiving the Sperber Award – named in honor of the great Murrow biographer A. M. Sperber – for his memoir Reporter.

There will be a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by an award ceremony and comments by Hersh. The event will be held at Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus, 60th Street and Columbus Avenue, Lowenstein Hall, on the 12th floor lounge. ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

by Emily Brown

The International Women's Media Foundation honored winners of the group's Courage in Journalism Awards on Oct. 22 at the Newseum in Washington, DC. Winners include **Lucía Pineda** of Nicaragua, who was arrested in December 2018 for "inciting hate and violence" after her news outlet reported on abuses by government forces. She was released in June 2019, but suffers from medical issues resulting from the detainment; **Anna Nimiriano** of South Sudan, the only female news editor in South Sudan, who has endured attacks, imprisonment and routine censorship by the government; **Nastya Stanko** and **Anna Babinets** of Ukraine, who report on government corruption despite threats since the Maidan Revolution began; and British journalist **Liz Sly**, whose 37-year career includes recent coverage of war in Syria, a country where nearly 130 journalists have been killed to date. The Courage in Journalism Awards honor women journalists who overcome obstacles to report on taboo topics, work in environments hostile to women and share difficult truths.

The Newseum, a museum dedicated to journalism and freedom of the press, announced that it will be closing on Dec. 31, citing financial difficulties. The facility opened in its current location in 2008, and featured a permanent 9/11 gallery, a Berlin Wall gallery, and a memorial to journalists who have died on the job, as well as a multitude of temporary exhibits. Their 400,000 square-foot building has been sold to Johns Hopkins University, who will use it for their graduate programs. When the museum closes, its archives will be moved to a "state-of-the-art support center."

Algerian police have arrested five journalists covering anti-government protests since late September. The fifth, editor-in-chief of Le Provincial **Bendjama Mustapha**, was arrested on Oct. 23 at the office of the privately-owned French language daily in Annaba. Witnesses said police confiscated Mustapha's computer and

did not disclose a reason for the arrest. One officer stayed with the staff and warned them against using their phones while others took Mustapha to his office to ask him questions. At least four other journalists have been arrested while covering nation-wide protests demanding reform, according to the CPJ.

Many of Australia's biggest news outlets blacked out their front pages on Oct. 21 "to highlight the constraints on media organizations under strict national security legislation," according to Australia's ABC Network. Over the past 20 years, Australia has passed a series of laws limiting the media's ability to hold the government accountable. In June, the Australian Federal Police raided the home of journalist Annika Smethurst, who was investigating a leaked plan to allow the government to spy on Australians.

Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, wrote an op-ed for The Washington Post on Oct. 21 about Donald Trump's attacks on press freedom. He writes that Donald Trump's "rhetoric and actions" are making it more difficult for the press to do their jobs effectively. "All of these behaviors and actions empower autocratic leaders from the around the world who are arresting and jailing journalists in record numbers," said Simon.

CPJ's annual **International Press Freedom Awards** and benefit dinner will honor courageous journalists from around the world in new York on Nov. 21. This year's honorees include **Patrícia Campos Mello**, an award-winning reporter and columnist at the daily Folha de S. Paulo and an international correspondent; **Neha Dixit**, a freelance independent journalist in India, who has shed light on important human rights issues through her investigative journalism; **Lucía Pineda Ubau**, the news director of the Nicaraguan broadcaster 100% Noticias, as well as **Miguel Mora**, the outlet's founder and editor; and **Maxence Melo Mubyazi**, a champion of online

freedom of expression in Tanzania. This year's Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award will go to **Zaffar Abbas**, the editor of Dawn, Pakistan's leading daily. Abbas has led Dawn since 2010 during an era of frequent government pressure. This year's dinner will be chaired by **Laurene Powell Jobs** and **Peter Lattman** of the Emerson Collective.

A Palestinian court in the West Bank blocked access to a total of **51 online news sources** that the Palestinian Authority said it regards as threats. The court released the list of blocked sites on Oct. 21, with prosecutors saying the sites were guilty of "attacking and denigrating the Palestinian Authority's symbols" and "publishing content that threatens national security and civilian safety." The list includes major media such as the Gaza-based Shehab News Agency, which has 7.5 million Facebook followers, and the Quds Network, with 6.6 million followers. The move marks the second time the Palestinian Authority has blocked a group of websites at the same time. In 2017, officials blocked 11 sites on charges that they support Hamas or dissident politicians.

On Oct. 16, Pakistan denied entry to **Steven Butler**, the Asia coordinator of the Committee to Protect Journalists. Butler flew into the Lahore airport for a human rights conference, where he was told he was on an Interior Ministry "stop list" and forced to leave the country. Joel Simon, CPJ's executive director, is calling for "a full explanation of their decision to bar Butler from entering and correct this error," saying that their decision is "a slap in the face to those concerned about press freedom in the country."

Facebook founder and CEO **Mark Zuckerberg** gave a speech at Georgetown University on Oct. 17 in which he defended the company against accusations of allowing "fake news." Facebook has found itself under scrutiny for allowing the spread of misinformation and hate speech, especially within the political sphere.

"The long journey towards greater progress requires confronting ideas that challenge us," Zuckerberg said. "I'm here today because I believe we must continue to stand for free expression."

Fifteen civilians, including two journalists, have died after a Turkish air strike hit a civilian convoy in northern Syria on Oct. 13. The convoy was being escorted by the Syrian Democratic Forces, a security force loyal to the Kurdistan Workers' Party. The two journalists, Mohammed Hussein Rasho and Saad Ahmed, were both Syrian Kurds. Rasho was a reporter and cameraman for Ciro TV and Ahmed was a reporter for Hawar News. "Journalists have come under attack by the Assad regime and its allies, the Islamic State group, and now Turkish forces. We call on Turkish authorities to immediately cease their reckless attacks on journalists and other civilians," said Ignacio Miguel Delgado, the Middle East and North Africa Representative for the CPJ.

Oct. 17 marked the two-year anniversary of the murder of Maltese journalist **Daphne Caruana Galizia**. Galizia, who reported on corruption in the Maltese government, was assassinated in a car bomb attack in the small hamlet of Bidnija, where she lived. In July, three men were charged with murder in connection to the incident, but it may be more than a year before they faced trial. The identity of who ordered the killing remains unknown. Her supporters have created a makeshift memorial to Galizia in Malta, which they say has been repeatedly torn down. "The memorial has become a microcosm for the whole fight for justice," said Rebecca Vincent, the UK bureau director for Reporters Without Borders. "It's become, in a way, the frontier for this battle."

On Oct. 10 **Diane Foley**, the mother of journalist James Foley, as well as **Art Sotloff** and **Shirley Sotloff**, parents of journalist Steven Joel Sotloff, penned an op-ed in The Washington Post calling for the Trump administration to reconsider



Left to right: Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Hatice Cengiz, fiancée of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and Washington Post publisher Fred Ryan attend a memorial in Istanbul on Oct. 2 to honor the one-year anniversary of Khashoggi's death.

the decision to pull out of Syria and allow ISIS to regroup. "What message are we sending the world?" the authors wrote. "Our U.S. troop withdrawal suggests that it is okay to abandon our allies, to no longer care about the suffering of innocents, and to kidnap and kill Americans abroad without any accountability."

On Oct. 8, the retrial in an Istanbul court began for journalists, writers and media workers **Ahmet Altan**, **Mehmet Altan**, **Nazlı Ilıcak**, **Yakup Şimşek**, **Fevzi Yazıcı** and **Şükrü Tuğrul Özşengül** on terrorism charges. The country's Supreme Court of Appeals ordered the retrial in July. At the time, the court ordered the continued detention of all defendants, except for Mehmet Altan, who had previously been released after the Constitutional Court decided his rights had been violated. More than 20 press freedom organizations signed a letter calling for all defendants to be released, for the trial to be halted and all charges dropped due to a lack of credible evidence.

The Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership ran a full-page ad highlighting the 10 most urgent cases of journalists under attack on Oct. 1, as identified by the One Free Press Coalition. The list included Afgan Mukhtarli, a diabetic journalist on a hunger strike in an Azerbaijan prison, Abduljalil al-Singace, a Bahraini blogger serving a life sentence who needs urgent medical attention, and Jamal Khashoggi, whose high-profile assassination remains unresolved.

Jeff Bezos and Washington Post publisher **Fred Ryan** delivered remarks at the one-year memorial service for Jamal Khashoggi, the Post columnist who was assassinated on Oct. 2, 2018 at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The service was hosted by Amnesty International, Reporters Without Borders, No Peace Without Justice, Turkish Arab Media Association, and AlSharq Forum. "For journalists, carrying forward Jamal's legacy means not being intimidated into silence," said Ryan. Bezos kept his remarks short but expressed his sympathy to Khashoggi's widow, Hatice Cengiz. "No one should ever have to endure what you have," he said.

MURDERS

Amanj Babany, a presenter for the Kurdish TV channel NRT, his wife, **Lana Muhammad** (herself a Kurdish journalist), and their young son were all killed when gunmen opened fire on the car and then fled on Oct. 16, according to witnesses. A few hours after they died, Sulaymaniyah police reported their deaths as a suicide resulting from an argument between Babany and his wife. Babany hosted "Without Borders," a program that covered sensitive subjects such as marriages with minors and violence against women.

A journalist was found shot to death in Haiti on Oct. 10 amid the country's anti-government protests. The body of **Néhémie Joseph**, a reporter for Radio Panic FM and Radio Méga, was discovered in his car in Mirebalais, about 60 miles from Port-au-Prince. Prior to his murder, Joseph had been reporting on the protests, speaking out against the government, and discussed receiving death threats with his friends and family. ❖

BOOKS

by Emily Brown

MEMOIR

JOURNALISM HAS transformed considerably since Peter Copeland started his career in 1980 after just four days of training, but the lessons and values remain the same. In his new memoir, *Finding the News: Adventures of a Young Reporter*, Copeland takes readers through the growth of his career, starting from working as a night police reporter to becoming the bureau chief of the E.W. Scripps Company.

When he embarked on his first assignment, a building fire for the City News Bureau of Chicago, Copeland was twenty-two years old and, by his own admission, clueless. But he quickly learned two important tenets: get the facts, and get them right. The narrative follows him from Chicago to Texas, where he covered the US-Mexico border for the El Paso Herald-Post.

He honed his craft across the world, working as a correspondent in Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. In each new place he reported from, he had to learn the ins and outs of the country while still reporting the facts. Sometimes, though, the facts didn't tell the whole story. "There were many more than two ways to look at any issue," Copeland wrote. "And being accurate or even 'balanced' wasn't the same as being honest and true." His struggles with journalistic ethical dilemmas are important and helpful for young journalists to read about.

Copeland spends some time comparing journalism of the past to the new era of journalism brought about by the Internet, but he never condescends to young reporters. "The talent and courage necessary to uncover investigative stories are not different because of the Internet," he wrote. People have to adapt to the new landscape, but good journalism still requires the grit and scrappiness it has always has.

Peter Copeland is a journalist and coauthor of four books, including *Living With Our Genes* and *The Science of Desire*. ❖



FINDING THE NEWS
ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG REPORTER
PETER COPELAND

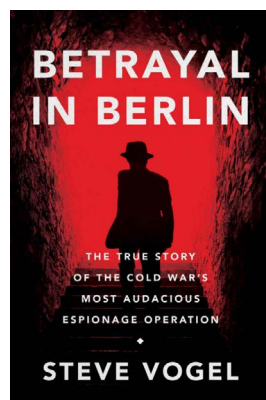
BERLIN

AMID THE chaos and division of the Cold War, United States and British intelligence operatives concocted an ambitious idea. Codenamed "Operation Gold," the CIA and the British Secret Intelligence Force planned to build a secret tunnel into East Berlin to intercept Soviet military telecommunications. In *Betrayal In Berlin: The True Story of the Cold War's Most Audacious Espionage Operation*, journalist Steve Vogel uncovers the details of this daring mission.

The tunnel, which spanned almost 1,500 feet and cost millions of dollars, proved to be a difficult engineering challenge. When recounting the intricacies of the plan, Vogel spares no details. The book contains dozens of photos, maps, and interviews with people involved, including a rare interview with George Blake, an infamous Soviet double-agent and the main character of this story. Because of Blake, the KGB knew about the tunnel almost immediately, but to protect him, they allowed the Allies to continue with construction unbothered. This resulted in a massive trove of discoveries for U.S. and British intelligence, despite total enemy knowledge of the tunnel.

Betrayal in Berlin, with all its drama and excitement, often reads like a spy novel. Among other antics, Blake broke out of British prison and fled to the Soviet Union. In this case, truth is much stranger than fiction.

Steve Vogel is a journalist who worked at The Washington Post for more than two decades. He is the author of *Through the Perilous Fight* and *The Pentagon: A History*.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thirty
Years After
the Fall of the
Berlin Wall
Club Quarters
6:00 p.m.
to 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 30

COURTESY OF BENEDETTA ARGENTIERI



Benedetta Argentieri

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Benedetta Argentieri*

Benedetta Argentieri is an independent journalist and director based in New York. She has covered Iraq and Syria for Italian and American publications, and directs full-length documentaries. She began her career as a local reporter in Italy, working at Mediaset and then as staff writer at Corriere della Sera. She started as a metro reporter focusing on education and right wing extremism, foreign politics, anti-austerity protests in Europe, and reported from Iran and Cuba. In 2013 she co-directed Capulcu Voices From Gezi, a documentary on the Istanbul revolt. Later that year she began studying journalism and politics at Columbia University as a Sanpaolo fellow.

Hometown: Milan, Italy.

Education: University of Manchester (BA), Columbia University (MA, journalism).

Languages: English, Italian, Spanish.

First job in journalism: I started as a freelance writer for a travel magazine that didn't have the budget to send me around.

Countries reported from: All over Europe, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Cuba.

When and why did you join the OPC: I joined OPC in 2015. I thought it was important to be part of a network of established journalists and freelancers.

What first drew you to covering Iraq and Syria? While studying at Columbia University I focused on National Security in the Middle East. A few months after I graduated the so-called Islamic State attacked Sinjar, Iraq. More than 7,000 women were kidnapped and used as sex slaves. I was one of the first journalists to cover the story because I knew Yazidi people in the U.S. A month later, I started reporting from Syria.

Major challenge as a journalist: As a freelance, it is a great challenge getting paid the right amount. Publications try to pay you less and less for an article, and sometimes we risk our lives to cover a story.

Best journalism advice received: "Just keep looking for the story. Don't give up, you will find it."

Worst experience as a journalist: When I covered a group of protesters in Northern Italy who clashed with the police in the woods. It was terrifying since the police aimed at journalists with cameras. On the same note, in 2013 I covered the protests at Gezi Park, Istanbul. I was shooting a documentary. I thought I was at a safe distance from the police, but when they attacked protesters, within seconds they got very close. I ran into a hotel and they ran after us. In the end, we made it out safely, though it was among the most terrifying experience of my life.

When traveling, you like to ... chat with people, visit markets, and watch the sunrise.

Photo taken during the Raqqa operation in Syria, while Argentieri was filming the documentary "I am the Revolution."

Hardest story: Reporting on mass graves in Sinjar, Iraq.

Journalism heroes: Rukmini Callimachi, David Foster Wallace, Marie Colvin, Tiziano Terzani.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Study the place, understand the culture, and most importantly be curious about everything. Do not hang out just with colleagues, meet locals.

Favorite quote: "Whatever you want to do, if you want to be great at it, you have to love it and be able to make sacrifices for it." – Maya Angelou

Place you're most eager to visit: Mongolia.

Most over-the-top assignment: I had to follow a group of protesters against the high-speed train project in the mountains of Northern Italy. They clashed with police in the woods.

A most common mistake you've seen: Believing you are the story or, even worse, that you are the only one who understands the reality and you never doubt yourself.

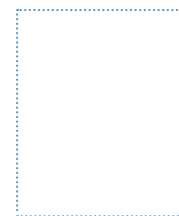
Country you most want to return to: Iran.

Twitter handle: @benargentieri ❖

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



40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036
USA
Phone 212.626.9220
Fax 212.626.9210
opcofamerica.org



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT

Pancho Bernasconi

Vice President, Global News
Getty Images

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Deborah Amos

Correspondent
NPR

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Christopher Dickey

Foreign Editor
The Daily Beast, Paris

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Scott Kraft

Managing Editor
Los Angeles Times

TREASURER

Liam Stack

Reporter
The New York Times

SECRETARY

Paula Dwyer

Editor
Quick Takes
Bloomberg News

ACTIVE BOARD

David Ake

Director of Photography
The Associated Press

John Avlon

Senior Political Analyst
New Day, CNN

Miriam Elder

Political Reporter
BuzzFeed News

Farnaz Fassihi

Freelance Journalist
Contributing Writer
The New York Times

Linda Fasulo

Independent Reporter
United Nations
NPR

Josh Fine

Senior Segment Producer
HBO's Real Sports
with Bryant Gumbel

Alix Freedman

Global Editor
for Ethics and Standards
Reuters

Charles Graeber

Freelance Long-form
Feature Writer

Hendrik Hinz

Associate Producer
VICE News

Douglas Jehl

Foreign Editor
The Washington Post

Coleen Jose

Independent Documentary
Photographer & Digital Strategist

Azmat Khan

Investigative Reporter
& Contributing Writer
The New York Times Magazine

Derek Kravitz

Reporter
ProPublica

Jim Laurie

Director
Focus Asia Productions HK Ltd.

Rod Nordland

International Correspondent
at Large
Kabul Bureau Chief
The New York Times

Adriane Quinlan

Show Writer
HBO's VICE News Tonight

Gary Silverman

U.S. National Editor
Financial Times

Ishaan Tharoor

Foreign Affairs Writer
The Washington Post

Michael Williams

Global Enterprise Editor
Reuters

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Byrd

Program Officer
NYS Health Foundation

Bill Collins

Communications Consultant

Pete Engardio

Senior Writer
Boston Consulting Group

Sarah Lubman

Partner
SoftBank Group International

Kem Knapp Sawyer

Contributing Editor
The Pulitzer Center
for Crisis Reporting

PAST PRESIDENTS

EX-OFFICIO

Deidre Depke

Marcus Mabry

Michael Serrill

David A. Andelman

Allan Dodds Frank

Richard B. Stolley

Alexis Gelber

Larry Martz

John Corporon

William J. Holstein

Larry Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia Kranz

OFFICE MANAGER

Emily Brown

EDITOR

Chad Bouchard

OPC BULLETIN

ISSN-0738-7202

Copyright © 2019

Overseas Press Club of America