



Overseas Press Club  
*of America*

## Bulletin May 26, 2022

### Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this week's Bulletin, which features a look ahead at an OPC Book Night with author Stephen Baker to discuss his new crime thriller centered on a journalist in Mexico [on June 9](#), and the next program in our "How I Did It" series, this time with OPC Morton Frank Award winners on their exposure of abuses in the sugar industry [on June 23](#). Read about a Club Quarters discount for OPC members below, and a recap with embedded video from the [May 19](#) "How I Did It" panel with OPC award-winning political cartoonists. Plus, catch up on OPC community news, resources and more below.

## Club Quarters Announces 10 Percent Discount on Room Rates for OPC Members

by Patricia Kranz

Club Quarters has launched a special program for members of the Overseas Press Club of America and their family and

friends. They have created a special link for OPC members to book rooms that automatically deducts 10 percent from the best available rates at that time.



Hotels participating in the program are located in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, and London.

Click on this [link](#) or the button below to browse the locations and book a stay. In London, there are choices near Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, St. Paul's Cathedral and the city of London. In Boston, the hotel is near Faneuil Hall. In New York, you can stay in the midtown location where the OPC office is located, and others near Grand Central and the World Trade Center. (The former Club Quarters at Rockefeller Center, renamed The Jewel, is not participating even though it is on the OPC booking page.)

Happy travels!

[Click Here to Use the OPC Discount](#)

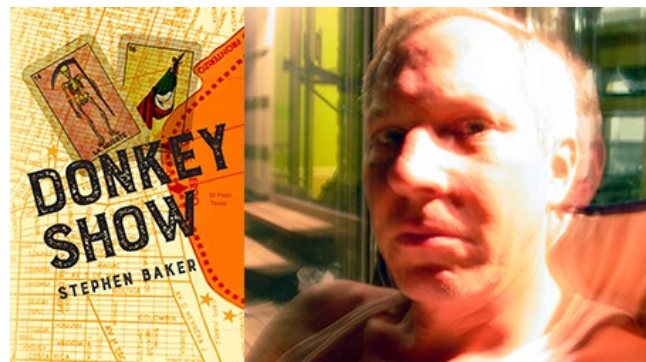
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 9: Book Night with Stephen Baker to Discuss Crime Thriller 'Donkey Show'

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

**LOCATION:** Online via Zoom

Just in time for your beach-reading list, the OPC is pleased to host **Stephen Baker** on June 9 to discuss his new novel, *Donkey Show*, a crime thriller centered on a journalist in Mexico.



Registrants will receive a Zoom link to join about an hour before the program on June 9.

The publisher, Atmosphere Press in Austin, TX, summarizes the plot this way:

"A news photographer limps back across the Mexican border. He's bloodied, his cameras smashed. And he carries a menacing message from a notorious drug lord to one of his colleagues. 'Tell Tom Harley he's dead meat.'

"This death threat transforms a half-hearted reporter into an unlikely hero and kicks off a rollicking cross-border drama. Roaming from a love nest in El Paso's shadeless barrio to a dusty carwash across the river in Juarez, Harley starts to untangle a story in which he's a leading actor. But can he tell the truth once he finds it?

"In *Donkey Show*, Baker weaves a tale of deception, dueling ambitions, and international intrigue — most of it taking place within a 10-minute bike ride of the newsroom. Nearly everyone he encounters, it seems, shapes their stories to fit their dreams. But they must survive the madness for those dreams to come true."

Baker has worked as a journalist and writer in many cities, including Paris, Mexico City, Caracas, Quito, Madrid, New York, and El Paso. His non-fiction books, including *The Numerati* and *Final Jeopardy: Man vs. Machine and the Quest to Know Everything*, explore the effects of technology on society.

Baker and colleagues from BusinessWeek won the OPC's Morton Frank Award in 1992 for a story telegraphing Mexico's role in North American manufacturing in the coming decade.

OPC Executive Director **Patricia Kranz** will moderate the discussion.

[You can buy the book here.](#)

RSVP Now



## 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.

[RSVP Now](#)

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

OPC Best Cartoon Award Winners Discuss

# Creative Process and Misconceptions About Their Work

by Chad Bouchard

Political cartoonists who are past winners of the OPC's Best Cartoon awards discussed their creative process, their personal "red lines," and misconceptions of their work during a panel hosted by the OPC on May 19.

The event marked the latest installment of the OPC's "How I Did It" series about journalists' work, featuring past OPC Best Cartoon Award winners Kevin (KAL) Kallaugher, the editorial cartoonist for The Economist, The Baltimore Sun and the online newsletter Counterpoint; Rob Rogers, who currently draws political cartoons for Counterpoint.com and Tinyview.com and previously worked for 25 years for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; and Patrick Chappatte, editorial cartoonist and comics reporter working for The Boston Globe, Der Spiegel in Germany, Le Canard Enchaîné in France, and Le Temps and NZZ am Sonntag in Switzerland.

Kallaugher most recently won the OPC's Best Cartoon award for his work in 2020. He kicked off the program with a sampling of Chappatte's cartoons and a discussion of his process in creating each one.

The images Chappatte selected to showcase included a recent cartoon of a Russian tank leaving a trail of bodies in its tracks, and another depicting a spherical shadow rimmed by the characteristic spikes of a COVID-19 cell as it eclipses the Earth.

"That's a cartoon that sums up a long period of our time, a period that was shared by all of us on the same planet," he said. "It's just an image of the eclipse of our lives that this long crisis was – a time that was at the same time very personal and felt all around the world."

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



## Welcome New Member

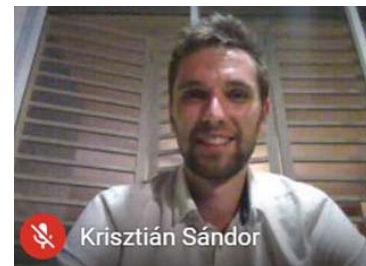
### **Alex Ulam**

Freelance  
New York  
Active Resident

## People by Chad Bouchard

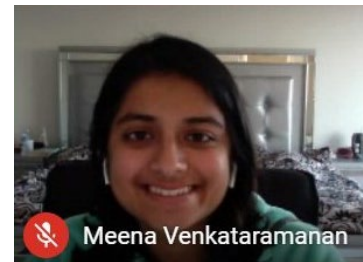
### **SCHOLARS**

**Krisztián Sándor**, the Reuters Fellowship winner in 2021, is joining Coindesk's U.S. Markets team as a reporter on stablecoins and Wall Street. He had been interning at the media organization since February, and transitioning into a full-time role following graduation from New York University. Sándor had an OPC Foundation fellowship with the Reuter's finance and markets team in London where he rotated among teams covering emerging markets, EU monetary policy and crypto regulations.



**Meena Venkataramanan**, the Emanuel R. Freedman

Scholarship winner in 2021, published a review of Grace D. Li's novel *Portrait of a Thief* in the Boston Globe on [May 5](#). The book is set in Cambridge, Massachusetts and follows Chinese American art thieves cultural artifacts. Venkataramanan wrote that in the novel, Li “grapples with the American Dream, recognizing the protagonists’ attempt to rescue its idealized notion from their parents’ clutches and reshape it for themselves.”



**Marta Orosz**, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2020, joined Reuters as a banking and economics correspondent covering Berlin and Frankfurt. She previously worked for Business Insider Germany as a business editor.



**Serginho Roosblad**, winner of the Harper’s Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone in 2017, is now a video journalist with The Associated Press Global Investigations. He joined the AP’s global investigative team in 2017 as the first hire in a program funded by the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting.



**Wei Zhou**, winner of the S&P Award for Economic and Business Reporting in 2016, recently joined Bloomberg’s China credit team as a reporter to cover China’s onshore and offshore credit markets. She is currently based in Bloomberg’s Hong Kong bureau, and had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Shanghai bureau of The Wall Street Journal where she later worked as a researcher.



**Levi Bridges**, the 2016 Stan Swinton Fellowship winner, is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, covering the former Soviet states mainly for NPR shows and podcasts. The war in Ukraine has upended his plans to return to Moscow, where he once had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Associated Press bureau.



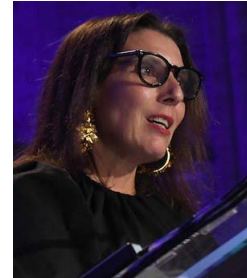
## UPDATES

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** won a New York Press Club Award in the category of Entertainment News National, Magazine. In a release, the organization [cited](#) her entry titled “Entertaining the ‘New Saudi’” for FORTUNE. In August 2021, Walt [reported](#) on media companies like Netflix making a play for the affluent Saudi market despite geopolitical risks. Her

more recent reporting includes a [May 17 piece](#) for FORTUNE, delving into an “army” of information technology warriors in Ukraine supporting front-line combatants in the war against Russian invaders. She wrote that a group of 20 engineers, managers, executives and entrepreneurs calling themselves the “IT Unit” “have formed an unexpected back office for battles raging about 700 miles east of this picturesque town named Mukachevo.”



**Lulu Garcia-Navarro**, a New York Times Opinion writer who delivered the keynote address during the OPC Annual Awards Dinner in April, is set to [launch](#) a new podcast on June 9. “First Person” will explore how experience shapes opinions, and each episode will feature “people living through the headlines for intimate and surprising conversations that help us make sense of our complicated world.” Navarro was part of an NPR team that won the 2012 Lowell Thomas Award for reporting on the Arab Spring.



OPC member **Valerie Hopkins**, winner of the 2013 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, voiced a [May 10](#) article she wrote for The New York Times about Russian activist and leader of Pussy Riot, Masha Alyokhina, and her dramatic journey from Moscow to Europe so she could tour. Hopkins wrote that Alyokhina disguised herself as a food courier to evade the police who had been staking out the location where she was staying. She left behind a cell phone as a decoy to avoid being racked, Hopkins wrote. She read and recorded the story for the Times.



OPC member **Nicole Tung** was a guest on the Harper’s Podcast [on May 16](#) about her four photo essays of Ukraine for the magazine, and the power of photojournalism and the ethical complexity of representation. Host and web editor Violet Lucca asked Tung to address how photojournalists can best portray a conflict that is outside of their culture, how to preserve respect for those involved, and how Tung’s experience in war zones has informed her craft. Tung received an OPC Citation for Excellence in the Olivier Rebbot category this year for her coverage of Syria for The Washington Post.



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*.

OPC member **Jaime FlorCruz**, a veteran Asia analyst and China correspondent, spoke to CBS News on the eve of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s election win [on May 9](#), saying the son of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos would likely try to de-escalate sporadic conflicts between the Chinese Coast Guard and Filipino fishermen over territorial maritime disputes. "For pragmatic reasons, I expect the Marcos Jr. administration to keep the two sides offering not just signals of goodwill, but also practical benefits," he said. "For example, the Marcos Jr. administration may try to renegotiate the Mutual Defense Treaty [with the U.S.] and try to maximize benefits from such a treaty." Florcruz was born in the Philippines. In the early 1970s, as an activist against the Marcos regime, he was forced into exile while studying in China when Marcos started arresting his opponents and critics. FlorCruz's passport expired after a year, and he found himself stateless in China for 12 years. He stayed in China and worked as a correspondent for more than 30 years, retiring as CNN bureau chief in Beijing at the end of 2014.



People Column May 26

## New Resources

### TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ)** hosted a panel in Twitter Spaces [on May 26](#) to discuss the challenges women journalists face when reporting on Palestine, in light of the killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. The 51-year-old Palestinian-American was shot and killed on May 11 while standing with a group of journalists near the entrance of Jenin refugee camp, where they had come to cover an Israeli raid. Her death has prompted calls for investigations and diplomatic action from press freedom groups around the world. The CFWIJ speakers included Dalya Masri, previously of Reuters and the Prison Journalism Project; Rania Zabaneh of Al Jazeera English' and Megan O'Toole of Middle East Eye and Al Jazeera English. The program began at noon, but will be recorded and available online afterward. [Catch up on the conversation here.](#)

The **A Culture of Safety Alliance (ACOS)** and the **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** are offering Freelance Safety Clinics at Photoville in June. The clinics will run for up to 45 minutes on June 15, 16 and 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Applications for the program are due by May 28. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **International Press Institute (IPI)** has announced its 2022 IPI World Congress will be held Sept. 8 to 10 in New York. The event will be held as a hybrid of online and in-person elements, including discussions, presentations, masterclasses and workshops. [Read more and register here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has announced that the date for its 2022 Tribute to Journalists will be held on Nov. 10 in Washington, DC. The event will be held in person and broadcast online. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will serve as master of ceremonies. The organization also [announced](#) its annual Knight International Journalism Awards, recognizing reporting that makes a difference in the lives of people around the world. Among the winners are a team of Ukrainian journalists who covered Russia's siege of Mariupol for The Associated Press, an Afghan TV reporter for TOLONews whose investigations uncovered mismanagement of COVID-19 resources; and the founder of Salvadoran news site El Faro, which exposed corruption in El Salvador. [Read more and RSVP for the Nov. 10 ceremony here.](#)

On May 16, the **Foreign Press Association (FPA)** posted its recording of an interview with Nobel Prize winner Jose Ramos Horta, President-elect of Timor L'Este, who talked with OPC member and FPA President Ian Williams about the future of his country and the United Nations, just days before he took office on May 19. [Watch the interview here.](#)

On May 18, the **ICFJ** posted a recording of its webinar on investigating and reporting far-right extremism. The host was Yassin Musharbash, journalist and author who worked for Der Spiegel and Die Zeit in Germany, becoming deputy head of the latter's investigations department in 2015. [Watch the webinar here.](#)

On May 11, the **Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ)** posted a recording of its webinar on how to develop sources with Bill Marimow of the Philadelphia Inquirer and Cheryl W. Thompson of NPR. [Watch the program 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](mailto:chad@opcofamerica.org) for credentials.**

OPC Resources Page

