



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin May 3, 2024



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this May issue of the Bulletin. In addition to our roundup of photos and videos from the year's Awards Dinner, this issue includes:

- An announcement of the naming of an OPC award for [Shireen Abu Akleh](#).
- A downloadable PDF copy of this year's [Dateline magazine](#).
- Information about an upcoming memorial program for Terry Anderson to watch online [on May 8](#).
- A look ahead at a book night [on May 9](#) to discuss *Look Away* by Jacob Kushner.

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

World Press Freedom Day: OPC Names 'Continuing Coverage of Conflict' Award for Slain Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh

On World Press Freedom Day, the Overseas Press Club's board of governors announced that it is naming the Continuing Coverage of Conflict Award, a new category created in 2024 to honor deep, dedicated reporting that sustains focus on underreported conflicts and global crises, after Shireen Abu Akleh, a prominent Palestinian-American journalist who was killed during an assignment in 2022.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

PHOTOS & VIDEO: OPC Annual Awards

Click the blue button below to see a page of photos and videos from the OPC's 85th Annual Awards Dinner.

Watch Videos and See Photos from the Annual Awards Dinner

Photos from our Awards Dinner slide show:



Maria Ressa, center, delivered keynote remarks at the OPC Annual Awards Dinner. Photo: Jennifer S. Altman



Left to right: OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz, OPC Governor Ginger Thompson, OPC Foundation scholar Trisha Mukherjee and OPC Vice President Azmat Khan. Photo: Jennifer S. Altman



OPC President Scott Kraft, left, and OPC Past President Deidre Depke. Photo: Jennifer S. Altman



Left to right: Pamela Title, Lowell Thomas Award winner Eyder Peralta and OPC Past President David A. Andelman.



From left to right, David Remnick, center, applauds during the awards dinner with John Daniszewski, the



Guests gather for a cocktail reception before the OPC's 85th Annual Awards Dinner.

OPC Awards head judge, and OPC
Past President Marcus Mabry.
Photo: Jennifer S. Altman

Photos: ©Jennifer S. Altman

Videos linked on our Awards Dinner page:



Keynote Speech

Maria Ressa CEO of Rappler

The OPC President's Award

David Remnick editor of The New Yorker



Candle-Lighting Ceremony

Ayman Mohyeldin host of MSNBC's "Ayman"

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 2024 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

May 8: Terry Anderson - Celebration of Life

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via YouTube

Terry Anderson's family cordially invites you to watch a celebration of his life via a livestream from the Associated Press headquarters. Anderson, an AP correspondent who was held captive in Lebanon for almost seven years during the Lebanese Civil War, died on April 21.



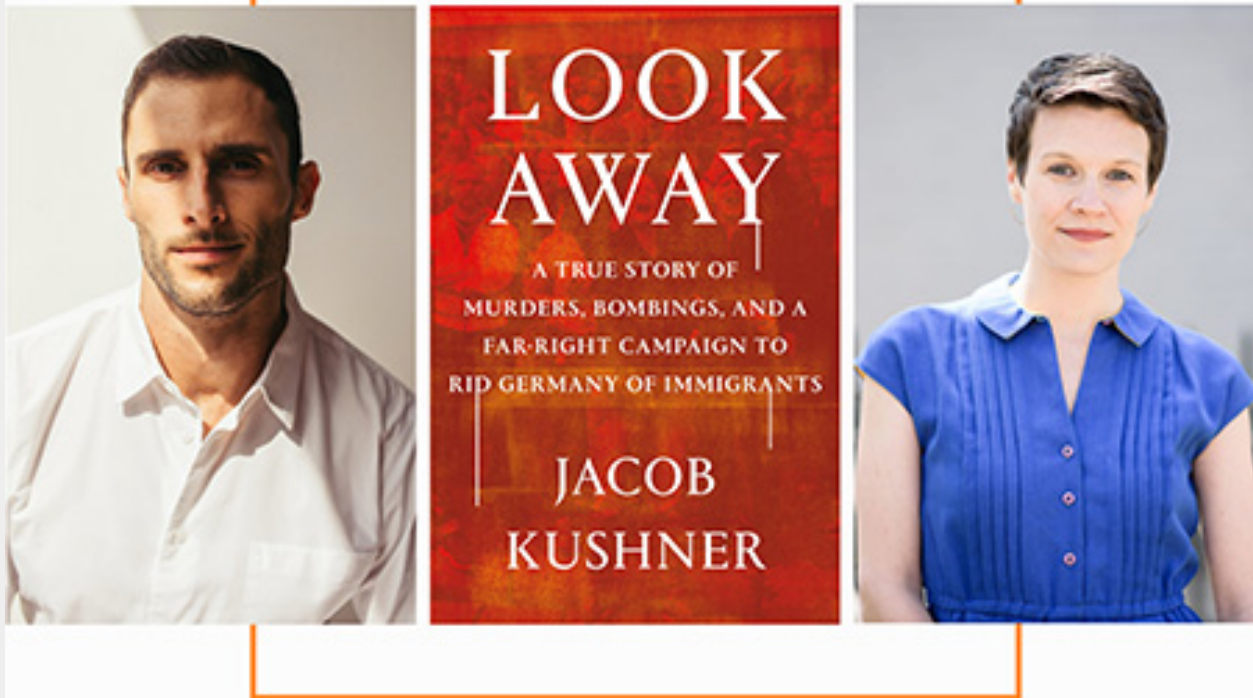
Speakers will include Terry's fellow hostages **John McCarthy** and **Brian Keenan**, former AP president and CEO **Lou Boccardi**, Terry's great friend and AP alum **Don Mell**, his daughter **Sulome** and life partner **Madeleine Bassil**.

The memorial livestream can be viewed without a reservation on the OPC's YouTube channel [on this link](#) or via the red button below.

Watch Live on May 8



May 9 - Book Night: 'Look Away' by Jacob Kushner with Seyward Darby



Jacob Kushner
with Seyward Darby

MAY 9 at 6 PM 1133 BROADWAY

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Rizzoli Bookstore, 1133 Broadway

On May 9, the OPC will partner with Grand Central Publishing and the Rizzoli Bookstore to host a book night with journalist, international correspondent and OPC member **Jacob Kushner** as he celebrates the launch of his new book *Look Away*, which documents the shocking resurgence of far-right xenophobic violence in twenty-first century Germany. Kushner won the OPC Foundation's Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2013.

Seyward Darby, author of *Sisters in Hate*, will moderate. The discussion will be followed by a signing.

PLEASE NOTE: RSVPs are encouraged but not required. Seating is limited and will be first come, first served. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

[Pre-order a signed copy of the book here](#)

RSVP Now

Welcome New Members

Adriana Carranca

Freelance
New York
Active Resident

Nour Idriss

Columbia
Journalism School
New York
Student



People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Simon Bajaj, winner of the 2024 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone, was named the 2024 recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists-New England Mark of Excellence Award in general news reporting for his [NPR stories on New Zealand's tobacco laws](#). The award honors the best in student journalism. He also won the Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism from the [AHCJ](#) for a story he wrote for [the Guardian on how a tiny town is paving the future of tobacco policy](#). In addition, he was named a finalist in science reporting for his STAT News story on lung cancer story.



Annie Todd, winner of the S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting in 2020, and her colleague Makenzie Huber at the South Dakota Searchlight and Sioux Falls Argus Leader, were named finalists for the 2024 Livingston Award for Excellence in Local Reporting for their three-installment story [The Lost Children](#). The [Livingston Award](#) is administered by the Wallace House Center for Journalism at the University of Michigan and honors young journalists. The awards honor the best reporting and storytelling by journalists under the age of 35. Read more about finalists from the OPC community in the Awards section below.



Euan Ward, the winner of the 2022 Rick Davis-Deb Amos Scholarship who is an OPC member and New York Times contributor based in Beirut, has been reporting on the Israel-Hamas war with 12 bylines for the Times in April alone. [On April 29](#), he wrote about a barrage of Hamas rockets launched from Lebanon into northern Israel that were nearly all shot down, writing that the attacks were meant to show military capabilities, "an apparent attempt by the group to signal that it is still capable of striking within Israel's borders even as it studies the latest proposal for a cease-fire in Gaza."



Meg Bernhard, the Flora Lewis Fellowship winner in 2020, is the 2024 recipient of the Spurrier-Winiarski Wine Writer-in-Residence Award. Bernhard will be awarded \$50,000 to support her three-month residency at UC Davis, where she will pursue a research and writing project delving into the intersection of climate change and labor in the global wine industry. She is a Las Vegas-based journalist, essayist and author of the 2023 book, [Wine](#).



Serginho Roosblad, the 2017 winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone, had his directorial debut on PBS [on April 30](#) with a piece on FRONTLINE, titled *Documenting Police Use of Force*, covering the Associated Press investigation into deaths in the U.S. that followed incidents in which police used "less lethal force." Roosblad is a video producer for the AP Global Investigations team.



Tom Finn, the H.L. Stevenson Internship winner in 2013, has joined BBC News as a news editor and visual journalist. He had spent the previous nine years at Reuters, the last four as a special products editor at the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Finn had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Cairo.



Mariano Castillo, winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in 2008, is returning to his alma mater as a professor in the journalism department at Texas A&M University. He is currently a senior director of news standards and practices at CNN. Castillo had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Mexico City.



AWARDS

Mohammed Salem of Reuters, the winner of this year's Olivier Rebbot Award, has [also won](#) the 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award. His winning photo depicts a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip. That photo was among the images he submitted for the OPC awards. The photo was taken on October 17 last year at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

In addition to OPC Foundation scholar **Annie Todd**, The Wallace House Center for Journalists at the University of Michigan [on April 24](#) also announced that OPC member **Nicolas Niarchos** has been named as a Livingston Award finalist in the International Reporting category for work in *The Nation*. Also among the international reporting finalists are **Lynzy Billing**, who won the OPC's 2022 Ed Cunningham Award for *The Night Raids*, a film she discussed during an OPC program at Columbia [last September](#), and **Renata Brito** of The Associated Press, one of this year's OPC Kim Wall Award winners. Brito won the Kim Wall Award with colleague Felipe Dana for "[Adrift](#)," a multimedia piece that follows migrants bound from Africa to Europe who are lost at sea or land thousands of

miles off course in the Americas. OPC member **Lila Hassan** was named as a finalist in the National Reporting category for work with KCRW public radio in California along with colleague Allison Behringer. Winners will be announced on June 11.

UPDATES

Steve Herman, an OPC member and senior correspondent with Voice of America, is set to publish a new book [in June](#) about his years covering U.S. presidents. According to publisher Kent State University Press, *Behind the White House Curtain* makes the case that a healthy and peaceful democracy relies on public access to accurate, unbiased information, “and that journalists can and should play a key role in pressing government officials to be truthful and transparent.”

The book will weave together memoir and history, examining the inner workings of the White House press corps and the historic and current relationship between U.S. presidents and the press.



OPC member **Doreen Carvajal** wrote a piece for the Mexican website [Diariojudio.com](#) [on April 7](#), filed from Arcos de la Frontera in Spain, about her family’s Sephardic Jewish identity, which was kept secret for generations under cover of a Catholic identity. She wrote about her quest to investigate her family, the Carvajals, and to reclaim “ancestral memories, history and DNA clues that I believe had been faithfully passed down for generations of my family.” Carvajal said her family left Spain during the Inquisition, and raised as Catholics in Costa Rica and California. “I wanted to understand why my family guarded secret identities for generations with such inexplicable fear and caution,” she wrote.



Jill Langlois, an OPC member and freelancer based in São Paulo, Brazil, interviewed the country’s environment minister about her crackdown on illegal logging and mining for the Yale School of the Environment [on April 18](#). She wrote that Marina Silva, a former rubber tapper and senator from the state of Acre, had campaigned against those illegal operations when she held the same position during Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s first term in 2003. Silva, recently named one of TIME magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of 2024, told Langlois that the international community plays a key role in the survival of the Amazon. “If we reach zero deforestation in the Amazon and the world does not reduce its CO2 emissions, the forest will still be turned into a savanna,” she said.



Haley Willis, an OPC member and video journalist on the New York Times visual investigation team, contributed to a piece for the Times [on April 25](#) that analyzed visual evidence and internal communications to show that six Western aid groups had humanitarian sites hit by Israeli attacks, even after locations were shared with the Israeli military. The video said that aid groups used a process called “deconfliction” to inform the Israel Defense Forces (I.D.F.) about their locations to avoid accidental attacks. Despite those warnings, as well as banners and

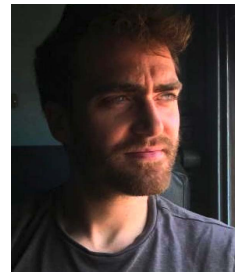


other markings to identify humanitarian sites, the military said the attacks were the result of “internal failures” and has only targeted military targets. The piece cited a United Nations count of more than 200 aid workers killed in the war in Gaza.

OPC member **Aurora Almendral**, a London-based editor with NBC News Digital, has been covering the Israel-Hamas war for the network, most recently with a story [on April 24](#) about the release of a video from Israeli American hostage [Hersh Goldberg-Polin](#). She wrote that Goldberg-Polin had been among the 250 hostages taken [on Oct. 7](#), seen injured by a grenade blast before being loaded into a truck during attacks at the Supernova music festival in southern Israel near kibbutz Re'im. The video taken from captivity showed 23-year-old Goldberg-Polin, whose left arm is severed below his elbow, angrily asking the Israeli government to bring home the hostages. Almendral also filed stories as part of the NBC team on Iran's retaliatory attack on Israel [on April 13](#), and the killing of seven aid workers from World Central Kitchen [on April 6](#).



OPC member **Eric Reidy**, the migration editor for The New Humanitarian, wrote about the passing of the 6-month mark of the Israel-Hamas war on April 8, enumerating the tens of thousands of Palestinians killed, missing or injured by that date, with nearly all of the 2.3 million residents in Gaza displaced and more than 60 percent of homes damaged or destroyed. “When the guns eventually do fall silent, there are resounding questions about what will be left and what governing entity or arrangement will assume responsibility for what happens next in the devastated territory and to its battered people,” he wrote. Reidy was among the freelancers who received an OPC micro-grant to weather COVID-19 hardships in 2020.



Photos from OPC member **Bing Guan** have appeared in many stories covering pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University, with images published frequently in [The New York Times](#), [The Intercept](#) and [The Buffalo News](#), among others.



OPC member **Sarah Schröer López** has been covering the protests for German public broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR). [On May 1](#), the outlet published her story with a recounting of police operations to remove and arrest protesters who had taken over Hamilton Hall. Schröer López is currently a student at Columbia journalism school and joined the OPC last month.



PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Terry Anderson, an Associated Press correspondent who was held captive in Lebanon for almost seven years during the Lebanese Civil War, died [on April 21](#) at the age of 76. Anderson was Beirut bureau chief for the AP on March 16,

1985, when armed men pulled him from his car and kidnapped him. He was released in 1991. Before his abduction, he worked for the AP in Japan and South Africa before beginning a two-and-a-half-year stint in Lebanon in 1983. After his release, he owned a blues bar in Athens, Ohio and ran unsuccessfully for the Ohio State Senate in 2004. He built more than 50 schools in Vietnam after establishing the Vietnam Children's Fund, and contributed to the Father Lawrence Jenco Foundation, named for a fellow hostage who was the director of the Catholic Relief Services in Beirut, which supports community service projects in Appalachia. Read about a memorial service for Anderson on May 8 in Upcoming Events above. The program will be streamed live on the [OPC's YouTube channel](#).



Richard Leibner, a longtime OPC member and supporter of the OPC Foundation, died [on April 12](#) at the age of 85. He was an agent whose company, N.S. Bienstock, brokered contracts in the television news industry and represented hundreds of news staff members. During his career, Leibner served as agent and adviser to Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather, Mike Wallace, Ed Bradley, Morley Safer, Bob Simon, Steve Kroft, Diane Sawyer, Norah O'Donnell, Paula Zahn, Anderson Cooper and Fareed Zakaria, among others. A remembrance on the OPC Foundation's website said that the foundation had "lost a valuable friend," who was an annual guest at Awards Luncheons as he hosted staff from N. S. Bienstock or the Richard Leibner /Carole Cooper Family Foundation. In 2012, he endowed the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship to honor one of the agency's co-founders. N.S. Bienstock was purchased by the United Talent Agency (UTA) in 2014 but retained the Bienstock name. Leibner retired in 2021. He served on the committee of the OPC Awards Dinner several times in the late 1990s.



People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** has posted a Google Drive folder with downloadable resources for journalists covering protests. The folder includes tipsheets on clothing and equipment, navigating internet and communication problems, and what do do during arrest and detention, and more. [Open the resource folder here](#).

The Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) has posted an article written by staff at the Reuters Institute to help journalists spot deepfakes and use AI detection tools to thwart disinformation during election campaign cycles. "AI detection tools provide results that require informed interpretation, and this can easily mislead users," the authors wrote. "Computational detection tools could be a great starting point as part of a verification process, along with other

open source techniques, often referred to as OSINT methods.” [Read the article here.](#)

The **International Journalists’ Network (IJNet)** has an Exiled Media Toolkit for outlets established or preparing to be in exile, as they report on communities and events in their home countries. [Explore the toolkit page here.](#)

The International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF) has updated its guide to provide strategies to combat online harassment. The resource details policies and best practices newsrooms can implement to better protect staff members who are targeted simply for doing their jobs. [Download the guide here.](#)

The **Journalist’s Resource** organization has updated its tipsheet on how to use PubPeer, a website where scholars critique each other’s work, as a tool to investigate errors and misconduct in scientific research. [Read more here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) is calling for applications for seed funding of up to \$2,500 for preliminary reporting that can lead to full investigations. These grants cover costs like open-records requests and initial reporting trips. The next deadline is May 10. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Pulitzer Center’s **Ocean Reporting Network (ORN)** is accepting applications for fellowships for 2024-2025. Fellows work on individual and collaborative reporting projects to systematically probe the drivers of the degradation of our marine environment. The deadline to apply is May 26. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Rory Peck Trust is accepting applications for its Training Fund for Hostile Environment and First Aid Training (HEFAT) courses. In order to be eligible for a training bursary, you must have worked as a freelancer in newsgathering and/or current affairs for a minimum of 18 months. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

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