



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Sept. 3, 2020

Greetings!

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

- An update on the OPC's [second round of emergency grants](#) to freelance members.
- A reminder to RSVP for the online [OPC Annual Meeting](#) on Sept. 8 and our discussion with OPC [Edward R. Murrow Award winners on Sept. 17](#).
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists.
- COVID-19 Coverage by OPC members.
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#).

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



OPC Awards Another \$16,500 in Emergency Grants to Freelance Members

by Patricia Kranz

The Overseas Press Club is
deepening its commitment to

freelance members in need of financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic. In early September, the club awarded grants of \$750 each to 22 freelancers.



The OPC [initiated the grant program](#) in May, when it gave \$750 grants to 27 freelance members. In total, the club has awarded \$36,750 in microgrants to 49 freelancer journalists this year.

“I am incredibly grateful for the OPC’s continued support during this pandemic and beyond,” said Leila Barghouty, who joined the OPC in 2015 after finishing a graduate journalism program at Stanford. “This grant will make it possible for me to continue to safely cover these historic protests and America’s long overdue race reckoning, along with its global influence.”

[Read More](#)

Photo above right: Journalists set up camera equipment in Cellardyke harbor in Scotland. Photo: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images

Upcoming OPC Events

Sept. 8: OPC Annual Meeting

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

Place: Online via Zoom

The OPC Annual Meeting, open to all members in good standing, will be held online on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom.

We will send a Zoom link to registrants on the day of the meeting.

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 EDT. 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, 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, please keep an eye out for a ballot reminder 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, chad.bouchard@gmail.com.

Please call Chad Bouchard at 480 745-9250 if you have any problems voting online.

Thank you again to those who have already voted.

Please RSVP to Attend the Annual Meeting



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.

New Resources

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Sept. 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the **International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR)** and the **International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ)** will host an online conference about fake news. "Gaining Trust for the Media in the Fake News Era" will include panelists Dayo Aiyetan, founder and executive director of The ICIR; Ejiro Umukoro, an award-winning broadcaster and media executive; and Fisayo Soyombo, an investigative journalist. Hannah Ajakaiye, the ICFJ Knight fellow for Nigeria, will moderate. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Central European Time, the **Freelance Journalism Assembly** will host a training session on well-being for journalists. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 25 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Club Journalism Institute**, along with the **RAND** corporation, will host a free online session using game exercises to help journalists make sense of fast-paced events during election coverage. Political journalists will play in teams, and observers will go behind the scenes to eavesdrop on the decision-making by competing groups. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 25 and 16, **Photoville**, with partners including the **ACOS Alliance**, the **Committee to Protect Journalists**, and the **Frontline Freelance Register**, is offering safety clinics to freelance photographers with one-to-one expert advice. To apply for a slot, [read more and register here.](#)

On Oct. 1 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Foundation** will host a Zoom briefing to help U.S. reporters cover changes to voting laws and rules in their states. [Read more and register here.](#)

The **Frontline Freelance Register** posted a recording of its webinar on Aug. 30

discussing diversity in frontline journalism, lack of diversity in the news industry, and problems that arise from reporting told from limited perspectives. [Watch the video on YouTube here.](#)

IJNotes, a podcast by the **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)**, has [released](#) its third episode in a series focused on mental health and journalism. Part 3 includes an interview with Jesús Mesa, an ICFJ fellow and an international reporter with one of Colombia's leading newspapers, El Espectador. Previous episodes included guests Anna Mortimer, a journalist, therapist and co-founder of The Mind Field, a platform that connects international development workers and journalists with therapists, and Dean Yates, a Reuters journalist who has struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

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 **Barbie Latza Nadeau** reported for The Daily Beast [on Aug. 29](#) that Europe's second wave of COVID-19 infections appears to be less lethal than the first strike this spring. She reported from Rome that though France and Spain were reporting their highest numbers of new cases since the lockdown ended in May, "hospitalizations and death rates are nowhere near the level they were the first time around." She said authorities point to higher numbers of elderly who died in the first wave, with younger people now bearing more infections as beaches

and clubs have opened for business.

Sandali Handagama, winner of the 2020 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, has been reporting for Coindesk, site dedicated to blockchain news, including a [Sept. 2 story](#) on members of the U.S. Congress pushing for the use of blockchain to boost COVID-19 relief efforts, and a [Sept. 1 story](#) on the government of Bermuda's use of a digital token to stimulate its economy in response to COVID-19. Handagama wrote that Bermuda launched a pilot program this week in partnership with local private payments platform Stablehouse, writing that "national governments around the world are evaluating the potential benefits or drawbacks of a blockchain-based payments system, whether that looks like a central bank digital currency or a similar payment rail." She has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Mumbai.

Annie Todd, the 2020 winner of the S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting, [wrote for Gothamist](#) about challenges for nearly 3,700 New York University students who had to endure two weeks of isolation because they arrived from states that trigger New York state's quarantine order. NYU faced outcry after reports that the school provided poor quality meals, causing a public apology and an offer of a \$30 Grubhub gift card daily to compensate. Todd also delved into the students' mental health issues, added stress and other effects of quarantine.

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](#).

Welcome New Member

Anup Kaphle

Executive Editor
Rest of World
New York
Active Resident

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Isma'il Kushkush, the 2016 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner, landed the cover story of the current issue of [Smithsonian](#) magazine on the ancient civilization of Sudan. A former Ida B. Welles fellow, he had an OPC Foundation fellowship with AP in Jerusalem.

AWARDS

OPC member **Abigail Pesta** [received](#) in the mail her framed certificate of the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists that she won earlier this year. As [reported](#) in the July 10 Weekly Bulletin, Pesta won the award for her piece "[Life after death in Parkland](#)" in Notre Dame Magazine. Pesta profiled a family dealing with the fallout from the 2018 shooting in Parkland, Florida. Posting a photo of the certificate on social media, she thanked survivor Todd Foote and his family for sharing their story with her. She also mentioned that she received a framed cover of her book, *The Girls* from the Library of Michigan. "Proud to see the book named among the best of the year. Kudos to the brave women who shared their stories, shedding groundbreaking insight into predator Larry Nassar and the abusive coaching that helped enable him. These stories have the power to stop predators," Pesta wrote.

UPDATES

OPC member **Annalisa Quinn** wrote a piece for The New York Times [profiling](#) men who do magic to cope with the loneliness and boredom of being in prison. The article, accompanied by photos by Vincent Tullo, looks at an inmate community that corresponded with magicians to learn and perform tricks. "If there is anything missing from a maximum-security prison, it's wonder," Quinn quoted magician and inmate correspondent Joshua Jay as saying.

OPC member **Thomas Ginsberg** wrote for The Philadelphia Inquirer [on Aug. 26](#) about how the city's high poverty rates cause it to trail its peers in several key business metrics, including the launch of new companies and the overall number of businesses per capita. The city's small and mid-size companies were also in weaker financial shape and less likely to reach customers outside the region, Ginsberg wrote.

OPC Award winner and club member **Tracy Wilkinson** of the Los Angeles Times has been covering the U.S. election and other politics for the Times, most recently with a piece [on Sept. 1](#) that received copious social media shares outlining some of Biden's foreign policies to "repair much of what he and his supporters consider to be the damage done by President Trump." She talked with Biden's top foreign policy advisor, Tony Blinken, who said among other foreign policy insights that that the former vice president would not return the U.S. Embassy to Tel Aviv, "but it is likely he would reopen a U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem that would cater to Palestinians and allow a Palestinian de facto embassy in Washington." Wilkinson was part of teams that won the 2014 Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for a story about a surge of unaccompanied minors traveling from Mexico into south Texas, and the 2008 Hal Boyle Award for coverage of Mexico's drug war.

The Washington Post [announced](#) that 2013 Malcolm Forbes Award winner **Yeganeh Torbati** is joining paper as economic policy investigations reporter. She most recently worked for ProPublica covering government responses to coronavirus. Torbati was part of the Reuters team that won the OPC award for "Assets of the Ayatollah," a profile of how Ayatollah Ali Khamenei secured positions in nearly every sector of Iran's economy and built his own \$95 billion empire.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Andrew Winning, a photojournalist and editor for Getty Images who also covered international news for Reuters for 22 years, died in London [on Aug. 3](#) after a battle with brain cancer at age 49. Winning was born in Paris in 1970 while his father was serving as correspondent for Reuters. He started his career in photojournalism working with Johnny Eggitt at Agence France-Presse (AFP) in London. His career included postings in Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Venezuela. He was based in London for several years after moving there in 2008. In 2018 he started working for Getty Images as news editor for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

People Column August 2020

Press Freedom Update

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

launched the [#MissingNotForgotten campaign](#) to call attention to at least 64 journalists around the globe who have gone missing since CPJ began keeping records. The campaign marked the International

Day of the Disappeared on Aug. 30. The CPJ created an interactive map to track the cases, of which CPJ noted one-third of the global total were in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon alone.

The Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership highlighted advocates' calls for an investigation into the case of murdered journalist Christopher Allen, who was 26 years old on Aug. 26, 2017, when he was killed while covering South Sudan's brutal civil war. Since then, the South Sudanese government has refused to pursue accountability for his killing despite evidence that suggests Allen was targeted for taking photographs of the battle. [Read the latest on his case.](#)

The **James W. Foley Legacy Foundation** has announced that this year it is calling for participants in the 2020 James W. Foley Freedom Run to join virtually as thousands of runners and walkers worldwide participate on Saturday, Oct. 17, to run in remembrance of Foley, a native of New Hampshire, and "advocate for the freedom of all Americans held hostage abroad and promote the safety of journalists worldwide." Foley, an American freelance conflict journalist, was kidnapped in 2012 while reporting from Syria and killed by ISIS in August 2014. [Read more and register for online events here.](#)

In addition, on Sept. 16 the **James W. Foley Legacy Foundation** will host a live



discussion titled "Moral Courage in Challenging Times," which will include panelists exploring how the COVID-19 pandemic, police brutality, racism and attacks against the press have impacted the work of leaders, advocates, and the public. [Read more and register here.](#)

Read and Share via the OPC Website

