



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin June 10, 2022

Greetings!

This week's Bulletin features a [recap and video](#) from last night's Book Night with author Stephen Baker to discuss his new crime thriller, *Donkey Show*, about a cross-border investigation and a journalist in Texas. Take a look ahead at our next installment of the "How I Did It" series with OPC Morton Frank Award winners on their exposure of abuses in the sugar industry [on June 23](#), and a panel with experts on Ukraine [on July 13](#). Plus, OPC community news including winners of the Peabody Awards, new accolades for Azmat Khan's reporting on U.S. airstrikes, member job changes, new resources and more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 23: Morton Frank Award Winners Explain How They Exposed Abuses in the Sugar Industry

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

["The Bitter Work Behind Sugar,"](#) a radio story and podcast by Reveal from the Center for

Investigative Reporting, won this year's Morton Frank Award for best international business news reporting in TV, video, radio, audio or podcast. It was distributed by PRX and a text version was published in Mother Jones.



Reporters **Sandy Tolan** and **Euclides Cordero Nuel**, who worked closely with



Reveal editor and producer **Michael Montgomery**, will discuss their project as part of the OPC's "How I Did It" series, which offers our many freelance members the opportunity to interact with highly successful journalists and OPC Award winners.

This comprehensive investigation took listeners deep into the sugar cane harvesting camps manned by Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic. Piecing together information from visits to 10 work camps (batayes), more than 100 interviews and numerous documents from government agencies and lawsuits, this team traced sugar from the Dominican fields to American ports, and the supply chains of major brands such as Domino and Hershey.

Their narrative was a strong, engaging probe into Central Romana Corporation, an immense privately held sugar-producing company which is partially owned by a prominent Cuban-American family, the Fanjuls. The story helps illustrate how the Fanjuls built a global sugar empire through a secretive web of holding companies, partnerships and affiliates including the Dominican Republic's largest employer and a top importer of sugar to the United States. The reporting, which has prompted scrutiny from Congress and the Department of Labor, documented workers enduring \$4 a day wages, staggering debt, substandard housing and woeful medical care while enhancing the company's profitability.

The moderator is OPC Governor **Marina Walker Guevara**, executive editor of The Pulitzer Center, which helped fund the project.

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Photo above, clockwise from upper left: **Sandy Tolan**, **Euclides Cordero Nuel** and **Michael Montgomery**



July 13: Are the US and UK Pushing for a Military

Victory in Ukraine? What Does Victory Mean?

TIME: 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time, 7:00 p.m. Kyiv time.

LOCATION: Online via Zoom.

Join the OPC to hear three panelists with longtime experience in Ukraine who will talk from Kyiv.

Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program on July 13.

Panelists are:

Kira Rudik, leader of the Golos political party in Ukraine's parliament, graduated from Stanford's program in Women's Leadership and is regularly ranked among the 100 most successful women in Ukraine. Before entering politics, Rudik was an IT entrepreneur who headed Ring Ukraine, a maker of smart home security systems. In 2018, she managed the acquisition of Ring Ukraine by Amazon for \$1 billion.

Andy Bain is an American who has lived in Kyiv for 30 years, building his Atlantic Group into one of Ukraine's largest ad agencies. A retired US Marine Corps colonel, Bain leads the Ukrainian Freedom Fund, a nonprofit that raises money to buy equipment for Ukraine's military.

Daniel Bilak, a Canadian-Ukrainian who is senior counsel in Kyiv for the the Kinstellar law firm, was director of UkraineInvest, Ukraine's investment promotion agency.

The moderator is OPC member **Jim Brooke**. After a career overseas for The New York Times, Bloomberg and Voice of America, Brooke worked from 2015 to 2021 as a business reporter based in Kyiv.

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Author Stephen Baker's 'Donkey Show' Serves as an Accidental Modern Parable

by **Chad Bouchard**

Former foreign correspondent Stephen Baker told attendees at an OPC Book Night on June 9 that when he started writing his latest fiction novel decades ago, he did not intend it to be a metaphor for the world of confirmation bias, spin and selective information society has ended up creating.

Baker's new novel, *Donkey Show*, is a crime thriller centered on Tom Harley, a cross-border journalist in El Paso, Texas, who receives a death threat in response to "lazy" reporting that involves a drug lord in Mexico. The incident propels the half-hearted journalist to untangle a deeper truth behind his story. Baker said though his journalist characters behave unethically in the book, he did not intend the book to be a critique of unscrupulous journalists.

"It's a lot more interesting if people get into trouble. If people have a lie and they've built upon that lie, then they're caught on that lie, it makes for all kinds of interesting conflict."

He said the germ for the book concept came from a real story of a photojournalist in Juarez, Mexico who was abducted after taking photos of a hotel owned by a drug cartel. He was beaten and sent back over the border to El Paso to deliver a death threat to another journalist. Baker used the structure of this story to form the outline of his narrative, though key details were changed – namely that threatened journalist had fallen short of their professional integrity.

OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz served as moderator. She asked Baker to explain the meaning of the title of the book, which stems from a known scam by Mexican taxi drivers who lure unwary tourists to see a show involving a sex act with a donkey, and then proceed to get them drunk at various bars where they get a kickback.

"It represents this myth of what people are ready to believe," he said. In the book the drug lord is surrounded by sensational myths about his lifestyle and eccentricities "that he lives this life almost like *1,001 Nights*."

[Read the Full Recap on the OPC Website](#)



Welcome New Member

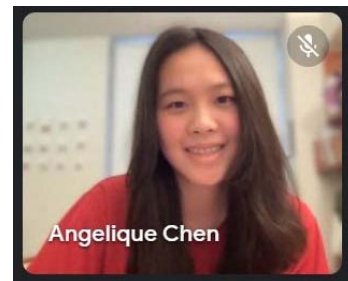
Sam Kimball

Freelance
Tunis
Active Overseas

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

The Asian American Journalists Association has announced that **Angelique Chen**, this year's Reuters Fellowship winner, is one of five recipients of the 2022 Facebook Journalism Project Scholarships. Recipients will receive \$10,000 each to use toward tuition. Chen is pursuing a master's in business and economic reporting at New York University. She will be working with Reuters this summer as an OPC fellow. Chen graduated from National Taiwan University in 2021 with a degree in international business and a minor in English Literature. Over the past few months, she has been a part-time market reporter at CoinDesk.



Isabel DeBre, the 2018 Stan Swinton Scholarship winner, is among a class of 25 Associated Press journalists who will participate in the organization's inaugural LEAD program, which is designed to "help participants better understand how AP operates across departments and to build skills needed to inspire change, lead teams and propel innovation." She had an OPC Foundation fellowship with the AP in Jerusalem, and then was hired on as a reporter.



Freelance journalist **Neha Wadekar**, the Reuters Scholarship winner in 2016, has been selected as the winner of the Pulitzer Center's annual [Breakthrough Journalism Award](#). The \$12,000 prize recognizes the achievements of Pulitzer Center-affiliated freelance journalists who report on underreported global issues. Wadekar was recognized for her reporting about [the fight for Cabo Delgado in Mozambique](#). This underreported conflict has displaced over 700,000 people and killed thousands more. According to Wadekar's reporting, tranquil coastal towns once popular with tourists have been ravaged by ISIS-affiliated militants who have propelled Mozambique's insurgency onto the global stage.



UPDATES

Two OPC Governors served on reporting teams that won Peabody Awards this year. OPC Governor **Hendrik Hinzl** was part of a VICE News team that [won](#) a Peabody for a series he co-created called "Transnational" about global transgender rights and resilience. The series includes coverage of a trans ballroom community in Detroit, a government-sponsored safe haven in Mexico City, and stories in the UK and Indonesia. A post on the Peabody website said the series focuses on "on-the-ground activists and their hard-earned victories," and said each episode also "celebrates the joy that can exist within resistance. There's an agency to the reporting here; no doubt a byproduct of this GLAAD co-produced endeavor being fronted by a team of trans journalists."



OPC Governor **Raney Aronson-Rath**, as executive producer for FRONTILNE, was part of the teams that won two Peabody Awards, one for a documentary on Maria Ressa, titled *A Thousand Cuts*, and another for *Escaping Eritrea*, about abuses faced by Eritreans at home and on perilous migration routes. Ressa helmed the Rappeler website that fought for press freedom in the face of President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal crackdown on news media. A post profiling the winners said the documentary takes the audience inside escalating conflict between Rappler and the government. "With astonishing access and chilling precision, *A Thousand Cuts* is a journalistic profile in courage for our time and a cautionary tale for global press freedom straining against the rise of populist autocracies around the world." *Escaping Eritrea* also received a Citation for Excellence (runner-up) in the David A. Andelman and Pamela Title category. The Peabody award page said that



"amid threat of incarceration, torture, and execution in a country with no free press, the subjects and filmmakers ... conducted an unprecedented, years-long investigation."

White attending an awards ceremony to receive a New York Press Club Award on June 6, OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** said she was "especially honored to be recognized by my peers" for reporting on Saudi Arabia's entanglement with Hollywood for FORTUNE magazine. She won the award in the category of Entertainment News National, Magazine. "The billions of dollars in both directions interweave the interests of two juggernauts: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince MBS, and Hollywood, whose progressive image is at odds with the Kingdom, but whose thirst for fresh markets and content has rocketed with the rise of streaming," Walt wrote in LinkedIn post from the awards dinner.



OPC Governor **Azmat Khan** and her colleagues continue to garner honors for New York Times Magazine reporting on casualties from U.S. airstrikes due to neglect and poor ground intelligence, and the efforts to cover up deadly mistakes. She [won](#) the 2022 Freedom of the Press Catalyst Award, for "reporting that has had a significant impact." The award is given by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Khan was one of just five recipients of the press awards this year. The airstrike investigation also [won](#) a Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Journalism Award for New Media, and the John Siegenthaler Courage in Journalism Award. The project also won this year's Roy Rowan Award from the OPC and as mentioned in the May 13 People column, the project won a Pulitzer Prize in the international reporting category.



UPDATES

The Los Angeles Times has [announced](#) that **Scott Kraft**, who has served as head judge for the OPC Annual Awards for many years and is a vice president of the club's Board of Governors, will now serve in a newly created role as the paper's editor at large, enterprise journalism and special projects. Kraft currently serves as managing editor for the Times. An announcement in the Times said that Kraft would keep some of his current responsibilities and expand on them as editor at large, and oversee the Investigations department, standards and practices, contest entries, polling and survey research projects, and newsroom-wide reporting initiatives.



British Vogue has [named](#) OPC member **Dana Thomas** as European sustainability editor. She will write a column dedicated to sustainability, the environment and fashion. Thomas will also continue to host the podcast The Green Dream with Dana Thomas, where she talks with guests about politics, fashion and sustainability. She has written for a number of magazines including The New York Times



Magazine, The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, and is the author of several books, including *Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes*.

Columbia University has [announced](#) that OPC Governor **Ginger Thompson** has been elected to serve on the Pulitzer Prize Board. Thompson is currently chief of correspondents and deputy managing editor of ProPublica. Her career has included extensive reporting on Latin America. She has worked for eight years at ProPublica overseeing recruitment and retention while also working on reporting projects. Thompson won the OPC's 1995 Eric and Amy Burger Award along with colleague Gary Cohn for reporting on Honduras for The Baltimore Sun. Thompson was part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team at The New York Times and has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service two times.



OPC member **Andy Katell** decided to come out of retirement to help The Associated Press with its news coverage of Russia-Ukraine. Working remotely out of his house in the Greater New York City area, Katell is reporting and editing several days a week as part of the AP's global team, returning to journalism after a 28-year absence and after completing two other careers. Starting in the 1980s, he worked full-time for the AP for 14 years as a correspondent and editor in Moscow, the United Nations, the International Desk in New York and the Charleston, West Virginia bureau.



OPC member **Kathy Gannon** [announced](#) on Twitter that she has received the Joan Shorenstein Fellowship for the fall semester at the Harvard Kennedy School. She wrote that she "couldn't be more grateful and excited to explore the extraordinary challenges facing journalism today." Gannon announced in May that she is retiring after 35 years of covering Afghanistan and Pakistan for The Associated Press.



People Column June 10

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Center for Women's Global Leadership** has released a new guide, "Silence and Omissions: A Media Guide for Covering Gender-Based Violence," written following a multi-year consultation with over 100 women journalists and photographers from 38 countries. [Read more about the guide and download it here.](#)

The **Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ)** on June 1 released its monthly report on violence against women journalists, and found that May was the deadliest month so far this year with five documented killings and 40 cases of press violations. Ten women journalists have died this year while on the job. [Read the full report here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **International Center for Journalism (ICFJ)** has launched Leap, a news innovation lab focused on helping newsrooms solve journalism challenges through innovation, experimentation and technology. The lab offers hackathons, fellowships, and 10-week solution challenges. [Learn more about the program on a Twitter Spaces seminar here.](#)

PEN America, the **Online News Association (ONA)** and the **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** are holding a series of small workshops and short videos with detailed tips on how to defend against hackers and doxers online. The sessions are scheduled for June 16 and 30, and July 14 and 25. [Read more and register for the Digital Safety Snacks program here.](#)

On June 13 at noon Eastern Time, the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** will host a seminar on best practices for reporting on mental health of children and caregivers. Panelists include Tanmoy Goswami, mental health journalist and founder of Sanity by Tanmoy; Chandra Ghosh Ippen, child trauma psychologist and associate director of the Child Trauma Research Program at University of California; Anya Kamenetz, education reporter for NPR; with Irene Caselli, early childhood journalist, serving as moderator. [Read more and register here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Center for Business Journalism** has posted its next deadline for grants for experienced journalists of up to \$15,000, with editorial support needed to "produce deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that delve into critical economic, financial or business issues across a wide array of subjects." Applications for the Fall 2022 fellowships are due Sept. 30. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Reuters is hiring more than 100 positions, including positions in breaking news, finance, economics, graphics, video, podcasts, frontline reporting, editing, and production. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Rory Peck Trust still has a call for applications open for its Resilience Programme, which provides specialist trauma-informed training and access to psychological treatment, enabling freelance journalists to develop the skills they

need to build resilience when exposed to conflict or covering traumatic events. [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

