

Bulletin May 7, 2021

Greetings!

Features this week include a review of the OPC's statement for World Press Freedom Day on <u>from May 3</u>, the <u>second installment</u> of Bill Holstein's book reviews from an anonymous archive donation with a look at <u>Off The Record:</u> <u>The Best Stories of Foreign Correspondents</u>, and an item about an <u>OPC event flier from 1945</u> found this week at the OPC office while looking through our Bulletin archives.

Don't forget to RSVP for upcoming events:

- May 18: <u>Straddling the Border: Forces Pushing Central American</u> <u>Migrants North While Still Keeping Them in Limbo</u>
- June 9: <u>Book Night with Peter L. W. Osnos An Especially Good</u>
 View: Watching History Happen
- July 7 (Newly announced this issue): Book Night with Bill Holstein A
 Grand Strategy: Countering China, Taming Technology and Restoring
 the Media

Plus, lots of member news and new recourses to catch up on.

Happy reading!

OPC Urges Governments

to Roll Back Media Restrictions on World Press Freedom Day

Over the last year, governments around the world have exploited the global pandemic as an excuse to block access to crucial public information and crack down on press freedom. These restrictions are growing even as the spread of disinformation and confusion puts lives at risk and highlights the need for rigorous journalism and fact checking during crises.



To mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3, the Overseas Press Club of America joined global press freedom advocates in calling for countries to roll back restrictions designed to hamper coverage.

"Journalists should be allowed to do their jobs without fearing retribution or censorship," said Peter Spiegel, chair of the OPC's Press Freedom Committee.

The theme of the United Nations event this year, "Information as a Public Good," focuses on improving production, distribution and reception of journalism, and to boost transparency in public information.

According to Reporters Without Borders, there has been a 12 percent decline in media freedom worldwide since 2013.

Meanwhile, journalists have also faced increased risks, with the Geneva-based Press Emblem Campaign reporting that at least <u>1,060 media workers died</u> from COVID-19 between March 2020 and April 10 2021.

Click the button below to read the full statement, with urgent press freedom threats such as China's increasing crackdown on journalists, governments around the world using COVID-19 as an excuse to restrict public information, and new digital restrictions on news operations.

Read More

Upcoming OPC Events

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



May 18: Straddling the Border - Forces Pushing Central American Migrants North While Still Keeping Them in Limbo

Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Zoom video conferencing app

Former President Donald Trump tried to build a wall to stop migrants from Central America entering the United States by crossing the border with Mexico. One of the first actions President Joe Biden took when he entered office in January was to denounce the wall and cancel spending for its construction. Creating a new policy to treat the migrants humanely while stemming the flow of people crossing into the US illegally is one of the biggest challenges Biden faces.

On May 18, the OPC and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting will host a panel discussion analyzing the root causes of the migration. Why are so many people in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador desperate to leave home and work in the US? How did they end up stranded in Mexico? What should the US do about it?

Tracy Wilkinson, senior foreign policy writer for the Los Angeles Times and a longtime OPC member, will lead the discussion. Wilkinson has won multiple OPC awards for her coverage of Mexico and migrants.

Two of the panelists won OPC awards this year.

Maria Hinojosa, president and founder of Futuro Media, was part of a group that won The Lowell Thomas Award for best radio, audio, or podcast coverage of international affairs for "The Moving Border."

Kate Morrissey of the San Diego Union-Tribune and colleagues won the Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for best reporting in any medium on Latin America for a series that looked into what really happens to those seeking the promise of asylum.

Carlos Dada is a founder and director of El Faro, a news website established in El Salvador in 1998 and known for independent and high-quality journalism in Central America.

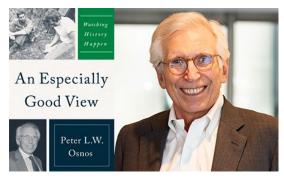




June 9: Book Night – An Especially Good View: Watching History Happen

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.

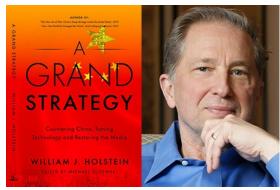
<u>An Especially Good View</u> is published by Platform Books, a new imprint established by Osnos and his wife, Susan Sherer Osnos.





July 7: Book Night – A Grand Strategy: Countering China, Taming Technology and Restoring the Media

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

OPC Book Donation, Part II: 'Off The Record'

by William J. Holstein

In Off The Record: The Best Stories of Foreign Correspondents, published by the Doubleday & Company in 1952 on behalf of the OPC, we can hear concerns being expressed about the number and quality of foreign correspondents working for American news organizations nearly three-quarters of a century ago.



In a preface, Russell F. Anderson, McGraw-Hill's influential foreign editorial director, complained that following the end of World War II, so many correspondents returned home at the very moment that the United States needed their expertise to guide U.S. policy in the world, including in the conflict in Korea.

There were 2,700 U.S. correspondents overseas in 1945 but by the beginning of the 1950s, that number had shrunk to 350. "Failure of the country to have trained observers abroad during a time of world crisis and transition seems to be self-evident danger," Anderson wrote. He decried what he called the "firehouse technique," more commonly known today as "parachuting" correspondents into a hot story and then pulling them home when the story is over. "The days of the swashbuckling, hard-drinking, hell-bent-for-action correspondent has all but disappeared – but nevertheless, foreign reporting has remaining an exciting profession," he wrote.

Andrew A. Rooney, listed as a co-author, is in fact Andy Rooney of 60 Minutes fame. He covered World War II, but his voice is not immediately evident in the book. His role appeared to be confined to collecting the tales of others.

Bob Considine, the club president from 1947 to 1948 and 1954 to 1955 who is honored with an OPC award in his name, foreshadowed one of the debates that has raged until this day – the role of women in covering conflict. The Korean War's contribution to "the realm of war correspondents has been the arrival of *The Ladies.*" There had been a handful of female correspondents covering World War II, he noted, "but in Korea they have landed with both feet, and if they aren't in war to stay, I'm a monkey's aunt."

Read the full story on the OPC website via the button below, with stories from the book about a harrowing moment in the trenches with Marguerite Higgins of the New York Herald Tribune and how Beryl Kent of United Press "launched thirty-two warships with a short crimped bobby pin."

Read More

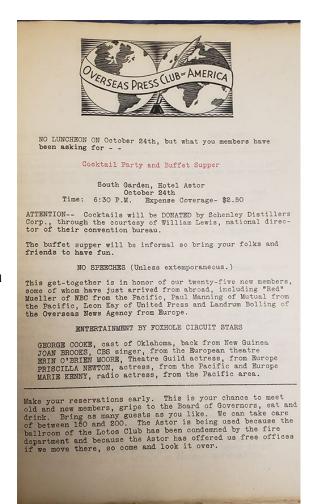


Found in the OPC Archives: an Event Flier from 1945

OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz was organizing club archives at the office this week to prepare for digitization, when she ran across a Bulletin folder that contained a club event flier from 1945. Shown on the right is a notice of a cocktail party and buffet supper. The note is marked with the words "No Speeches (Unless extemporaneous)," and says the event was to honor 25 new members, "some of whom have just arrived from abroad." It featured entertainment by

members of the Foxhole Circuit Stars, a troupe of USO performers who had also just returned from overseas. You can read more about the Foxhole Circuit on the USO's website here.

A request to members: we are missing Bulletins for 1946, 1976 and 1989. If any member has copies of issues for those years, please let the OPC borrow them for a few months so we can include them in the digital archives.



Please contact info@opcofamerica.org if you have any leads. Thank you!

Read on the OPC Website

People by Chad Bouchard

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

SCHOLARS

Anna Jean Kaiser, the 2021 Sally Jacobsen Fellowship winner, has been chosen as a 2021 Report for America corps member. She will be part of a team focusing on economic mobility in Dade County for the Miami Herald. Miami-Dade has shifted from a place where a middle income provided a comfortable life for hundreds of thousands to a metropolis beset by a housing crisis and a level of economic inequality that matches that of Colombia.



Kimon de Greef, the 2020 David R. Schweisberg Scholarship winner, was a guest on NPR's Morning Edition on May 4 to talk about finch singing contests and smuggling in New York. De Greef said a tradition of using songbirds for singing competitions in Guyana and neighboring countries is driving demand around the world among diaspora, fueling a secretive underground trade and competition. In New York the competitions happen at parks in Queens. He said when asked,



competitors in the immigrant community told him that the singing competitions remind them of home.

Rebekah Ward, the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Fellowship winner in 2019, has been hired as an investigative reporter for the Times Union in Albany, NY. Ward had an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Mexico City.



Maddy Crowell, the 2014 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner, was named a finalist for a Livingston Award, which is administered by Wallace House and the University of Michigan and honors the best reporting and storytelling by journalists under the age of 35 across all forms of journalism. Crowell, a freelance journalist who has worked in India in the past as well as elsewhere, was <u>nominated</u> for a story in VQR in which she wrote about Caravan, a small but influential magazine in India.



Corrie MacLaggan, the 2002 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner, was named the new statewide managing editor for public radio stations of The Texas Newsroom where she will lead a staff of eight journalists based at stations across Texas. She will also be the chief connector among more than 100 public radio journalists statewide. MacLaggan spent the last eight years at The Texas Tribune, the last five as managing editor. The Austin native reported and edited for Reuters, the Austin American-Statesman, the El Paso Times and publications in Mexico City.

AWARDS

Filmmaker **Simcha Jacobovici**, an OPC member and winner of multiple OPC awards, is <u>among the finalists</u> for the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ)'s award in the broadcast category for the CBC TV series Enslaved: The Lost History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The series has been sweeping accolades with a long-list spot in the Best Factual Show category for a TV Choice Magazine Award in the UK, and a nomination for a Rockie Award from the Banff World



Media Festival in the History and Biography category. Jacobovici was part of teams that won three OPC awards over the years, including Edward R. Murrow awards for 2006 and 2013, and a Carl Spielvogel Award for 2004.

OPC member **Joshua Irwandi** garnered second place in the All About Photo's (AAP) 2021 Mind's Eye Competition, which comes with a \$10,000 award. The award is for his photo of a body wrapped in plastic at an Indonesian hospital, part of a series titled "The Human Cost of Covid-19" that he shot in April last year. The photo also won second place in the World Press Photo of the Year in the General News, Singles category. The photo was published in National Geographic and sparked uproar on social media among those who sought to diminish the impact of the pandemic.

UPDATES

OPC member **Miceál O'Hurley** was arrested in Ireland in January and charged with harassment for documenting issues related to civic corruption. Ireland's national police service, An Garda Siochana, said photographing purported corruption, including discrimination against immigrants, on public streets constituted a crime. At trial, O'Hurley said, the prosecution's case collapsed when witnesses were confronted with proof of what would constitute perjured testimony. The state withdrew



their case and O'Hurley was acquitted. However, an arrest record can serve as a barrier in many countries against obtaining a journalist visa. O'Hurley told the OPC that he remains concerned that Ireland would attempt to criminalize a journalist for taking photographs of public officials operating on public streets and attempt to use arrests as a tool to thwart investigative journalism. "The oppressive act of using arrests to create fear for journalists is becoming all too common, even in what were previously deemed liberal societies. I was bolstered by the support received from the OPC and my colleagues." The Oireachtas, the Irish legislature, previously rejected legislation that would make it an offense to photograph police and other civil servants on public streets, including during protests or in the course of exercising journalistic freedoms.

OPC Governor **Derek Kravitz** filed a story on May 6 for The City about the revelation this week that New York still has the bodies of about 750 COVID-19 victims in refrigerated trucks at Brooklyn's 39th Street Pier, and that there is "no timetable for when those New Yorkers will be moved to Hart Island or elsewhere." Kravitz wrote that according to medical examiner estimates, hundreds of bodies have been stored in trucks since April 2020, "fluctuating between 500 and nearly 800."



City officials discussed the situation during a City Council committee meeting on May 5. The story is part of a collaboration called "Missing Them," between The City news site and Columbia's Stabile Center for Investigative Reporting, to remember all New Yorkers who died from COVID-19.

OPC Governor **Adriane Quinlan** worked on a May 3 piece for VICE News following the shooting massacre of 8 people in a FedEx facility in Indiana on April 15 where the overwhelming majority of workers are Sikh. Reporter Angad Singh presented the report on how police handled the investigation and determined the shooting was not racially motivated despite evidence. "Really proud to have worked with my friend on this

beautiful piece," Quinlan wrote in a tweet. "It was a real break from the grind; at one point, I was just quietly listening to the colleague I usually hustle with as he talked about his life growing up." Quinlan is supervising writer for VICE News.

OPC member and 2018 Flora Lewis best commentary award winner **Trudy Rubin** will appear on a Philadelphia Inquirer online event on May 21 to talk about U.S. President Joseph Biden's foreign policy, including efforts to manage competition with China and Russia, restoring the nuclear accord with Iran, and plans to help poor nations access the COVID-19 vaccine. The panel is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 21.



Andrew Nagorski, OPC member and author, has been contributing to a podcast series titled "Message from the Holocaust" about Jan Karski, a courier from the Polish underground during World War II who tried to warn the world about the Holocaust. Nagorski discussed meeting Karski in 1998 when he and the editorial team for Newsweek were working on a list of the most important events of the previous century. Nagorski talked with Karski soon after his nomination



for the Nobel Peace Prize, and two years before his death in 2000. "I picked him [as an interview subject] immediately because I thought he exemplified what I meant to resist the most treacherous regime of the 20th Century." Nagorski served as Newsweek's Warsaw bureau chief from 1990 to 1994. The series is part of a larger podcast called Untold Stories from the Secret State.

Photojournalist **André Liohn**, winner of the 2011 Robert Capa Gold Medal Award, is the subject of a documentary titled *You Are Not A Soldier* that premiered at the Hot Docs festival this week. The film by director Maria Carolina Telles follows Liohn's struggle with grief and life as a conflict photographer, as he copes with the horrors he has witnessed and the loss of colleagues Marie Colvin, James Foley, Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros who were killed during the course of their work.



OPC member **Kathy Eldon** returned from her tour of Kenya a little early due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. Eldon served as journalist in Kenya in the 1980s. Her son Dan Eldon was killed in Somalia in 1993 while working as a photojournalist. Kathy moved to London and in 1998 and along with Dan's sister Amy started the Creative Visions Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting people "like Dan who use their creativity, through



media and the arts." As Kathy <u>wrote</u> in a newsletter, the recent trip to Kenya included a series of conversations among Kenya-based creators and activists to forge connections and collaborations as part of the foundation's mission. The newsletter includes a list of some of those creators and links to their work.

MEDIA NEWS

The Los Angeles Times <u>announced on May 3</u> after a six-month search that **Kevin Merida** of ESPN will serve as its next top editor. Merida, who previously worked at The Washington Post for 20 years, will take on the new role in June. He is the paper's second executive editor since billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong and his wife, Michele B. Chan, purchased the paper in 2018. Merida succeeds OPC member **Norman Pearlstine**, who announced on Oct. 5 that he would resign. OPC Governor **Scott Kraft**, who serves as head awards judge, took over daily newsroom operations along with Kimi Yoshino during the search, and Pearlstine stayed on as senior advisor. Merida was the first Black managing editor at the Post from 2013 to 2015, and in 2020 he received a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Black Journalists and was elected to the Pulitzer Prize Board in December.

The top U.S. hostage negotiator told The New York Times in an article <u>published</u> on April 27 that he believes **Austin Tice**, an American journalist abducted in Syria in 2012, is still alive and his release is a top priority for the administration of President Joseph Biden. Roger D. Carstens, the State Department's hostage envoy who served in the same post under President Trump, said "I think that Austin is alive and that it is our job to bring him home to his family." However, Andrew Tabler, who served as director for Syria on the National Security Council and then as senior adviser to the U.S. special envoy for Syria, told the Times that hopes for brokering Tice's release were greater under the Trump administration compared to that of President Joseph Biden, because Syria had more incentive to cut a generous deal before Trump left office. Biden administration officials said they were committed to finding and freeing Tice, and the State Department said in April that Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken had spoken with the Tice family and assured them that the U.S. had "no higher priority" than to secure his release.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Longtime OPC member **Rosalind Massow Luger**, a veteran journalist and editor who was once president of the Newswomen's Club of New York, died on May 5 at the age of 100. Massow joined the OPC in December 1954, which puts her tenure as a member at an outstanding 66 years. She served as women's editor of Parade and wrote two books, *Now It's Your Turn to Travel* [Macmillan, 1976], and *Travel Easy: The Practical Guide for People Over 50* [Amer Assn



Retired Persons, April 1985]. A photo on the Newswomen's Club of New York website shows Massow with actress Bette Davis at a Front Page Ball. She served as president of the club in 1964 and 1965, and was one of eight women to join the Silurians when the group ended its male-only policy for the first time in 1971. She earned a Batchelor of Arts degree from Hunter College and attended Columbia

and New York University. In 1959 she married Norton Lugar, who was director of medicine at the Salvation Army's Booth Memorial Hospital in Flushing. He died in August, 2007. Stay tuned for further information about Rosalind and her time at the OPC on the website and in our next Bulletin.

Carl Spielvogel, an advertising executive and newspaper columnist who was a longtime supporter of the OPC and had an award in his name, <u>died on April 21</u> in New York at the age of 92. Spielvogel stepped down as executive of advertising firm Interpublic Group of Companies in 1979 and started his own agency with partner Bill Backer. Backer & Spielvogel became a Madison Avenue powerhouse with clients such as Campbell's Soup, Paddington Corporation, Seven-Up, Philip



Morris, Quaker Oats, Hyundai, Arby's and Magnavox. He remained in advertising until his retirement in 1993, and served briefly as U.S. ambassador to Slovakia in 2000 and 2001 during the Bill Clinton administration. OPC awards of varying descriptions for best international reporting in broadcast media carried Spielvogel's name from the early 90s to 2010.

People Column May 7, 2021

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **James W. Foley Legacy Foundation** has added resources to its journalist safety curricula with the addition of two modules, titled "Photojournalism: Staying Safe" and "Wrongful Detention, Kidnapping, and Hostage Survival." The two modules were released on May 3 to mark World Press Freedom Day. Read more and download here.

OPC member **Judith Matloff** posted a list of safety tips for journalists covering domestic terrorism on the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** website. Issues discussed include "potential mass casualty assaults on infrastructure or places where many people gather, as well as planned assassinations on politicians or other public figures." The tips for editors and journalist on the ground cover risks assessment, reporting threats, online harassment and doxing, and how to manage risk during attacks with firearms and explosives. Matloff teaches crisis reporting at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. Read more here.

The **Dart Center** has also posted advice for interviewing victims of tragedy, witnesses, and survivors. Tips in the article include best ethical practice, setting up a good environment for the interview, preparing the interviewee, and special considerations to avoid harmful pitfalls and improve sensitivity to the trauma. Read more here.

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **Knight Center** is offering a free online course for women journalists and their allies on how to plan for reporting safely, to create a safety plan and manage and mitigate risks encountered while reporting. The course is already underway but it's not too late to join and will run through May 30. Read more and apply here.

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** posted a playlist of more than a dozen shot videos from World Press Freedom Day on May 3, with messages from journalists in countries around the world and reports on their top concerns. <u>Watch the playlist here</u>.

The **International Press Institute (IPI)** posted its online panel to mark World Press Freedom Day with a focus on Europe, with discussion among journalists from Sweden, Poland, Hungary and Finland. The moderator was Oliver Money-Kyrle, IPI's head of advocacy and programs in Europe. <u>Watch the video here</u>.

The **Foreign Press Association** has posted two of its programs, including a talk on May 4 with author Tuvia Tenenbom on his book, *The Taming of the Jew*, and a discussion on April 29 with journalist Emilie Pons and Idrees Ahmad about his forthcoming book on the Syrian War.

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The International Press Institute (IPI) and MIDAS have announced a call for applications for the first NewsSpectrum Fellowship for minority-language media. The fellowship is open to journalists and other media professionals working for minority-language media in the EU (including Roma and migrant languages), and aims to "encourage working partnerships between minority- and majority-language news outlets." The application deadline is May 28. Read more and apply here.

The **Kurt Schork Memorial Fund (KSMF)** is accepting submissions for its 2021 awards in international journalism. The three awards come with a \$5,000 grant and will be presented at a ceremony in London in late September 2021. The deadline to apply os May 31. Read more and apply here.

The **Everyday Projects** organization has announced a 2021 grant for two photographers around the world to focus on a long-term project in their community. In addition to receiving \$6,000 each, the two grantees will receive mentorship for the duration of their project from either Mallory Benedict of National Geographic or Jehan Jillani of The Guardian. Grantees will be announced in August. The deadline is June 7. Read more and apply here.

More Resources

- **First Draft** has been hosting a series of presentations on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can <u>browse the archives here</u>.
- Columbia University's Brown Institute for Media Innovation has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. <u>Explore the database here</u>.
- ACOS <u>assembled</u> 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 <u>launched</u> 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 memberonly 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





