



Overseas Press Club  
*of America*

## Bulletin May 5, 2023

As you read this Bulletin filled with stories, photos and videos of journalists who won awards – many for coverage of the war in Ukraine – please pause a moment and consider donating to the OPC’s Ukraine appeal. Last year, with your help, the OPC gave \$2000 grants to 18 journalists struggling to work and survive in dire conditions. Guests at the awards dinner viewed videos where two grant recipients described how the OPC aid gave them much-needed financial and psychological support. Click on the following links to watch videos from: [Oleg Suslov](#) and [Yuliia Dubogrij](#). We need your help to continue this important program.

[You can donate here.](#)

Thank you in advance for your support.

Patricia Kranz  
OPC Executive Director



In addition to our [roundup of photos and videos](#) from the year's Awards Dinner, this issue includes:

- A downloadable PDF copy of this year's [Dateline magazine](#).
- A look ahead at three documentary films the OPC is presenting at the [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#) from May 31 to June 11.

- An OPC statement to mark the [World Press Freedom Day](#) on May 3.
- The announcement of this year's recipients of the [IAPC Freedom of Speech Award](#).
- A profile of OPC grant recipient [Simpa Sampson](#).

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

## PHOTOS & VIDEO: OPC Annual Awards

Click the blue button below to see a page of photos and videos from the OPC's 84th Anniversary Awards Dinner.

Please take a look at our event coverage on our multimedia page via the blue button below, where you can see a slideshow of festive photos, all of the pre-recorded acceptance remarks, or click on photo tiles to link directly to each of the 22 award pages. The page includes newly updated photo slideshows of celebrations before, during and after the awards presentation. Below the button are some samples of what you'll find on the page.

[Watch Videos and See Photos from the Annual Awards Dinner](#)

### Photos from our Awards Dinner slide show:



Left to right: Robert Capa Gold Medal Award winner Marcus Yam, OPC President Scott Kraft, OPC Governor Singeli Agnew, OPC Governor Marjorie Miller and OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz.



President's Award recipient Christiane Amanpour, left, with OPC Vice President and awards presenter John Avlon.



OPC Governor Beth Knobel, in the foreground, watches the ceremony with guests.



Left to right: David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award winners Ramita Navai, Karim Shah, and Eamonn Matthews.



Left to right: Lowell Thomas Award winner Ike Sriskandarajah, Seyward Darby and Madeline Dane Ross Award winner Sarah Souli.



Li Yuan of The New York Times, winner of the Flora Lewis Award, walks through a reception following the awards ceremony.

Photos: ©Jennifer S. Altman

## Videos linked on our Awards Dinner page:



**Keynote Speech**  
Alessandra Galloni

**The OPC President's Award**  
Christiane Amanpour





**Candle-Lighting Ceremony**  
Oksana Markarova, Ambassador of  
Ukraine to the United States

**Wall Street Journal Publisher  
Almar Latour**  
Latour calls for Immediate Release of  
Evan Gershkovich and thanks friends  
and colleagues for their support.

**Click the window below to watch the whole awards program in its entirety.**



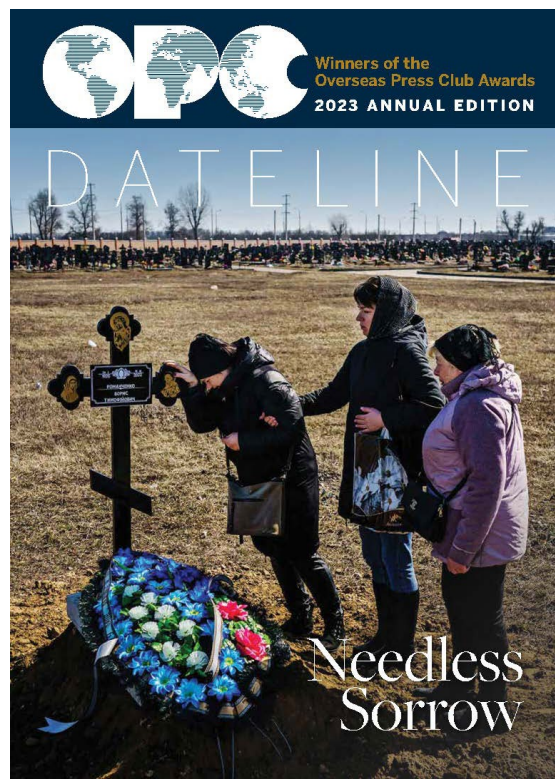
## Dateline Magazine

This year's Dateline magazine, an

annual magazine the OPC publishes in conjunction with the awards, is available to view or download as a PDF.

Click the image on the right to open a copy directly, or click the blue button below to browse past issues, including this year's.

The 2023 issue includes information about all of the year's award winners and winning photos, a letter from OPC President Scott Kraft, and background information on each of the OPC Award namesakes.



[Browse the Dateline Archives](#)

## Upcoming Events

This is a promotional banner for the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. The background is a photograph of a woman in a black dress and a colorful feathered headdress standing in a forest, with other people in the background. The text 'In NYC cinemas + online across the US' is overlaid on the left. The dates 'May 31 – June 11' are prominently displayed in large white font. On the right, there are logos for 'HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH', 'FILM FESTIVAL' (written vertically), and 'IFC CENTER'. The 'Film at Lincoln Center' logo is also present.

The OPC is partnering with the Human Rights Watch Film Festival to present three screenings. Tickets went on sale May 3 for *Draw Me Egypt*, *When Spring Came to Bucha*, and *The Etilaat Roz*.



The Human Rights Watch Film Festival is back in NYC cinemas and online across the US from May 31- June 11, with live discussions at every in-cinema event. This year’s edition covers a broad range of themes and topics – but what shines through is the determination and courage of individuals to stand up for their freedom and rights.

Use the code RESIST23 for \$2 off tickets.

More info and links below:



*Draw Me Egypt* follows Egypt's most famous female cartoonist, Doaa el-Adl as she advocates for women's rights in a restrictive society using her poetic and often controversial cartoons.

Join us to watch the world premiere of this story of resilience.

Watch at Film at Lincoln Center on **June 3** or stream online across the US as part of the digital festival between **June 5-11**.



Purchase Tickets Now



Human Rights Watch Film Festival takes a close look at Ukraine with *When Spring Came to Bucha* – which captures how a small community continues with life amid trauma and loss, while war rages on close by.

Join audiences for its US premiere at the [#HRWFFNY](#) taking place on **June 6** at Film at Lincoln Center and the second screening on **June 7** at IFC Center. The screenings will be followed by a live Q&A with filmmakers and special guests. Or stream the film across the US as part of the digital festival between **June 5-11**.



Purchase Tickets Now



When the US pulled out of Afghanistan in 2021, and the Taliban once again seized power, the staff at the most widely read newspaper in Kabul, *The Etilaat Roz* must decide to stay and report or leave the country.

Join us to watch this crucial film at [#HRWFFNY](#) on **June 1** at Film at Lincoln Center with live Q&A to follow, or US audiences can stream the film as part of our digital festival from **June 5-11**.



[Purchase Tickets Now](#)

## Press Freedom

### OPC Calls for Release of Jailed Journalists to Mark World Press Freedom Day

On World Press Freedom Day on May 3, the Overseas Press Club of America renewed its call for the release of journalists around the world who have been unfairly detained, imprisoned and sentenced to incarceration simply for doing their jobs as journalists and exposing information that governments would prefer to keep secret. At our annual dinner on Thursday, April 27,



the OPC highlighted the case of Evan Gershkovich, the Wall Street Journal reporter who is being imprisoned in Russia and unfairly charged with espionage.

We at the OPC, the largest association in the United States of journalists engaged in international news, join The Wall Street Journal and other press organizations in calling for the immediate release of Gershkovich. On this, World Press Freedom Day, we express deep concern over his arrest and detainment and the practice of using journalists as pawns in geopolitical conflicts. Journalism is not a crime, though Gershkovich and other journalists being held are treated as criminals. It is important for journalists around the world to use our freedom of speech and of the press to continue to advocate for their release. On this day meant to celebrate and advocate for press freedom, the OPC renews its support of the rights of journalists around the world to freely report, write and broadcast without harassment, detention or interference by any government body or agency.

[#IStandWithEvan](#)

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

## Andrzej Poczobut and Mortaza Behboudi Receive IAPC Freedom of Speech Award 2023

Members of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC) – representatives of dozens of press clubs from around the world, including the OPC – presented the IAPC Freedom of Speech Award 2023 to Andrzej Poczobut and Mortaza Behboudi, two journalists imprisoned by authoritarian regimes.

Andrzej Poczobut  
and Mortaza Behboudi  
Laureates of IAPC  
Freedom of Speech Award 2023



Andrzej Poczobut is a Polish-Belarusian journalist and human rights defender, imprisoned by the regime of Alexander Lukashenko since March 25, 2021. Recently, in a show and fake trial, he was sentenced to 8 years in a labor camp.

Mortaza Behboudi is a Franco-Afghan war correspondent, investigative journalist and reporter who has been imprisoned by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan since Jan. 7, 2023.

[Read More](#)

## Spotlight on OPC Grant Recipients

### Simpa Sampson

*The following is part of our ongoing series of profiles covering the work of journalists who have received grants from the OPC.*

Simpa Sampson, a freelance videographer who was part of the





Bloomberg team that received a Citation for Excellence in the Morton Frank category this year, did not set out to specialize in

covering conflict, but career and opportunity nudged him in that direction.

“I had no idea what it takes to film in a war zone area,” he said. “It was never my professional focus. I was just a film enthusiast that just wanted to create a body of work.”

Sampson started as a freelancer in 2012 covering video news features for outlets such as Voice of America, Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) World, and the Russian service Ruptly. But he soon grew wary of the limitations of three-minute news packages. Sampson was looking for a change in 2017 when TRT World asked him to help film two documentaries in northeast Nigeria, in the embattled Borno state near Lake Chad, to fill in for a cameraman whose visa to the country had been denied.

“The TRT reporter was looking for a cameraman who can shoot and edit in the TRT style. My name came up, and the rest was history.”

Sampson applied for and received an OPC COVID-19 micro-grant of \$1,000 in March 2021. He was among the 92 OPC grant recipients funded by the Ford Foundation in that round of assistance. Assignments had dried up, pending projects put on hold, producers stopped answering his emails, and “everything just went blank,” Sampson said.

“The OPC grant came at the right time,” he said. “I was so surprised because I never thought I would be selected. It was able to help me take care of my family because I had two dependents then. It was such a relief and a bright light in the tunnel of the chaotic loss of jobs that came with the pandemic and lockdown.”

[Read More](#)

## Welcome New Members

**Eli Cahan**

Freelance

New York

Active Resident, Young (30-34)



**Anna Therese Day**

Freelance  
New York  
Active Resident, Young (30-34)



**Monica Montero**

Columbia University  
Graduate school of Journalism  
New York  
Student



**Carter Moody**

Photojournalist  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX  
Student



**People** by Chad Bouchard

**SCHOLARS**

**Youcef Bounab**, winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone in 2023, is one of 10 American journalists chosen for the Moment Institute Middle East Fellowship program for spring 2023. Fellows will meet and learn from veteran Middle East journalists, experts and analysts in person, in Washington, D.C., and through virtual meetings. Bounab has an OPC Foundation Fellowship with The Associated Press in Paris this summer.



**Max De Haldevang**, the Reuters Fellowship awardee in 2015, was among the winners of the 2023 OPC Awards. He and his colleagues from Bloomberg Green won the Whitman Bassow

Award for best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues. Their winning entry, "Exploiting Carbon Offsets," took on the complex and often corrupt world of corporate carbon offsets. De Haldevang is based in Mexico City where he got his start as an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau.



**Maddy Crowell**, the Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner in 2014, has an interview in the [most recent issue](#) of the Columbia Journalism Review with Runa Sandvik, about journalists and cybersecurity. Her profile explores Sandvik's journey from self-taught digital security expert, to working with activists and journalists at the center of the encrypted communications community, Tor, and then as researcher for the Freedom of the Press Foundation, where she encountered Edward Snowden. Crowell was also a recipient of an OPC grant in 2020 to help journalists affected by the pandemic.



**Marina Villeneuve**, the 2013 Kuhn Scholarship winner, is now an investigative producer at WFXT Boston 25 News. Previously, she spent six years with The Associated Press, where she covered state governments, first in Maine and then in New York.



## AWARDS

Members of the Associated Press team that won this year's Hal Boyle Award have also won the [2023 Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics](#) for documenting the Russian attack on the Ukrainian city of Mariupol in March last year.

**Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant** were named as



recipients for the Shadid Award. The Center for Journalism Ethics will present the award on May 17 in a ceremony at the University Club in New York City. One of the finalists for the award was **Lynzy Billing** of ProPublica, who won this year's Ed Cunningham Award for reporting on U.S.-backed operations against civilians in Afghanistan in *The Night Raids*. Billing's animated documentary *The Night Doctrine*, a followup to *The Night Raids*, is set to premiere at the 2023 Tribeca Festival in New York [this June](#).

**Marcus Yam**, an OPC member, Los Angeles Times photojournalist and winner of this year's Robert Capa Gold



Medal Award, will receive the University of Buffalo's highest honor, the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, at the university's commencement ceremonies [on May 20](#). The Norton Medal is presented annually to honor someone who has performed a civic, political, scientific or artistic achievement that "dignifies the performer and Buffalo in the eyes of the world."



## UPDATES

OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** landed another cover story for TIME magazine's French edition [in March](#) with a story about the \$1.5 billion effort to clean up the Seine river. She wrote that Paris officials had taken reporters behind the scenes into the giant municipal rainwater storage tank crucial to the cleanup plan that could lead to a "swimmable" river for the first time since the 1920s. The current mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, tweeted a photo of her reading Walt's TIME story next to the river [on April 5](#). Hidalgo had made a swimmable Seine part of her pitch for the 2024 Olympic Games in 2016. "Thank you for reading Madame Mayor," Walt tweeted in response.



OPC member **Alice Driver**, an author and journalist from the Ozark Mountains who is based in Little Rock and Mexico City, currently has [two books in the publishing pipeline](#). Publishers Marketplace reported that she has sold her creative nonfiction book *Artists All Around*, which chronicles her mother's lifelong friendship and correspondence with writer and illustrator Maurice Sendak. Her mother, Louise Halsey, a fiber artist, exchanged letters with Sendak for 57 years until his death in 2012. The book is slated for release in the spring of 2025 via Princeton Architectural Press. Another book, *The Life and Death of the American Worker*, follows the story of immigrant workers at a Tyson Foods meat processing facility. That book is scheduled for publication in spring 2024 via Astra Publishing House.



PBS News Weekend interviewed **Daniella Zalzman**, an OPC Governor and founder of the nonprofit organization Women Photograph, [on April 30](#) about a new book published in March that highlights the work of women and nonbinary photographers. A 2018 survey found that worldwide only 18 percent of photojournalists were women. Zalzman, one of the curators of the book, said the photojournalism industry has barriers to entry such as high equipment costs and university education that limit the visual perspectives represented in media. "The impact of that is a huge ethical crisis because when we are seeing the world and building our visual record, almost exclusively through the lens of male photographers, male photojournalists, we are not only missing out on stories that those photographers may not have access to, we're missing out on stories that they



don't think should be prioritized.” Women Photograph, created in 2017, includes 1400 women and nonbinary members based in about 120 countries. The book is titled [What We See: Women and Nonbinary Perspectives Through the Lens](#).

OPC member **Steve Stecklow** co-wrote a special report for Reuters [on April 6](#) about workers at Tesla sharing sensitive images taken by customers' cars. Despite the company's assurances of privacy protection, groups of Tesla employees privately shared “sometimes highly invasive videos and images,” including nude images, recorded by customers' car cameras via an internal message system from 2019 to 2022, according to interviews with nine former employees. Stecklow reported the piece along with colleagues Waylon Cunningham and Hyunjoo Jin.



**Anne-Elisabeth Moutet**, an OPC member and French journalist, writer and columnist based in Paris who writes for The Daily Telegraph in London, wrote a piece for the news outlet UnHerd [on April 14](#) about at least 13 accusations of sexual harassment against actor Gérard Depardieu, and how the cases might play out in France. She wrote that the French equivalent of the U.S.-spurred #MeToo movement, #BalanceTonPorc (denounce your pig), was slower to take root than its counterpart. And she said that among his fans, film crews and colleagues Depardieu “gets a pass because he's what the French call *un monstre sacré*, a holy monster.” She wrote that “if France finally decides to make a Harvey Weinstein case of her greatest thespian, Gérard Depardieu, it will be reluctantly.”



## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**Allan Armstrong Swenson**, a past OPC member, nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and multimedia writer, died [on April 14](#) at his home in Kennebunk, Maine at the age of 89. He graduated from Rutgers University in 1955 with a degree in journalism, and then served as an Army intelligence officer, later helping to found chapters of the Association for Intelligence Officers for New England and Maine and writing more than 50 books on a range of topics with a focus on gardening. He occasionally appeared as a plant expert on television shows such as The Today Show and 700 Club. As an OPC member, his name appeared in the People column as far back as the early 70s with the [announcement](#) of a new book on organic gardening. His byline appeared in the Bulletin as recently as 2012, with [a piece](#) on how to get free tickets on cruise ships as a guest lecturer.

People Column

## New Resources

## TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

Videos from the **International Film Festival** in April are available to view on YouTube, including a “Safety Culture 101” program supported by the **A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance**. Panelists included: Yemile Bucay, risk and security manager for BuzzFeed; Elisabet Cantenys, executive director of the ACOS Alliance; Carlos Gaio, the CEO of Media Defence; and Viktorya Vilks, program director for digital safety PEN America. [Watch the program here.](#)

The **International Press Institute (IPI)** is hosting its IPI World Congress in Vienna from May 25 to 26. The event will include speakers, workshops, a hackathon, an awards ceremony, and will be held in conjunction with a Media Innovation Festival. [Read more and register here.](#)

On May 26, **The Concordia Ball** in Vienna will return after a three-year hiatus. The event to celebrate journalism and press freedom will be held in Vienna’s City Hall. The Concordia Press Club was founded in Vienna in 1859 and has a mission to defend press freedom, cultivate civil discourse, and advocate for responsible journalism. [Read more and purchase tickets here.](#)

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Women Photograph** is calling for applications for the organization’s 2023 project grants for women and nonbinary photographers. These \$5,000 grants will support photography projects — either new or in-progress — from visual journalists working in a documentary capacity. Five grants are available, at least one of which will be earmarked for a nonbinary or transgender photographer. The deadline to apply is May 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Fund for Investigative Journalism** is accepting proposals for grants of \$1,000 to \$2,500 for early reporting and research that can lead to groundbreaking investigative stories. The deadline to apply is May 22. [Read more and apply here.](#)

## More Resources

- The **OPC** hosted a psychological safety and resilience training with the **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** on March 2 with Ana Zellhuber, a psychoanalyst and Emergency Psychology specialist based in Mexico City. [Read more and watch that training here.](#)
- The **OPC** also hosted a psychological safety and resilience training session with the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** on Oct. 12 that is available to watch on our YouTube channel. The program included a model to help understand the impact of trauma and other stresses in journalism, strategies for enhancing individual wellbeing and tips for building peer support networks. [Watch the program here.](#)
- The **Columbia University’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has 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.

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, 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



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