



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin August 24, 2023

Hello Chad,

Our August issue of the Bulletin includes an important update about the election for OPC Board of Governors. Please read more below. In addition, this issue features a look at upcoming events:

- **Sept. 5:** [OPC Annual Meeting](#) - **Deadline to register for in-person meeting is Aug. 28**
- **Sept. 13:** [OPC and Dart Center Offer Psychological Safety Training on Stress, Burnout and Trauma](#)
- **Sept. 20:** [Book Night with William J. Holstein and Michael G. McLaughlin on 'Battlefield Cyber'](#)
- **Oct. 19:** [Book Night - 'No Ordinary Assignment' – With Jane Ferguson](#)

We also have a recap of our [Psychological Safety Training](#) in July, a reminder to fill out the [OPC Social Media Survey](#), updates on OPC member news in the People Column, new programs and opportunities for journalists in our Resources section, and more.

OPC Issues Revised Slate of Governors

The election slate presented in the July Bulletin did not include four governors who are running for a second term as active members. They are: Raney Aronson-Rath, Anup Kaphle, Ginger Thompson and Daniella Zalcman. The complete slate is printed below. We will be emailing new ballots to all active members. For your vote to be counted, please submit the new ballot as the

previous ballot with the incomplete slate will be invalidated. We apologize for the error and the inconvenience. Votes for or against the proposed constitutional amendments must also be recast, and reset ballots for Active voters will include the yes/no selection at the bottom again. Associate members who have already voted do not need to recast their ballots.

The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 4 at noon, and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 5. Each ballot requires a login, which is your e-mail address where you received the ballot link. The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. There will be no paper ballots this year.

Members who are eligible to vote, please watch for an email with your ballot link later this week. We will also send email reminders over the next several days.

Revised 2023 Election Slate

Active Board

Fahim Abed

I am a co-editor at Lighthouse Reports and a 2023 Nieman fellow at Harvard. I was a reporter for The New York Times in Afghanistan until the Taliban takeover of the country in August 2021. I was evacuated from Kabul with a number of my colleagues and relocated to the United States. I was part of the New York Times team that won an Overseas Press Club Award for coverage of Afghanistan. Prior to joining the Times in 2016, I worked as a producer and reporter with Turkey's Anadolu Agency, the BBC World Service and various local outlets in Afghanistan. I am a 2019 alumni of the East-West Center's fellowship program and an Afghanistan Observatory Scholar with New America. In the spring of 2022, I joined the Tribune-Review in Pittsburgh as a visual journalist through the World Association of News Publishers' Afghan Journalist Appeal program.



As an OPC governor, I will try my best to support journalists in Asian countries and especially Afghanistan, where journalists are really struggling. I will try my best to support them however I can, even if it is just emotional support. Journalists in conflict zones and difficult places sacrifice their lives and take huge risks to serve their audience and media organization. But when they need support, often there is no one to help them.

Raney Aronson-Rath

International reporting is a vital part of FRONTLINE's legacy and our ongoing mission to tell the tough and complex stories that shape our

times. As executive producer of the series, I believe investigative journalism is more important than ever in the face of global threats, such as climate change, cybercrime, and challenges to democratic ideals. Under my leadership, FRONTLINE has been recognized with every major award in broadcast journalism, as well as two Oscar nominations. But the OPC awards are among the most rewarding because they represent our shared commitment to overseas journalism and the diversity of journalists who carry out this difficult work. I look forward to helping the OPC expand this diversity and continue to underscore the need for high-quality reporting that questions and explains our world.



Juan Arredondo

I am a freelance photographer, documentary filmmaker, and visual journalism professor at Rutgers and Columbia University. For over a decade, I have reported on human rights and social issues in Latin America and the United States as a frequent contributor to The New York Times and National Geographic. Recently, I have been a producer and director for a documentary series on global migration and the recent invasion of Ukraine.



I am honored to be a candidate for the OPC board. I look forward to continuing the important and impactful work the organization does supporting foreign correspondents and local journalists, translators and fixers. I myself was a 2020 OPC Foundation scholarship winner. I hope to expand the OPC's programs relating to Latin America while emphasizing the importance of safety for visual journalists working abroad.

Nadja Drost

I am an independent journalist working in long-form print, television, radio and documentary film. I've spent most of my journalism career reporting from Latin America, and I was based in Bogotá, Colombia for a decade, reporting for outlets such as the PBS *NewsHour*, the California Sunday Magazine, TIME, GlobalPost and public radio broadcasters. I gravitate towards reporting on forced displacement, migration, and various forms of conflict. In 2016, my partner and I received an OPC award for our PBS



NewsHour reporting on Colombia's FARC guerrillas.

As a freelancer since 2009, I'm interested in expanding ways to support freelancers abroad and their local colleagues, especially when reporting from complicated regions. I hope to participate in programming for journalists, as well as efforts to respond to emergencies faced by international journalists.

Anup Kaphle

I am the editor-in-chief of Rest of World, a global publication that covers the impact of technology outside the Western bubble. Since I helped launch the publication in 2020, we've grown to a newsroom of 40 journalists, and have published over 1,000 stories from more than 100 countries.



I'd be incredibly honored to serve a second term as an Overseas Press Club governor, contributing to addressing the needs of international journalists, many of whom I work with as a mentor and editor. During my first term, I helped judge the annual OPC awards, with a keen interest in advocating for the work of smaller publications that do stellar work with fewer resources. I also helped rethink some of the social strategies around how we share and amplify the programs OPC puts together on online platforms. In my second term, I'd like to help bring more younger journalists into the OPC community, support ongoing initiatives to ensure our awards and programming represent the diversity in international reporting, and continue to mentor freelancers and international journalists who contribute reporting for Western publications.

Beth Knobel

It would be a great honor to serve another term as a governor of the OPC, having just served two years as an associate member of the board. Having represented those members not working in journalism, I am now seeking election as an active journalist.



As an OPC board member, I helped plan our "How I Did It" speaker series, took part in the process of making grants to Ukrainian journalists, and spearheaded an effort to increase OPC outreach to professors and university students. In my role as a reporter in Moscow for nearly 15 years (most of them at CBS News) and now as a tenured professor teaching journalism at Fordham University in New York, I have dedicated my professional life to truthful and accurate reporting – exactly the kind of journalism fostered by the OPC. In addition to teaching, I speak frequently on CBS Radio as a Russian expert, and I publish articles as a freelancer in publications like the Columbia Journalism Review or op-eds in newspapers like the LA Times.

I believe strongly in the OPC's mission and would be delighted to serve another two years to further the work of this wonderful organization.

Alexis Okeowo

I have reported on conflict, human rights, and culture across Africa, as well as from Mexico, Europe, and the American South for The New Yorker and other publications. I am the author of *A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa*, which received the 2018 PEN Open Book Award. I was named journalist of the year by the Newswomen's Club of New York in 2020 and received the Philip D. Reed Environmental Writing Award in 2022.



My interests on the board include diverting attention to the risks and issues facing journalists in conflict and repressive environments on the African continent, as well as in other crisis zones in the developing world neglected in the shadow of Ukraine.

Nilo Tabrizy

For the past six years, my main coverage area has been Iran – first for The New York Times and now for The Washington Post with a focus on open-source investigative reporting (OSINT). I'm also writing a book on Iran about the anti-government uprising that began in September 2022 for Pantheon/Penguin Random House (U.S.) and Atlantic Books (U.K.).



As an Iranian-Canadian dual national, I feel a sense of purpose reporting on Iran, especially with respect to investigations that can lead to accountability for human rights abuses by the regime. I'm uniquely positioned for this work due to my cultural connections, language skills and OSINT specialization. For the OPC, I hope to highlight more regional reporting, OSINT work and to help Iranian journalists under threat by the regime leave the country safely.

Ginger Thompson

I'm chief of correspondents at ProPublica, and have spent much of my career reporting from Latin America. I'm very proud to have introduced the "How I Did It," series of events to the OPC. I think the program has been an important way to both celebrate foreign reporting and provide tips and inspiration to those who do it. We have so much more we can do to reinvigorate and grow the reach of our organization. We have several



new members – including some who recently joined the board of governors when I served as chair of the previous nominating committee – who are working toward that goal, alongside our distinguished veterans. The systemic challenges foreign correspondents face in their work, from threats to their safety to diminishing resources, often require the support and expertise of organizations like ours. I look forward to more years helping to make sure that the OPC is always there for them.

Daniella Zalcman

I'm a Vietnamese-American documentary photographer based in New Orleans. My work focuses on the modern legacies of Western colonization, from the rise of homophobia in East Africa to the coercive assimilation of Indigenous youth in North America. I'm also the founder and executive director of Women Photograph, a nonprofit working to elevate the voices of women and nonbinary visual journalists worldwide, and a Professor of Practice at Tulane University. It's been an honor to serve as the lead juror for the OPC's photography awards for the last five years, and I remain deeply invested in furthering the OPC's reach and helping to make sure that we're platforming a diverse range of international journalists.



Associate Board

Brian Byrd

I'm seeking a term on the board because of my commitment to journalism as a field and the safety of colleagues who practice the craft. Currently, I'm working on an initiative to incorporate preventative safety as a core requirement for students in journalism schools. In collaboration with other colleagues, we hope to organize a convening of journalists, academics, press freedom groups, security experts, and industry leaders to develop strategies and methods to prepare journalists at the college and university-level to mitigate risk. If elected, my goal will also be to further OPC's role as an indispensable resource for journalists working in an increasingly dangerous environment. I want to continue to maintain OPC as a strong voice for press freedom, with an unwavering belief that nothing is more important to democracy than a well-informed electorate.



I am a senior program officer for the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts, where I oversee their prevention grants program. Earlier, I was the deputy director for Membership with the Council on Foreign Relations. Before that, I was the assistant director for Communications for the Rockefeller Foundation. I have worked as a freelance journalist and photographer; and I'm a member of the Advisory Board for WITNESS, a human rights organization.

John Simons

I'm honored and incredibly excited to be a candidate for the board of the Overseas Press Club. I'm currently a partner at the Brunswick Group, a global advisory firm focused on strategic issues. Prior to joining Brunswick in April, I served in senior editorial roles at top-tier news organizations for more than 30 years, most recently as Executive Editor at TIME, where I was responsible for the publication's technology coverage, as well as broader national and business news. Before that, I spent several years at the Wall Street Journal, including a stint in London as the paper's Energy Editor for Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Earlier in my career, I served as a reporter, covering the drug and biotech industries, immigration, technology and economic policy at The Wall Street Journal, FORTUNE, and U.S. News & World Report.



As a board member, I look forward to promoting the interests of journalists working overseas, especially those who cover economic, financial, and business matters. I also hope to help with the recruitment of corporate sponsors to support OPC's efforts.

OPC Board of Governors Propose Three Amendments to the Constitution

by Patricia Kranz

The OPC Board of Governors approved three proposed amendments to the OPC Constitution at the May 23, 2023 meeting. Active members will have an opportunity to vote on the amendments when they elect new governors prior to the Sept. 5 annual meeting.

The first amendment would clarify rules governing the procedures by which an OPC member may be suspended or terminated. The changes delineate the responsibilities of the OPC Executive Committee (officers of the club) and the OPC board, while preserving the right of members to make an appeal.

The second amendment would align the number of officers and governors in the Constitution with the number listed in the Bylaws. The numbers got out of sync after the board voted to eliminate alternate members several years ago.

The third amendment would expedite the process by which the OPC amends the Constitution to take account of digital technology. The new language would require the OPC to notify members of any proposed amendments, with a full explanation and discussion, in a Bulletin. Proposed amendments would be explained again when we notify members to vote by email for new officers and directors. Then we would elect new board members and vote on amendments

all at the same time.

Details of the three amendments are below. Proposed changes are in bold. Words that would be deleted are crossed out.

ARTICLE 11: TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION

Section One: Membership in the Club may be terminated by the Board of Governors as set forth in the By-laws:

(A) By voluntary resignation of any member who is not indebted to the Club.

(B) For failure to pay dues or other amounts when they shall become payable.

(C) For a violation of the By-laws or of rules of the Club not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws or for conduct which in the opinion of the Board is improper or prejudicial to the interests of the Club.

(D) The Executive Committee, by a majority vote, may move to suspend for any length of time or terminate permanently any member whose conduct, in its opinion, is improper or prejudicial to the interests of the Club. The Executive Committee will report that decision to the Board, which may 1) let a suspension stand by majority vote, 2) revoke a suspension by a majority vote or 3) amend the length of a suspension by a majority vote or 4) agree to terminate the member by a two-thirds vote of Board members present. A member proposed for termination or expulsion will have the right to make an appeal, in writing, to the Board before a vote to terminate a membership is taken.

~~The Board must receive notification in advance and a vote to suspend or expel must be by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board present. A member proposed for termination shall have the right to a hearing before the Board of Governors, under rules set forth in the By-laws.~~

ARTICLE 12: OFFICERS AND GOVERNORS

Section One: The Club shall be governed by a Board of Governors, which shall consist of all the Club's elected officers, **nineteen** ~~thirteen~~ Governors elected from the Active membership, **five** ~~three~~ Governors elected from the Associate Membership and, ex-officio, all Past Presidents of the Club.

Officers and other Governors shall be elected for a term of two years in accordance with procedures set forth in the By-laws.

Section Two: The Officers of the Club shall consist of a President, three Vice Presidents, ranked in order of the number of votes received, a Secretary and a Treasurer elected from among the Active members of the Club.

ARTICLE 21: AMENDMENTS

Overview of this proposal:

This Constitution can be amended only by the following procedures: An amendment may be (A) initiated by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Governors, or (B) submitted to the Board of Governors by at least twenty-five Active members. In the latter case, the proposed amendment must be submitted to the Board of Governors in writing at least thirty days prior to the Annual meeting of the Club. Under either procedure, the proposed amendment **and an impartial discussion of its pros and cons** shall be published in the first issue of the Club's Overseas Press Club Bulletin following the Board of Governors' meeting at which it was either voted or submitted.

The proposed amendment/s shall **again be published in a subsequent issue of the Bulletin that also contains the slate of candidates running in the annual election, along with any discussion of its merits or demerits submitted by OPC members since the prior publication.**

The amendment shall then be voted on by members as part of the same balloting process for new officers and governors.

~~[placed before the next Annual meeting of the Club for discussion. The Secretary shall read to the members at this meeting any comments received from members of the Club who are not present at the meeting.~~

~~Within three weeks following the meeting at which the proposed amendment was presented for discussion, the Secretary shall mail to all Active members ballots and an impartial digest of the discussion and the letters read at the meeting.~~

Active members may then vote by **email** within a period of time specified by the Board and in accordance with procedures ~~that shall be set forth in the By-laws.~~ If at least two thirds of the Active members ~~voting by mail~~ vote in favor of the proposed amendment, it shall be declared adopted as of the date specified by the Board of Governors for the closing of the balloting.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 5: OPC Annual Meeting

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: [CPJ Headquarters](#) and on Zoom

All members are invited to attend the OPC's annual meeting on Sept. 5 when the results of the 2023 election for the board of governors will be announced. It will be held at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) headquarters in the Henry Hall Commercial building at 509 West 38th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues. Those who cannot attend in person will be able to join the meeting via Zoom.

After the formal meeting ends, members are invited to stay for complimentary appetizers and beverages.

Registration is required.

The deadline to register for in-person attendance is Monday, Aug. 28.

If you are attending in person, please RSVP using the blue button below.

RSVP to Attend in Person

If you will be attending online via Zoom, please RSVP using the red button below.

RSVP to Attend Online

Important: If you will be using Google Maps to find the [CPJ headquarters](#), please look up Henry Hall Commercial. Inputting the address itself will send you to a location in Times Square that is not correct.

Those attending in person will be asked to fill out the CPJ's vaccination confirmation form online before the meeting.

Event staff and attendees must be fully vaccinated, which means they received the final dose of their vaccine at least 14 days before their visit. An individual is considered fully vaccinated if the following conditions are met: At least two weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson.



Sept. 13: OPC and Dart Center Offer Psychological Safety Training on Stress, Burnout and Trauma

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

The OPC and the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma will host a 90-minute training session on coping with stress, burnout and trauma on the job. The session will cover the basics of self-care and collegial support, including the



**PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY TRAINING
ON STRESS, BURNOUT & TRAUMA**

SEPT. 13 FROM
10:00 A.M.
TO 11:30 AM. ET



impact of covering trauma and tragedy on journalists, and offer concrete guidance and techniques for enriching one's coping skills and wellness, and building resilient news teams.

The training will include a slide presentation and briefing, as well as a Q&A.

Registration is limited to 50 participants.

Registrants will receive a link to join the program via Zoom on the day of the event. If you register but find you cannot attend, we ask that you email us at info@opcofamerica.org so we can give people on our waiting list the chance to participate.

The trainer is **Elana Newman**, Ph.D., the McFarlin Professor of Psychology at the University of Tulsa, and has conducted research on a wide range of topics regarding the psychological and physical response to traumatic life events, assessment of PTSD in children and adults, journalism and trauma, and understanding the impact of participating in trauma-related research from the trauma survivor's perspective. Her work in journalism and trauma has focused on occupational health of journalists and she and her students have several studies underway examining the effects of journalistic practice upon consumers. She was the key investigator on the Dart Center's research survey on photojournalists' exposure to trauma. She co-directed the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma's first satellite office in NYC after 9-11. Newman is a past president of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, the world's premier organization dedicated to trauma treatment, education, research, public policy concerns and theoretical formulation.

RSVP Now



Sept. 20: Book Night with William J. Holstein and Michael G. McLaughlin on 'Battlefield Cyber'

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: [CPJ Headquarters](#) and on Zoom

In *Battlefield Cyber*, **William J. Holstein**, a past OPC President who specializes in technology and China, and **Michael G. McLaughlin**, a former senior adviser for U.S. Cyber Command, explain how Russia and China are waging—and winning—a cyber war against the United States.

From the surge in ransomware groups targeting critical infrastructure to nation-states compromising the software supply chain and corporate email servers, malicious cyber activities have reached an all-time high, the authors say. “Russia and China have a common interest in exploiting the openness of the Internet and social media—and our democracy—to erode confidence in our institutions and to exacerbate our societal rifts to prevent us from mounting an effective response. Halting this digital aggression will require Americans to undertake sweeping changes in how we educate, organize and protect ourselves and to ask difficult questions about how vulnerable our largest technology giants are.”

Kirkus Reviews gave the book its Kirkus Star, which marks books of exceptional merit, calling the book “a disturbing, well-rendered study that reveals the extent of the digital struggle and charts a way forward for the U.S.”

John Avlon, a vice president of the OPC who is senior political analyst and an anchor at CNN will moderate the discussion.

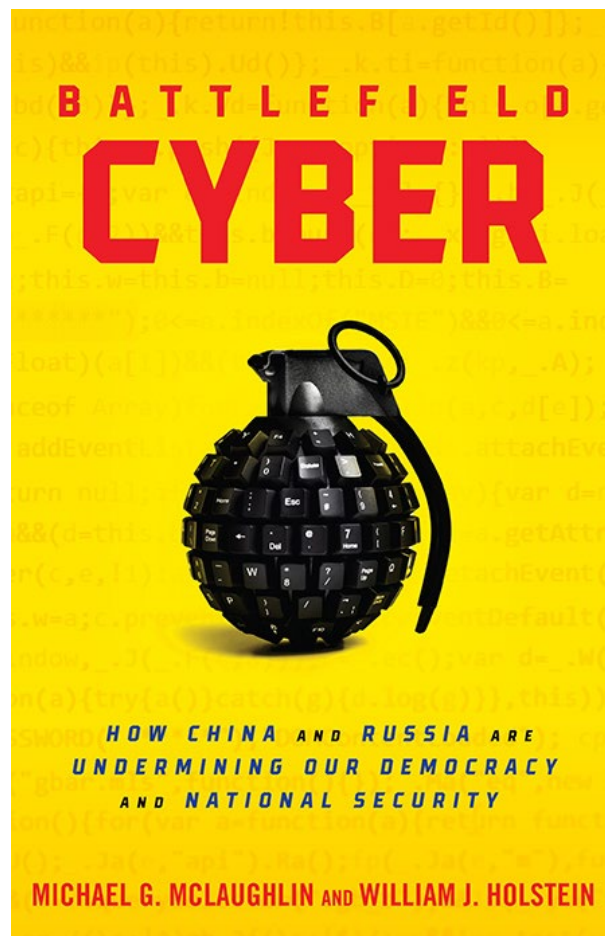
Books will be available for sale at the event and can be purchased [here on Amazon](#).

If you are attending in person, please RSVP using the blue button below.

RSVP to Attend in Person

If you will be attending online, please RSVP using the red button below.

RSVP to Attend Online



See above in the Annual Meeting text for information about vaccination requirements and the CPJ headquarters location if you plan to attend in person.



Oct. 19: Book Night - 'No Ordinary Assignment' – With Jane Ferguson

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Jane Ferguson has covered some of the biggest war stories of recent years. She won the OPC's Peter Jennings Award in 2021 for her coverage on PBS NewsHour of the fall of Afghanistan. Her reporting on Yemen earned an Emmy, a George Polk Award and an Alred I. du Pont Columbia Award.

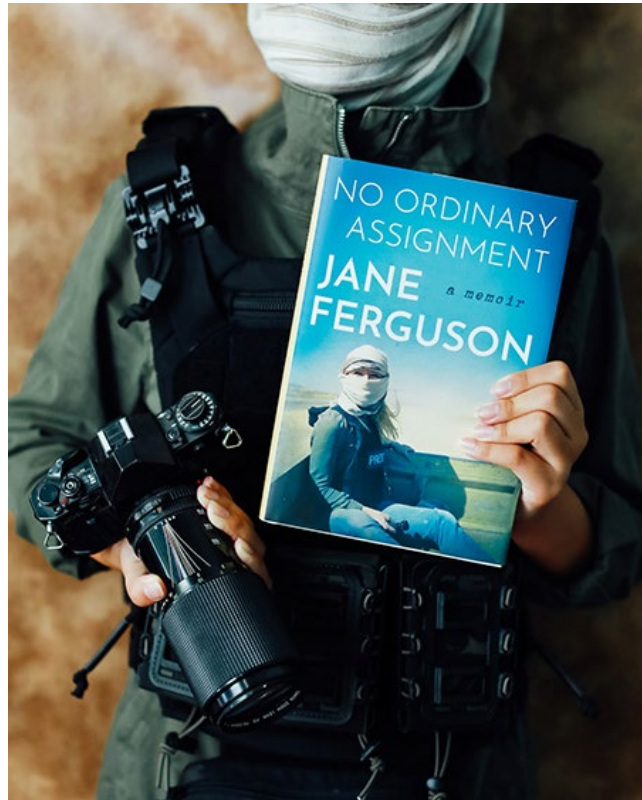
No Ordinary Assignment starts with her childhood in Northern Ireland during the Troubles and moves on to chronicle her experiences reporting in numerous conflict zones.

"Without family wealth or connections, she began as a scrappy one-woman reporting team, a borrowed camera often her only equipment," says the Amazon review. "Networks told her she had the wrong accent, the wrong appearance, not enough 'bang-bang shoot-'em-up.' Still, Ferguson threw herself into harm's way time and again, determined to give voice to civilian experiences of war."

Ferguson told the OPC her memoir is "a deep look at what shapes someone in their early lives to pursue this work, and then what happens to that person when they are out in the world at some of its roughest moments, trying to do the job well while being the complicated, flawed, passionate human beings that we are. So, I could say it's a book about what it takes to become a war reporter and then what it does to that person as they do the work."

Kirkus Reviews gave the book its Kirkus Star, which marks books of exceptional merit, calling the book "A captivating, honest, and powerful attempt to do justice to the hardest stories to tell."

Elizabeth Becker, author of *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*, will moderate the discussion. Becker won the Sperber



Book Prize and Harvard's Goldsmith Book Prize for her book, which was featured in an OPC [program](#) in 2021.

No Ordinary Assignment is for sale on Amazon [here](#).

RSVP Now

Non-OPC Events

Sept. 28: 2023 Oslo Freedom Forum in New York

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: [New York City's historic Town Hall](#)

Join the Human Rights Foundation for an afternoon of theater talks and performances by the world's top activists and dissidents, followed by a special Speaker Gala at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Víctor Navarro**, Venezuelan human rights activist and VR designer
- **Sanaa Seif**, Egyptian filmmaker, activist, and sister of political prisoner Alaa Abd El-Fattah
- **Pastor Seungeun Kim**, Korean human rights advocate and leader of a modern-day underground railroad rescuing North Koreans
- **Nazanin Boniadi**, British-Iranian actress and human rights activist
- **Kalbinur Sidik**, Uzbek survivor of China's genocide and eyewitness to the camps
- **Gulbahar Haitiwaji**, Uyghur survivor of the CCP's concentration camps
- **Paul Rusesabagina**, formerly detained "Hotel Rwanda" hero

General tickets (\$25 Theater Pass and \$10 Student Pass) are available for purchase on [Ticketmaster](#).

Speaker Gala tickets (\$1,500 for a single ticket and \$10,000 for an eight-person table) are available for purchase on [Eventbrite](#). Gala tickets include access to the theater programming.

Purchase Tickets

OPC Social Media Survey

Thank you to all members who have responded to our survey on use of social media. Each of those answers

will help us as we review social media and communication platforms.

If you haven't filled out the survey yet, please consider taking a moment to share your responses. We plan to share some overall findings at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 5. Your individual responses will be kept private.



[OPC Member Social Media Survey](#)

OPC and IWMF Hosted Psychological Safety Training for Women and Nonbinary Journalists

Ana Zellhuber, a psychoanalyst and Emergency Psychology specialist based in Mexico City, for the second time this year, held a psychological training session for the OPC on July 20, this time with a focus on particular challenges facing women and nonbinary journalists.

She said journalists, much like psychologists who encounter stories of trauma in their work, face what she called “vicarious trauma.”

“When you see violence in real time, in real life, as journalists, when you are taking the photo, interviewing the victims, you become secondary victims of that violence.”

The session was hosted in partnership with the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF).

Zellhuber said she often hears journalists say that due to the nature of their work, they can’t react emotionally to what they hear and witness. She said it’s true that staying calm and somewhat detached in the face of tragic events is a key part of the job.

“But once you get home, you’re back to being a regular human being. And a regular human being is impacted by the things they see, hear, and smell – especially during violence,” she said. “Once you get home, you need to let yourselves feel.”

Zellhuber also covered online abuse and harassment, including how to analyze threats and manage and reduce risks.

[Read the Full Recap Here](#)



Welcome New Members

Sayyara Mammadova

Research Assistant
The Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab
Warsaw, Poland
Associate Overseas, Young
(29 or under)

Catherine Manso

Host, Producer, and Research
Assistant
University of Lincoln/Siren Radio
Lincoln, U.K.
Associate Overseas, Young (30-34)



Christina Paschyn

Freelance
Doha, Qatar
Active Overseas



People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Krithika Varagur, the winner of the Sally Jacobsen Fellowship in 2019, had a piece published in Harper's Magazine [in August](#) that involved a year of reporting from Nigeria. The article, titled "Love in the Time of Sickle Cell Disease," follows the story of "what happens when you fall in love, but your genes are incompatible." Varagur has recently returned to foreign correspondence after a stint working as senior speechwriter at the communications firm Fenway. She previously covered Southeast and South Asia for The Washington Post and The Guardian, among others, was a columnist for The Wall Street Journal, and wrote *The Call: Inside the Global Saudi Religious Project*, which she spoke about during an OPC book night [in May 2020](#) that was moderated by Christopher Dickey.



Serginho Roosblad, the 2017 winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone, and his colleagues at The Associated Press and FRONTLINE, won a 2023 [Online Journalism Award](#) for "[How Russia is Smuggling Ukrainian Grain to Pay for Putin's War](#)." The team won in the category of Digital Video Storytelling, Medium Form, Large Newsroom. Roosblad is a video producer for the AP Global Investigations team.



UPDATES

The [Sperber Book Prize](#), which OPC Governor **Beth Knobel** directs, has published a [second season](#) of its podcast about journalism. The prize is administered by Fordham University and honors biographies, autobiographies and memoirs by those involved in journalism. Recently published authors speaking in Season 2 include former New York Times public editor and Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan, former CNN tech reporter Laurie Segall, Catholic University of America dean Vincent Kiernan, and journalist Steven V. Roberts speaking about his wife, NPR and ABC correspondent Cokie Roberts. The first episode features author Elizabeth Becker, winner of the 2022 Sperber Prize and guest at an [OPC Book Night in 2021](#), speaking about how three women changed reporting of the war in Vietnam and her book *You Don't Belong Here*. More on the award is at [sperberprize.com](#).



[On Aug. 4](#), OPC Governor **Deborah Amos** spoke on a "World Review" panel hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs about international news including peace negotiations in the Middle East, elections in Pakistan, and updates on the war in Ukraine. Amos, who stepped down from NPR earlier this year after a 35-year career at the network and currently serves as professor of journalism at Princeton University, said the negotiations hinge on Saudi Arabia, which has a back-channel relationships with both the U.S. and Israel. "We haven't seen anything this high profile since the Camp Davids accords, and there's lots at stake," she said. Amos outlined what the parties want, including Saudi Arabia's desire for protection from Iran, help from the U.S. on a civil



nuclear power program, and gains of some kind for Palestinians. “If this deal works, it’s a windfall for the Israelis. It would be the biggest breakthrough in 40 years. It would solidify the legacy of Benjamin Netanyahu.”

The New York Times Book Review will include OPC member **Andrew Nagorski’s** latest book, *Saving Freud: The Rescuers Who Brought Him to Freedom*, in its Paperback Row section in the Aug. 27 issue, calling the book a “thrilling” account of Freud’s last minute escape from Vienna. *Saving Freud* was published in August 2022, and received positive reviews. The Wall Street Journal called it “a psychobiographical thriller about the limits of genius;” and The Sunday Times (London) called it “astonishing,” noting that “in the American journalist Andrew Nagorski this tale has found its ideal narrator.” After its release in paperback this month, the same newspaper hailed it as a Best Paperback of 2023. The Guardian wrote that the book is “thrilling...as edge-of-your seat gripping as any heist movie.” Seth MacFarlane’s Fuzzy Door Productions has now optioned the film rights.



Anand Gopal, a four-time OPC Award winner and a club member who is currently a writer for The New Yorker magazine, is slated to deliver a lecture at Town Hall Seattle in February next year on “the rise and fall of American democracy in the context of historical thinking about what makes democracies flourish.” The talk [on Feb 28](#) is part of a free public lecture series sponsored by the University of Washington. Gopal is a professor at the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University, and the author of *No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War Through Afghan Eyes*, which won the Ridenhour Book Prize, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize as well as the National Book Award.



OPC member **Kang-Chun Cheng**, a photojournalist based in Nairobi, Kenya, filed a piece for Grist [on Aug. 23](#) uncovering widespread environmental and public health problems stemming from pesticides used in a United Nations-led attack against locusts. Cheng spoke with farmers who were not aware that the FAO and other humanitarian groups had procured pesticides that were either already banned in the U.S. and Europe or soon would be. Long-term exposure to the chemicals distributed in that program have been “linked to cognitive impairment, psychiatric disorders, and infertility in men,” Cheng wrote.



OPC member and investigative journalist **Steve Stecklow** co-wrote a special report for Reuters [on July 27](#) alleging that Tesla had a secret scheme to rig dashboard readouts on how far owners could drive before needing to recharge, and suppress complaints about the issue. The piece, written with colleague Norihiko Shirouzu, included reports from Tesla employees who had been instructed to thwart customers complaining about poor driving range, revealing that last



summer a “Diversion Team” in Las Vegas was created to cancel as many range-related appointments as possible.

Jacqueline Charles, a member of the Miami Herald team that won this year’s Kim Wall Award, was [named](#) winner of the 2023 ICFJ Excellence in International Reporting Award. Charles, the paper’s correspondent for Haiti and the English-speaking Caribbean, is also a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Emmy Award-winner, and recipient of the Maria Moors Cabot Prize for coverage of the Americas. Charles spoke on an OPC panel [on Jan. 16](#) along with other editors and correspondents about the challenges of covering Haiti.



CBS News announced [on Aug. 14](#) that **Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews**, a past OPC Governor, is the news operation’s new president. Ciprian-Matthews will oversee CBS News’ content across all platforms, including broadcast, streaming, digital and radio. She will also head global newsgathering, bureaus, standards and practices, special events, politics, elections and surveys, social as well as the race and culture unit.



People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The Student Press Law Center (SPLC) posted a thread with legal guides for journalists following the raid at the Marion County Record newsroom in Kansas [on Aug. 11](#). Resources listed in the thread include the [SPLC hotline](#), a frequently asked questions page for [confidentiality and Shield Laws](#), and a comprehensive [guide to the Privacy Protection Act](#), which includes practical steps journalists can take if confronted with a newsroom search or a seizure of materials by a government official.

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The OPC has hosted three psychological safety trainings over the last year, with another one coming up [on Sept. 13](#). Below are links to YouTube playlists with program recordings.

- **Oct. 12, 2022:** [OPC/Dart Center - Psychological Safety Training for Freelance Journalists](#)
- **March 2, 2023:** [OPC and IWFM Offer Psychological Safety Training for Women and Nonbinary Journalists](#)
- **July 20, 2023:** [OPC-IWFM Psychological Safety Training For Women And](#)

[Nonbinary Journalists](#)

On Nov. 2, the **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** will host its 2023 Tribute to Journalists at a ceremony to be held online and in person in Washington, D.C. Jonathan Capehart of The Washington Post, MSNBC and PBS NewsHour will emcee. [Read more and register here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are open for the **Joan Shorenstein Fellowship Program**. The fellowship is designed to “bring journalists, scholars, politicians and policymakers to the Shorenstein Center for a semester to work on a project with a tangible output, and engage with students, faculty, other fellows, and the broader Harvard Kennedy School community.” The deadline to apply is Sept. 12. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **McGraw Business Journalism Fellowship** provides grants up to \$15,000 and editorial support to produce “deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that delve into critical economic, financial or business issues across a wide array of subjects.” The deadline to apply for fall 2023 Fellowships is Sept. 30. Applications for the spring 2024 Fellowships will be due March 31, 2024. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for **Cullman Center Fellowships** for 2024 through 2025. Around 15 fellowships are given each year to people whose work will benefit directly from access to the research collections at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street in New York. The deadline to apply is Sept. 29. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, in partnership with the **ACOS Alliance** and the **Foley Foundation**, is offering a four-day crisis zones reporting course in New York from Oct. 19 to 22. The course is open to freelancers from over the world covering hostile environments. While the course is intended for full-time freelance journalists at no cost, there are five spots reserved for paying participants (staff or freelance) from small news organizations, nonprofits and public media. If you would like to be considered for one of these seats at a tuition of \$1575, please reach out to programs@dartcenter.org. To read more and apply, [click here.](#)

The National Press Foundation is offering a year-long fellowship for journalists of color. The Widening the Pipeline Fellowship will provide “expenses-paid trainings in Washington, D.C., as well as virtual workshops to support journalists of color staying in – and leading – the newsrooms of tomorrow.” The deadline to apply is Nov. 5. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

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 for credentials.

OPC Resources



Overseas Press Club of America | 40 West 45th Street, Club Quarters, New York, NY 10036

[Unsubscribe chad.bouchard@gmail.com](mailto:chad.bouchard@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@opcofamerica.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!