



Overseas Press Club of America

BULLETIN

OPC Scholar Luncheon to Feature Keynote from Reuters' Clare Baldwin

BY JANE REILLY

CLARE BALDWIN, OPC Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning special correspondent for Reuters, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon on Friday, Feb. 28 at the Yale Club. The event will begin with a reception at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon in the Grand Ballroom which will end promptly at 2:00 p.m. The reception, which is held in the Yale Club's Rooftop Terrace, will also feature an exhibit of archival photographs by famed Time Inc. photographer Ben Martin.

Bill Holstein, president of the OPC Foundation, said he was especially pleased to have Baldwin headline the Foundation's signature event. "Clare Baldwin reflects the best values that we seek to instill in our winners. In 2018, Clare was part of the three-person Reuters team that won a Pulitzer for exposing a campaign of deadly violence by Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte. She also won the prestigious Hal Boyle award from the OPC for that body of work. Then the very next year, she was part of the Reuters staff awarded the Pulitzer for exposing the military



Clare Baldwin

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Kristof And WuDunn To Discuss 'Tightrope' and America's Abandoned Working Class

EVENT PREVIEW: FEB. 20

IN THEIR latest book, best-selling authors Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn turned their focus on America's economic crisis and foundering working class. *Tightrope: Americans Reach for Hope* connects the dots between policy shortcomings, the hemorrhaging of blue-collar jobs, and devastation in small rural towns.

Kristof and WuDunn will discuss *Tightrope* during a book night at Club Quarters on Feb. 20 at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held in the dining room.

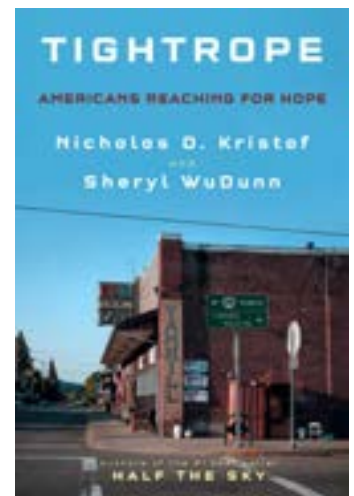
The book's inspiration stemmed from Kristof's hometown of Yamhill, Oregon, where many of his childhood classmates have died from drugs, alcohol, suicide, reckless accidents and preventable diseases such as obesity and diabetes.

"We wanted to understand more deeply what had happened to Nick's friends on the school bus," the duo wrote, as they investigated "how our country could have let tens of millions of people suffer an excruciating loss of jobs, dignity, lives, hopes and children."

Many of the book's personal stories come from Yamhill, but their

reporting took them across all fifty states, from the Dakotas and Oklahoma to New York and Virginia.

Kristof has been an OPC member since 1998. He is an op-ed columnist for The New York Times and previously served as bureau chief in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Tokyo. WuDunn worked at the Times as a business editor and foreign correspondent in Tokyo and Beijing, and now works in finance and consulting. They have coauthored four previous books together: *A Path Appears*, *Half the Sky*, *Thunder from the East*, and *China Wakes*. ❖



'Scholar Luncheon'
Continued From Page 1

units responsible for the expulsion of the Rohingyas from Myanmar. Based in Hong Kong, she goes to wherever the story is – and nails it.”

Baldwin has also written about cyber thieves, pro-democracy protests, sanction-busting and government bailouts. A native of Alaska and a Stanford University graduate, she previously wrote for The Frontiersman newspaper in Alaska, Wired magazine, The San Francisco Examiner, The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and The Peninsula Clarion.

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 Deb Amos and Rick Davis. Holstein noted, “Deb Amos, an award-winning correspondent for NPR News, met Rick Davis in Beirut in 1982 and they became a husband-wife team covering the Middle East for decades. Rick, a former NBC News correspondent, passed away in 2019 and Deb has chosen to endow this award in both their names in support of high-quality Middle East coverage.” Amos is First Vice President of the Overseas Press Club and the Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence at Princeton University. She previously reported for ABC's Nightline and PBS's Frontline.

Holstein remains concerned with how the current economic model supporting international news will affect this generation of young journalists. “Never has there been a time in our profession, our craft, when we need to work harder to defend the values we believe in, particularly as it relates to what is happening in the world,” he said.

“Are we going to continue to support on-the-ground telling of truth or will we be swamped by non-truths and non-facts?” asked Holstein. “These young people are part of the answer to that question. They have excellent language skills, and some have multiple passports. They have astute eyes for detail and the ability to capture the complexity of what they see in prose. They have the right stuff. They are ready to go.”

The 2020 winning recipients are from Columbia University, Craig Newmark School of Journalism at CUNY, DePauw University, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), New York University, Stanford University, University of California-Berkeley, UCLA 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,” Holstein said.

Events for the 2020 winners will last three days starting on Thursday afternoon, when the Foundation will host a media training panel at Reuters for the award winners. That evening, Reuters will host the traditional reception for current and past winners of OPC Foundation awards at the news organization'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 award.

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 Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. Frank Smyth, president and founder of Global Journalist Security, a hostile environment training firm based in Washington DC, will lead the program. Those who participated in the past called the experience invaluable. “We have a responsibility to make sure our winners engage in the world's stories in ways that keep them safe,” Holstein said. “We will continue to do what we can, as 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 10 of this year's winners will receive fellowships to work in the foreign bureaus of the Foundation's media partners, including The Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg, The Wall Street Journal, and the GroundTruth Project. The fellowships ensure that the awardees gain valuable experience and insight working with veteran editors and reporters. In 2019, the Foundation funded fellowships 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 2020 recipients: Allen Alter; Bob Dowling; Joe Flint of The Wall Street Journal; Allan Dodds Frank; Bill Glasgall of Volker Alliance; Holstein; Adam Horvath of The Wall Street Journal; Caitlin Hu of CNN; Larry Martz; Kate McLeod; Maria Mercader of CBS News; Ellen Nimmons of AP; Jim Pensiero; Michael Serrill; Steve Swanson of the Bronx Botanical Garden; Ed Tobin of Reuters; Karen Toulon of Bloomberg, and Tiffany Wu of Reuters.

Luncheon tickets are \$85 for OPC members and \$150 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its three levels of giving: Benefactors, \$9,000; Patrons, \$6,000; and Friends, \$3,000. Tables seat 10. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For further information, contact Jane Reilly at 201-819-2639 or email foundation@opcofamerica.org or katri@opcofamerica.org. ❖

OPC Kicks Off 2020 with Winter Party



Left to right: Rachel Strader, Patricia Kranz, Paula Dwyer and Vera Naughton.



Left to right: Pete Engardio, Jocelyn Ford, William Holstein, Minky Worden and Gary Silverman.



Left to right: Stéphanie Fillion, Karen Toulon, Maria Mercader, Vera Naughton, Allan Dodds Frank, Lilian King and Emma Daly.



Left to right: Josh Fine, Albert Goldson, Marcy McGinnis, Sonya Fry, Evelyn Leopold, Michael Serrill and Azmat Khan.

Tiff Roberts to Discuss 'The Myth Of Chinese Capitalism'

EVENT PREVIEW: MARCH 17

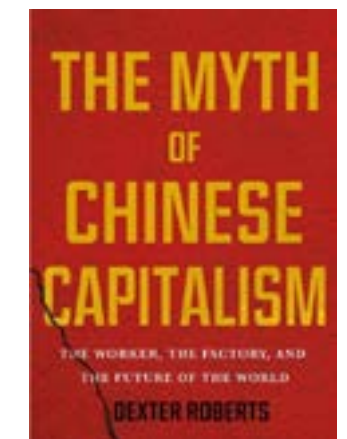
IN *The Myth of Chinese Capitalism*, OPC member Dexter “Tiff” Roberts explores the reality behind today's China and pulls the curtain back on how the Chinese manufacturing machine is actually powered. On March 17, Roberts will discuss his work during a Book Night at Club Quarters.

Roberts lived in Beijing for two decades working as a reporter on economics, business and politics for Bloomberg Businessweek. He focuses on two places: the village of Binghuacun in the province of Guizhou, one of China's poorest regions that sends the highest propor-

tion of its youth away to become migrants; and Dongguan, China's most infamous factory town located in Guangdong, home to both the largest number of migrant workers and the country's biggest manufacturing base.

Roberts brings to life the problems that China and its people face today as they attempt to overcome a divisive system that poses a serious challenge to the country's future development. In so doing, Roberts paints a boot-on-the-ground cautionary picture of China for a world now held in its financial thrall.

The event will get underway at 6:00 p.m. Watch for email event reminders for details on how to RSVP. ❖



OPC Remembers Jim Lehrer's Career and his President's Award in 2009

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

JIM LEHRER, longtime PBS NewsHour anchor and recipient of the OPC's President's Award in 2009, died on Jan. 23 at age 85.

Lehrer hosted NewsHour for 36 years, starting in 1983, and moderated a dozen presidential debates. His career started at Dallas newspapers in the 1960s, where he covered the assassination of John F. Kennedy for the Dallas Times-Herald. He moved to PBS in 1972, where he met his longtime NewsHour cohort Robert MacNeil, and remained until his retirement in 2011.

Past President Allan Dodds Frank honored Lehrer with the President's Award during the OPC's 2009 Annual Awards Dinner.

Dodds Frank said Lehrer "has been my friend and colleague since 1973, my business partner in MacNeil-Lehrer Productions, and the first person I go to when I have a serious dilemma to resolve — personal, moral or professional."

Below is an excerpt from the

certificate he received from the OPC for his President's Award.

"As he steadfastly enlightened us with news from around the world, his distinguishing brilliance has been his seemingly simple quest for the truth," the certificate read. "He is a multi-talented inspiration who gives us concise questions, level delivery, intelligent explanations and unmatched perspective night after night."

In his acceptance remarks, Lehrer shared credit with the show's creator, Robert MacNeil, as well as the show's news staff. Lehrer joked that the program was launched with "the single worst title in the history of television. It was called the Robert MacNeil report. And I was a simple humble Washington correspondent. But in a few months, my mother interceded, and it became the MacNeil/Lehrer report."

He also joked about his first time broadcasting publicly over a microphone, which was as a ticket agent at the Continental Trailways bus depot in South



PHOTO: LARRY D. MOORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

Texas. He said one of his duties "was to do what I'm going to do now, which is speak into a microphone thusly: 'May I have your attention please,'" he said, affecting the emphatic, robotic tone of an announcer. "This is your last call for Continental Trailways, 8:00 p.m. silver-side, air-conditioned through-liner to Houston now leaving from lane one," he said, proceeding to rattle off a dozen stops along the line. "All aboard. Don't forget your baggage please. Thank you very much."

A video clip of Lehrer's remarks as well as Dodds Frank's introduction is available on the OPC YouTube channel, and a full transcript of Lehrer's speech is posted on the OPC website. ❖

Farnaz Fassihi Covers Precarious Events in Iran

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

AS THE New York Times correspondent covering Iran, OPC Governor Farnaz Fassihi has been in extra high gear since before the new year, keeping up with assassinations, attacks, mass protests, the tragedy of a downed jetliner, and volatile Iran-US brinkmanship.

"Iran is a big and significant story both in terms of what is happening inside the country and its standoff with the United States. As an Iranian-American journalist and someone who has covered the story for over 25 years, I feel a responsibility in telling the story accurately and with context and nuance," Fassihi said in an email.

News from Iran had already heated up in November, when security forces shot and killed up to 600 people who had taken to the streets after a fuel price increase sparked unrest and inflamed calls for ousting the Islamic Republic's leadership. In December, she broke the news of a mass killing in the southern city of Mahshahr where Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps had encircled a group of ethnic Arab men in the marshes and opened fire.

In late December, she wrote that police beefed up security as some people called for renewed protests at the graves of those killed in November. US forces conducted airstrikes on facilities in Syria and Iraq that the Pentagon said were linked to pro-Iran militias, and demonstrators stormed the U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

Fassihi's reporting went into overdrive following the U.S. drone strike near the Baghdad airport on Jan. 3 that killed several high-level officials, including leaders of Iraqi militias backed by Iran and Gen. Qassim Suleimani, the commander in charge of most Iranian intelligence and military operations abroad over the past 20 years.

"Iranian sources in Iran are warning that killing Gen. Qassem Suleimani spells war," one of her earliest tweets read after the news broke. "Official reaction will begin with a strike," she quoted one of the sources as saying.

Fassihi tweeted more than 30 times in the first day while the story was developing, sharing confirmation of events from her sources as well as videos, photos and context, all while writing the next-day Times piece that summarized the attack and immediate fallout.

Her reporting was featured on the Times podcast The Daily on Dec. 3 and Jan. 7, when she shed light on the worst violence in Iran for 40 years during the uprising and the impassioned reaction of activists and other supporters, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's emotional prayer for the dead over Suleimani's coffin. Among those Fassihi talked with at the funeral was a 22-year old university student. She asked why he attended.

"And he said, knowing General Suleimani was out there made me feel safer. He was like a security umbrella above our

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PEOPLE

by Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

OPC SCHOLARS

2005 Emmanuel R. Freedman Scholar **Marina Walker Guevara** was named the executive editor of the Pulitzer Center. Previously, she was the director of strategic initiatives and network at the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, where she managed the award-winning Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers, and has written for The Washington Post, The Miami Herald, and Mother Jones, among others. "I am very excited to join this innovative and ambitious team that supports brave journalists and underreported stories, and brilliantly bridges newsrooms and classrooms," Walker Guevara said in a Pulitzer Center update. "There has never been a greater need around the world for the Pulitzer Center's mission."

A.J. Naddaff, who won the inaugural Richard Pyle Scholarship in 2019, penned a story for The Associated Press on Jan. 22 about the impact of Lebanon's financial crisis and strict banking controls. The story grabbed attention from readers, rising to the AP's top ten reads on the organization's app. Amid protests and violent clashes, he wrote that the crisis had united "both rich and poor in anger against corrupt politicians who have brought the country to the brink of economic collapse, and a banking system they accuse of holding their deposits hostage." Naddaff went to Beirut on an OPC Foundation fellowship with the AP.

2019 I.F. Stone Award winner **Letícia Duarte** profiled Olavo de Carvalho, a leader in Brazil's far-right movement, for The Atlantic. De Carvalho is a former astrologist, former communist, and former journalist whose anger toward the far-left has inspired President Jair Bolsonaro. "A self-educated philosopher who never completed high school, Olavo has formed a new generation of conservative leaders in Brazil through an online philosophy course he has taught for 10 years," Duarte wrote. "He estimates that about 5,000 students are currently enrolled in his program, and 20,000 people have



Naddaff



Greenberg

watched his classes, including members of Bolsonaro's cabinet."

2016 David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship winner **Alissa Greenberg** is now a contributing editor at Bay Nature, a magazine dedicated to the nature in the San Francisco Bay Area. She was previously a contributing writer at Pacific Standard, and has written for The New Yorker, The Washington Post, and The Los Angeles Times, among others.

2012 I.F. Stone Scholarship winner **Nizar Manek** is now a consultant for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, a private diplomacy organization based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He was previously at Bloomberg News, where he was regional correspondent in Addis Ababa from 2017 to 2019.

Jacob Kushner, who won the Nathan S. Binstock Memorial Scholarship in 2013, wrote an op-ed for The New York Times about the fate of a famous dancer and survivor of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Fabienne Jean. She became a symbol of the international aid effort for media as American doctors had saved her life and amputated her right leg below the knee, the owner of a prosthetics company stepping in to help. But as Kushner writes, her encounter with American generosity was fleeting, and donors came up short in their assistance. He tracked Jean down but found that she'd died the month before he arrived from an epileptic seizure likely related to her injuries in the quake. "The story of what

happened to Haiti is the story of what happened to Fabienne," Kushner wrote, "America made big promises — and didn't deliver." Kushner also wrote an article for Reuters on Jan. 14 about the plight of farmers in Haiti awaiting compensation for land repurposed for an industrial park by a South Korean textile

firm and international donors after the earthquake.

Rajiv Golla, 2017 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship winner, wrote a piece for Roads and Kingdoms about Sister Gracy, an Indian nun who spent the past 30 years providing aid in South Sudan. Golla traveled with Sister Gracy through Wau, South Sudan, where an attack displaced tens of thousands of people. "Sister Gracy put others before her own safety, health, and comfort. That was the easy part. What wasn't so easy was that the whole endeavor, her entire mission, hinged on faith," Golla wrote. "There was no way of telling whether she made any difference at all. Sister Gracy could never expect to see herself vindicated, especially in a place like South Sudan."

2015 Nathan S. Binstock Memorial Scholarship winner **Ben Taub** chronicled the story of Omar Ameen, an Iraqi refugee falsely accused of being a member of an ISIS hit squad, for the Jan. 27 issue of The New Yorker, where he works as a staff writer. In Sacramento, Ameen was placed in a maximum-security cell at the county jail, where he shared a wall with the Golden State Killer. "How had it come to this?" Taub wrote. "All Ameen had ever wanted was to leave Iraq. That was why he had become a truck driver; each time he crossed the Jordanian border, he felt as if he were breaking out of prison. To be alone in nature — that was his feeling of America."

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sewell Chan
Deputy Managing Editor
Los Angeles Times
El Segundo, CA
Active Non-Resident

Elizabeth Donovan
Sciences Po Journalism School and Columbia University Journalism School
Paris
Student

Mya Guarnieri Jaradat
Columbia University
New York
Student

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2014 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner **Portia Crowe** reported for Public Radio International on Ugandan farmers fighting back against French oil multinational Total SA, which plans to drill 400 wells across six oil fields and build a 900-mile pipeline to Tanzania. The projects could displace as many as 50,000 people. “The Tilenga suit alleges that Total’s subsidiary, Total Uganda, and the subcontractor it hired, Atacama Consulting, forced farmers to sign compensation agreements under pressure or intimidation and deprived them of access to their land before compensation was received,” Crowe reports. “They asked for about \$5,700 per acre, but when a team of government ministers and gun-toting soldiers turned up in town several weeks later, Nyakato said some of her relatives were intimidated. They agreed to accept about a quarter of the payment they originally asked for in August 2018.” Read more about Crowe’s career in our Q&A feature on page 11.

Max de Haldevang, 2015 Reuters Fellowship winner, was one of 120 reporters to comb through 700,000 pages of documents, dubbed the Luanda Leaks, to expose how Isabel dos Santos, the daughter of Angola’s former president, “siphoned hundreds of millions of dollars in public money out of one of the poorest countries on the planet.” De Haldevang has been reporting on the leaks for Quartz, where he works as a reporter, highlighting those who benefited from Dos Santos’s schemes, including Accenture and Dolce & Gabbana. “In the previous five years, the global consulting giant had done work valued as high as \$54 million for three ventures in which dos Santos had either a minority or a controlling stake, according to leaked files seen by Quartz,” de Haldevang writes. “But instead of expressing horror at discovering his company may have helped legitimize and enrich an alleged kleptocrat, Trigo Guedes, then an executive director in Accenture’s Portugal office, appeared to shrug it off.”

AWARDS

OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** of CNN and PBS hosted the 2020 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards on Jan. 21. Michael Barbaro of The New York Times’ podcast The Daily served as her cohost. She told the audience during opening remarks that journalists and storytellers have been maligned, silenced, imprisoned, tortured, and killed for centuries, and that “shooting the messenger remains the favorite pastime of the rich, the infamous, the powerful.” she said. “We have the ability and we have the duty to rise above all this calumny and abuse that comes our way. We have the duty to stay calm and just carry on.” This year’s winners covered a range of issues including immigration, political corruption, and abuse of power, with three winning stories focused on sexual assault. Half of the 16 winners were from public media outlets, including six for PBS. For international stories, CNN won for its coverage of the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, PBS Newshour won for reporter Jane Ferguson’s ground-level coverage of the human impact of war in Yemen, and PBS’s POV and American Documentary won for a documentary about the fight for justice for “comfort women” enslaved by Japanese troops in World War II.

UPDATES

Longtime OPC member **Andy Katell**, former correspondent for The Associated Press in Moscow and for the UN, is spending his retirement years conducting workshops on “Coping with Disinformation.” Working through the League of Women Voters, the News Literacy Project and others, Andy leads the sessions at public libraries and other venues in Westchester County, New York, with further outreach planned at schools and other regions. The schedule can be found at www.lwvv.org. In early January, Andy was interviewed about the program on a local public access TV station.

OPC Secretary and Bloomberg editor **Paula Dwyer** helped write the introduction to the 90th anniversary edition of Bloomberg Businessweek. “The first issue of this magazine appeared on Sept. 7, 1929. Its black, red, and gold art deco cover was free of news,” the introduction begins. “It featured a big triangle pointing down at an inscrutable photo — an overhead, nighttime view of an intersection in an unidentified big city. The editors obviously had no way to know that seven weeks later the stock market would crash, ushering in the Great Depression.”

OPC Governor and ProPublica reporter **Derek Kravitz** investigated the emails of a former chemical industry lobbyist turned senior Trump official, who reportedly shared information and crafted policy with her former colleagues. The report, co-written with Guardian reporter Emily Holden and published on January 14, shows how Rebeckah Adcock, former chief lobbyist for the herbicide industry trade group, used her new position in the Trump administration to further the interests of Dow. “The ethics agreement Adcock signed said she would not work on ‘the impact of crop protection products (including herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) on water’, and the emails reviewed do not show her doing so,” Kravitz and Holden write. “But the agreement did not specifically bar Adcock from working with trade groups like the Farm Bureau on Clean Water Act enforcement.”

OPC Governor and contributing writer at The New York Times Magazine **Azmat Khan** was a guest on the Dec. 20 episode of Democracy Now to discuss the foreign policy platforms of Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. Khan and Democracy Now host Amy Goodman talked about the legacy of Biden’s support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the “Biden Plan” of scaling back the ground troops in the Middle East. “What we’re seeing is a reality in which there is a belief, a mistaken belief, that ending the war comes down to removing troops on the

ground, when the reality is that most of these wars are being carried out via airstrikes,” said Khan. “It’s not just about ground troops.”

An exhibit honoring the life of founding OPC member **Sigrid Schultz** opened Jan. 20 at the Westport Museum for History and Culture in Westport, Connecticut, where she lived for four decades. The exhibit, titled “Dragon Lady,” showcases Schultz’s legacy as a reporter and social justice activist. “Our hope is that this exhibit will honor Sigrid Schultz’s bravery and personal sacrifices to as many people as possible,” said the Westport Museum’s executive director, Ramin Ganeshram.

Ishaan Tharoor, OPC Governor and foreign affairs writer at The Washington Post, reported from the Davos World Economic Forum, which ran from Jan. 21 to 24. He reported on Trump’s address, the first speech at the forum by a major world leader, in which he rejected climate change. “Trump didn’t directly attack the forum or some of the outspoken climate activists in attendance,” Tharoor writes. “But the contempt behind his message was unmistakable.” Trump, Tharoor wrote, “told European partners that they should consider purchasing U.S. energy — never mind the serious measures being attempted in Europe to wean it off fossil fuels.”

OPC member **Rebecca Fannin** recently completed a round-the-world book tour that took in six countries, 18 cities and multiple talks timed to the release of her latest title, *Tech Titans of China* [Hachette’s Nicholas Brealey Publishing, September 2019]. Her stops included the Foreign Correspondents Clubs of Tokyo and Hong Kong.

OPC member **Andrew Nagorski** discussed his 30-year career with Newsweek, starting in Hong Kong and taking him to Moscow, Rome, Bonn, Warsaw and others, for a radio audience on Jan. 13 in St. Augustine, Florida. He recalled early days in Hong Kong in the late 70s and having the resources to charter a small plane to cover Vietnamese refugees running

aground in Malaysia. “These days, if you tried to do that, you’d be fired,” he said to host Scott Grant on WSOS. He also talked about his latest book, *1941: The Year Germany Lost the War*, which explores tactical blunders such as invading Russia and declaring war on the U.S., which he argues set the stage for Nazi defeat four years later. “1941 was the year Germany attacked the whole world. And if you attack the whole world, eventually things are not going to come out so well for you,” Nagorski said. He has written seven books, five of them relating to World War II, including *The Nazi Hunters*, which he discussed at an OPC Book Night in June 2016.

OPC member and former Treasurer **Abigail Pesta** wrote a piece for Notre Dame Magazine about former Congolese child soldier Heritage Munyakuri, and traced his journey from life on the battlefield to becoming a pastor in Rochester, New York. She wrote that he was abducted as a child soldier for rebel groups three times and forced to fight twice before he finally confronted his captors: “I told them to kill me, I won’t fight. I had found Jesus.” He was beaten for his refusal, and witnessed his village and loved ones being massacred by the rebels. But Pesta wrote that he discovered religion in Burundi and eventually fled to the U.S. on a UN resettlement program. He was ordained in 2015 and uses his personal experience to guide immigrants through practical and personal challenges. She wrote that Munyakuri “wants immigrants who come to America to know that they belong here, that they have a future.” Pesta formerly worked as an intern for Notre Dame Magazine.

2013 Lowell Thomas Award winner **Leila Fadel** was a panelist at UC Santa Cruz’s “Questions That Matter: Reporting the Middle East and the future of investigative journalism,” along with fellow veteran NPR journalist Hannah Allam. “This event will be an opportunity for members of the UCSC community and the Santa Cruz community at large to engage with what it means to do journalism in today’s world,” said Jennifer Derr, the panel moderator and founding director

of the Center for the Middle East and North Africa at UCSC. “It will also be a chance for all of us to understand how the profession has changed and the challenges — in both the Middle East and the United States — that its practitioners confront.”

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Karl E. Meyer, longtime foreign correspondent and editorial writer for The Washington Post and The New York Times, died on Dec. 22 in Manhattan at the age of 91. Meyer covered Fidel Castro’s revolution in Cuba, the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion there, the Soviet Union’s invasion of Czechoslovakia, among other big stories of the 20th Century. He co-wrote a book about the Bay of Pigs, along with Times colleague Tad Szulc, entitled *The Cuban Invasion: The Chronicle of a Disaster*. After earning a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton University in 1956, he began his career in foreign affairs at The Washington Post and served as the paper’s London bureau chief from 1965 to 1970, and then served as head of its New York bureau. He joined The New York Times editorial board in 1979, where he served until 1998 as the senior writer on foreign affairs, and later served as editor of the World Policy Journal quarterly until 2008. Meyer and his wife, Shareen Blair Brysac, who is also a journalist, wrote five books together, including *Tournament of Shadows: The Race for Empire in Central Asia*. He also authored *The Culture Thieves* about archeology. ❖

PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

by Emily Brown and Chad Bouchard

Brazilian prosecutors charged journalist **Glenn Greenwald** with aiding in cybercrimes on Jan. 21, following a series of 2019 stories on Greenwald's news site The Intercept that exposed text messages by members of Brazil's justice system. Greenwald, who has won the Pulitzer Prize and the Polk Award, is accused of having "helped, encouraged and oriented" the hackers who discovered the messages. "This new accusation — brought by the same prosecutor who just tried and failed to criminally prosecute the head of the Brazilian Bar Association for criticizing Minister Moro — is an obvious attempt to attack a free press in retaliation for the revelations we reported about Minister Moro and the Bolsonaro government," Greenwald said. The charges have been denounced by press freedom activists, including the ACLU. "The United States must immediately condemn this outrageous assault on the freedom of the press, and recognize that its attacks on press freedoms at home have consequences for American journalists doing their jobs abroad," said Ben Wizner, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

James Risen, former reporter for The New York Times, now senior national security correspondent for The Intercept, warned in a Times op-ed on Jan. 27 that cases against Julian Assange and Glenn Greenwald may be models for a crackdown. Risen wrote that "prosecutors are seeking to criminalize journalism by turning to anti-hacking laws to implicate reporters in the purported criminal activity of their sources" when they probe for digital information without permission. He called the strategy is a "detour" around the First Amendment, and said journalists should see the attack on Greenwald as a signal that "Trump-like attacks on the press are spreading like a virus around the globe."

Environmental journalist **Philip Jacobson** was detained in Indonesia on Jan. 21, following a raid by immigration officials, and remains in

a detention center in Palangkaraya. He was previously briefly detained on Dec. 17 and accused of violating the terms of his visa. "The longer journalist Philip Jacobson remains held in detention, the more damage Indonesia does to its reputation as a democracy with a free press," said Shawn Crispin, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)'s senior Southeast Asia representative. "Indonesian authorities should release Jacobson immediately and cease pursuing a criminal case against him."

The **Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership** ran a full-page print advertisement highlighting the top 10 most pressing cases of journalists under attack, as identified by the One Free Press Coalition. The list includes Daphne Caruana Galizia, whose murder case was mishandled by the Maltese government, Esraa Abdel Fattah, an Egyptian journalist on hunger strike who has been tortured and hospitalized, and Aleksander Valov, an imprisoned Russian journalist whose whereabouts are unknown.

The **Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong** expressed "grave concern" at the Hong Kong government's decision to bar Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch (HRW), from entering the territory in mid-January. Roth was set to hold a news conference Jan. 15 at the FCC to release the rights group's yearly report, which is critical of the Chinese government. OPC member and former Governor Emma Daly, communications director for HRW, said Roth's barring highlights broader issues in China, saying "obviously Ken being denied entry is nothing compared to the harassment faced by activists across China, who are routinely jailed, tortured and disappeared just for trying to secure human rights for all."

Turkey recently canceled the press passes of hundreds of journalists, according to press freedom advocacy groups. While journalists are legally allowed to work without press passes, the passes grant them access

to government buildings. According to Gökhan Durmuş, the chairperson of the Journalist's Union of Turkey, up to 1,400 press passes have been canceled in recent months, and the government has not provided reasons for the move. "Turkey's decision to cancel the press cards for hundreds of journalists is yet another attack on independent reporting and is absolutely unacceptable," said Gulnoza Said, CPJ's Europe and Central Asia program coordinator. "Authorities should immediately restore the journalists' press credentials, and should ensure that passes are granted in an impartial process."

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the former offices of Turkey's Agos newspaper to demand justice for Turkish-Armenian journalist **Hrant Dink** on the 13th anniversary of his Jan. 19, 2007 murder. Dink, the 52-year-old editor-in-chief of Agos, was shot dead in broad daylight in Istanbul by a 17-year-old. He frequently wrote about minority rights and Turkish-Armenian reconciliation. "We won't stop following Hrant's murderers. Whether they shed light on this or not, as Hrant's brothers, we will continue to be here," said Hakan, a supporter at the protest.

Reporter **Thomas Jacobi** was attacked by far-right demonstrators in Greece on Jan. 19. Jacobi, a correspondent for French publication La Croix and German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, was approached by a group of 10 men who beat him for several minutes until bystanders stepped in. He was left with a head injury, a bloody nose, and a broken cell phone. "Greek authorities must thoroughly investigate the targeted assault of journalist Thomas Jacobi and ensure that he can continue his reporting without fear," said CPJ's Europe and Central Asia program coordinator, Gulnoza Said.

Journalists have been assaulted and detained by police officers in **Beirut** while covering the recent protests of government corruption and slow economic growth, according to CPJ.

Greg Demarque, a photographer for the Beirut-based Executive Magazine, was beaten and detained by cops on Jan. 15, according to CPJ and local press freedom groups. Reuters photographer Essam Abdullah was beaten by riot police on Jan. 14, according to local news site Al-Modon, which ran a photo of two police officers hitting Abdullah.

Masked attackers broke into the offices of Chilean newspaper **El Mercurio de Antofagasta** on Jan. 13, according to CPJ and local news sources. The unknown attackers ransacked and damaged several offices, stole equipment, and set several fires. Around 20 employees were in the office at the time of the attack, which lasted for around 15 minutes. It is the third attack in three months on the El Mercurio media company.

The Washington Post's Editorial Board wrote on Dec. 23 that Saudi Arabia's verdict in the murder of journalist **Jamal Khashoggi** was "a shameful travesty of justice." Following a closed trial, authorities announced that five people implicated in the Oct. 2, 2018, killing had been sentenced to death, and three more were given prison sentences. None were named. "The result is an insult to Khashoggi's family and to all those, including a bipartisan congressional majority, who have demanded genuine accountability in the case,"

'Fassihi' Continued From Page 4

country. And that's a sentiment that I heard over and over," Fassihi said.

She said there are many Iranians who did not love and respect Suleimani, but added that it was crucial to remember that he was instrumental in the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria and "singlehandedly the most revered and influential character in Iran."

The pace of news surrounding Iran remained relentless in the following days, with the retaliatory missile strikes against U.S. military targets in Iraq, and Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 getting shot down on Jan. 8 soon after takeoff from Tehran, killing 176 passengers and crew.

Fassihi humanized victims by delving into their lives, posting messages from loved ones and reporting on funerals. She translated a tweet from a Tehran MP who called on Khamenei to "take a look at the pain

the statement read.

A HuffPost piece on Dec. 20 profiled the life and death struggle of freelance journalist **Christopher Allen**, a 26-year-old British-American freelance journalist killed while covering the civil war in South Sudan in August 2017. The longform profile chronicles his struggle to make ends meet as a stringer covering conflict, starting with the war between Ukraine and Russia in July 2014, and winding up in South Sudan. Writer Charlotte Alfred highlights Allen's family's struggle "to reconcile his dedication to war reporting with the industry's apparent indifference to his death." Allen's death went largely unreported, even in media he wrote for. The piece underscores the news industry's reliance on freelancers and the need for more transparency in cases where journalists are killed during the course of their work.

MURDERS

Nigerian journalist and newscaster **Maxwell Nashan**, who worked for the government-owned Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, died on Jan. 15 after being found bound, gagged, and stabbed about 2 miles from his home. Police were called to the scene but he died from his wounds. He was taken from his home in the middle of the night, and his work laptop was the only thing stolen. "Maxwell Nashan must not

become just another crime statistic, and investigators must consider whether his journalism was the motive for his killing," Angela Quintal, Africa program coordinator for CPJ, said. "Authorities in Nigeria must work to ensure the safety of reporters, which includes investigating acts of violence against members of the press."

46-year-old Mexican reporter **Fidel Ávila Góme** was found dead on Jan. 7, according to local media and CPJ. Góme, a manager and anchor for La Ke Buena radio broadcaster, had been missing since November 29th, and often reported on local organized crime. His body was found in a ditch with several gunshot wounds, and relatives believe that his death is connected to the gang La Familia Michoacana. "The gang demands protection money from local businesses, and they knew that Fidel managed contracts for the radio station," Góme's relative told CPJ. "We believe that they may have taken him because he was unable or unwilling to pay." Mexico is the most dangerous country in the Western hemisphere for journalists, according to CPJ reports. ❖

and agony of a grieving mother being held back by security forces from attending her son's burial."

On Jan. 21, she tweeted "Best line I've heard about the impact of Ukrainian Airlines tragedy on Iranians: 'This flight had 176 dead and 83 million injured.'"

Most recently, Fassihi's Jan. 26 piece "Anatomy of a Lie" examined what led up to the missile attack against a jetliner, and the immediate cover up that ensued. She wrote that authorities feared admitting the mistake would undermine some of the public support the government had galvanized after Suleimani's assassination and Iran's retaliatory missile strikes.

"They advocated covering it up because they thought the country couldn't handle more crisis," she quoted a ranking member of the Revolutionary Guards. ❖

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Night:
Nicholas
Kristof and
Sheryl WuDunn
Club Quarters
6:00 p.m.
Feb. 20

Book Night:
Dexter 'Tiff'
Roberts
Club Quarters
6:00 p.m.
March 17

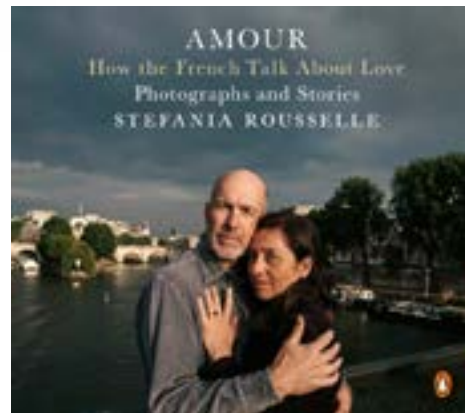
BOOKS by Emily Brown

FRANCE

IN AMOUR: *How The French Talk About Love* [Viking, January 2020], journalist and OPC member Stefania Rousselle sets out to document what love means to ordinary French people. Rousselle's collection of intimate photographs and personal testimonies from 90 people, gathered over the course of two years, is a glimpse into the many ways lives are impacted by love in all its forms. Her journey took her from small villages to industrial cities, meeting people from all walks of life in the most intimate settings she could find, often renting rooms in her subjects' houses.

Some are stories of romantic love told by a couple, like Liliane and Michel from Marle, Aisne, who were both each other's second spouse. "We didn't fall in love right away. But does love at first sight really exist?" Liliane, a 62-year-old childcare provider, wonders. But most are stories of fleeting love, or old loves, or musings on what love means. Philipp, a 24-year-old organic farmer from Asson, Pyrenees-Atlantiques, has never dated or kissed anyone before. "It would be nice to sleep and wake up next to somebody and be like: 'Good morning, it's gray outside,'" he said. Many of the stories are paired with understated photos of the subject's life: a picture of a bedroom, a staircase, a plate. The snapshots of people's surroundings complement the stories, and in even tell separate stories themselves.

Before Rousselle began *AMOUR*, she was part of a Pulitzer Prize-nominated team of New York Times journalists that reported on the Islamic State. She had seen trauma, tragedy, and pain. In a way, these qualities are also present in the wistful, sometimes longing stories in *AMOUR*. Rousselle's book serves as a reminder to herself, and to its readers, that love is universal and unending. ❖



RUSSIA

IN THE first pages of *Between Two Fires* [Tim Dugan Books, January 2020], journalist Joshua Yaffa introduces us to the "wily man," an archetypal Rus-

sian personality coined by socialist Yuri Levada in 2000. The wily man, according to Levada, "not only tolerates deception, but is willing to be deceived, and even... requires self-deception for the sake of his own self-preservation." The wily man adapts to the rules of the state and uses them for his own benefit. Yaffa follows eight Russians with different degrees of "wilyness" as they try to balance their personal ambitions and the desires of the oligarchy.



One of Yaffa's subjects is Heda Saratova, a Chechen activist who works with the government to bring home the families of ISIS recruits. The nature of her work requires cooperation with Ramzan Kadyrov, the president of the Chechen Republic, who's known for his violent and uncompromising rule. When she meets families at the plane, she holds up a sign for the media that reads "We thank Putin for our children."

"When I see his picture or hear him speak, I remember that he destroyed thousands of our people's lives," says Saratova. But she knows tasks like this come with the territory. "I imagine if I didn't do this, there wouldn't be a next round of children coming home."

Another person profiled is Konstantin Ernst, the head of Channel One, Russia's largest state media outlet, who acts as one of Putin's top propagandists while maintaining an interest in counterculture and arthouse cinema.

Yaffa's interviews are multifaceted and humanizing, but certainly not specific to only Russia. The contradictions that exist for these eight "wily men" will seem familiar to anyone who's been forced to make difficult moral decisions in pursuit of a satisfying life. Whether it's taking a job for a company whose values you disagree with in order to pay the rent or holding your tongue about your political views at the office, most of us are forced to be wily in one way or another. ❖



COURTESY OF PORTIA CROWE

Portia Crowe

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Portia Crowe

Portia Crowe is a freelance journalist based in Paris. She covers a range of topics including human rights, climate change, development, migration, and business. Crowe's work appears in *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *Reuters*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Public Radio International* and *Al Jazeera English*, among others. She previously served as correspondent for the *Dow Jones* publication *Financial News* in London and a senior reporter for *Business Insider* in New York.

Hometown: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Education: McGill University (BA, International Development Studies); Columbia University (MS, Journalism).

Languages: English, French.

First job in journalism: My first staff job was with *Business Insider* in New York, though I did about five internships before that.

Countries reported from: Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Uganda, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Greece, UK, France, US, Canada. In February I'll be reporting from Niger.

When and why did you join the OPC: I won the OPC Foundation's Reuters scholarship in 2014, which funded an internship with Reuters' East Africa Bureau in Nairobi, Kenya. I've remained a member of the OPC ever since.

What first drew you to international reporting? I am not someone who came to journalism because of a love of writing or storytelling and then later found international reporting. My passions have always been international development and foreign affairs, and I chose journalism as a way to build a career in those fields.

Major challenge as a journalist: As a freelancer, my biggest challenges are getting paid fairly and getting paid on time. These are frustrating, but pale in comparison to what I faced as a staff reporter covering investment banking in New York and London, where my pay was higher, but I faced sexism in the workplace and sexual harassment from sources.

Best journalism advice received: Take notes. It's easy to get overwhelmed on assignment and sometimes even lose sight of the story. Write down every detail – even things that don't seem significant at the time. You never know what will be useful later, and if nothing else it will add texture and colour to your work. (Paraphrased from Steve Coll.)

Worst experience as a journalist: As an intern at *Newsday* on Long Island, I had to literally stop the presses one night because of a factual error I'd made in the lede of a cover story (*Newsday* still prints its paper in-house, or at least it did then). I felt sick about it for days but have been an extra vigilant fact-checker ever since. Today, as reporters increasingly bear sole responsibility for fact-checking, I'm grateful to have learned my lesson early on.

Hardest story: I recently reported on unaccompanied South Sudanese child refugees in northern Uganda. It was difficult for obvious emotional reasons, but also because it raised ethical questions about interviewing children without parents, and knowing how or if to intervene on safeguarding issues. Some children told me in private that they felt abused or unhappy with their foster parents. One specifically said he did not want to tell NGO staff about it, and I had to make a judgment call – as both a

journalist and a human – on whether or not to say something.

Journalism heroes: Certainly Rukmini Callimachi and Nahlah Ayed. Marie Colvin genuinely influenced my decision to go into journalism. Her story always stuck with me and I had chills when, years later, I attended the launch of Lindsey Hilsum's biography of her at the Frontline Club in London and was able to meet Paul Conroy and Colvin's best friend Jane Wellesley and hear stories about her standing in that same room. One thing that really stood out from Hilsum's book was how Colvin's circle of friends carried her through the difficult periods; I think when you travel frequently for work and are sent on emotionally challenging assignments, those strong, supportive relationships are indispensable.

Dream job: I love what I do now – working all over the world on whichever stories feel most important. That said, as a freelancer, I do think I'll eventually miss having benefits and sick leave. If I could find a staff job that allowed me to do essentially the same thing I do now, with the same degree of independence, that would be the dream.

Favorite quote: "The world is like a Mask dancing. If you want to see it well, you do not stand in one place." – Chinua Achebe

Place you're most eager to visit: I would love to spend time in Beirut.

Most over-the-top assignment: A nine-hour road trip from Sofia to Athens with an Albanian man who spoke no English – and four urns full of recently-cremated ashes in the backseat. The immigration officials were already suspicious when we pulled up to the Bulgaria-Greece border and handed over our foreign passports. Then they asked what we had in the back...

Most common mistake you've seen: Unnecessary reverence. There's no need to be starry-eyed or overly grateful for access, regardless of how important an interviewee might be in politics, business, or culture. Our job is to speak the truth to power.

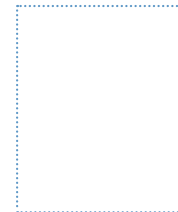
Twitter handle: @PortiaCrowe ❖

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



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