



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin June 3, 2021

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin. This week features an item about China relaxing travel restrictions on foreign journalists who cover the Tokyo Olympics, an appeal for OPC members to check their stacks of Bulletin archives at home to see if we can scare up missing issues, and reminders of three upcoming events, including:

- A book night with Peter Osnos to discuss *An Especially Good View* [on June 9 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.](#)
- A panel on U.S.-China media coverage [on June 15 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time.](#)
- A book night with William J. Holstein to talk about *A Grand Strategy* [on July 7 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.](#)

Plus updates on OPC members in our People column and new resources, programs and grant opportunities to check out. Happy reading!

China Eases Restrictions on Foreign Journalists Who Wish to Cover the Tokyo Olympics

The Chinese government in late May informed foreign journalists in China who wish to cover the Tokyo Olympics this summer that they could return to China after covering those games. The announcement may have been a modest concession to demands by media organizations that China relax its pressure campaign against foreign journalists. But many serious travel restrictions remain in place for correspondents based in China, as documented by [this report](#) by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China, based in Beijing.

The Overseas Press Club of America and 28 other media and press freedom groups worldwide sent a letter [on May 12](#) to the International Olympic Committee urging it to include press freedom issues in its talks with the Chinese government ahead of the February 2022 Winter Olympics.

Christian Klaue, director of the IOC's corporate communications and public affairs department, told OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz that he would communicate further in the month of June. The OPC is asking for a virtual face-to-face meeting.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Help the OPC Locate Missing Bulletins

by Patricia Kranz

The OPC is hiring Backstage Library Works to scan the club's archive of Bulletins and Dateline magazine. We eventually will make the digitized issues available on Archive.org and Columbia University's library so that historians and members can research the club's rich past. Please check your records to see if you have Bulletins for 1946, 1953, 1976 and 1989. We cannot find copies of those issues in the office. We hope that some members have kept their printed versions. Please take a look!



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

Upcoming Events

RSVPs are essential. Please register in advance to receive the link to join about an hour before the program.



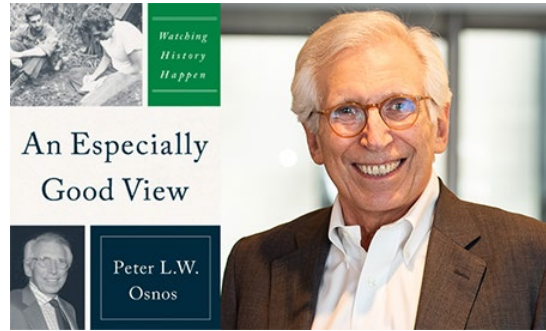
June 9: Book Night – An Especially Good View: Watching History Happen

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



June 15: The Crisis in U.S.-China Media Coverage

Time: 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Zoom video conferencing app

Hear the stories of three correspondents effectively expelled from or pressured to leave China. In view of these departures and rising tensions between Washington and Beijing, how can the Western media



continue to cover China? How effectively can it be covered from elsewhere? How does the Chinese government monitor correspondents? What are the Biden administration’s policies toward Chinese correspondents in the U.S.? How important is the International Olympic Committee’s commitment to press freedom during the Winter Olympics, to be held in Beijing in February 2022?

Chris Buckley, the senior New York Times China correspondent who covered the early stages of the pandemic from Wuhan and then was forced to leave the country. He is now in Australia.

Yvonne Murray, a reporter for Irish public service broadcaster RTÉ, who left China with her journalist husband and family after pressure from Chinese authorities. She is now in Taiwan.

Gerry Shih, of The Washington Post, who was among the wave of journalists expelled from China. He is now in the U. S. preparing for a new assignment. Moderating will be Jodi Schneider, a senior editor at Bloomberg News in New York, who recently returned from five years in Hong Kong, where she was president of the Foreign Correspondents’ Club.

RSVP Now

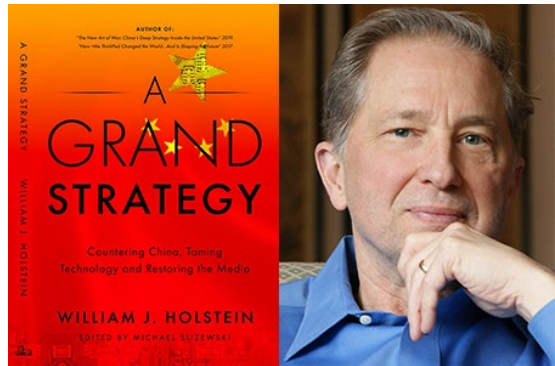


July 7: Book Night – A Grand Strategy: Countering China, Taming Technology and Restoring the Media

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

Welcome New Members

Jeanne Carstensen

Freelance
San Francisco
Active Non-Resident

Nicolas Niarchos

Freelance
Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Active Overseas, Young (30 to 34)

Mark L. Clifford

Visiting Scholar
Center for Global Energy Policy,
Columbia University
East Marion, NY
Active Non-Resident

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

Kantaro Komiya, the Stan Swinton Fellowship winner in 2020, has started his OPC Foundation Fellowship with The Associated Press in Tokyo. His first byline appears in a [May 20 item](#) about Japan's health ministry giving preliminary approval to coronavirus vaccines developed by Moderna and AstraZeneca, a move that marked an expansion of the country's slow-paced immunization program before the Tokyo Olympics.



Sandali Handagama, winner of the 2020 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, wrote a piece published in Popular Science [on June 1](#) about new airborne imaging technology used to spot bleached coral reefs that are submerged up to 70 feet below the surface. The images allow scientists to map reefs in detail that could not be seen with traditional methods of diving or satellite imagery. The story, co-written with colleague Agostino Petroni, was originally featured on Nexus Media News.



Diana Kruzman, winner of the 2021 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone, wrote a piece for Undark [on May 31](#) that was reprinted in Mother Jones magazine about worsening water issues in the Southwest U.S. Kruzman wrote that as much as 17 percent of the alfalfa grown in Arizona and elsewhere in the western states is exported around the world, mainly to China, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Alfalfa is a water-intensive crop, which means that significant water resources, already strained by drought and increasing demands on the Colorado River, are absorbed in crops that are then shipped out of the country.



Diana Kruzman

AWARDS

Mellissa Fung, an OPC member and filmmaker, won several [Golden Sheaf Awards](#) at the Yorkton Film Festival, including Best of Festival, for her film *Captive*, which focuses on survivors of the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria. The film won Golden Sheaf awards in the category of Documentary Social/Political, as well as the Emerging Filmmaker, Research and Mental Health categories. Separately, Fung talked with The Guardian for a [May 23 article](#) in which she discussed her abduction while on assignment in Afghanistan, an experience she said causes an intense bond with the teenage girls who were held captive by Boko Haram.



UPDATES

OPC member **Brady Ng** has been [named](#) chief editor for China and Southeast Asia for tech media outlet KrASIA. Ng will lead the site's coverage of the region with a focus on "the

intersection of tech, policy, culture and ingenuity.” He started his career as a photojournalist in the Middle East in 2009 and later reported in print and audio media during the Arab Spring, then in East and Southeast Asia. His work has appeared in VICE, The Guardian and Nikkei Asia.



OPC member **Cassandra Vinograd** shared a video [on May 25](#) from her father, Serge Vinograd, a holocaust survivor, condemning U.S. Representative Majorie Taylor Greene for comments equating wearing a mask and vaccination badges to Nazis forcing Jews to wear yellow stars. Serge described his experience in France during World War II, when most of his family members were arrested and killed. “I saw Jews being arrested, jailed, shot, deported, he said. “Six million Jews were arrested, killed, and never came back. I would like to find a way to explain to Representative Greene that you cannot, should not, compare the two.” Serge’s comments were shared widely on social media and got a mention in a [Business Insider](#) article about Greene’s comments. Cassandra is a freelancer based in London who previously worked for 60 Minutes, NBC News, The Associated Press and The Wall Street Journal.

Martin Smith, an OPC member and veteran journalist who produces and reports for FRONTLINE PBS, co-produced a documentary with his partner, Marcela Gaviria, that aired [on June 1](#), with the first interview of former Al Qaeda commander Abu Mohammad al-Jolani by a Western journalist. “The Jihadist” retraces al-Jolani’s 20-year campaign of Islamist militancy in Iraq and Syria. He is the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Islamist group that opposes Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Smith interviewed al-Jolani in Syria. The interview marks the first time an Al Qaeda leader has participated in a televised interview with a Western reporter since Osama bin Laden in 1998. Smith and Gaviria won the OPC’s 2009 Edward R. Murrow Award along with colleague David Fanning for their coverage of the Afghan War.



OPC member **Abigail Pesta** wrote a piece published in People magazine [on May 19](#) following up with two 2014 Boko Haram kidnapping survivors who are now pursuing master’s degrees and plan to fight for girls’ education. Joy Bishara and Lydia Pogu were among 276 teenage girls kidnapped by Boko Haram from their school in the Nigerian town of Chibok. Bishara, now 24, is graduating this spring with a bachelor’s degree in social work, and Pogu, 23, has earned a degree in legal studies. They will both pursue master’s degrees at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida.



OPC member **Robert Nickelsberg’s** photographs are featured in a National Geographic feature published [on May 20](#) about the fate of Afghanistan’s cultural artifacts as NATO forces prepare to leave the country in September and the Taliban

gains footing. When the Taliban were last in power in 2001, they demolished giant Buddha statues and wrecked and looted the National Museum in Kabul. For the story, written by Andrew Lawler, Nickelsberg photographed workers at the National Museum piecing together the remains of destroyed artifacts, the ruins of shrines and other pre-Islamic sites, and heritage conservation efforts across the country.



Newly joined OPC member **Nicolas Niarchos**, who is based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, wrote a piece for the New Yorker published [on May 24](#) about booming demand for cobalt for high-tech components and its effect on Congolese communities. He wrote that Southern Congo sits atop almost half the world’s known supply of cobalt, a discovery that has sparked mass movement, child labor and conflict among neighbors. Niarchos has contributed to The New Yorker since 2014 and is currently working on a book about the global cobalt industry.



Two OPC award winners who work for the Los Angeles Times [are suing Minnesota State Patrol officers](#) over attacks during a May 30 protest last year following the police killing of George Floyd. **Molly Hennessy-Fiske**, a staff writer for the Times since 2006, **Carolyn Cole**, a veteran photojournalist, are seeking compensatory and punitive damages for attacks they said violated their 1st Amendment rights. The lawsuit says police backed the two women and other journalists into a wall, pepper-sprayed them and struck the group with blunt projectiles despite group members identifying themselves as press and waving press credentials. Cole was pepper-sprayed in both eyes, temporarily blinding her and causing a corneal abrasion in her left eye. Hennessy-Fiske was hit at least five times by blunt projectiles and a tear gas canister on her left leg, according to the journalists’ complaint. Hennessy-Fiske was part of a team that won the OPC’s 2014 Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for coverage of migration from Central America to the U.S. Cole won two OPC Robert Capa Gold Medal Awards for coverage of conflict in Iraq and Liberia in 2003 and for photographs of a siege on a church in Bethlehem in 2002.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Clarence A. Robinson Jr., a Marine Corps combat veteran, journalist and winner of OPC accolades, died [on May 27](#) at the age of 87. Robinson was editor-in-chief of SIGNAL magazine, from which he retired in 1998. He won a 1983 Citation for Excellence from the OPC for best business reporting from abroad in magazines and books for his report on “Middle East Aerospace” for Aviation Week & Space Technology, where he served as senior military editor.

People Column June 3, 2021

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ)** developed a free mobile application for women journalists to report threats. JSafe allows journalists and media workers to “communicate and document threats or risks as they encounter and possibly will help them access safety resources and logistics available.” [Read more and find out how to download the app here.](#)

The **Journalist’s Resource** website curates and summarizes research on public policy news topics with support from Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center and the Carnegie-Knight Initiative. Recent posts include a list of tips for journalists [covering](#) the effect of COVID-19 on the LGBTQ community, a post [on May 28](#) about research into how journalists’ jobs can pose a risk to their mental health, and a post [on May 27](#) about how journalists can bolster public trust in science. [Browse the site’s home page for more here.](#)

CFWIJ also has a Google form available for journalists to report incidents of harassment or abuse. Through the confidential form, the organization collects data to help research focusing on the magnitude and condition about mistreatment or harassment women journalists face in the industry. [Find the form here.](#)

The **Facebook Journalism Project** has launched a new, tuition-free program aimed at teaching global newsrooms sustainable business strategies around video launches today. The Video Business Accelerator is an online training program to help news organizations launch sustainable video projects. Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY and the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) are collaborating with the project. The program is starting with 12 newsrooms in an Asia Pacific cohort that will participate in a six-month training program starting June 9. [Read more about the accelerator here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

Tonight, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time, **Columbia University** is hosting a discussion titled “Voices from the Home Front: Journalists Under Attack at Home” with journalists who have been in the news for being under assault here in the U.S. The program is sponsored by the duPont-Columbia Awards, Columbia Journalism School and the Oral History Masters of Arts (OHMA) program. [Read more and register here.](#)

CFWIJ on May 19 hosted a panel discussion with exiled journalists who face challenges in their host countries. Speakers included Mona Eltahawy, Saba Eitizaz, Arzu Yildiz, Michelle Stephard and Kiran Nazish. [Watch the video here.](#)

The **Foreign Press Association** on May 20 hosted an interview with award-winning journalist Nina Burleigh about her new book *Virus* about shortcomings in the Trump administration’s handling of the pandemic, and the damage done by its

anti-science and anti-government rhetoric. [Watch the video here.](#)

The **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)** has posted its May 28 webinar about how digital transformation can help drive post-COVID recovery in various parts of the world. The program is presented by Chris Locke, founder of Caribou Digital. [Watch the webinar here.](#)

IJNet also posted its May 14 program with Melissa Noel, a freelance multimedia reporter, about “how to start and succeed at freelance journalism.” The program was moderated by Paul Adepoju of the International Center for Journalists. [Watch the video here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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.](#)

Military Veterans in Journalism will host seven paid fellowships lasting about six months each in newsrooms of each recipient’s choosing. The fellowships are slated to begin this fall, and recipients will be compensated about \$2,500 per month, but responsible for their own relocation and living expenses if applicable. The deadline to apply is June 11. [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 **Investigative Journalism for Europe (IJ4EU)** organization on June 1 announced it is calling for cross-border investigative journalism proposals for provide grants of between €5,000 and €50,000 to cross-border teams that include at least one news outlet or investigative journalism organization, or a staff member of one of these, as well as grants of up to €20,000 to cross-border investigative teams made up entirely of freelance journalists. The deadline to apply is July 14. [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](#)

