



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Oct. 2, 2020

Greetings!

As your president for the next two years, I would like to say hello and let you in on some exciting plans we're cooking up. We just held our first board meeting (thank you, Zoom) with new officers and governors – and it's a fantastic team.



Our goals include publishing an online directory of members so we can all stay in touch better. Working with Columbia University, we hope to start digitizing 81 years of archives (yes, we're that old!). We will be having a membership drive and hope you will do some recruiting. We are laying plans to hold a wide array of online panel discussions and book nights. Look for more details on all of these projects in coming weeks.

We'll also be supporting some worthy causes, not least our freelance journalist-members whose livelihoods have been stifled by the pandemic. Over the summer, we dipped into our club savings – and some OPC members and supporters dug into their own pockets – to fund two rounds of micro-grants to almost 50 journalists, many of them stuck abroad with expenses but no income. We hope to raise enough funds to continue making these grants for as long as COVID-19 keeps us pinned down.

While we had to cancel our 2020 Annual Awards Dinner, we haven't let the

pandemic crimp our style. We've been honoring our winners by holding online discussions between them and the judges. These fascinating sessions make me proud of my profession and I encourage you to watch them; they're all on the website, opcofamerica.org.

You may want to catch our next installment live on Oct. 7, when Syrian citizen-journalist Waad Al-Kateab discusses her film, *For Sama*, which won this year's Peter Jennings Award. It's a "powerful, personal story about a mother's love for her young daughter, a city (Aleppo) on the brink of destruction and a war that unleashes a terrible humanitarian disaster," the judges wrote. It has racked up numerous accolades, including a BAFTA, a Peabody and an Academy Award nomination. You can watch the film [here](#). More details on this event and others are available in the Weekly Bulletin below.

Also in this Bulletin, we mourn the passing of British journalist Sir Harold Evans, a longtime friend of the OPC. As always, we provide a rundown of new resources, programs and opportunities. And we fill you in on speeches given, projects completed and awards received by OPC members. I look forward to the coming two years and welcome any feedback, ideas or gripes you may wish to send my way, pdwyer11@bloomberg.net.

Happy reading,
Paula Dwyer



Ed Cunningham Award Winner Discusses Reporting on Missionary's Murder

By Chad Bouchard

John Allen Chau, a 26-year-old American missionary, embarked for a remote island in the Indian Ocean in late 2018 after years of preparation with the singular goal of converting Indigenous people with little contact with the outside world to Christianity. Members of the tribe he tried to contact, the Sentinelese, killed him.

On Oct. 1, the OPC hosted an online discussion with journalist Alex Perry, who wrote a detailed story about the incident for *Outside* magazine, titled "The Last Days of John Allen Chau," which won this year's Ed Cunningham Award for best magazine-style, long-form narrative feature in print or digital on an international story. Megan Stack, the



head judge for this year's Cunningham Award, moderated.

You can read "[The Last Days of John Allen Chau](#)" [here](#).

[Read the Full Recap Here](#)

Click the window below to watch a video of the program on our YouTube channel, or [click here](#) to watch a playlist of clips.



Upcoming OPC Events

Oct. 7: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories
The Peter Jennings Award



Left to right: **Waad Al-Kateab**, **Edward Watts** and **Raney Aronson-Rath**.

Time: Oct. 7 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Please RSVP to join an online program with journalists who made the award-sweeping film *For Sama*, which garnered the Peter Jennings Award for best TV, video or documentary about international affairs with a run time over 30 minutes.

On hand will be **Waad Al-Kateab** and **Edward Watts**, directors of the award-winning film *For Sama*, and **Raney Aronson-Rath**, the executive producer of FRONTLINE, PBS' flagship investigative journalism series.

Waad al-Kateab became a citizen journalist in 2011, after protests broke out across Syria against the Assad regime. In 2016, she began documenting the Syrian conflict in a series of films titled "Inside Aleppo." These news reports received almost half-a-billion views online, and won 24 awards. "For Sama" is her first feature film. Al-Kateab was recently named one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2020.

Edward Watts has directed twenty-five narrative and documentary films, telling true stories from far flung corners of the world. His films have won over 50 awards.

Raney Aronson-Rath directs the series' editorial vision, executive producing over 20 documentaries each year on critical issues facing the country and world.

Moderating the program will be **Robert Friedman** of Bloomberg News, who served as head judge for the Jennings award jury.

RSVPs are required. Links to the video conference call will be emailed to registrants about an hour before the program begins.

For Sama also won a BAFTA Award for best documentary, as well as a Peabody Award, a British Independent Film Award, an Academy Award nomination and

many other accolades.

[RSVP Now](#)

Watch the film on FRONTLINE's YouTube channel below:



Call Me Harry – A Remembrance of Sir Harold Evans by Allan Dodds Frank

Sir Harold Evans, a renowned British-American editor and author whose career spanned 70 years, died in New York on Sept. 23 of congestive heart failure at the age of 92. He was former editor of the Sunday Times in the U.K., founded the magazine Condé Nast Traveler, and served as editor-at-large for Reuters until his death. The following is an excerpt of a remembrance by OPC Past President Allan Dodds Frank. Click on the Read More



button below to see the whole story.

Sir Harold Evans was a longtime friend of the Overseas Press Club who occasionally took time from his busy schedule to show up at an OPC event. His most recent appearance, that I can recall, was at the 2019 reception hosted by Reuters at its Times Square headquarters for winners of the Overseas Press Club Foundation scholarships.

Steven Adler, the editor-in-chief of Reuters, was the host and many of the top Reuters editors, including Evans, were there. But almost none of our young fellowship winners had any clue about being in the presence of a giant of journalism, the embodiment of the romance of journalism. What our OPC fellows saw initially, I knew, was a tiny old man with flowing silver hair, a mischievous smile and a cheery, if hurried, disposition. So, it was my pleasure and privilege to take several of our winners aside, clue them in about Sir Harry and then introduce them one-by-one.

Read More

Photo above: Sir Harry Evans, left, and Allan Dodds Frank.

OPC Members Covering COVID-19

OPC member **Nicholas Kristof** took part in a video project for The New York Times posted in the op-ed section [on Sept. 29](#) examining shortcomings in U.S. handling of COVID-19, despite 15 years of preparation for a possible pandemic disaster. The piece, “How America Lost 200,000 Lives to Covid-19,” constructs a timeline and compares viral surges in the European Union against that of the U.S., showing soaring rates in America as case numbers decline elsewhere. “I’ve always felt that I come from the country that helped invent public health,” Kristof told Times colleague Johnny Harris during the interview, “and now my own country, arguably the most powerful country in the history of the world, has taken a challenge that we kind of knew what to do with, and just blowing it in ways that have cost so many lives.”

OPC member **Peter Turnley** had a photo exhibition titled “[The human face of COVID-19](#)” presented at the international photojournalism festival Visa pour l’image in Perpignan, France. Turnley spent time in lockdown in New York after he returned from Cuba. He told Euronews that he was stunned when exploring the city with his camera. “This is the first world war of our lifetime,” he said. “We have never experienced in our lifetime a moment that affected every single person on a planet like this moment. This is a war with an invisible enemy.” His photos, many of which are shown in the Euronews article, capture a spectrum of emotions during the crisis.

OPC member **Borzou Daragahi** reported [on Sept. 29](#) for the Independent on COVID-19 from Turkey, with a focus on the deaths of thousands of medical personnel who “succumbed to the disease they are on the frontline of treating.” Amnesty International reported earlier in September this month that at least 7,000

healthcare workers have died of COVID-19 around the world, though those numbers could be much higher. Due to fear of contracting the virus, he said that in Turkey, 200 to 300 physicians have either applied to retire or stopped showing up for work.

OPC member **Valerie Hopkins** wrote about record numbers of COVID-19 cases in Hungary for the Financial Times [on Sept. 18](#). Hungary had reported record daily numbers of infections, with active case numbers surpassing 11,000 that week. A virology research center told Hopkins that Hungary is second only to France in epidemic prevalence in the population. She wrote that as a second wave of cases swept across Europe at the end of August, Hungarian premier Viktor Orban “closed the borders from Sept. 1 to foreigners, making an exception for business travelers, and imposed quarantine restrictions on citizens.” But Hopkins added that as recently as the end of August, the country’s foreign minister, Peter Szijarto, spurned requests for employees to work from home, saying “I have never allowed that and will never do so.”

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](#).

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **News Literacy Project** has launched a new free electronic learning platform to help students and teachers boost their curriculum in fact checking and media awareness. Checkology is designed to help students learn how to sort facts from rumors, viral hoaxes, conspiracy theories and disinformation. Read more about the new platform and the [News Literacy Project here](#).

The **Nieman Lab** has launched a resource for journalists covering the U.S. housing crisis with live tracking of evictions in 17 cities, with a scorecard to compare protections for renters in each state. From the start of the pandemic through the beginning of October, the Eviction Lab database has registered more than 46,750 evictions in those cities alone. The site includes a media guide to help journalists sift out data-driven stories. [Read more here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **Magnum Foundation** is hosting an exhibit of images from activist hotspots around the world, in partnership with The Nation. Titled Frontlines in Focus, the exhibit includes images from garment factories in Bangladesh, Black Lives Matter protests in Portland, the streets of Algeria and universities in Hong Kong. [Read more and see photos here](#).

The **International Press Institute’s [World Congress](#)** is continuing through Oct. 13 with several upcoming events:

- Oct. 6 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time, New Ways to do Local Journalism.
- Oct. 6 at 11:a.m. Eastern Time, Newsrooms On The Line: Combatting Online Harassment and Smear Campaigns.
- Oct. 8 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time, What's Next for Journalists?
- Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time, Editors Safety Workshop with the ACOS Alliance.

On Oct. 6 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the **East-West Center** and the **South China Morning Post** will host a webinar about the future of U.S.-China-Hong Kong relations and media challenges. The panel will include Gary Liu of the South China Morning Post; OPC member Keith Richburg, director of the Journalism and Media Studies Centre at the University of Hong Kong; Robert Delaney of the South China Morning Post; and Lingling Wei, senior China correspondent for The Wall Street Journal. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Oct. 7 at 11:30 p.m. Eastern Time (6:30 p.m. British Summer Time), the **Marie Colvin Journalists' Network** will host a virtual panel with four women from the Middle East to discuss how women, families and vulnerable communities are coping in the face of multiple crises. The list of guests includes Waad al-Kateab, one of the directors of the film Peter Jennings Award-winning film For Sama who will be speaking to the OPC earlier the same day, as well as Maya Gebeily, Zahera Harb and Rouba Mhaissen. Lyse Doucet, the BBC's Chief International Correspondent, will moderate. This is a ticketed fundraising event. [Read more and purchase tickets here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting** is calling for applications for three reporting fellowships “focused on new scientific discoveries or information related to the impacts of climate change within the United States.” The fellowships are open to current students and recent graduates (Class of 2020) of the center's academic institution partners, [which are listed here](#). Applicants may propose projects on multiple platforms including written, video, photography, audio, and multimedia. The deadline for applications is Oct, 13, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Pulitzer Center** is also calling for grant applications from journalists who want to report stories as part of Connected Coastlines, a nationwide climate reporting initiative in U.S. coastal states. The program centers on local effects of erratic weather patterns on coastal populations using the latest climate science. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the center will prioritize proposals that can be completed, including publication, in 1-3 months. [Read more and apply 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](#)

Welcome New Member

Ines Gil

Freelance

Beirut

Active Overseas, Young

(29 or under)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Uliana Pavlova, the Theo Wilson Scholarship winner in 2017, has moved to Moscow where she will be freelancing for the Bloomberg Industry Group, among other outlets. After graduating from the University of Missouri, Pavlova had an internship with Bloomberg as well as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Politico Europe. Most recently, she was a reporter for a regulatory news wire called MLex on the trade and financial services desks.

Kantaro Komiya, the Stan Swinton Fellowship winner in 2020, has signed on as a part-time editorial intern at Rest of World. Komiya had an internship this summer with Dow Jones before returning to DePauw to complete his last semester. After graduation, he plans to return to Japan to do his OPC Foundation fellowship in The Associated Press bureau in Tokyo.

Claire Parker, the Stan Swinton Fellowship winner in 2019, [wrote](#) about Tunisians leaving Europe in The Washington Post. Parker, who also had a summer internship with Post, had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The

Associated Press bureau in Paris. She was freelancing in Tunisia when the pandemic hit.

Makini Brice, the OPC Foundation's 2015 Flora Lewis Fellowship winner, was part of a team that filed an article for Reuters [on Sept. 27](#) on families mourning elders lost to COVID-19 in the U.S. The piece reported that as the country passes 200,000 deaths from coronavirus, about 70 out of every 100 people in the U.S. death toll are aged 65 or over. She [posted](#) on Twitter that "It was an honor to report on this story and talk to people about their parents and grandparents. Their absences will be felt for a long time." Brice had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Dakar.

AWARDS

TIME magazine on Sept. 22 [named](#) Syrian filmmaker and Peter Jennings Award winner **Waad Al-Kateab** among the world's 100 most influential people of 2020. Al-Kateab and Edward Watts, who directed the Oscar-nominated film *For Sama*, will speak to the OPC on Oct. 7. The film is named after Al-Kateab's daughter who was born and raised during the siege, and tracks her work as she documents the Syrian revolution as a mother and a citizen journalist. Separately, [on Sept. 30](#), Amnesty International announced during its Media Awards that *For Sama* won this year's award in the documentary category.

UPDATES

OPC Third Vice President **Scott Kraft**, managing editor of the Los Angeles Times, spoke on a panel titled "The Journalistic Reset" [on Oct. 1](#) as part of the International Press Institute's virtual World Congress. The panel was billed as a discussion of what organizers called "the great journalistic reset driven by the momentous social movements of our time: from moral clarity to deep context." The panel also included Khadija Patel of IPI, Joe Davidson of The Washington Post, and Sarah Ward-Lilley of BBC News. An IPI tweet said Kraft spoke about managing diversity within the newsroom at the Los Angeles Times, with staff "going through [an] internal process of reconciliation, we need to look at ourselves and apologize about wrongdoings."

OPC Treasurer **Deborah Amos** of NPR News received an honorable mention at the 2020 Dart Awards on Sept. 24 for "Syria Torture Survivors Seek Justice," a [series of stories](#) about people testifying in European courts against a regime accused of war crimes. Judges called the series "a case study in thorough, humane, and complete reporting." They applauded Amos for "swiftly and skillfully relating the background and current situation of each person she profiles, describing but not lingering on the traumatic situations they have endured, and then focusing on their resilience and the action to which their personal histories have spurred them." During the program, a tweet from the DART Center for Journalism and Trauma quoted Amos as saying "Are these tragic victims or are these resilient survivors? I always kept it in my head that these are resilient survivors."

OPC member **Stéphanie Fillion** wrote a piece written for PassBlue and published in Ms. magazine [in September](#) citing a lack of women's voices

speaking at the United Nations General Assembly this year, with only 11 women out of 196 speakers. Fillion wrote that among the first-day speakers were leaders from Brazil, the United States, France, Chile, China, Turkey, Cuba, Russia, Iran, Qatar and South Africa, and “nary a woman in the mix.” She added that several diplomats spoke about the need for more gender equality and were working to change the speaker lineup at the assembly, but did “not want to use their names for fear of looking self-promotional.”

OPC member **Stefania Rousselle’s** reporting on border issues last year was featured in a video published [on Sept. 29](#) on the site Mission Local, originally a project launched at UC Berkeley’s Journalism School. The video follows two undocumented women facing the threat of deportation, who while “living in a perpetual state of uncertainty, these domestic workers and activists continue to help others like them by refusing to stay silent and invisible.” Mission Local’s multimedia editor Mimi Chakaorva also worked on the piece.

OPC member **Amberin Zaman**, senior correspondent for Al-Monitor, talked on a panel [on Sept 23](#) at the Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights about religious minorities being targeted in Turkey. The panel discussed religious freedom of Christians in Turkey, the Turkish government’s systematic deprivation of the rights of Christian institutions, as well as organizations representing other religious minorities. Panelists included Elizabeth Prodromou of Tufts University, author and activist Raffi Bedrosyan, and former pastor Andrew Brunson, who was imprisoned for several years by the Erdogan regime for his activities on behalf of Christians in Turkey.

People Column October 2020

Press Freedom Update

On Oct. 2, The Washington Post ran a full-page print advertisement commemorating the second anniversary of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi by agents of the Saudi government.

The Post’s opinion section also included several pieces on the path to justice and reforms in Saudi Arabia in the wake of Khashoggi’s murder.

You can read the full collection via the button link below.

[Read More](#)

