



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Dec. 2, 2022

Dear Chad,

We hope you enjoy this packed issue of the Bulletin. Here are our featured items this week:

- Applications are now open for the [2022 Annual Awards](#). Spread the word!
- The OPC awards [\\$2,000 Grants to 18 journalists in Ukraine](#)
- Video from this week's '[How I Did It](#)' program with New York Times reporters where they discuss covering China's expanding surveillance state
- OPC condemns [violent treatment of journalists](#) amid protest coverage in China
- OPC member and grant recipient [Elisabetta Zavoli discusses her work](#)

We also have previews and reminders of three upcoming events:

- [On Dec. 7](#), raise a glass with OPC colleagues at the Algonquin Hotel bar
- [On Dec. 13](#), watch an online panel with Afghan journalists to discuss life after the Taliban takeover last year
- [On Jan. 12](#), join the next "How I Did It" program with Marcus Yam of the Los Angeles Times to talk about his photography documenting the U.S. departure from Afghanistan

Plus, catch up on OPC member news in the People Column, find tools and programs in our Resources section, and more.



OPC
Overseas Press Club
of America

Honoring
the Best in
International
Journalism

**CALL FOR
ENTRIES**
ANNUAL AWARDS

Enter Online:
www.opcofamerica.org

We are now accepting
applications online.

Annual awards for INTERNATIONAL
COVERAGE in Newspapers, News
Services, Digital, Magazines, Radio,
Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons,
Books and Photography.

ELIGIBILITY: Work must be published
or broadcast in the U.S. or by a
U.S.-based company or be accessible
to an American audience for the
first time during 2022 with reporting
primarily outside the U.S.

Eligibility Period:
**January 1, 2022 -
December 31, 2022**

General Deadline:
January 31, 2023
**Cornelius Ryan Book
Award Deadline:**
January 9, 2023
Awards Dinner:
April 27, 2023
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

Applications are now open for the OPC Annual Awards honoring the year's best in international journalism across 22 categories. Click on the button below to read more and submit entries. Please help us spread the word about this call for entries on your social and professional networks.

[OPC Annual Awards Submission Page](#)



Overseas Press Club Awards \$2,000 Grants to 18 Journalists in Ukraine

NEW YORK, Dec. 2, 2022—The Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) announced today that it has begun distributing 18 grants of \$2,000 each to journalists who are struggling to continue their essential work under dire conditions in Ukraine. Sony Electronics Inc. kickstarted the fund with a \$25,000 donation. OPC members and friends also contributed.

The club sought help from press clubs in Ukraine to reach journalists who work for independent or regional news organizations. State-owned media in Ukraine were not considered because they are receiving financial help from the European Union and other sources. The OPC grant recipients ranged in age from 23 to 67. Seven are women. More than 100 Ukrainian journalists applied for the grants, which shows the need is great.

“We’re thrilled and honored to be able to provide help for our colleagues in Ukraine, who are working under difficult and dangerous conditions to report every day on

a story of global importance,” said Scott Kraft, the OPC’s president. “All of us at the OPC deeply admire the dedication and courage of these journalists, and we encourage other journalism organizations to follow our lead.”

Many grant recipients said they would use the OPC funds to buy equipment such as laptops, portable chargers, generators and power banks. “Even those journalists who do not directly cover the fighting or who are not in the combat zone face enormous challenges as a result of the targeted destruction of Ukraine’s energy infrastructure by Russian missile strikes,” said Vitaly Atanasov, a freelance journalist based in Kyiv who received a grant. “The absence of electricity, mobile communications and the Internet for many hours, and sometimes for several days, really complicates the work of media professionals.”

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Upcoming Events

Dec. 7: OPC Happy Hour at The Algonquin Hotel Bar

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Eastern Time

Location: The Algonquin Hotel
Times Square, 59 W. 44th St.,
New York, NY 10036



The Half King may be gone, but we’re bringing back the OPC’s social mixers! Our first will be at the hotel bar where the OPC was founded. Join us Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the [Algonquin Hotel bar](#) to raise a glass with colleagues! [Preview the cash bar and menu here](#). Both members and non-members are welcome to attend! The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. No RSVP is needed.



Dec. 13: How Afghan Journalists Are Reinventing Themselves

Time: 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Location: Online via Zoom.

More than a year after U.S. troops withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban returned to power, Afghan journalists are trying to navigate a “new” Afghanistan. Some are re-building careers in Afghanistan and others are setting up shops in the West, particularly in the U.S. and Canada.



The OPC supported 33 Afghan journalists who resettled in the U.S. with cash grants totaling \$133,000 earlier this year. On Dec. 13, the club will talk to a variety of Afghan journalists about the progress they have made and the challenges remaining. The rise of a vibrant, independent journalism community in Afghanistan was one of the few success stories in the two-decade U.S. occupation.

The moderator will be **Deborah Amos**, a governor of the OPC and a longtime reporter at National Public Radio covering the Middle East. “The community is in need of highlighting and support,” Amos said. “The OPC did this with cash following the exodus last year. Now it’s crucial, but harder, to help this community survive.”

Speakers include:

- **Ali Latifi**, an Emmy-nominated freelance producer and writer working for major U.S. and International broadcasters and print outlets, including PBS, CNN and The New York Times.
- **Zahra Nader**, founder of Zan Times, a media outlet that covers human rights in Afghanistan with a focus on women, the LGBT community and environmental issues.
- **Zaki Daryabi**, who founded Etilaat Roz Daily in 2012 and is publisher for KabulNow, an online newspaper affiliated with Etilaat.
- **Samiullah Mahdi**, a former Voice of America correspondent who co-founded Amu TV, a digital news platform that brings together journalists from within and outside Afghanistan to provide independent reporting in Farsi and Pashto.
- **Summia Tora**, Afghanistan’s first Rhodes Scholar, a fellow at New America and member of an Afghan podcast team that created “No Way Home,” a production for The Intercept.

RSVP Now

Photo above by Daniel Young, U.S. Navy photograapher.



Jan. 12: 'How I Did It' - Los Angeles Times Photographer Marcus Yam Explains His Approach to Covering Conflict

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Online via Zoom

Marcus Yam is a roving Los Angeles Times foreign correspondent and staff photographer. In 2022, he won the [Pulitzer Prize](#) for breaking news photography for images documenting the U.S. departure from Afghanistan that capture the human cost of the historic change in the country. Yam will discuss his work with **Calvin Hom**, executive director of photography at the LAT. OPC Governor **Sandra Stevenson**, deputy director of photography at The Washington Post, will moderate.

RSVP Now

**VIDEO: New York Times Reporters
Discuss Covering China's Expanding
Surveillance State in Latest 'How I Did It'
Program**



On Nov. 30, New York Times journalists Muiyi Xiao and Paul Mozur discussed their recent reporting on China's growing domestic surveillance with OPC Past President William J. Holstein. Both were part of teams that analyzed more than 100,000 state bidding documents and talked to citizens on the ground to unravel the Chinese government's use of technologies such as phone tracking, DNA collection, facial and voice recognition software to gather vast amounts of data. This information is fed into algorithms to find patterns and predict behavior such as crimes or protests, or signal police when someone with a history of mental illness approaches a school.

Click the window above to watch the full video, or click the blue button below to for a playlist of clips from the program.

The program was part of the OPC's part of the OPC's "How I Did It Series," which offers members the opportunity to interact with highly successful journalists.

Below are links to the stories the guests discussed:

[China's Surveillance State Is Growing. These Documents Reveal How.](#)
['An Invisible Cage': How China Is Policing the Future](#)

Watch Video Clips

OPC Condemns Violent Treatment of Journalists Amid Protest Coverage

The OPC on Nov. 29 condemned the violent treatment of several Western journalists covering anti-lockdown protests in Shanghai. The group has long supported the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China and others protesting the expulsion of foreign journalists and harassment campaigns that have led at least one family, that of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) correspondent John Sudworth, to flee the country.

Regarding the latest incident, the FCCC said "journalists from multiple outlets were physically harassed by police" while covering the unrest, and at least two journalists were detained. In one incident, the BBC's Ed Lawrence was wrestled to the ground by multiple officers before being led away. It was not clear which other journalists were harassed or arrested.

In a statement, the BBC said Lawrence was "beaten and kicked by the police" during his arrest and was held for several hours before being released. Video posted online clearly shows at least five Chinese policemen wrestling Lawrence to the ground. The FCCC said it was "extremely disturbed" by the incident.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

OPC Member Elisabetta Zavoli Documents Human Habitats

This is the first in a periodic series profiling the work of journalists who have received grants from the OPC.

by Chad Bouchard

When Elisabetta Zavoli, an OPC member, grant recipient and documentary photographer born in Italy, embarked on her investigative journey, it was not amid the bustle of busy newsrooms or the rush of reporting in the field, it was in muted chemistry laboratories and photography darkrooms.



"I grew up with two great passions in my life: the love for the natural environment and the love for photography. I've always been an inquisitive person with a strong attitude toward scientific subjects and a taste for learning," she said. Zavoli graduated from the University of Bologna in 2001 with a degree in environmental sciences, and then worked for eight years as a chemist in a

waste treatment company.

Dissatisfied with the job's daily grind, she decided to quit and try to recapture her nature as explorer, to "dig into what is unknown (to me), push the boundaries of conventional thinking, pose questions, unfold stories and investigate the relationships between globalization and its local effects."

In March 2021, Zavoli applied for and received an OPC COVID-19 micro-grant of \$1,000, one of the 92 OPC grants funded by the Ford Foundation, which she recalled was a "great economic and emotional help to navigate the pandemic." She told the OPC at the time that the OPC's support would help her investigate the questions that COVID-19 pandemic has posed to human society," which she felt an urgency to cover. The grant came with a free 18-month honorary membership in the OPC and an OPC press ID.

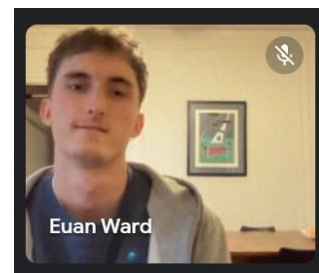
When her honorary membership expired at the end of September 2022, Zavoli stepped up to become a full, dues-paying member. She said OPC membership is "an important recognition of professionalism for me and for the international media outlets where I publish the reports I've been working on. OPC is an extraordinary environment for professionals to keep up to date, share information and expertise, and access to professional training."

[Read More](#)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Euan Ward, the 2022 winner of the Rick Davis-Deb Amos scholarship, filed a story for The New York Times [on Nov. 24](#) about a Paralympian medalist who was recruited by the European Space Agency and could soon be headed for space. Ward write that John McFall, who lost a leg in a motorcycle accident when he was a teenager, has become the world's first physically disabled astronaut. He was one of 16 to be selected among 22,500 applicants. In March this year, Ward was [named](#) the international reporting fellow for the 2022-2023 New York Times Fellowship Class.



UPDATES

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** filed a piece for The New York Times' "DealBook" newsletter [on Nov. 25](#) covering the World Cup in Qatar, with a roundup of controversies such as allegations by human rights organizations that thousands of migrant workers died in the process of building seven World Cup stadiums and other projects in the desert heat, the

country's criminalization of homosexuality, among others. Despite those issues, Walt wrote, "the biggest brands, including Visa, Sony and McDonald's, were quick to sign up and showed little sign of jumping ship amid the controversy."



A docuseries based on the book *Deluxe* by **Dana Thomas**, an OPC member and author based in France, is now [streaming](#) on Sky in the U.K. and HBO Max in the U.S. The four-part series, titled *Kingdom of Dreams*, covers the world of high fashion during a "golden age" from the early 1990s to the 2010s. It started streaming on Sky on Oct. 30. Separately, an award-winning documentary Thomas wrote about Italian footwear designer Salvatore Ferragamo, titled *Salvatore: Shoemaker of Dreams*, was released in U.S. theaters in early November. It [premiered](#) at the Venice Film Festival in 2020.



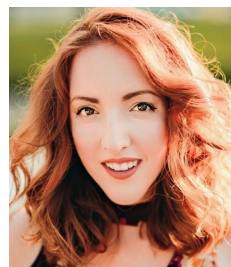
OPC member **Adriane Quinlan** started covering real estate for the news site Curbed on Nov. 28. She [said](#) in a tweet thread announcing the new post that the beat includes "where we live, where we want to live, how that's changing, who's making those calls, and how we're fighting over it."



Silicon Heartland, a new book by OPC member and CNBC contributor **Rebecca A. Fannin**, got a positive mention in Publishers Weekly as a "short but meaty travelogue that packs a punch." For the book, Fannin returned to her homeland in the Midwest on a lengthy road trip in her "vintage Honda Element." She explored how the Rust Belt is transforming as a Tech Belt - an economic comeback that she said "bodes well for boosting this nearly forgotten region when money and power shifted to Silicon Valley and to China." *Silicon Heartland* is due out in early 2023 from publisher Charlesbridge/Imagine in Boston and distributor Penguin Random House. Fannin is also author of two other China-focused books: *Silicon Dragon*, published in 2008, and *Tech Titans of China*, published in 2019.



OPC member **Amanda Florian** wrote a longform piece for VICE News [on Nov. 21](#) about how silent livestreams by deaf creators on TikTok and other platforms are attracting millions of viewers on social media around the world, but accessibility for disability communities is still sluggish. "There's another, more sinister challenge facing deaf content creators. Florian wrote. "Online scammers who pretend to be deaf." She spoke with many deaf



creators who face skepticism or even harassment about their disability as a result of scam accounts.

On Nov. 23, the U.S. [announced](#) a ban on sugar imports from Central Romana Corp., citing an investigation into labor abuses from OPC award winners **Sandy Tolan**, **Michael Montgomery**, and **Euclides Cordero Nuel**. The team's two-year [investigation](#) likened the company's abuses of Haitian workers to forced labor. The company supplies large, multinational brands such as Domino and Hershey. The story, "[The Bitter Work Behind Sugar](#)," was produced for Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. The team won this year's Morton Frank Award. It was distributed by PRX and a text version was published [in Mother Jones](#). The OPC [hosted](#) a "How I Did It" program in June with the reporting team and OPC member **Marina Walker Guevara**, executive editor of The Pulitzer Center as moderator, pictured above.



People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance** is calling for as many journalists as possible to complete the [J-SoS survey](#) to gather information about what journalists need to know about safety and risk management in their work. The survey is being conducted by visual journalist and professor Tara Pixley, Ph.D as part of a yearlong project to build a comprehensive database of journalist safety resources that will be housed at the Source of Safety website. The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete. The results will be anonymized and published online by April 2023. The deadline to respond is December 30.

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted a program, Disarming Disinformation: Investigate, that includes a resource page for combatting misinformation and disinformation. [Explore the resource page here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Dec. 6, the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** will hold an online discussion with the Washington State University's school of Journalism and Media Production about reporting on trauma. [Read more and register here](#). The **International Press Institute (IPI)** has posted a recording of its Nov. 23 newsroom visit to The Continent in South Africa with a discussion of how they

have reimagined journalism to fit a WhatsApp-sized magazine for Africa. [Watch the program here](#).

IPI has also posted its Nov. 24 recoding of its program with News Minute in India covering everything from child rights and politics to culture from a feminist perspective, targeting local audiences in the country's southern states. [Watch the program here](#).

The **ICFJ** has posted information about two tracks within its Disarming Disinformation: Investigate, program, including one on cross-border reporting and another on viral content and how to make verified information spread faster than disinformation. [Read more and sign up here](#).

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The New York Times is seeking participants for its Local Investigations Fellowship program. The one-year fellowship is meant to develop "the next generation of great reporters to do this essential type of accountability journalism at the local level." The fellows will be under the guidance of Dean Baquet, the former executive editor of the Times, and a group of veteran editors, spending a year, paid by The Times, to "produce signature investigative work focused on their state or region that will be published by The Times." [The deadline to apply is Dec. 31](#).

More Resources

- 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





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