



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Sept. 24, 2021

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin. As the date of our upcoming Annual Awards Dinner approaches on Oct. 22, please remember to [RSVP](#), [purchase tickets and enter your vaccination information](#).

This issue includes a recap of our [Sept. 23 panel](#) on the life and legacy of Christopher Dickey with four of his friends and colleagues, who shared personal stories and warm remembrances of the longtime OPC member.

As always, we also have member news and updates to share and resources for journalists, including training programs and a roster of grant opportunities to explore.

UPCOMING EVENTS



PROOF OF VACCINATION IS MANDATORY.
Please use this link to download your information before the day of the dinner:
covidpass.co/auth/1640
All guests must wear masks.

Host
John Avlon, Senior Political Analyst
New Day, CNN

Cocktail Reception
sponsored by

 **REUTERS**

Post-Dinner Reception
sponsored by

Bloomberg

YOU ARE INVITED

82nd ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER
October 22, 2021

Honoring the Best in International Journalism

CIPRIANI
25 Broadway, New York

BLACK TIE

Date and Time: October 22, 2021 | 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Cipriani, 25 Broadway, New York City.

Please join the OPC in celebrating the best in international journalism as we gather on Friday, Oct. 22 at Cipriani 25 Broadway in lower Manhattan. To create the safest environment possible, proof of vaccination and masks are required.

Click the button below to read more information and RSVP via the OPC website.

[RSVP Now](#)

Christopher Dickey Exhibit at Brooklyn Bridge Park

Date: Sept. 18 through Dec. 1.

Place: Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 6

Thank you to those who stopped by Brooklyn Bridge Park to see a Photoville exhibit to celebrate Christopher Dickey's life and work. If you haven't gotten the chance to see it yet, the exhibit will be up until Dec. 1.



OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz attended the opening day with friends and colleagues on Sept. 18. Click the button below to read more and see a slideshow of images Kranz took at the exhibit.

The display is presented by the OPC and the Christopher Dickey Family, curated by Sandra M. Stevenson, J. David Ake, Deidre Depke and Kranz.

The exhibit's photos focus on Dickey's eye as a reporter, and "what that aesthetic meant for his reporting, writing, and photography. It can appear that his pictures capture moments as though he is taking copious notes, wanting to freeze a point in time so as not to forget it. At other times, his images seem to suggest a particular perspective—one that often differs widely from the conventional."

[Read More](#)

Colleagues Celebrate Christopher Dickey's Insight and Legacy as Editor and Mentor

Deep, thoughtful, curious and insatiably alive were words colleagues used to describe Christopher Dickey when asked to summarize his essence as a journalist and friend during a panel to honor his life and career on Sept. 23. The legendary foreign correspondent died of a heart attack in July 2020 in Paris at the age of 68.



The OPC and Photoville hosted an online panel to discuss Dickey's career and friendship with former editor of Newsweek Mark Whitaker, journalist Barbie Latza Nadeau, photographer Peter Turnley, and CNN political analyst John Avlon serving as moderator.

"Chris had an uncanny way of discovering how the levers of power worked, and then holding accountable those who wielded it," Avlon said during an introduction.

The OPC hosted the panel in conjunction with a Photoville exhibit of his photographs at Brooklyn Bridge Park that will continue [through Dec. 1](#).

The panelists each shared anecdotes from Dickey's career, including harrowing attempts to enter Iran without visas to cover an earthquake, visits to a whiskey bar in Baghdad, covering momentous news stories in the Middle East and North Africa, the deaths of Princess Diana and Pope John Paul II, and the 9/11 attacks and their reverberations around the world.

Turnley, an award-winning photographer who has worked in more than 90

countries over 4 decades, met Dickey in 1986 and worked with him for many years at Newsweek from Paris.

“He was a beautiful photographer,” Turnley said. “Chris felt very liberated photographing, and I think he loved the fact that it was something that he was doing for himself, that it wasn’t related to journalism. It was almost a form of poetic expression.”

[Read More](#)

Photo above, clockwise from upper left: Mark Whitaker, Barbie Latza Nadeau, John Avlon and Peter Turnley.

Brenda Smiley Pyle Recalls 'Horrific' View of 9/11



Longtime OPC member Brenda Smiley Pyle shared her memories of 9/11 with the OPC in a piece that also appeared in an Associated Press internal newsletter.

by Brenda Smiley Pyle

I was using three different cameras, but not all negs were returned. It was early, and I had recently returned from a disappointing trip to Panama researching a mass grave story, and was going over visuals.

It was the vibration I felt first and when I went to our big West-facing window, saw a silver nose cone coming through the first tower. Richard (Pyle, my husband) was out walking our Alsatian, Rommel, getting back in time to see the unimaginable on the roof deck. The smell, the sight, of our once-beloved view, horrific. And I feared our neighbors who worked in the Towers would have already been at work. I located his Star Trek phaser-like AP cell phone and he made that

fateful call to the New York bureau. Mark Phillips lived nearby at the time, and, like other neighbors, was rooftop. Richard told him that he had to shoot this and send to Barbara Woike at AP asap. Before long, what looked like misdirected snowflakes began to fall from the sky. The smell intensified. The wind, like a giant cone, was blowing it all our way. By this time, Richard was preparing to get down there, if the subway was still working.

Electric power went out all over. The Verizon station, along with a historic Greek church, had been heavily damaged. We were without electricity. The subway to the city stopped abruptly. Richard had to get out and walk the rest of the way across the Brooklyn Bridge. He said he met up with another person, a construction worker, and together they walked through the smoke and against straggling, ashen-covered survivors, the lucky ones, who were trying to get back to Brooklyn.

[Read More](#)

Above, a photo Brenda Smiley Pyle shot from her roof the morning of September 11, 2001.

Welcome New Members

Aisha Chowdhry

Freelance
Gaborone, Botswana
Active Overseas, Young (30-34)

Karen Chu

Press Director
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
New York
New York
Associate Resident

Younes Fecih

Freelance
Surrey, U.K.
Active Overseas, Young (30-34)

Shen Lu

Reporter
Protocol Media
New York
Active Resident, Young (30-34)

Jon Orbach

Columbia University Graduate School
of Journalism
New York
Student

Disha Shetty

Freelance
Pune
India
Active Overseas, Young (30-34)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

After a year reporting on cryptocurrency in countries around the world for CoinDesk, **Sandali Handagama**, the 2020 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting winner, is now focused exclusively on financial regulation with a special

focus on Europe. She is now based in Italy. In a story filed [on Sept. 10](#), Handagama wrote about a new report from the European Securities and Markets Authority that framed cryptocurrency as a rising financial force, but also said it was volatile and a threat to sustainable finance due to increasing environmental costs from crypto mining.



Meg Bernhard, the 2020 Flora Lewis Fellowship winner, has an article in the [September issue of Catapult](#) on the impact of climate change on the wine industry. She wrote about her exploration of effects on wine in California's Napa Valley, including rampant wildfires. "The quantity of grapes pressed for wine was down 40 percent, due to fires, the state's drought, and smoke, which had damaged many surviving grapes," she wrote. Bernhard is also writing a book about wine and power. The OPC supported her work with a micro-grant to offset hardships from COVID-19 earlier this year.



Tim Patterson, the Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting winner in 2015, was one of nine veterans who **John Ismay**, the Flint winner in 2014, interviewed for [a Sept. 8](#) story Ismay wrote for The New York Times about their experiences in Afghanistan. Patterson had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in Mexico City, and Ismay had an OPC fellowship with the GroundTruth Project. Ismay is now a Pentagon correspondent in the Washington bureau, and previously covered armed conflict for The New York Times Magazine. He was part of a team of Times reporters awarded a George A. Polk Award in 2015 for coverage of SEAL Team Six.



Alexander Saeedy, the 2015 Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner, is now a reporter with The Wall Street Journal covering bankruptcy and corporate distress. He was an OPC Foundation fellow in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.



Two OPC Foundation scholars, **Jeff Horwitz**, the Fred Wiegold Scholarship winner in 2009, and **Georgia Wells**, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2012, were part of a Wall Street Journal team that produced a news-breaking article and podcast



in [September](#) describing Facebook's knowledge of the harmful impact Instagram poses for some young women. Horwitz also broke a story [on Sept. 13](#) about Facebook's XCheck program that shields an elite group of users from Facebook's abuse rules. Both are based in San Francisco. A Columbia Journalism Review article summarized the Journal's "Facebook Files" investigation series [here](#).

Sun Yu, winner of the S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting in 2008 and an economics reporter for the Financial Times in China, recently wrote about how China [uses](#) an anti-fraud app to track access to overseas financial news sites, including the Bloomberg app.



Simon Akam, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2009, shared the 2021 Feature of the Year Award for from the Medical Journalists Association for his article on how the NHS handled the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The article appeared in The Economist's [1843 Magazine](#). The judges wrote: "A compelling, moving, account of what it was like within the NHS in the first three months of the pandemic. Fear, guilt, anger, anguish, and at times even exhilaration. If anyone ever writes a better account, it is this they will have to top." Akam is the author of [The Changing of the Guard: the British army since 9/11](#). He had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Istanbul.



Garance Burke, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2004, was one of the women the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley chose to honor to commemorate the 150th anniversary of women being admitted to the university. Burke is an award-winning global investigative journalist with The Associated Press. Her [recent stories](#) on the treatment of migrant children on the U.S.-Mexico border were a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the subject of an Emmy Award-winning documentary film partnership between AP and FRONTLINE PBS.

AWARDS

Krithika Varagur, an OPC member and the winner of the OPC Foundation's 2019 Sally Jacobsen Fellowship, won first place in the Arts and Entertainment Feature category for large circulation publications from the [Society for Features Journalism](#), an organization that "promotes the craft of writing and innovation in lifestyle, arts and entertainment journalism."



Her story, “The Fight to Save A 44,000-Year-Old Painting,” about an Indonesian cave painting, [appeared](#) in 1843 Magazine, from the Economist. The judges wrote: “This standout piece features an awe-inspiring subject (the earliest known figurative paintings), immersive reporting (we would not have climbed that ladder) and a deep knowledge of the subject. And it’s all presented in an approachable style.” Varagur, who had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau in New Delhi, writes the At Work column in The Wall Street Journal, about the quirks, realities and frustrations of the workplace today.

UPDATES

OPC Governor **Farnaz Fassihi** [on Sept. 18](#) wrote a piece for The New York Times about Israel’s assassination of Iran’s top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. Co-written with colleague Ronen Bergman, the piece retraces a high-tech operation that deployed a remote control sniper gun fired by an assassin 1,000 miles from the site of the shooting. The account, described as a “straight-out-of-science-fiction story of what really happened that afternoon and the events leading up to it,” was based on interviews with American, Israeli and Iranian officials, intelligence officials and public statements from the victim’s family members.



OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** appeared on France 24 [on Sept. 8](#) on the eve of the trial of 20 suspects in the November 13, 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris. Three suicide bombers killed 130 people in the city’s northern suburb of Saint-Denis, and more than 400 more were injured. Walt, a correspondent for TIME and FORTUNE based in Paris, said during the segment that people in Paris feel more secure now than they did in the immediate aftermath, but need reassurance from the government. “Don’t forget that the November 13 Paris attacks came many months after the Charlie Hebdo attacks. Charlie Hebdo was an incredibly shocking event. It brought a million people out onto the streets of Paris. Leaders from all over the world came to Paris with one message – that this would never happen again. Ten months later, it did happen again, and worse.”



Anand Gopal, an OPC member who won multiple OPC awards, filed a longform piece for The New Yorker’s [Sept. 13 issue](#) talking with women in rural Afghanistan about the era of occupation under the U.S.-led coalition and thoughts on the recent withdrawal after two decades. The piece outlines a pattern of collusion with warlords and strongmen who had previously terrorized the community, as well as civilian killings by U.S. forces and Afghan security forces. Gopal traveled to



northern Helmand Province, writing that many in the area were relieved about the end of U.S. military presence and hoped for an end to perpetual civil war and violence. He said a random sample survey he conducted in the area revealed families lost an average of between 10 and 12 members of their family in the last two decades due to violence. Gopal won the OPC's 2016 Ed Cunningham Award for reporting on ISIS for The Atlantic, the 2017 Cunningham Award along with OPC First Vice President Azmat Khan for their investigative piece "Uncounted" in The New York Times Magazine on underreported civilian casualties from U.S. airstrikes in Iraq, and the 2018 Cunningham Award for coverage of Syria in The New Yorker. Gopal is scheduled to speak on a New Yorker panel on Sept. 30 about the future of Afghanistan. Read more in the Resources section below or [click here](#).

OPC member **Dana Thomas** spoke on a panel for France 24 [on Sept. 17](#) about the latest controversy surrounding Brexit after British retailer Marks & Spencer closed 11 stores across France amid supply chain issues and leveled blame against the British government. "It's a bad sign for Britain's economy and also a really bad sign for Paris, which already has a blight of empty stores after COVID," Thomas said from Saint-Tropez. She made her comments on the program The World This Week. Thomas is a Paris-based style writer for multiple outlets and is author of the book *Fashionopolis*.



OPC member **James Brooke** wrote a piece for The Berkshire Eagle [on Sept. 9](#) about his experience covering the one-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks from Kandahar, Afghanistan for The New York Times in 2002. He recalled filing a series of stories, venturing out into the city from his hotel with an interpreter to talk with Afghans in a market, visiting a U.S. base for a one-year anniversary ceremony, and then the next day flying by Chinook helicopter on a mission to supply a Special Forces unit in an isolated mountain village. That story, titled "[FRONT LINES: U.S. Tasks in Afghan Desert: Hunt Taliban, Tote Plywood](#)," landed on the Times' front page.



Adam Ferguson, a photojournalist and OPC member who received an OPC freelancer micro-grant earlier this year to offset hardships from COVID-19, had several photos published in a piece for The Atlantic [on Sept. 10](#) covering American service members' reflections on their time in Afghanistan. "The movement that accompanies a firefight is exchanged for stillness in these images. Yet violence stalks them," Ferguson wrote about the photos. "The quiet moments can be the loudest."

OPC member **Lilia Hassan**, who spent last year as a Tow Reporting Fellow at FRONTLINE PBS, is now a freelancer with a fellowship at Type Investigations as one of their 2021-22 Ida B. Wells fellows. She has been reporting on ICE arrests and accountability for the organization since the fellowships were [announced](#) in June.



Karen Toulon, secretary of the OPC Foundation, has written a children's book illustrated by her husband, Eric Rhinehart, that is set to be published in October. [*The ABC's of Paradise Found*](#) is based on Toulon's personal recollections of her Caribbean family and folklore. The publisher is Wordee, a Black, woman-owned company. The book features a forward by former UN Ambassador Andrew Young.



People Column Sept. 24

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Journalist's Resource** has posted a list of tips for covering COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. Advice includes how to determine why communities or individuals are hesitant, leading with compassion, addressing unknowns, finding balance in those represented in the story, and taking time to understand underlying reasons deeply. [Read more here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., OPC member **Anand Gopal** will join New Yorker colleagues for an online discussion about the future of Afghanistan. He will be joined by Eliza Griswold and David Rohde, with the magazine's editor, David Remnick, serving as moderator. The panel is exclusive for subscribers. [Read more here.](#)

Photoville is offering free virtual safety clinics for freelance photographers on September 29, 30 and October 1, part of Photoville's 2021 online programming. Sponsors are The ACOS Alliance, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Frontline Freelance Register. [Read more and sign up here.](#)

On Oct. 14 at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, **Photoville** is also hosting an interactive workshop on the Adobe-led Content Authenticity Initiative (CAI) that is designed to foster trust in visual journalism by using metadata to determine authenticity of

media. The workshop will be led by **Santiago Lyon**, the head of advocacy and education for CAI. Lyon has previously served as Governor of the OPC. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 27 at 11:15 a.m. U.K. time, the **Public Media Alliance** will host a session on conflict reporting, the public media's role in peacebuilding efforts, codes of ethics, and journalist safety in South Asia. [Read more and register here.](#) On Oct. 5 at 8:00 a.m. U.K. time, the **Public Media Alliance** will host a webinar to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on media freedom, journalist safety and media viability in Southeast Asia. [Read more and register here.](#)

The International Journalists' Network has posted an archive video of a Sept. 16 seminar on digital safety with Harlo Holmes, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and Director of Digital Security at Freedom of the Press Foundation. [Watch the archive here.](#)

The **Foreign Press Association** hosted a discussion on Sept. 9 with Tom Osborne, former foreign correspondent for World News Tonight under Peter Jennings. Osborne is the author of the new book "The Politics of War: My Ten Year Journey with Peter Jennings." [Watch the archive here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A **group of organizations** is teaming up to offer free access to a safety training course provided online by experienced media safety trainers at [Silk Road Training](#). The groups are ACOS Alliance, the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), Frontline Freelance Register (FFR), [Gulf Center for Human Rights](#) (GCHR), Maharat Foundation, Marie Colvin Journalists' Network (MCJN) and SKeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom. Participants must be based in the Middle East/North Africa or cover the region on a regular basis. The course is available in English and Arabic. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting** is inviting journalists to submit proposals to the **Southeast Asia Rainforest Journalism Fund** for grants to support reporting on rainforests around the world, and for local and regional outlets in Southeast Asia. The deadline is rolling. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Pulitzer Center** is also calling for applications for reporting fellowships on gender equality, justice and climate science. Applicants may propose projects on multiple platforms—text and/or multimedia, including video, audio, and documentary photography. Winners will be awarded a \$3,000 stipend and receive mentorship from the Pulitzer Center staff and grantees. The deadline for applications is Nov. 1. [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](#).
- The **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

