



Overseas Press Club  
*of America*

## Bulletin May 21, 2021

Greetings!

I was in Midtown Manhattan today and, for the first time in more than 15 months, I could see people's faces. Many wore smiles. As I walked up Madison Avenue, it seemed my fellow commuters had an extra spring in their step. The joy is almost palpable: Rising vaccination rates and the end of mask mandates have brought back a sense of freedom and optimism to New Yorkers.



I hope your life is also on a glide path back to normal. At the Overseas Press Club, we've been able to turn our attention away from the pandemic to less-challenging, though still serious, matters. First, we took the initiative to pen a letter to the International Olympics Committee, urging it to include press freedom issues in its talks with the Chinese government before the February 2022 Winter Olympics. We are happy to say that 28 other media and press freedom groups co-signed the letter, which we hope is the beginning of a conversation to determine the rules of the road for journalists who will be covering the games.

Second, this week we issued a statement calling on Israel to provide evidence that Hamas operated in a Gaza building that an Israeli air strike destroyed on May 15. We aren't taking either side in the conflict; rather, we are on the side of media outfits like The Associated Press and Al Jazeera. Both had offices in the building and both were providing independent

reporting on the conflict that the Israeli attack interfered with.

Third, we are preparing for our annual board elections. This year, depending on how many governors wish to re-up for another two-year term, we may have slots for 11 active board members and two associate board members. If you're interested, or know of someone you think would make a good OPC governor, please notify our executive director, Patricia Kranz, at [patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org).

Finally, we are steadily moving ahead with plans to throw our annual awards gala on Oct. 22. Soon we'll be contacting media groups and other companies to help us honor the winners of our journalism awards by purchasing tables and tickets. Here's hoping the spirit of renewal and optimism I saw today continues until then. And I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Bulletin.

Paula Dwyer  
OPC President

## Experts on Central America Condemn Lack of Improvement in U.S. Immigration Policies

by Chad Bouchard

President Joseph Biden's administration so far has not done enough to reverse restrictive immigration policies of former President Donald Trump, and in some cases might be worsening the situation for those displaced by oppressive conditions in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, panel members said during a discussion on May 18 hosted by the OPC and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Kate Morrissey, an immigration reporter for the San Diego Union-Tribune, said many people who follow U.S. immigration issues expected policies under the Biden administration to change.

"By and large, the effect of U.S. policy on people who are fleeing for their lives has not changed," she said.



[Read the Full Recap](#)



## Upcoming Events

**For the OPC programs below, RSVPs are essential. Please register in advance to receive the link to join about an hour before the program.**



### May 25: India – Uncovering and Transcending a Catastrophe

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time

**Location:** Zoom video conferencing app

As the COVID crisis intensifies in India, claiming 3,000 to 4,000 lives a day, this Zoom webinar will feature **Jeffrey Gettleman**, New York Times South Asia bureau chief in New Delhi, in conversation with **Sree Sreenivasan**, co-founder of Digimentors and Marshall Loeb Innovation Professor of Journalism at Stony Brook University, to discuss the role of journalists during times of crisis.

Together, they will examine the emotional toll on those covering conflict, famine and pandemics, and the concept of “Restorative Narratives,” stories that seek to engage readers in responding with empathy and compassion and will invite questions from the Zoom audience.

**Amita N. Vyas**, PhD, MHS, professor at the George Washington University School of Public Health and co-founder of Global India Fund, will also speak to ongoing efforts to provide critical services to those impacted by COVID-19 in India and will explain how viewers can provide assistance.

This event is presented by [Creative Visions](#), an organization founded by OPC member Kathy Eldon, in partnership with [The Peace Studio](#).

Partner members include the American India Foundation (AIF), Facebook Journalism Project India, Global India Fund, Humanity United, Search for

Common Ground, Lawyers Club of Chicago, Peace First, Interfaith Youth Core, Door 38, and PartnersGlobal.

RSVP Now

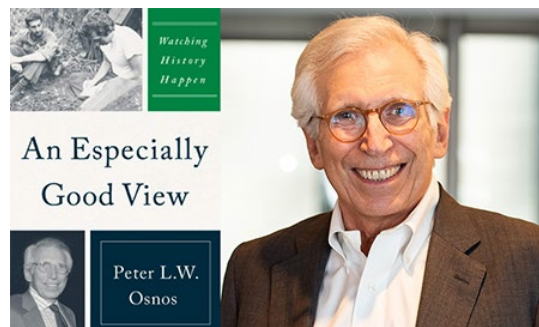


## June 9: Book Night – An Especially Good View: Watching History Happen

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Location:** Zoom video conferencing app

Please join us for a Book Night with veteran journalist **Peter L. W. Osnos** to discuss his memoir, *An Especially Good View: Watching History Happen*. **John Darnton**, a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and novelist who worked over 40 years for The New York Times, will lead the discussion.



*An Especially Good View* spans a half century in journalism and publishing, reflecting on a life that began during World War II in India where Osnos was born. As a journalist Osnos worked for the legendary I.F. Stone and was a correspondent for The Washington Post covering the war in Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the Cold War era. He was also the Post's foreign and national editor.

At Random House and the company he founded, PublicAffairs, he was responsible for books by four presidents – Carter, Clinton, Obama and Trump; celebrated Washington figures including Robert McNamara, House Speaker Tip O'Neill and Vernon Jordan, first ladies Rosalynn Carter and Nancy Reagan; Russian President Boris Yeltsin; the billionaire George Soros; basketball superstars Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Magic Johnson; and journalists including Sam Donaldson, Meg Greenfield, Don Hewitt, Molly Ivins, Ward Just, Brian Lamb, Jim Lehrer, Roger Mudd, Andy Rooney and Morley Safer.

[\*An Especially Good View\*](#) is published by Platform Books, a new imprint established by Osnos and his wife, Susan Sherer Osnos.

RSVP Now



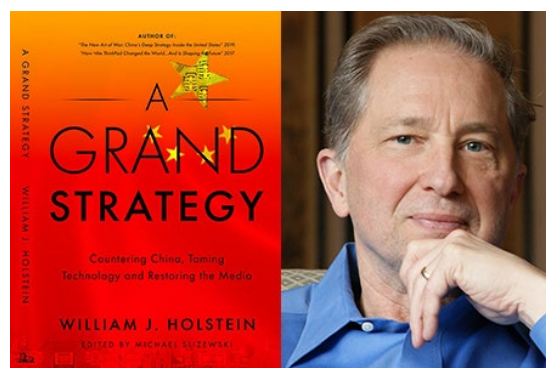
## July 7: Book Night – A Grand Strategy: Countering

# China, Taming Technology and Restoring the Media

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Location:** Zoom video conferencing app

OPC Past President **Bill Holstein** will discuss his new book, *A Grand Strategy: Countering China, Taming Technology and Restoring the Media*, with OPC members on July 7 on Zoom. OPC Governor **John Avlon**, senior political analyst and anchor at CNN, will lead the discussion.



Holstein recounts many of his adventures as a foreign correspondent and editor covering South Africa, China, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Germany and Russia. He won an OPC award in 1980 for his coverage of China's early modernization efforts and later became Beijing bureau chief for United Press International.

China remains a core focus for Holstein to this day. One of the critical issues America faces is the emergence of a much more powerful and, he argues, aggressive China. "Technology has become the central battleground in the global struggle between the United States and China over whose systems and whose values will prevail. It is a technological arms race that far exceeds the Soviet challenge in scale and complexity."

Big Tech companies is a second central theme. Holstein argues that rather than seeking to break them up, as many are proposing, it would be wiser to preserve a measure of trust between government and the private sector so that they can cooperate to improve America's information and communications systems, which are riddled by Chinese penetrations, and cooperate on critical technologies of the future such as 5G and 6G wireless telecommunications networks.

Big Tech, Holstein writes, needs to be reined in in terms of its use of "content" from established mainstream media companies and, following the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol fueled by social media, it must start taking a measure of responsibility for what it posts and must sharply limit the use of algorithms to fan the flames of hate and divisiveness.

*A Grand Strategy* is published by Brick Tower Press.

[RSVP Now](#)





## May 28: Press Conference with the Kabul Carpet Export Center

**Time:** Friday, May 28, Noon – 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Location:** New York at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 123 W. 18th St.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, the **Kabul Carpet Export Center (KCEC)** will host an Afghan Artisan Rug Pop-up sale. On Friday, May 28, KCEC leader Najlla Habibyar will make introductory remarks in an event open to members of the press.



The sale will feature hand-knotted rugs made in Afghanistan, mostly by women weavers, as well as other Afghan artisan goods. The KCEC is a partner in Label STEP, a fair-trade non-profit supported by USAID. The sale will be held Friday, May 28 to Sunday, May 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 31, Memorial Day. Entry is free.

[Read More](#)

## Journalist Groups Urge IOC to Consider Press Freedom Issues for 2022 Winter Games

On May 11, the OPC and 28 other media and press freedom groups worldwide urged the International Olympic Committee to include press freedom issues in its talks with the Chinese government ahead of the February 2022 Winter Olympics.

In a letter sent to the International Olympic Committee, the organizations [cite a report](#) from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China showing that the working environment for journalists in China has deteriorated. If these conditions are applied to journalists covering the Winter Olympics, the letter says, they will compromise the media's ability to do its job.

"It is essential that the IOC not allow this to happen," said William J. Holstein, co-chair of the Overseas Press Club's China Working Group. "We are asking the IOC to use its media accreditation process in a way that promotes Olympic values, including free and robust coverage of China."

Rule 48 of the Olympic Charter states that all decisions concerning coverage of the games rest with the IOC, the letter notes. The charter also states that the IOC will "take all necessary steps to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media

and the widest possible audience in the world.”

The full text of the letter can be [viewed here](#).

Or click the button below to read the press release.

[Read More](#)



## OPC Calls on Israel to Provide Evidence that Hamas Was in Building Destroyed by Air Strikes

On May 18, the OPC called on Israel to present evidence that Hamas operated in a Gaza building destroyed by an Israeli air strike on May 15. The Associated Press, Al Jazeera and Middle East Eye had offices in the tower.

Sally Buzbee, AP’s executive editor, said the news organization has had operations in the tower for 15 years and never had any indication that Hamas might also occupy space in the building. She said the Israeli military gave AP and other tenants about an hour to evacuate. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has asked Israel for justification for the strike.

AP cameras positioned on the roof of the now-destroyed building had captured Israeli bombardments and Palestinian militants’ rocket attacks during the conflict. Now, “the world will know less about what is happening in Gaza because of what transpired today,” the AP’s president, Gary Pruitt, said in a statement after the attack.

“Israel must show proof that Hamas used the building for military purposes,” said Peter Spiegel, chair of the OPC’s press freedom committee.

Reporters Without Borders said targeted Israeli air force attacks have destroyed the premises of more than 20 Palestinian and international media outlets since May 12. The group called on the International Criminal Court to investigate whether the attacks on media constitute war crimes.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)



## Guest Commentary: A Call for Sensitivity About COVID-19 Funeral Pyres in India

by Manjeet Kripalani

*Manjeet Kripalani is the executive director of Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai. She was formerly India bureau chief for BusinessWeek, and a reporter at Forbes magazine, New York. She participated in an OPC panel on China's global influence last August, which you can [read about here](#).*

COVID-19's second wave has been cruel to India. But even more cruel has been the coverage of the Western – especially U.S. – press, of the continuing misery. Day after day, starting at the end of April, cataclysmic images of the COVID-19 dead being burnt on triangular piles of wood on common grounds, flames and ashes everywhere, have been carried to the world on screen and paper.

There may be an element of fascinated horror in those sights, a visual of the burning fires of hell that Biblical faiths believe in. For Hindus, fire is holy, the cleanest way to detach the eternal soul from the mortal frame and send a loved one on their onward journey. The ashes, or *rakh*, are sacred, and immersed in the river or sea, with a prayer. There is ancient understanding to these rituals.

The funerals are also intensely private. Many of the photos were taken by overhead drones on public grounds made available by government for cremation – violating privacy and publishing without permission from the bereaved.

So, to have highly trained and talented western journalists – and their Indian stringers – turn private, sorrowful affairs into a one-dimensional public spectacle, stirred strong reactions in India. Indians, already suffering, felt exposed, insulted, and worse, put back into the box of “exotica” – from being the vaccine makers to the world. Social media and various analysts called it “cremation porn.”

Having learned my journalism from the very best at Forbes and BusinessWeek, I would consider exposing personal tragedy to public readers unethical. It's also lazy journalism, reflecting a limited vocabulary and a Rolodex devoid of sources.

[Read More](#)

## People by Chad Bouchard

***Please keep your updates coming! Send field reports, photos, or links to published pieces to [info@opcofamerica.org](mailto:info@opcofamerica.org). You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).***

### SCHOLARS

**Annie Rosenthal**, the Sally Jacobsen Fellowship winner in



2020, has been named a 2021 Report for America corps member. She will be the border reporter at Marfa Public Radio in Marfa, TX. Last year, as a Yale Parker Huang Fellow focused on migration and criminal justice and fluent in Spanish, she helped to produce a bilingual radio show, tracked Covid-19 deaths in U.S. prisons, and freelanced for publications like Politico Magazine and the Los Angeles Review of Books. Rosenthal has an OPC Foundation fellowship with AP in the Buenos Aires bureau.



**Genevieve Finn**, the 2020 Richard Pyle Scholarship winner, has been working as a staff reporter at The Malibu Times. [On May 5](#) wrote about homelessness in Malibu. Finn next heads to Trinity College Dublin for a master's degree in Creative Writing, focusing on poetry and creative nonfiction. She has an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Mexico City AP bureau.



**Olivia Crellin**, the Theo Wilson Scholarship winner in 2014, is head of multimedia at Open Democracy, an independent media organization based in the UK. She was previously with BBC News. Crellin had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Wall Street Journal in Madrid.



**Valerie Hopkins**, the winner of the Jerry Flint Internship for international Business in 2013, has been named a Moscow-based correspondent for The New York Times. Most recently, she was the Southeast Europe correspondent for the The Financial Times covering Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslavia. Hopkins had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Belgrade.



**Michael E. Miller**, the Stan Swinton Scholarship winner in 2009, has been [named](#) Sydney bureau chief of The Washington Post, starting in mid-July. This is a new bureau, part of an ongoing expansion of the Post's international footprint. Miller has been with the Post since 2015. He started as a reporter on Morning Mix, the overnight reporting team, before moving to the Local Enterprise team. Miller has reported for the Post from Afghanistan, Mexico and Northern Ireland. He won a National Press Foundation award in 2017 for his eye-opening reporting on MS-13, including work showing how the gang benefitted from U.S. refugee programs. Miller had an OPC Foundation fellowship in Mexico City with The Associated Press and spent five years at the Miami New Times.



**Yi-Ling Liu**, the Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner in 2017, has an article in the [May 14 New Yorker](#) about how Chinese people

have embraced use of the word “involution.” She explained how the Chinese term *neijuan* was described by one anthropologist as an “endless cycle of self-flagellation,” or being locked in endless, meaningless competition. It has been used on social media to refer to the mental state of stressed university students, the flagging post-pandemic economy, and strained workers in the country’s tech industry. Liu had an OPC Foundation fellowship in The Associated Press bureau in Beijing.



**Jesse Coburn**, the winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone in 2016, started a new job on May 18 as an investigative reporter for Streetsblog New York, where he said he would be “digging into all things transportation in the city.”

## AWARDS

OPC member and award winner **Aurora Almendral** of NPR [won a merit award](#) for Explanatory Feature Writing in the 25th Human Rights Press Awards for coverage of teen moms in the Philippines. Her [August 2020 piece](#) featured photos of teen moms in the Philippines from photojournalist Hannah Reyes Morales. She wrote about an anticipated baby boom this year due to unplanned pregnancies during the pandemic.



Almendral won the 2017 David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award along with colleague Ed Ou for their coverage of the drug war in the Philippines.

## UPDATES

OPC member and photojournalist **Nicole Tung** spoke on a panel on May 20 about the Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award, which is open for applications this year until May 28. Tung received an honorable mention for the award in 2017. She spoke with Nadine Hoffman, the deputy director for the International Women’s Media Foundation. The award celebrates “courageous work of women journalists” and honors Anja Niedringhaus, who was killed in 2014 in Afghanistan while on assignment for the Associated Press. She was reporting with OPC member Kathy Gannon who was injured critically in the attack.

**Sudarsan Raghavan**, an OPC member and winner of multiple OPC awards, filed a longform piece for The Washington Post [on May 8](#) about a Libyan town grappling with past and present atrocities. The Kaniyat militia killed dozens and possibly hundreds of civilians in the pastoral town of Tarhuna last year, Raghavan wrote, and “no one had stopped the militiamen or held them to account,” including Libya’s internationally recognized government or the United Nations. Officials have unearthed mass graves there in recent months, revealing the full scale of the Kaniyat’s atrocities that residents, human rights activists and former U.N. investigators had reported on as early as 2017. Raghavan won a 2001



Joe and Laurie Dine Award, a 2008 Bob Considine Award, and a 2018 Hal Boyle Award for work in the Ivory Coast, Iraq and Yemen, respectively.

A film based on the murder of an OPC member received a New York Times review [on May 18](#). The 2019 film *Georgetown* closely tracks events surrounding the August 2011 strangulation and beating death of **Viola Drath**, an OPC member who was well known in diplomatic and social circles. Drath was 91 when Albrecht Muth, 44 years her junior and husband of more than 20 years, reported to police that he had discovered her body in their Georgetown home. OPC member and former People columnist Susan Kille recalled writing an item about the guilty verdict against Muth in 2014, when she wrote that more than a dozen witnesses supported the prosecution's argument that Muth verbally and physically abused his wife. In the film *Georgetown*, actor-director Christoph Waltz plays a character named Ulrich Mott who is based on Muth.

**Barbie Latza Nadeau**, an OPC member, [reported](#) for CNN as two Californians on trial for the murder of an Italian police officer. Finnegan Lee Elder and Gabriel Christian Natale-Hjorth were charged with extortion and murder in the stabbing death of Mario Cerciello, an officer with Italy's Carabinieri paramilitary police force, on a street corner in Rome in on July 26, 2019, after a botched drug deal. Since Nadeau's report, both Americans on May 5 were [convicted and sentenced](#) to life in prison. Separately, Nadeau also reported [on May 11](#) for CNN about the discovery of bones of nine Neanderthals found in Italian cave.



## MEDIA NEWS

The Washington Post [on May 11](#) announced that **Sally Buzbee**, the executive editor of The Associated Press, will serve as the paper's next top editor. Buzbee will become the first woman to serve as the Post's executive editor since its founding in 1877 when she takes the helm on June 1. Buzbee, who served as Cairo bureau chief for the AP from 2004 to 2010 and led coverage of conflicts across the region, has had strong unofficial - but important - ties with the OPC Foundation and recently attended the virtual scholarship program in April. OPC Past President and current OPC Foundation President William Holstein said that AP under Buzbee "was one of the Foundation's biggest media supporters, placing foundation winners in their bureaus every year, thereby launching many careers." He said during her time, the foundation expanded the number of scholarships and fellowships in the name of AP heroes from one to four: Stan Swinton, Sally Jacobson, Richard Pyle and Edith Lederer.

People Column May 21, 2021

## New Resources

### RESOURCES

**Maryville University** has released a digital resource guide for journalists titled, *The Rise of Digital Journalism: Past, Present, and Future*. The guide includes articles on the evolution of journalism and technology, digital journalism skills, and predictions for the future. [Read more here](#).

**The Coalition for Women In Journalism (CFWIJ)** has updated its COVID-19 resource page with additions to its global map locating women journalists reporting on COVID-19, as well as safety guidelines, training videos and press freedom updates. [Read more here](#).

**CFWIJ** has also recently posted new videos on its YouTube channel, including journalists Katarzyna Mierzejewska, Ceren İskit and Damla Tarhan speaking about the #HoldTheLine campaign to support journalist Maria Ressa. [Catch up on videos here](#).

## TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On May 25 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **Journalism and Media (JAM)** program at the MacArthur Foundation will host an online discussion about COVID-19's affect on journalism. Speakers will include OPC Governor Marina Walker Guevara, the executive editor at the Pulitzer Center, with five other speakers moderated by Kathy Im, the director of journalism and media at the MacArthur Foundation. [Read more and register here](#).

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**The Kurt Schork Memorial Fund (KSMF)** is accepting submissions for its 2021 awards in international journalism. The awards cover three categories: Local Reporter, Freelance, and News Fixer. Each award is for \$5,000 and will be presented at a ceremony in London in late September. The deadline for entries is midnight Greenwich Mean Time on May 31. [Read more and apply here](#).

**The Everyday Projects** organization has announced its 2021 grant for photographers around the world to focus on a long-term project in their community. Applications are due by June 7. [Read more and apply here](#).

The **Society of Environmental Journalists** is accepting proposals for story grants of up to \$5,000 on two topics: Environment-climate-religion connections, and environmental health and justice in the United States. Proposals will be accepted until June 15. [Read more and register for seminars about the grants here](#).

The **Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Center for Business Journalism** is seeking applications for its Summer 2021 Fellowships. Fellowship stories must have an economic or financial angle, but you don't need to be a business reporter to apply. The deadline for this summer is July 16. Applications for the Winter 2022 Fellowships will be due Jan. 28, 2022. [Read more and apply here](#).

The **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** regularly updates its guide to grants and fellowships, with sections for [COVID-19 reporting projects](#),

general, international and specialty fellowships, reporting grants and more. [Read the guide 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](mailto:chad@opcofamerica.org) for credentials.**

OPC Resources Page

