



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Aug. 14

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this week's digital newsletter, which includes:

- A recap of our panel on Thursday about [China's global influence](#).
- Remembrances of longtime OPC member, Governor and supporter [Jacqueline Albert Simon](#).
- A reminder of our upcoming discussion with OPC [Edward R. Murrow Award winners on Sept. 17](#).
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists covering COVID-19 and protests in the U.S.
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#).

Scroll down for more content, summaries and links to items online.



OPC Members Share Stories and Remembrances of Jacqueline Albert Simon

OPC members, past presidents and
colleagues this week expressed

sadness and shared remembrances of longtime OPC member, Governor and supporter Jacqueline Albert Simon, who died on Aug. 10 at the age of 98.



OPC Past President Allan Dodds Frank spoke to Albert Simon for the OPC, writing in a detailed remembrance that "shortly before she died, Jacqueline Albert Simon called to say goodbye, to say she loved me, her friends at the Overseas Press Club and the work being done by the many talented winners of the OPC Foundation fellowship she underwrote so generously. 'This is the last time I am going to talk to you,' she said.

[Read the Whole Piece Here](#)

OPC Foundation President and OPC Past President William J. Holstein also wrote a remembrance piece about Albert Simon's passing and of her nearly 30 years of service on the boards of both the OPC and the OPC Foundation.



"She was a demure, small, quiet-spoken woman in a room filled with shouting men, primarily H.L. Stevenson and Victor Reisel, Holstein wrote. "She seemed oddly out of place, but she was committed to our causes and believed in everything both the club and foundation stood for. She took an immediate interest in me and my work and I in her work with *Politique Internationale*, the Paris-based equivalent of Foreign Affairs. We helped each other through the losses of our respective spouses. We used to have lunches at a small Italian place near her glorious apartment on Fifth Avenue, overlooking the Metropolitan Museum. Or on special occasions, she would put together dinner parties in her apartment, filled with beautiful art. Surprisingly, for someone of significant means, she preferred eccentrics and oddballs over stuffed shirts."

[Read the Whole Piece Here](#)

In addition, many OPC leaders and club members expressed their condolences and shared stories on the OPC website, including OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz, OPC Foundation Executive Director Jane Reilly, OPC Past Presidents Larry Martz, Michael Serrill, Marcus Mabry, as well as Governors Linda Fasulo, Alix Freedman and Bill Collins, and 2019 Flora Lewis Fellowship winner Daphne Psaledakis.

We will continue to post more remembrances on the page as friends and colleagues send them in. Those who wish to add their thoughts may send them to info@opcofamerica.org.

[Read the OPC Remembrance Page for Jacqueline Albert Simon Here](#)

Photo above, top: Left to right, Sue Robbins-Serrill, Dorothea Smith, Larry Smith, Jacqueline Albert Simon and Past President Allan Dodds Frank at an "appreciation night" for Albert Simon at Club Quarters in 2016. Photo below: William Holstein, center, speaks with Albert Simon, left, and Dodds Frank at the same event. Photos: Chad Bouchard

OPC Hosts Globe-Spanning Discussion on Resistance to China's Influence

Countries around the world are becoming increasingly concerned about the nature of China's global advances, a rare global online conversation co-hosted by the Overseas Press Club and Gateway House in Mumbai, India concluded. China, at the urging of President Xi Jinping, is pursuing technological goals and investment programs to build a China-centric global model, not to mention its militarization of the South China Sea and its clampdown on Hong Kong, panelists said during the webinar on Aug. 13.



[Read More](#)

Photo above, left to right, top row: Blaise Fernandes, Dexter Roberts; center row: William J. Holstein, Amit Bhandari, Declan Kelleher; bottom row: Manjeet Kripalani.



Upcoming OPC Events

Sept. 8: OPC Annual Meeting

Time: Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Place: Online via Zoom

The OPC Annual Meeting, open to all members, will be held online on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time via Zoom. Results of this year's Board of Governors election will be announced at the meeting. The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 7 at noon Eastern Time. The OPC is using the online voting website Balloteer again this year to host its secure election. The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. There will be no paper ballots this year.

This year, the OPC will elect officers, ten (10) Active board members and three (3) Associate board members to begin two-year terms.

To cast your vote, keep an eye out for our weekly ballot reminders with links to Balloteer, which lists all of the candidates. For eligible Active and Associate voters, your Voter ID is the email address we have on file, .

Thank you again to those who have already voted.



Sept. 17: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories The Edward R. Murrow Award

Time: Sept. 17 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online video conferencing (platform TBD)

Join the OPC for an online discussion with winners of this year's Edward R. Murrow Award for best TV, video or documentary interpretation of international affairs with a run time up to 30 minutes.



RSVPs are required. Links to the video conference call will be emailed to

registrants before the program begins.

Winners participating in the call include: **Singeli Agnew, Rukmini Callimachi, Geoff O'Brien** and **Victor Tadashi Suarez** of The New York Times for "Collision," a video series episode covering the murders of two cyclists who were touring the world when ISIS ran them down and stabbed them to death. **Vivienne Walt**, Paris-based reporter for TIME magazine and head judge for this year's Edward R. Murrow Award, will moderate.

Judges for the Edward R. Murrow Award said:

"This episode of The New York Times' The Weekly series tells a tale of poignant tragedy, through meticulous reporting and strong visual imagery. The narrative arc takes viewers from the open joyfulness of two young Americans, into the heart of a cold-blooded ISIS outpost in the wilds of Tajikistan. From the victims' excited dispatches home, to the chilling cell phone videos from the killer, the film leaves the audience moved and disturbed, with a lot to contemplate once it ends."

Watch the winning piece here:

[Collision >>](#)

RSVP Now

Photos above, clockwise from upper left: Singeli Agnew, Rukmini Callimachi, Victor Tadashi Suarez and Geoff O'Brien.

OPC Condemns Arrest of Jimmy Lai

Jimmy Lai, the 71-year-old Hong Kong pro-Democracy media mogul, was arrested Monday under the new National Security Law. His newspaper offices were raided and Lai along with six others were charged with "suspicion of collusion with foreign forces," according to news reports.



The Overseas Press Club condemns Lai's arrest as it demonstrates the new National Security Law exists to deprive the Hong Kong-based media of press freedom.

Read on the OPC Website

Photo above: Hong Kong media tycoon and founder of Apple Daily newspaper Jimmy Lai arrives at

New Resources for Covering COVID-19 and Protests

TRAINING AND GUIDELINES

The **ACOS Alliance** and **WAN-IFRA** are offering bursaries for 20 Southeast Asia based journalists, including freelancers, to access an online safety training pilot course produced by [Key Objectives](#). The online course is open for three weeks, from Sept. 14 to Oct. 2. Selected participants can log in and out of the learning platform at their own convenience for these three weeks, and revisit each module as many times as needed over that period. The course covers essential safety topics, from planning and preparation, to covering natural disasters and protests, and it includes cyber security and first aid. [Read more and apply here.](#)

On Aug. 17 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **Freedom Forum** is hosting a conversation with civil rights activist DeRay Mckesson, co-founder of Campaign Zero and host of the award-winning weekly podcast "Pod Save The People." The program is part of the organization's "First Five Live" series with activists and influencers sharing stories about their exercising of First Amendment rights to catalyze change. [Read more and register here.](#)

The Center for Appreciative Inquiry is holding a series of seminars on topics surrounding reporting during the pandemic, including the maintenance of well-being for journalists, the art of asking engaging questions, storytelling techniques, and communication during crisis. The series, titled "Conversations Worth Having: Resilience And Engagement Strategies For Journalists," includes four sessions on Aug. 17, 18, 24 and 25, each held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Aug. 27 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **Radio and Television News Directors Association** is hosting a "Listening Town Hall" webinar with Black newsroom leaders "who have spoken up about their experiences over the last weeks and months and inviting all local newsrooms to listen and learn, and take the lessons back to continue these conversations in your newsrooms." Panelists include Sherri Jackson of CBS 42 News in Alabama, Shamarria Morrison of WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Kentucky, Chris Thomas of ABC10 in Sacramento, and J.J. Green WTOP radio in Washington D.C. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Club's Journalism Institute** is hosting a webinar on safety for journalists covering current crises. The session will cover insights from those who have reported on protests, self-protection tips for journalists, and allyship and equity within news teams. Panelists include Alex Marquardt and Abby Phillip of CNN, Sarah Matthews of First Look Media's Press Freedom Defense Fund, and Michael M. Santiago of Getty Images, with Jill Geisler of Loyola University Chicago moderating. [Read more and register here.](#)

More Resources

- **First Draft** has been hosting a series of presentations on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can [browse the archives here](#).
- **Columbia University's Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. [Explore the database here](#).
- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.
- **ICFJ** [launched](#) a page for COVID-19 resources for journalists.
- **Rory Peck Trust** has a [resource page](#) for pandemic coverage. It includes safety guidelines, funding sources, job opportunities and online training

The OPC has added these links to a special COVID-19 section on the member-only [Resources](#) page available to members who have logged in. Watch that page as we share more. Click the button below to go directly, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

[OPC Resources Page](#)

OPC Members Reporting on COVID-19

OPC member **Chriss Swaney** has continued to cover the effects of COVID-19, including pieces for a website focused on workers' compensation. On Aug. 11, she wrote about the [Pittsburgh assistant district attorney](#) fighting for workers' compensation while battling COVID-19. She wrote that the county assistant DA, Ted Dutkowski, believes he contracted the coronavirus at the Allegheny County Courthouse, and is appealing a decision to deny his claim for compensation. In July, Swaney wrote about [workers facing food insecurity](#) amid lost wages. She said that as a result of the pandemic, "1 in 5 mothers of young children reported that their children weren't eating enough – a level five times higher than in 2018 – because they couldn't afford enough food, according to a nationally representative survey from late May."

Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces related to COVID-19 to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our website and share with members. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

People

 by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Tess Taylor, 2004 winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of IF Stone, has been awarded the Andrews Forest Writing Residency for fall 2020. An accomplished poet, Taylor is the author of *Work & Days*, *The Forage House* and *Last West: Roadsongs for Dorothea Lange*. Her work has appeared in the Atlantic Monthly, the Boston Review, the Harvard Review, Literary Imagination, the Times Literary Supplement, Memorious, New York Times Magazine and the New Yorker. She has chaired the poetry committee of the National Book Critics Circle and reviews poetry on-air for NPR's All Things Considered.

J.p Lawrence, the 2015 H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner, wrote a story [on Aug. 12](#) from Kabul for Stars and Stripes saying Taliban negotiators are likely to reject proposals for the U.S. to establish a lasting counterterrorism presence in Afghanistan during upcoming peace talks with the government in Kabul, according to analysts. A report from the International Crisis Group said that "any remaining foreign presence is a nonstarter among Taliban members." Lawrence had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Uganda, and joined Stars and Stripes in late 2017.

AWARDS

OPC Governor **Adriane Quinlan**, supervising writer for VICE News and winner of the OPC Foundation's 2013 Flora Lewis internship, following last week's announcement that VICE News had won 18 Emmy nominations, shared with the OPC that she wrote and edited scripts on all of the organization's coverage of Hong Kong last year, which garnered a nomination in the category of continuing coverage. Examples of the nominated work can be seen on YouTube [here](#) and [here](#).

Waad Al-Kateab, a filmmaker who won the OPC's Peter Jennings Award this year, [served on the jury](#) for the BAFTA-GSA student film awards this year. The jury gave a Special Jury Prize to Laura Zéphirin from New York University for the film "Making Waves," a film following one woman's work in marine wildlife conservation. Other jury members included actors Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Clarke Peters, and directors Isabel Coixet and Reinaldo Marcus Green.

UPDATES

OPC member **Rachel Waldholz** [is contributing](#) to a newly launched podcast on climate change, titled How to Save a Planet, produced by Spotify and Gimlet. Waldholz, who joined the OPC in March 2019, is a freelancer based in Berlin. The podcast will "explore ways to solve the ongoing climate crisis and what we need to do to implement these necessary changes." The show will also feature Kendra Pierre-Louis, a former New York Times climate reporter. The first episode is slated to drop on Aug. 20.

OPC member **Amberin Zaman** has been [covering developments](#) in a deal

between an obscure American oil company and the Kurdish-led autonomous administration of northeast Syria. She outlined on Aug. 4 details of a 25-year deal between Delta Crescent Energy and the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Zaman wrote that Mazlum Kobane, the Kurdish commander of SDF, forged the deal to secure objectives that align with that of the White House, including keeping the U.S. military in northeast Syria, restricting oil supplies to the Syrian government to pressure President Bashar Al-Assad to cut ties with Iran, and make Syrian Kurds less financially dependent on the U.S. “In Kurdish minds, the injection of US business will, over time, lead to deeper political engagement between the US government and Syrian Kurds,” she wrote. Zaman is staff correspondent for Al-Monitor. She joined the OPC in June 2019.

Leslye Davis, filmmaker of the Netflix documentary *Father Soldier Son* who was part of the team that won the 2016 David Kaplan Award for coverage of ISIS-led terrorist attacks in Paris, has [signed a contract](#) with the entertainment industry giant United Talent Agency. Davis has worked as a documentarian and photographer at The New York Times since 2012, and in 2017 was on the list of Forbes 30 Under 30 for Media.

Two members of the New York Times team that won this year’s Kim Wall Award were part of a [widely shared Times story](#) in which reporters watched and detailed the full 65 minutes of footage from the police body cameras of officers involved in the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25. **Evan Hill** and **Christiaan Triebert**, both members of the Times’ Visual Investigations Team, were among the reporters working on the story. A Minnesota county court only recently released the footage for the first time to the public. The story says that footage “fills in blanks, raises new questions and gives insight into both Mr. Floyd’s state of mind and how the police response to his apparent use of a counterfeit bill became a deadly encounter.” Hill and Triebert, along with Malachy Browne, Whitney Hurst and Dmitriy Khavin, were named as winners of the Wall award for their [reporting on](#) Russia’s attacks on civilian targets in Syria.

People Column August 2020

Press Freedom Update

by Bill Collins

This week’s OPC Press Freedom update looks at Belarus in the wake of mass protests following the controversial Aug. 9 presidential election:

Press freedom organizations have condemned the arrests



and violence against journalists following the Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus. It is characterized

as a dark day for freedom of the press as numerous reporters were arrested, detained, and, in some cases, severely beaten while covering the controversial election.

Belarus protesters took to the streets in dozens of cities across the country after early returns showed President Alexander Lukashenko – a five-term incumbent – with 80 percent of the vote, though exit polls from other sources indicated that opposition candidate Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya was getting 70 percent of the vote, triggering accusations of voter fraud.

Authorities say 6,700 people have been arrested and one death was reported in the aftermath of the protests. Amnesty International says some detainees were tortured.

Tsikhanouskaya fled the country for Lithuania. Her campaign aides she made the decision under duress from state authorities.

Numerous reporters have been subject to assault or detention while covering protests in Minsk and other cities.

Five home-based journalists from Belarus were arrested and detained, which prevented them from covering the reaction to the election.

Reporters Olga Kamianyagina and Angelika Vasilevskaya of Tut.by, Irina Slavnikova of Belsat TV and Belsat journalist Ekaterina Tkachenko were all arrested and later released by police authorities, according to RSF.

Three Russian journalists from TV network Dozhd – Vladimir Romenski, Vasili Polonski and Nikolai Antipov – were arrested by undercover police in Minsky and held for the better part of a day before bringing suddenly deported back to Russia that night.

But several reporters were severely beaten and taken to the hospital with injuries, including AP photographer Mstyslav Chernov.

Meduza correspondent Max Solopov was also beaten as he covered the protests in Minsk. He was later released. Russian Daily Storm reporters Anton Starkov and Dmitri Lasenko were clubbed and beaten upon their arrest, though

later released. Sputnik reporter Eugene Oleynik was arrested, beaten and detained before being releasing, following his coverage of police activity during the Minsk protests.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington intends to work with the European Union to help resolve the crisis in Belarus. He pledged U.S. support to help deliver freedom to Belarus.

“We will continue to speak about the risks to the Belarusian people,” Pompeo said at a speech in Prague. “We want them to have freedom in the same way that people do across the world.”

Reporters Without Borders

[2019 World Press Freedom Index](#): Belarus ranks **153rd** among 180 countries

Freedom House

[2019 Global Freedom Report](#): Belarus scores **19** out of 100; Rating - Not Free

The Committee to Protect Journalists

[Most Censored Countries List](#): Belarus ranks **No. 9**

[Read and Share via the OPC Website](#)

Photo above: Protesters and riot police clash during a protest against Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko's claim of a landslide victory on Aug. 9. Photo: Misha Friedman/Getty Images

