



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Feb. 25, 2021

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin, which features three upcoming events in March and April, a recap and video from our Feb. 12 Book Night with Elizabeth Becker, the third and final installment of Irwin Chapman's remembrance article for the OPC, plus resources and updates on club members.

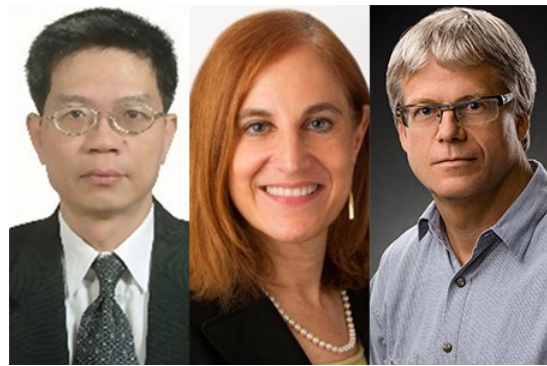


Upcoming OPC Events

March 18: Showdown Taiwan: The United States and China Face a Crucial Confrontation Over the Democratically Governed Island

Time: 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, (7:00 a.m. Taiwan time on March 19)

The government of Xi Jinping is increasing military and other pressures on Taiwan in an apparent attempt to



force it to submit to the mainland's control. Chinese military aircraft including bombers are regularly testing Taiwan's air defenses and Beijing's global pressure campaign has kept Taiwan out of the World Health Organization and other important international forums.

The new administration of President Joseph Biden has signaled strong support for Taiwan, but it remains to be seen how it will conduct military, diplomatic and economic exchanges with Taiwan that risk provoking strong responses from Beijing. Will it maintain a policy of "strategic ambiguity" regarding its commitment to Taiwan's defense? Does it still possess the military power to successfully defend Taiwan in view of China's strengthened military and technology sectors?

The panel will feature:

Si-Fu Ou, Director, Division of Chinese Politics, Military and Warfighting Concepts, Taiwan's Institute for National Defense and Security Research. (Speaking from Taiwan.)

Bonnie Glaser, Director of the China Power Project and a Senior Adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Dexter "Tiff" Roberts, who spent 23 years in Beijing for BusinessWeek magazine and is the author of *The Myth of Chinese Capitalism*. He is a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Asia Security Initiative and is based at the Mansfield Center in Montana.

Moderating will be **William J. Holstein**, past OPC president who was based in Hong Kong and Beijing.

RSVPs are essential. Register now to receive login credentials on the day of the program. The online platform we'll use is to be announced.

[RSVP Now](#)

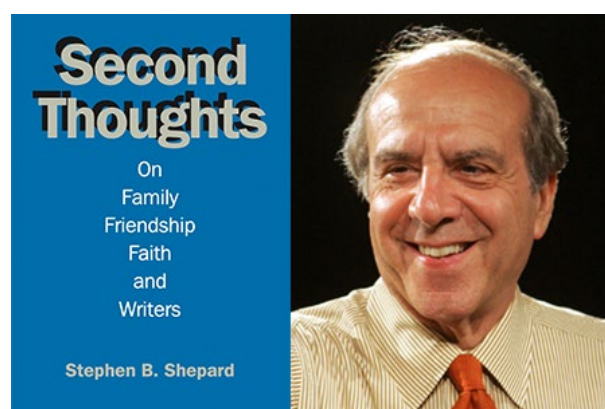


April 1: Second Thoughts: On Family, Friendship, Faith and Writers – An OPC Chat with Stephen B. Shepard

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Zoom video conferencing app.

Join the OPC for virtual cocktails and conversation with author and journalist **Stephen B. Shepard** to discuss his book, *Second Thoughts: On Family, Friendship, Faith and Writers*. Shepard was editor-in-chief



of BusinessWeek, the founding dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York, a senior editor at Newsweek, and co-founder of the Knight-Bagehot Fellowships at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

In writing the book, Shepard said he hoped to gain new understanding about the family of his boyhood; greater meaning about today's journalism as it copes with profound change; new thoughts about the Jewishness he once rejected; renewed pleasure in re-reading fiction that matters; and deep understanding of male friendship.

In the chapter titled "The New World of Journalism," Shepard describes how he and other traditional journalists took pride in acting as "trustworthy gatekeepers," only to find themselves criticized in the digital revolution as being biased elitists. "We were dethroned, like some ancient monarch." As social media grew, roughly half of all traditional journalists lost their jobs.

Shepard believes technological change must be kept in perspective. "The new technologies, as dazzling as they seem, are but a means to an overriding end. And that end is journalism." In an era of media fragmentation, he stresses that in-depth reporting, community engagement and analysis are desperately needed. "I believe, in the smithy of my soul, that even if the medium ultimately changes—and it will—the intellectual need, the human need, for thoughtful journalism will never, ever go away."

OPC President **Paula Dwyer** will lead the discussion.

RSVPs are essential. Please register now to receive a Zoom link via email about an hour before the program.

[RSVP Now](#)



April 8: Annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards



Time: 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

The Overseas Press Club Foundation has announced that this year's 30th Annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards will be held online on April 8. The event will include an awards presentation to celebrate the 17 journalists chosen by the Foundation's judges, as well as a panel of past OPC Foundation winners who will discuss their own careers and how the Foundation helped them. Associated Press legend and OPC member **Edie Lederer** will moderate. Panelists will include **Portia Crowe**, a freelancer based in Paris; **Dake Kang** of The Associated Press in Beijing; and **Jacob Kushner**, a freelancer based in Nairobi. Please watch for OPC event reminders and your next Bulletin for information on how to RSVP.

Author of 'You Don't Belong Here' Chronicles Three Women Journalists Who Blazed Trails Covering the Vietnam War

by Chad Bouchard

In January 1973, journalist and author Elizabeth Becker bought a one-way ticket to Cambodia, within a few months launching her career as stringer for The Washington Post, Newsweek and NBC Radio. She later won an OPC Citation for Excellence for her coverage of Cambodia in 1978. In her new book, [*You Don't Belong Here*](#), she profiles the work of three pioneering women journalists who preceded her and broke barriers of discrimination.



"That's one of the reasons I wrote the book," she said during an OPC book night on Feb.12. "I owe a debt to these women. I don't think I could have done it without them, without them paving the way."

The book follows the careers of Kate Webb, who she described as an Australian iconoclast, Catherine Leroy, a French daredevil photographer, and Frances FitzGerald, “a blue-blood American intellectual.”

Ann Cooper, Professor Emerita of the Columbia Journalism School, moderated the program.

[Read the Full Recap Here](#)



OPC Member Irwin Chapman Recounts a Storied Career - Part III

Below is the third and final installment of OPC member Irwin Chapman's remembrances of his career and history with the club. This week, read more about Chapman's experience in Vietnam, with stints in the Philippines, Guam, Moscow, and his return to the U.S. to cover Washington.

by Irwin Chapman

Part III

The Vietnam war was dragging on. ABC had been hiring new correspondents willing to spend a year in Vietnam and then get a slot in a domestic bureau. By 1971, the decision was made to send existing staff on three-month rotations. Arlene and I headed to the Caravelle Hotel in Saigon, and Sam Donaldson returned home.



An election was in progress. Vietnam had some 30 newspapers, all but one complaining that the voting was rigged, quite a contrast with the press in Soviet

Russia. Students at the university debated as though they were in Berkeley. Why were the American in their country? There must be oil reserves offshore. American money created a middle class. The war was at a low ebb. President Richard Nixon had announced that American forces would pull out after training South Vietnamese. Plainly, South Vietnam was a comparatively free country. The issue for me was how long could that last and what would happen to that middle class eventually.

During a vacation in Europe earlier, I phoned my Paris colleague, Lou Cioffi, who was bureau chief in Tokyo when I first met him in Saigon. Lou kept wired in to office gossip, and told me that the Tokyo bureau was again available. ABC News had hired a magazine reporter, sent him to New York for three months to learn television, it turned into five months, and they gave up. I wrote a letter on hotel stationary to the ABC television vice president. The day after Nixon left Moscow, Arlene and I flew to Tokyo.

Right after we arrived, there was an anti-Vietnam demonstration near a U.S. military base. I got together with the Tokyo camera crew and off we went. No more bureaucracy to deal with.

Click the button below to jump to Part III 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 III](#)

Welcome New Member

Jodi Schneider

Senior Editor
Bloomberg News
New York
Active Resident

Jessica Worthington

Freelance
Documentary Photojournalist
Istanbul
Active Overseas, Young (30-34)

Timothy Wolfer

Video Journalist
Georgetown University
Baltimore
Student

Ayla Jean Yackley

Freelance
Istanbul
Active Overseas

People by Chad Bouchard

We appreciate all member news tips and updates! Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our People column

pages on the OPC website and share with members here in the Bulletin. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

SCHOLARS

Makini Brice, the Flora Lewis fellow in 2015, has a new role in the Reuters DC bureau. She was covering breaking news but has now joined the Capital Hill team. Brice had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Dakar.



2013 Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship winner, **Jacob Kushner**, has [announced](#) that he landed a deal to write a book slated to be out in 2024, entitled *White Terror*, about an anti-immigrant killing spree in Germany. The story follows the story of three radicalized neo-Nazi terrorists and a spate of assassinations and bombings they carried out against immigrants in the name of white nationalism. Kushner received support from the OPC in May last year with a micro-grant to offset the effects of the pandemic on freelancers.



Letícia Duarte, the 2019 winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone, co-wrote a story for the New Yorker [on Feb. 16](#) with three colleagues on the impact of climate change on xenophobia. The piece opens with the story of undocumented migrants in the Bahamas who sought shelter in government camps after Hurricane Dorian struck in August 2019, only to be deported along with thousands of others. The piece, co-written with Cristina Baussan, Ottavia Spaggiari and Sarah Stillman as part of the Global Migration Project at the Columbia Journalism School, outlines key points from more than a hundred and fifty interviews with displaced people, climate scientists, government officials, and other experts discussing the “distinct dangers that extreme weather poses to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.” Duarte had an OPC Foundation fellowship with the GroundTruth Project. Duarte also received a micro-grant from the OPC in May last year.



AWARDS

A project led by OPC Governor **Derek Kravitz** has received a [2020 Free Speech and Open Government Award](#) from the First Amendment Coalition (FAC). The Brown Institute for Media Innovation project, called “Documenting COVID-19,” has amassed a huge trove of public records on the pandemic and is used for investigative projects in partnership with 30 newsrooms. “This project is a shining example of the tremendous good that can come when journalists collaborate



— with one another, with computer scientists and with open-records experts,” FAC Executive Director David Snyder said in a press release about the award. The project is a collaboration between Columbia University’s Journalism School and Stanford University’s School of Engineering. Kravitz serves as project lead, and was named on the award along with his colleagues Georgia Gee, Kyra Senese, Caitlin Antonios, Siddhant Shandilya, Qiaoge Zhu, Arusha Kelkar, Kanak Manhip Singh, Ivan Ugalde and Tim Robertson.

UPDATES

OPC member **John Koppisch** has [joined Discourse](#) as the assistant managing editor. Discourse is a new online magazine of economics, politics and society published by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. It focuses on the U.S., but it has been running a series on India and will start ones in March on Taiwan and China and the challenges they pose for the Biden administration. Previously, Koppisch was a senior editor at the Asia edition of Forbes magazine for 13 years after stints at BusinessWeek magazine, the Asian edition of The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Mail in South Africa. He spent 12 years abroad, in Johannesburg and Hong Kong.



OPC member **Kenneth R. Rosen** published a new book in January investigating the trauma and aftermath of “tough-love” programs for young adults in the U.S. The book, titled [Troubled: The Failed Promise of America’s Behavioral Treatment](#), follows four survivors of these wilderness boot camps and treatment programs across the country, where so-called troubled teens undergo therapies in a private industry that he argues are largely unregulated and leave children open to abuse. Rosen, himself a survivor of such a program, spent three years reporting and conducted more than a hundred interviews for the book. Troubled was named a #1 bestseller on Amazon, and garnered a New York Times Editor’s Choice accolade. The OPC supported Rosen with COVID-19 micro-grant funding last year.

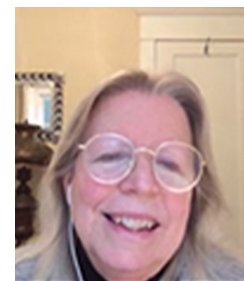


OPC member **Kathy Eldon** launched her new book on Valentine’s Day during an online celebration with a list of noteworthy guests. *Hope Rising: A Musing to Help You Feel Better about Life, Love and the Future of Humankind*, is a collection of poems, drawings, and “musings about love, parenthood, the pandemic, and what happens after wild and precious lives are over.” The event touted Hope Rising as the start of a movement for a more positive future, and featured appearances by Julian Lennon, Rain Phoenix, Diva Zappa, Sting’s son Joe Sumner and Nelson Mandela’s grandson, Kweku.



OPC member **Kim Murphy** has joined the leadership team for the The New York Times’ National Desk as deputy for investigations. The paper announced Murphy’s new role [on Feb. 12](#), along with Monica Davey as a deputy and the No. 2

editor on the desk, Julie Bloom as a deputy, and Jamie Stockwell as head of “Race/Related,” a weekly newsletter focused on race, identity and culture.



OPC member and Oscar-nominated filmmaker **Evgeny Afineevsky** is set to premier his latest documentary, *Francesco*, on Discovery+ [on March 28](#). The film examines Pope Francis’s leadership on many of the most important problems facing the world.



A [Feb. 16](#) article in Los Angeles Magazine mentions several names of candidates in the search for an executive editor at the Los Angeles Times, including OPC member **Sewell Chan**. The piece mentions unnamed sources who cited up to 30 candidates are in a “Hunger Games” competition vying for the paper’s top job since OPC member **Norman Pearlstine** announced in October that he would step down. The piece outlines strengths and weaknesses for ten of the candidates they identified after “checking in with dozens of informed sources both inside and outside the paper.” Chan serves as editorial page editor for the paper, and previously worked as reporter and editor for The New York Times for 14 years. Others mentioned are Kevin Merida of ESPN, Janice Min of The Hollywood Reporter, Dean Baquet and Carolyn Ryan of The New York Times, Anne Kornblut of Facebook, and Julia Turner, Shani O. Hilton and Kimi Yoshino and Gustavo Arellano of the LA Times. In December last year, the paper announced that OPC vice president and head awards judge **Scott Kraft** would take over day-to-day operations at the paper along with Yoshino. Kraft’s name has also been mentioned in speculation about who would succeed Pearlstine.

OPC member **Peter Gwin**, National Geographic’s editor at large, recounted a trip to the Himalaya to track snow leopards for the Overheard at National Geographic podcast [on Feb. 2](#). He joined explorer Prasenjeet Yadav on his search for one of the planet’s most elusive animals. During the episode, Gwin talks about how Himalayan communities have long regarded the snow leopards as threats to their livelihoods, and how conservation efforts and tourism are changing attitudes.



Robert McMahon, OPC member and managing editor for the Council on Foreign Relations, discussed challenges facing the Biden administration for the [Feb. 19 episode](#) of The World Next Week podcast. McMahon and co-host James M. Lindsay discussed the COVID-19 death toll approaching five hundred thousand in the U.S., as well as the Biden administration formally rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate and addressing world leaders at the virtual Munich Security



Conference.

OPC member and Harvard Business Review editor-in-chief **Adi Ignatius** interviewed Bill Gates for the [Feb. 16 episode](#) of the HBR Ideacast. Gates discussed his new book, *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need*.



OPC member **Dana Thomas** told attendees at the Fashinnovation virtual forum [on Feb. 11](#) that the fashion industry is damaging to the planet and humanity, and must find a more sustainable path. Thomas, author of a book titled *Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes*, said that the industry reaches far corners of the world, and that “everywhere you turn fashion is somehow happening, it could be a farmer growing cotton or a seamstress sewing in a couture atelier or a model on a runway or a sales clerk ringing up the clothes you want to buy.” The OPC supported Thomas with a micro-grant for journalists suffering the effects of COVID-19 in May last year.

People Column February 25, 2021

New Resources

RESOURCES

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma has posted a tipsheet for best practices when involving children and families in your reporting. The page covers advice about getting consent, being transparent, rethinking definitions of family, and staying flexible. The advice is based on a program presented in 2019 by Ismail Einashe and Sarah Stillman at the Dart Center’s 2019 reporting institute in Amman, Jordan, which is [available to watch here](#). Read the tipsheet on the [Dart Center’s website here](#).

The GroundTruth Project posted an article to help journalists report on Indigenous communities “with tact and nuance,” with tips and resources from the Native American Journalists Association that cover how to prepare and research before setting out to report on tribal lands, how to navigate the landscape of so-called experts on Indigenous communities, building trust and avoiding common pitfalls. [Read the article here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The Foreign Press Association has posted a video of their program this week with investigative journalist Carey Gillam on health risks of Monsanto’s glyphosate along with attorney Robert Bilott, who discussed DuPont’s pollution of waterways. Moderating the discussion was OPC member Ian Williams, who is president of

the FPA. [Watch the video here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted the latest of its webinar series with health experts and newsroom leaders with a panel on equity in vaccine access. The panel is part of the organization's Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum, conducted with the International Journalists' Network (IJNet). "Here we are, a vaccine, a critically important tool to help us fight the COVID-19 pandemic — what we are seeing is that these structural inequalities that exist have been magnified and accentuated," said Harvard University professor Dr. Rifat Atun said during the panel. [Watch the program here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **ICFJ** is accepting applications for its **The Arthur F. Burns Fellowship**, which gives U.S., Canadian and German reporters the chance to report across the Atlantic, strengthening understanding between their countries. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

The **ICFJ** is also calling for nominations for **the Knight International Journalism Award**. The award honors those 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. 28. [Read more here.](#)

Applications now open for the Fall 2021 **Joan Shorenstein Fellowship**. The Shorenstein Center fellowships are remote/virtual for the 2020/2021 academic year. Final decisions on the Fall 2021 semester are pending, and will likely not be made until spring or summer. Contact Fellows Program Manager, [Susan Ocitti Mahoney](#), if you have any questions. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Reuters is looking for a journalist to join its team in Washington DC to "report and give new insights on the impact of U.S. policies on people, society and the environment." [Read more 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](#)

