



Overseas Press Club  
*of America*

## Bulletin

### Jan. 26, 2024

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin. This month, a reminder that the OPC Awards submission deadline is Jan. 31, a look at upcoming events including a screening with Human Rights Watch for the film *Bad Press* [on Feb. 3](#), a Book Night with two authors who write about Russia [on Feb. 29](#), and the OPC Foundation's evening reception to honor this year's scholars [on March 5](#). We have photos from this year's OPC Winter Party, the first since January 2020, and a brief recap of an [OPC Book Night at Columbia University](#) with Yaroslav Trofimov discussing *Our Enemies Will Vanish*. We also present a special feature that collects memories from [five OPC members who joined 50 years ago or more](#). Plus, read updates on OPC community members in the People column, new resources, programs and opportunities for journalists.





**OPC**  
Overseas Press Club  
of America

**We are now accepting applications.**

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

Honoring the Best in International Journalism

## Annual Awards

Enter online  
[www.opcofameria.org](http://www.opcofameria.org)

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 2023 with reporting primarily outside the U.S.

**Eligibility Period:**  
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

General Deadline:  
January 31, 2024

Cornelius Ryan Book Award Deadline:  
January 8, 2024

Awards Dinner:  
April 25, 2024  
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

The deadline to submit nominations for this year's OPC Annual Awards is Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

Click on the button below to read more and submit entries, or share the link to help the OPC spread the word on social media.

Submit Entries

## UPCOMING EVENTS



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

FILM FESTIVAL

BALBOA PARK  
THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

# BAD PRESS

CHANGE STARTS HERE

[mopa.org/hrwff](http://mopa.org/hrwff) | #HRWFFSD

## Feb 3: OPC to Present 'Bad Press'

## Screening at HRWFF

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time

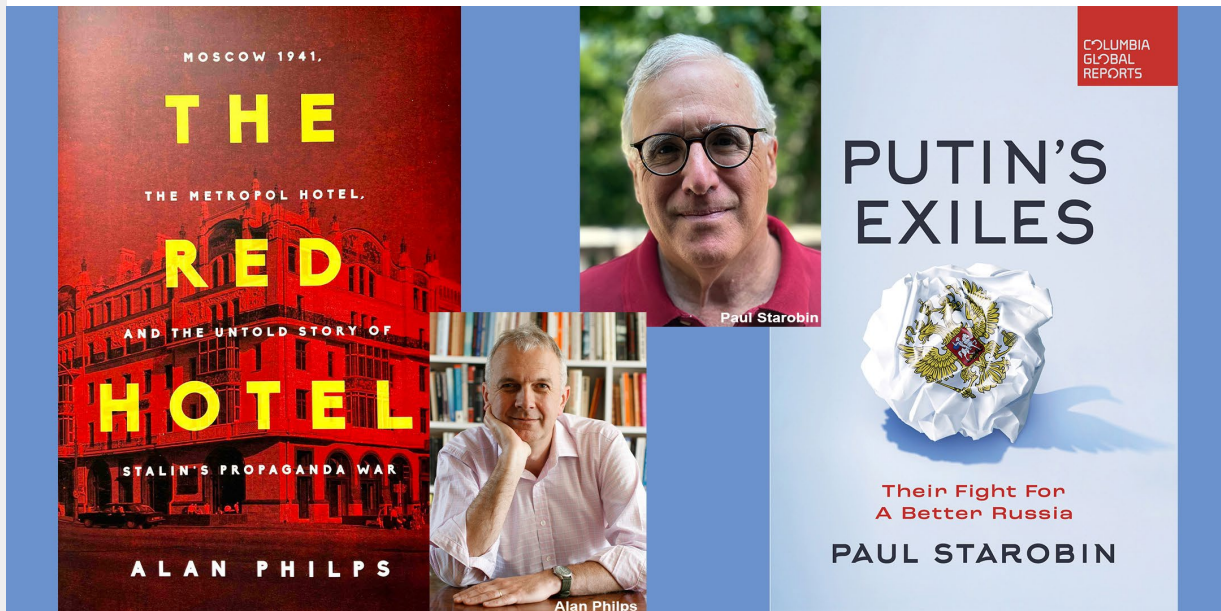
**Place:** Online via Zoom and in person at MOPA at the San Diego Museum of Art, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA

The OPC will partner with Human Rights Watch to present the documentary *Bad Press* at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival on Feb. 3. The film follows one news outlet's fight to survive. When the elected leaders of the Muscogee Nation, the fourth largest Native American tribe, suddenly curb press freedom and give officials authority to edit all news stories before they reach the public, a rogue reporter fights to expose her government's corruption in a historic battle that will have ramifications for all of Indian Country.

Use the code RESIST24 for 30 percent off digital tickets to any films in the festival.

The film will also be streaming across the US from Feb. 4 to 10 on the Human Rights Watch Film Festival streaming platform.

[Purchase Tickets](#)



## Feb. 29: Book Night - 'The Red Hotel' and 'Putin's Exiles'

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

**Place:** Online via Zoom

The OPC is bringing together two authors whose new books detail Russia's repressive tactics in two different eras – and how some Russians rebel against them.

**Alan Philips**, a former Moscow correspondent for Reuters and the Daily Telegraph, wrote *The Red Hotel: Moscow 1941, the Metropole Hotel, and the Untold Story of Stalin's Propaganda War*. **Paul Starobin**, former Moscow bureau chief of Businessweek and a frequent reporter on Russia, is the author of *Putin's Exiles: Their Fight for a Better Russia*.

*The Red Hotel* explores the gilded cage of the Metropol Hotel from 1941 to 1945, where English and American journalists in Moscow covered the Eastern Front of WWII. To turn these reporters into Kremlin mouthpieces, Philips details how Stalin imposed the most draconian controls – unbending censorship, no visits to the battlefield, and a ban on contact with ordinary citizens. But they enjoyed lavish supplies of caviar and had their choice of young women to employ as translators and share their beds. While some of the translators turned Western journalists into robotic conveyors of Kremlin propaganda, others were secret dissidents who whispered to reporters the reality of Soviet life and were punished with sentences in the Gulag.

The struggle to cover Russia accurately continues to this day. Putin has cracked down on anyone opposing the invasion of Ukraine in person, on social media, or in the press. The Wall Street Journal's Evan Gershkovitch is in prison in Siberia. And since Putin invaded Ukraine, some one million Russians have fled the country and gone into exile. Motivated by opposition to the war, by guilt for their country's deeds, by personal hatred for Putin, and by a vision of a better Russia, Starobin describes how the exiles have mounted an organized resistance to Putin's rule. Many of them are young, tech-savvy Russians in revolt against their parents' generation, which kept Putin in power. Others are journalists, dissidents, and Orthodox priests. Others are actively providing military assistance to Ukraine, from a distance.

Moderating the discussion are: **Beth Knobel**, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Fordham University, a former Moscow Bureau Chief for CBS News and a governor of the OPC; and **Patricia Kranz**, executive director of the OPC and a former Moscow bureau chief for Businessweek.

[RSVP Now](#)



## March 5: 33rd Annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Ceremony





**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Place:** Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, 320 East 43 St, New York

The Overseas Press Club Foundation will host an Evening Reception at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice to celebrate the 2024 Scholar Award Winners.

Register by March 2, 2024. All guests must pre-register and bring a photo ID. The Ford Foundation no longer accepts walk-ins.

Read the list of this year's [18 Scholar Award Winners here](#).

RSVP Now

## OPC Welcomes 2024 With Winter Party at The Playwright

Resuming the OPC's traditional Winter Party for the first time since January 2020, almost 30 members gathered on Jan. 23 at The Playwright Tavern and Restaurant on West 49th Street in Midtown Manhattan.



Left to right: OPC Executive Director Patricia



Left to right: Peter Engardio, Rebecca Fannin,

Kranz with OPC Governors Beth Knobel and Albert Goldson.

William Holstein and Dake Kang.

## Author Yaroslav Trofimov Discusses Need for 'Humanity' in Covering Russia's Invasion and Ukraine's War of Independence

by Chad Bouchard

On Jan. 24, author Yaroslav Trofimov, the chief foreign-affairs correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, told a capacity crowd at Columbia University's Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism, an event co-sponsored by the OPC, that reporters working in conflict zones should not be so distracted by geopolitics that they neglect humanity in their work.



Trofimov has reported from on the ground in Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022. His book, [Our Enemies Will Vanish: The Russian Invasion and Ukraine's War of Independence](#), chronicles key moments of the war, analyzing how the Ukrainian military and civilians were able to fend off Russia's disproportionate military might, while also examining the human costs of the war.

Trofimov was interviewed by Azmat Khan, an OPC vice president who heads the Simon and June Li Center at Columbia. She asked for advice from Trofimov, who grew up in Kyiv and has family ties going back generations, on how journalists can draw from their personal and emotional connection to conflicts as an asset, while also managing pitfalls of reporting through a subjective lens.

“The keyword is humanity. Far too often, when we write and think about things, we look at them through a geopolitical prism – national interests, counties, governments – and forget the humanity of all these millions of people who are caught in conflict. And their lives are in many ways similar to our lives, and that we can relate to.”

A recording of the event will be posted on the Columbia Journalism YouTube channel sometime next week.

[Read More](#)

## Longtime Members Mark 50 Years or More with the OPC



by Chad Bouchard

Late last year, OPC member Andrew Lluberes mentioned that 2024 would mark his 50<sup>th</sup> year since joining the OPC, and wondered if there were others who had earned the same distinction. After poking around in OPC archives, we reached out to Lluberes and four other members who had passed the 5-decade mark and asked them to reflect on their careers and time with the OPC. Many thanks to Lluberes, as well as Robert Essman, Virginia Castleton, Irwin Chapman, and Robert Black for sharing memories.

Lluberes said he joined the OPC in 1974 a few months after he was transferred from the Pittsburgh bureau of United Press International (UPI) to its world headquarters in New York. In October, he moved to Reuters, which had offered him \$10,000 more in salary. During his eight years at Reuters, he convinced the company to participate in the OPC Annual Awards and other journalistic competitions, something the company had not done beforehand.

Robert Essman, who joined in May 1974 and is also celebrating his 50th anniversary with the OPC this year, recalled first meeting OPC members at “2 West Club,” while attending events for the Midtown Turf, Yacht and Polo Association, which included sports writers such as John Groth, a veteran sports and war-correspondent illustrator who was an OPC member at the time, and Red Smith of the New York Herald Tribune and The New York Times, among others.

Virginia Castleton, formerly Widenmyer, who joined the OPC in 1971, recalled that she was sponsored by Richard Thomas, her husband and an early OPC member, and Louis Lochner, a Pulitzer Prize winner, and Judge Allman, who was referred to as an “Old China Hand.”

Irwin Chapman, who joined in August 1959, wrote a [detailed series of pieces](#) in early 2021 recounting his life and storied career. After he was drafted into military service and was posted in Salzburg, Austria, he returned to New York and became a news writer for Radio Free Europe, and took freelance trips to Haiti and Cuba to report for NBC radio. George Hamilton Combs hired him when he launched a news service, Radio Press, and Combs sponsored his OPC membership.

Robert Black wrote that at 94 years old and 68 years as an OPC member, he “may be (one of) the longest serving member(s) of the OPC still kicking.” He said he joined in 1955 at the behest of Bob Considine, who was OPC president at the time.

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

Photo above, left to right: Andrew Llubes, Robert Essman, Virginia Castleton, Irwin Chapman and Robert Black.

## Welcome New Members

### **Sanjana Bhambhani**

Columbia Journalism School  
New York  
Student



### **Molly O'Toole**

Freelance  
Washington, DC  
Active Non-Resident



### **Eddie Ruiz**

News Editor/Anchor  
Hispania Media Group  
Aguada, Puerto Rico  
Active Overseas



### **Emily Russell**

Stanford University  
Palo Alto, CA  
Student





### **Euan Ward**

Beirut Contributor  
The New York Times  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Active Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)



## **People** by Chad Bouchard

### **SCHOLARS**

**Kailyn Rhone**, the 2023 Reuters Fellowship winner, who had an internship with The Wall Street Journal in the spring of 2023 is returning to the Journal as a finance reporting fellow for the next 12 months. She had an internship with Reuters last summer.



**Portia Crowe**, who won the Reuters award in 2014, is joining the Reuters Dakar bureau as a West and Central Africa correspondent. She had an OPC Foundation fellowship at the Reuters bureau in Nairobi. She was featured in an OPC Bulletin profile in 2020 and joined an OPC Foundation panel in 2021 on the future of global journalism.



**Jad Sleiman**, the 2013 David R. Schweisberg Scholarship winner, recently got his job back at WHYY, an NPR member station in Philadelphia. Despite excellent reviews, he had been fired from his job as a reporter at The Pulse, a nationally syndicated health and science program, when his bosses discovered clips of his work as a stand-up comic online and deemed them offensive. He did his comedy routine under an assumed name and never mentioned his employer or his day job. The arbitrator “performed an in-depth analysis” of the clips and found that many of them were funny or an “astute critique” of power – though they also ruled that Sleiman must delete the clips.



**Jeff Roberts**, the Reuters winner in 2010, has been named Fortune Magazine's new finance editor, overseeing stories that track the intersection of money and power. His focus will include how tech – notably crypto and AI – is changing finance. Jeff had an OPC Foundation fellowship in Paris.

## AWARDS

The **PBS FRONTLINE** documentary *Afghanistan Undercover*, which won the OPC's David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award last year, won a Dupont Columbia Award, which was celebrated in a Jan. 25 ceremony. The piece focuses on the work of correspondent Ramita Navai and photographer Karim Shah as they documented the conditions for women after the Taliban returned to power.

**The Associated Press** team that won a Hal Boyle Award last year for the entry titled "Erasing Mariupol" also won a Dupont Award, in collaboration with PBS FRONTLINE, for the series of stories titled "20 Days in Mariupol."

## UPDATES

**Laurie Hays**, an OPC Governor, is now serving as CEO and Editor in Chief for The Fuller Project, a global newsroom dedicated to groundbreaking reporting that catalyzes positive change for women.



OPC Governor **Anup Kaphle** spoke to the Nepali outlet Ukaalo News [in December](#) to talk about the state of Nepali media, its challenges, and what may be needed to fix what's broken.



OPC member **James Brooke** is now the Russia-Ukraine correspondent for The New York Sun. Writing twice a week for the New York-based news site, Brooke draws on his six years in Kyiv, reporting for his own business newsletter, and eight years in Moscow, first as Bloomberg bureau chief, then as VOA bureau chief.



**Hasan Oswald**, a filmmaker who works with OPC member **Fahrinisa Campana**, provided updates on a film titled *Mediha*, in which the titular teenage Yazidi girl who had just returned from ISIS captivity documents herself to process trauma while rescuers search for her missing family members. The film won the Grand Jury Award at DOC NYC last year, and has been invited to screen at the UN in February, where *Mediha* will speak. The film has also been invited to serve as the opening film at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival in

March as its UK premiere and to be part of the Activist Competition at Movies that Matter. The film will be screened in at least 30 festivals in the coming months. Oswald and Campana both received OPC grants in 2020 to help freelancers during the pandemic. OPC members **Annelise Mecca** and **Alexander Spiess** were also producers on the film, along with Stephen Nemeth.

**Adriana Zehbrauskas**, a past recipient of a Citation for Excellence in the Robert Capa category and a panelist at an OPC event, announced on Jan. 6 that she will serve as the Howard G. Buffet Visiting Professor of Visual Journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University this semester. “It’s a huge honor (and responsibility) to help form a new generation of creative and ethical photojournalists,” she wrote. Zehbrauskas spoke on an [OPC panel at Columbia University in 2016](#) with other female photojournalists discussing their in-depth documentary work.



People Column

## New Resources

### RESOURCES

**The Rory Peck Trust’s Risk & Safety Helpdesk** is open for registrations and is actively seeking freelance journalists who need safety advice for an upcoming assignment. The project was developed in collaboration with RiskPal to help freelance journalists around the world deliver their assignments safely. A team of highly experienced safety advisors are on hand to answer any questions related to safety – big or small – and more about how to get the story and protect yourself when out in the field. All sessions are provided free of charge to freelance journalists. [Read more and register here.](#)

**Freedom House** published a report on transnational repression in December that covers how authoritarian regimes directly endanger journalists and exacerbate the already-daunting challenges of reporting from exile. The organization interviewed 16 media professionals from around the world to “spotlight this increasingly worrisome reality.” [Read the report here.](#)

A book by **Maja Šimunjak**, a Senior Lecturer in Journalism at Middlesex University London, *Managing Emotions in Journalism*, covers the importance of addressing mental health issues and safeguarding reporters in difficult conditions, based on interviews with more than 30 British journalists. [Purchase the book here.](#)

### TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** has launched a call for applications for a HEFAT course aimed at journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean, in Mexico City for April 7-11. The course is for journalists working in media or as freelancers, with a minimum of three years of professional experience, and is open to journalists across all genres. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **IWMF** is also kicking off a Newsroom Safety Across America initiative with two one-day training workshops in Phoenix on Feb. 12 and 13. Applications close on Jan. 30. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE)** organization is offering "Total Newsroom Training," a grant-funded program that brings free, customized investigative training to small- and medium-sized newsrooms. IRE's experienced trainers will visit the selected U.S.-based newsrooms either virtually or in person for two days of intense, in-house investigative training – at no cost. Spots in the program are limited and awarded on a competitive basis. Preference will be given to newsrooms in rural areas and smaller cities, small newsrooms in larger markets, and newsrooms founded and run by those coming from and serving historically marginalized communities. The deadline to apply is Feb. 17. [Read more and apply here.](#)

On the podcast Media Confidential in December, past OPC Award winner **Lynsey Addario** analyzed the challenges of war photography in an era when journalists are increasingly likely to be targets and false images on social media make it difficult to assess what is real. She also shares her perspective on the pictures coming out of the war in Gaza and the courage of those capturing them. [Listen to the program here.](#)

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)** is seeking applicants for its 2024-2025 Edward R. Murrow press fellowship. The fellowship offers a distinguished foreign correspondent or editor the opportunity to spend ten months in CFR's New York office researching and writing on a critical foreign policy topic. Qualified applicants must be U.S. citizens and possess a strong record of professional achievement. The fellowship begins in September 2024 and runs for ten months. The stipend is \$100,000 and includes a modest travel budget. Fellows are independent contractors rather than CFR employees, and they are not eligible for employment benefits, including health insurance. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Media School at Bournemouth University** is accepting entries for its New Media Writing Prize (NMWP) for students, bloggers, artists and writers. The prize will recognize innovative and interactive storytelling (fiction or nonfiction) written specifically for delivery and reading/viewing on a PC or Mac, the web or a hand-held device such as an iPad or mobile phone. [Read more and apply here.](#) The deadline to apply is Feb 1.

Applications are open for the **Ira A. Lipman Fellowship**, a non-residential program that gives fellows access to the resources of the Columbia Journalism



School and university libraries. Fellows must publish their finished stories within a year of accepting the fellowship and give the Lipman Center confirmation that their employers agree to publication. Freelancers must have a news outlet or magazine lined up to publish their fellowship stories. Fellows may be invited to campus to give a public presentation about their work, and upon mutual agreement, may also lecture, mentor and advise students. The deadline to apply is Feb. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** is calling for applications for its **Arthur F. Burns Fellowship**, which provides young and experienced journalists with the opportunity to participate in an exchange program and work for prestigious media outlets in both Germany and the United States. The deadline to apply is March 1. [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](mailto: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](mailto:info@opcofamerica.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!