



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Feb. 11, 2021

Greetings!

It's the dead of winter on the East Coast, the U.S. is going through another wrenching presidential impeachment and the pandemic, while taking fewer lives, still has much of the world pinned down. So here's some good news: We promised you a digital directory this year and I'm pleased to announce that it will arrive in your inbox as soon as next week. This is an added benefit to your OPC membership – but you must have paid your dues to be included and to receive a copy. Many thanks to Executive Director Patricia Kranz for pulling this project together.



This week we wrapped up our Zoom conversations between the 2020 journalism award winners and judges. We ended nine months' worth of programs – all archived and available on the website – with Karla Zabludovsky of BuzzFeed News, whose reporting on the fight for women's rights in Latin America won the Madeline Dane Ross Award.

Among the exciting programs coming up, I want to highlight Friday night's cocktails and conversation with Elizabeth Becker, author of "You Don't Belong Here," about three extraordinary women who broke gender barriers to cover wars. I plan to join in – and it's not too late for you to sign up. In early March, VICE Media will present three 90-minute safety workshops for freelance journalists, in partnership with OPC and the ACOS Alliance. The

sessions are free, but you must apply by Feb. 18. Details on how to register for these and other programs can be found below.

Finally, a reminder that Feb. 15 is the deadline for freelancers to apply for an OPC micro-grant. This amazing National Geographic [article](#) – on why hippos suddenly are attacking humans in Kenya -- is an example of why your club is working so hard to make these grants available. It was written by OPC Foundation scholar Jacob Kushner, who received a micro-grant last year after all his freelance work had dried up. He was able to use the grant to make a reporting trip to investigate rumors of hippo attacks, and this article is the result. As it states at the bottom, "Reporting for this story was supported by a [grant from the Overseas Press Club of America.](#)" We couldn't be prouder of Jacob or more pleased that a grant from us helped produce such great journalism. Happy Reading!

Paula Dwyer
OPC President



Upcoming OPC Events

RSVPs are essential. We will send Zoom links to those who register about an hour before each program.

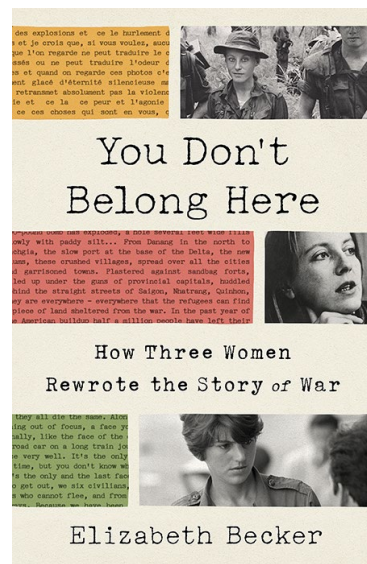


Feb. 12: Book Night: You Don't Belong Here - an OPC Chat with Elizabeth Becker

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Join the OPC for cocktails and conversation with Elizabeth Becker, an award-winning reporter, to discuss her book *You Don't Belong Here*, the long-buried story of three extraordinary female journalists who permanently shattered the official and cultural barriers to women covering war.

Ann Cooper, Professor Emerita of the Columbia Journalism School, will be the moderator.



[RSVP Now](#)



VICE Media Safety Workshops

In partnership with the OPC and the ACOS Alliance, VICE Media is offering three 90-minutes long safety workshops to freelance journalists, including visual journalists.

Schedule and content outline for these sessions:

Digital Security: Trainers will go into some advanced strategies around securing your online presence and prepping your information-security strategy in advance of assignments just like you do for physical safety. AMA around information-security best practices. **Tuesday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time.**

Physical Safety & Civil Unrest: Tactics on working in protest environments, warning signs and how to prepare for an escalation of threats or violence by protesters or law enforcement, and most importantly how to proactively prepare from a risk and security front. AMA around authority tactics, equipment, general escalations. **Thursday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time.**

Self-Care: Conversation with Ramy Ghaly on his own personal strategies, and how he built a resilient and proactive approach for himself and lessons learned. Walk through of available resources and tools to help you prioritize mental health. **Tuesday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time.**

These workshops are FREE, but capacity is limited. Please apply by **Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021.**

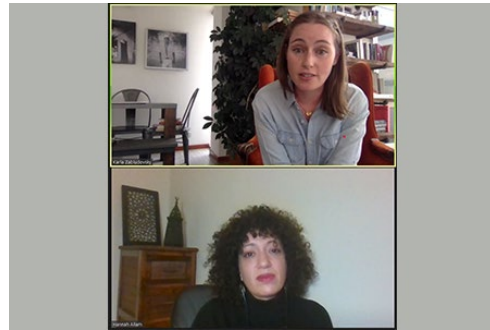
Click the button below to read more and register.

[Read More](#)

Madeline Dane Ross Award Winner Discusses Thorny Dilemmas in Reporting on Women's Rights in Latin America

by **Chad Bouchard**

In recent years, a rising call for women's rights in Latin America has sparked resistance and violence from men who see the equality movement as a threat to the



status quo.

On Feb. 9, 2021, the OPC hosted a discussion with Karla Zabudovsky, the Mexico bureau chief and Latin America correspondent for BuzzFeed News who won the 2019 Madeline Dane Ross Award. Her winning entry was a series of articles exploring the ripple effects of the fight for gender equality, including a growing number of femicides and violence against women.

“As this movement to garner more rights and to get more access to health care, more access to abortion, equal pay — as this movement has gotten stronger, so has pushback from men,” Zabudovsky said.

The moderator was Hannah Allam, a DC-based reporter covering extremism for NPR, who served as head judge for the award.

[Read the Full Recap Here](#)



Friends, Family and Colleagues Celebrate the Life and Work of Seymour Topping

On Jan. 22, the OPC and the Silurians Press Club hosted a remembrance celebration of the life and work of longtime OPC member and Governor Seymour Topping, a veteran foreign correspondent who passed away in November last year at the age of 98.

Nearly 100 friends, colleagues and family members joined the online gathering to share stories of mentorship, gratitude and respect for Topping, who was widely known as “Top.”

Topping's career spanned more than a half century, starting in the early years of the Cold War covering China and Southeast Asia for The Associated Press in 1948, becoming a foreign news editor for The New York Times in 1966 and then assistant managing editor, deputy managing editor and managing editor from 1969 to 1986, working alongside executive editor A.M. Rosenthal. He became a professor at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in 1993 and served as administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, retiring in 2002.

Opening remarks came from OPC Past President Allan Dodds Frank, who called Topping a "consummate gentleman and a great companion."

"Any conversation with him was a master class in world affairs," he said.

[Read More](#)



OPC Member Irwin Chapman Recounts a Storied Career - Part II

The following is the second installment of a piece that OPC member Irwin Chapman wrote about his career and memories of the club. This week, read about Chapman's experience covering the funerals of John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy from Washington, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, civil rights in Mississippi and Alabama, and then on to cover Moscow, Germany and Calcutta for ABC.

by Irwin Chapman

Part II

In June, 1963, ABC Radio, which aired its newscasts at :55 past each hour, decided to program a news feature at :15, repeated at :25. I heard about it from a friend and was hired as the Washington correspondent. I would do one of the daily features and supply additional interviews to my



New York colleagues. They included Jim Harriott, who had been a disc jockey at WMCA; Ted Koppel, a copy boy at WMCA; Stewart Klein, who later became entertainment critic for Channel 5; Charles Osgood; and Betty Adams.

The program's staff was before long merged into ABC News. My first major special event broadcast was John F. Kennedy's funeral. I was stationed beside the North Portico as his casket was brought from the East Room, a shattering experience. ABC Radio made a phonograph record of the coverage. It was years before I could listen to it.

I went on to cover the funeral of Robert Kennedy, a few days after I returned to Washington from covering a week of his campaign. On August 28, 1963, I was at the Lincoln Memorial when Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech. My assignment was to watch the periphery of the crowd for potential violence. There was none, of course. But when Dr. King was murdered, there was plenty.

Click the button below to jump to Part II and begin reading on the OPC website, or scroll up to the top if you want to start over and review the first segment.

[Read Part II](#)

OPC Joins International Day of Solidarity with Belarus

THE OPC joined the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC) and 16 other organizations in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all journalists and media workers who continue to be arbitrarily detained, in a statement to mark the International Day of Solidarity with Belarus on Feb. 7. The following is



an excerpt from that letter:

Nearly six months since President Alexander Lukashenko claimed a landslide victory in what has been widely acknowledged and condemned as a fraudulent election, opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya remains in exile and thousands of protesters continue to take to the streets of Minsk calling for his resignation.

The regime has made every effort to prevent its citizens from accessing independent information. News outlets have had their publishing licences revoked. Some have their equipment seized. Independent newspapers are banned from printing and barred from sales through the national state monopolist retailer.

As part of this effort, the authorities have also used violence, threats, and arbitrary detention to intimidate journalists and prevent them from doing their jobs. Reporters and photographers wearing press vests have been deliberately targeted by law enforcement. According to the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ), journalists were detained 480 times in 2020. They have spent over 1,200 days behind bars, often without being told what, if any, charges they face.

At least eleven journalists and media workers remain in detention, among them are several of our friends and colleagues. They are: Katsiaryna Barysevich, Daria Chultsova, Yulia Slutskaya, Alla Sharko, Siarhei Alsheuski, Sergey Olshevski, Petr Slutski, Ksenia Lutskina, Andrei Aliaksandrau, and Aliaksandr Mikrukou.

[Read the Full List of Signatories](#)

Welcome New Member

Agostino Petroni

Freelance

New York

Active Resident, Young (29 or under)

OPC Members Covering COVID-19

OPC member **Chriss Swaney** continues to cover the effects of COVID-19 on worker's rights and labor issues for WorkersCompensation.com, most recently with a piece [on Jan. 26](#) about a survey indicating the percentage of workers around the world who are permanently working from home could double this year. The survey of more than 1,000 chief information officers, conducted by the U.S.-based firm Enterprise Technology Research, said the number of permanent remote workers would increase to 34.4 percent of their workforces in 2021, compared with 16.4 percent before the start of the pandemic.



OPC member **Azad Essa**, senior reporter for Middle East Eye based in New York, has announced that his publishing house has released the third and final volume of a series of children's stories focused on coping with hardship during the coronavirus. The *Duma Says* stories, released [on Jan. 29](#), are about a family living in an unnamed informal settlement in South Africa during the pandemic, grappling with tough conditions such as cramped homes without proper sanitation and electricity. Essa, who is South African, told the OPC that the books were endorsed by South Africa's health department, and have been included as COVID-19 resources at the Centre for African Studies and the NYC School Library system. They debuted on Amazon at number 1 in the children's homelessness poverty category. The books were published by Essa's company, Social Bandit Media, in part through a crowd funding project that contributed more than \$5,800 to the effort.



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

Jacob Kushner, the 2013 Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship winner, landed a major feature for National Geographic that he said in an email was made possible by an OPC micro-grant he received last year. The [Jan. 29](#) story credits the OPC's support. "Back when I had lost all my work due to COVID, I was able to make an initial reporting trip to Lake Naivasha to investigate rumors about hippo attacks, job loss, and the lake's uncontrollable rise," Kushner wrote to the



OPC. Due to a 100-year flood at the lake and waning demand in Europe for flowers from Kenya, thousands of laid off workers resorted to fishing on the lake, putting them in closer range of the deadly animals. In addition, Kushner filed a story [in January](#) for the BBC about researchers in northern Kenya trying to prevent a dangerous coronavirus known as Mers from jumping from camels to humans again, as climate change causes greater challenges to that effort.

Simon Akam, the Emmanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2009, has just published his new book, *The Changing of the Guard: The British Army Since 9/11*. His controversial account of the Army's two-decade long evolution was published on Feb. 11. In a piece published [on Jan. 13](#) for the Book Brunch website, he talked about how his experience in 2003 and 2004 serving a one-year commission for the Army informed his reporting, as a "military insider-outsider" who could "speak fluent Army." He also wrote about facing considerable institutional resistance and inertia against the book's publishing.



Alizeh Kohari, the 2016 Walter and Betsy Cronkite fellow, wrote about preserving a place for Urdu in the tech age for Rest of World City [on Feb. 9](#). Urdu, spoken by nearly 170 million people in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora, is written in an alphabet derived from Arabic but uses a more ornate script. Kohari wrote about a developer who created an Urdu keyboard application in 2010, and is pushing for better software to help preserve the language, which is endangered as so much contemporary communication is in the digital realm. Kohari now divides her time between Karachi and Mexico City, where she had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau.



AWARDS

OPC member **Simcha Jacobovici** has been [nominated](#) for a 2021 NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Directing in a Documentary in Television or Motion Picture for his series *Enslaved: The Lost History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*. The series, hosted by Samuel L. Jackson, retraces 400 years of human trafficking from Africa to the New World, and includes the efforts of scuba divers to locate six sunken slave ships. The series, which premiered on EPIX last September, also recently won the Outstanding Achievement award from the Impact DOCS Awards. The NAACP Image Award winners will be announced on March 27 during a ceremony broadcast on several networks.



UPDATES

The New York Times announced [on Feb. 9](#) that OPC member **Rebecca Blumenstein**, one of the paper's deputy managing editors, will take on a newly created role and report directly to publisher A. G. Sulzberger. As deputy managing editor, she

has overseen the paper's website. Her new title will be deputy editor, publisher's office. She joined the Times in 2016, and previously served as deputy editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal, as well as China bureau chief, international editor, page one editor and managing editor of the Journal's website. In a Times story about her new role, Blumenstein said she would miss the newsroom but wants to help the paper face challenges. "We have to do whatever we can to see around the corner of what's coming and make sure The Times is the best place for our people and our journalists," she said.



OPC member and Canadian journalist **Mellissa Fung's** new film *Captive* is set to premiere on the TVO network [on Feb. 16](#). For the documentary, she traveled with a crew into Boko Haram-occupied territory in Nigeria to interview some of the young girls who escaped after being held hostage in 2018. In an article about her film on the Toronto news website [City News](#), she said the film in part is a personal reflection on her experience being kidnapped and held captive for 28 days in Afghanistan in 2008. She told City News that experience informed her reporting for the documentary and how she approached survivors but added that while she had access to mental health services to help process her trauma, for Boko Haram survivors in Nigeria, trauma treatment is a luxury. *Captive* is a TVO network original and is set to premier on Feb. 16 at 9:30 Eastern Time but will be available to stream on the network's website and YouTube Channel afterwards.



OPC member **Anne-Elisabeth Moutet** was a guest on the [Jan. 28 episode](#) of The Edition, the podcast of The Spectator magazine, to discuss a story about allegations of sexual abuse against French professor and political commentator Olivier [Duhamel](#). His stepdaughter published a book earlier this year detailing abuse against her twin brother at the ages of 13 or 14, as well as a network of protective silence among the country's academic elites. Duhamel resigned as head of a foundation that oversees the prestigious Sciences Po in Paris, among other posts. The book was among other sexual abuse and incest allegations that has sparked a mirror of the #metoo movement, marked with its own hashtag of #metooinceste. In her interview, Moutet described Duhamel as a powerful man in every way, "in French society, in his own family, within his circle of relations and the interlocking circles of power, that very obviously he felt that he could do anything, everything was possible." To hear the segment featuring Moutet, skip to the 17-minute mark of the episode. She is a Paris-based columnist for The Telegraph.



OPC member **Lila Hassan** contributed to a ProPublica/Frontline story tracking down more than 20 Boogaloo Bois members with ties to the armed forces. The [Feb. 1 piece](#), with a byline shared among A.C. Thompson of

ProPublica and Karim Hajj of FRONTLINE, examined case studies from the list and looked into previous domestic terror investigations of the identified members.



MEDIA NEWS

Washington Post Executive Editor **Marty Baron** [on Jan. 26](#) announced plans to retire at the end of February. Baron has led the paper's newsroom for the last eight years. Post publisher Fred Ryan said in a letter to employees that during his tenure Baron had "significantly expanded our coverage areas, inspired great reporting, managed an awesome digital transformation and grown the number of readers and subscribers to unprecedented levels." Baron wrote to colleagues that "I am proud to have joined you in ambitious, high-impact work that is essential to a democracy. You stood up time and again against vilification and vile threats. You stood firm against cynical, never-ending assaults on objective fact." Baron delivered the keynote speech at the OPC's Annual Awards Dinner in April 2019, telling attendees that "while this is journalism we admire, even more important, it is work we need." A video clip of his remarks [can be found here](#).



People Column February 11, 2021

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** has a toolkit available for guidance on trauma-informed interviewing, with techniques shared by Katherine Porterfield. [Read more here](#).

The International Journalists' Network (IJNet) has a free newsletter that includes ideas for covering COVID-19 as well as other journalism opportunities. [Sign up here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

A reminder that applications are due by Feb. 18 for the **VICE Media Safety Workshops** (mentioned above) with sessions with expert trainers slated for March 2, 4 and 9 on digital security, physical safety and unrest, and self-care for journalists. [Read more and apply](#).

The **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** and **ROAAAR**, a personal safety training initiative, are partnering to train 10 to 12 women and nonbinary people in journalism security management this year. [Read more here.](#) **The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted a podcast episode with Knight fellow Catherine Gicheru on how her Africa Women Journalism Project is supporting women journalists across five countries to cover underreported stories during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Listen here.](#)

The **Foreign Press Association** has posted a video of its program with Damian Radcliffe and Will Church of the Thomson Reuters Foundation on the impact of COVID-19 on journalism in emerging economies and the Global South. [Watch here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) holds weekly “Office Hours” each Friday at noon Eastern Time, where you can ask questions and learn more about how to apply for grants. [Find the Zoom link here.](#)

The Justice for Journalists Foundation (JFJ) in late January announced details of its Investigative Grant Programme 2021. The grants are available to “investigative journalists, both professional and non-professional (bloggers, social activists), both in wartime and peacetime.” The topic is “investigation into violent crimes against journalists, freelancers and bloggers.” The deadline to apply is March 14. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **ICFJ** has called for nominations for its 2021 ICFJ Knight International Journalism Awards. The call is for candidates “whose pioneering coverage or media innovations have made an impact on the lives of people in their countries or regions. Candidates can be reporters, editors, technologists, media managers or citizen journalists. Candidates who meet the awards criteria may nominate themselves.” [Nominations are due by Sunday, Feb. 21.](#)

Applications are open until Feb. 12 for Winter 2021 Fellowships from the **McGraw Fellowship for Business Journalism**, which provides up to \$15,000 for “high-impact investigative and enterprise stories on critical issues related to the U.S. economy, finance or business.” Applications for the Summer 2021 Fellowships will be due July 16, 2021. [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](#)

