



Overseas Press Club  
of America

## Bulletin Aug. 1, 2024



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin, which features this year's slate of candidates for the OPC Board of Governors, event recaps, the upcoming OPC Annual Meeting [on Sept. 3](#), a new awards partnership, an OPC dispatch from Normandy at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, advice from an OPC member on self-publishing, and more. This issue includes:

- An OPC statement on Russia's [release](#) of Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan and Alsu Kurmasheva, among others.
- A recap of a walkthrough with tips from Muck Rack [on July 23](#) on how to make the most of your profile on their platform.
- A recap of the "How I Did It" program [on July 17](#) with Associated Press journalists about their work on "Adrift."
- A new partnership between the OPC and the [BarTur Photo Award](#).
- A [tipsheet](#) from an OPC member on how to publish on Amazon.

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

## OPC Presents a New Slate of Governors

by Ginger Thompson

The OPC is excited to present a distinguished slate of new board members and candidates for office. The officer candidates include governors who've earned broad respect within the organization for their steady leadership through turbulent times.



Setting the example for us all was our current president, Scott Kraft, who has agreed to run for a second term at the request of the nominating committee and with broad support from the rest of the board. He and the others running for office have not only worked to make the board more diverse and inclusive, they have ably managed the challenges that come with those changes, all while

continuing to achieve greatness in their own newsrooms.

The slate of new members reflects the OPC's commitment to its proudest traditions and ideals. They too are respected leaders in their respective organizations and across the industry. They represent some of the world's most powerful news organizations and others that are recognized for their innovation, and their experience will serve the board well at a time when press freedoms come under unprecedented assault in the U.S. and abroad.

The nominating committee, which was my honor to chair, included Juan Arredondo, Deidre Depke, William J. Holstein, Anup Kaphle and Beth Knobel.

The Election Committee members overseeing the voting process are Linda Fasulo (chair), Emma Daly, Deirde Depke, Anup Kaphle and Beth Knobel. The club is continuing to use the online voting website Balloteer to host its secure election.

The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 2 at noon, and the results will be announced at the online Annual Meeting on Sept. 3. 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 first ballot link on Friday, Aug. 2. We will also send email reminders over the next few weeks.

Please scroll down to RSVP for the OPC Annual Meeting on Sept. 3, which members can attend in person or via Zoom.

## 2024 Election Slate

### *President*

#### **Scott Kraft**

The past two years have been a time of exceptional challenge for journalists doing the vital work of reporting – with courage and distinction – across the globe. I've been fortunate to be president of the OPC during that time and I'm honored to be nominated for a second term. Over these two years, thanks to a talented and committed Board of Governors along with a supportive membership, the OPC has vigorously supported and defended journalists on the ground – in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere in the world. We take seriously our special responsibility to nurture new generations of journalists reporting from abroad – freelancers as well as those working for small and large media organizations. The wisdom and innovative thinking of our board has led to insightful programs – hearing from working journalists in our In The Thick of It series and learning how to create projects with impact in our How I Did It series. I've been proud to have been on



the OPC board for more than a decade, and to have served as head judge for the awards process. I know from my own decade as a Los Angeles Times correspondent and bureau chief in Africa and Europe, and from several decades now as an editor, that the OPC not only exists to honor the best in our profession but that it also makes a critical difference in the lives of working journalists. I know that, working together, we can continue that work over the next two years. I greatly appreciate your support.

## *Vice Presidents*

### **Deborah Amos**

I have covered the Middle East for three decades, reporting for NPR, PBS, and ABC-TV. After witnessing so much war and mayhem, my next assignment is a project on accountability in the international criminal justice system. I went from covering war to covering war crime trials. The project is for Princeton University – where I also teach journalism. My course, “reporting migration” comes from war zone reporting on refugees. This spring I was a visiting professor at Bard Berlin where many in the class were refugees on scholarship. I am running for office at the OPC because I want to promote international reporting. The OPC offers so much to young journalists – training, scholarships, mentoring, and I want to expand the offerings.



### **Peter Spiegel**

I am the US managing editor of the Financial Times, having moved into editorial management after almost two decades as a foreign correspondent, first covering the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and then based in Brussels, covering the eurozone debt crisis. Despite the demands many of us faced covering Iraq and Afghanistan more than a decade ago, I'm not sure there's been a more challenging period for foreign coverage in the media industry's modern history than the last 12 months. Journalists have been detained in Russia, denied visas in China, and harassed even in allied democracies like India and Turkey. At the same time, the number of English-language news organizations dedicated to resourcing foreign networks is shrinking every year. That is why I believe the Overseas Press Club's mission is more vital now than ever before. I am seeking the role of vice president on the OPC board to help continue its growth as a leading voice for the foreign correspondent in these challenging times.



### **Sandra Stevenson**

I am an award-winning writer, visual editor, and curator in the photography department at The Washington Post. As a deputy director of photography, I manage a team of picture editors who oversee coverage for the publication's

international, climate and health and science sections.

Before joining the Post, I was at CNN where I led picture editors who curate the home screen, edit stories and newsletters, as well as special projects. Prior to CNN, I was at The New York Times, where I oversaw digital visual editors on the news desk and worked on visual content for Race/Related and Gender, in addition to exclusive projects such as "Overlooked" and "This Is 18."



As a Governor of the OPC, I served as treasurer and chair of the programming committee. I also had the privilege of judging the Continuing Coverage of Conflict Award this year. In 2021, I curated a Photoville project honoring Christopher Dickey, a legendary foreign correspondent and editor who was an OPC Vice President. I also served on the micro-grant judging committee and election nominating committee.

## Secretary

### Jodi Schneider

I am the political news director for Bloomberg TV and Radio. I've been at Bloomberg for almost 14 years – the first five in Washington, DC in charge of our congressional coverage; then overseas in Tokyo and Hong Kong in senior editing roles, returning to the US in January 2021. I am now based in DC. In Hong Kong I was on the board and then president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, championing press freedom even amid the 2019 protests and then the imposition of the National Security Law. In my three years on the OPC board – the last two as secretary – I have sought to involve OPC in global press freedom efforts and helped judge in the OPC awards competition. I would like to see us become more active in standing up for press freedom worldwide and helping gain more members, including in the DC area.



## Treasurer

### Marjorie Miller

I am honored to be included on this Overseas Press Club slate with such esteemed colleagues. I have long felt at home in the OPC and am pleased to be considered as part of the leadership.

Although I have been back in the States for nearly a decade now, I will always think of myself as a foreign correspondent and of foreign correspondents as my "tribe." At the Los Angeles





Times, I was bureau chief in El Salvador, Mexico City, Jerusalem and London before moving to Los Angeles as Foreign Editor. Subsequently, at The Associated Press, I was the Regional Editor for Latin America and the Caribbean based in Mexico City before moving to New York to manage Global Enterprise and Investigations. For the last two years, I have been Administrator of The Pulitzer Prizes.

## **Active Board**

### **Amran Abocar**

I am currently Global General Manager at Reuters and, prior to this role, held a variety of newsroom roles across the organization in Canada, Asia and the Middle East, covering everything from Dubai's debt implosion and the Arab Spring to nationalist mining policies in Indonesia. I am also on the board of the Canadian Journalists For Free Expression (CJFE) which monitors and defends free expression and access to information in Canada and overseas. By serving on the OPC board for another two years, I aim to contribute, among other things, to the program committee and the valuable work the organization does in supporting journalists.



### **Yinka Adegoke**

I am the founding Editor of Semafor Africa, a unit of Semafor, a global publication launched in October 2022. I've reported from more than 20 countries in Africa and Europe as well as the United States mostly covering business. At Semafor, I manage a network of around two dozen journalists reporting from over 40 countries in sub-Saharan Africa covering everything from geopolitics, macroeconomics, and business to technology, culture and education. A key part of the story focus I've been developing with the team has been to highlight the impact of Africa and Africans in the world beyond the continent.



Part of my remit at Semafor Africa has been to help develop the African media talent pipeline and would be keen to help the Overseas Press Club of America develop training programs in key African countries. I'd also be keen to help use OPC's platform to connect early-stage African journalists to existing programs and opportunities outside the continent.

### **Singeli Agnew**

I have worked as cinematographer, producer, writer and director on documentary films and current affairs series on a range of platforms – from HBO to Al Jazeera, Netflix to National Geographic. I helped launch The New York Times' first original TV series, The Weekly, in

2018. Before that I was the Middle East-based cinematographer and producer for the HBO nightly news series Vice News Tonight – covering the fall of Mosul, the war in Afghanistan, and other conflicts across the region – and a principal cinematographer and producer for Al Jazeera's flagship documentary show, Fault Lines, including the Peabody-winning "Haiti in a Time of Cholera." I'm currently directing a four-part series for PBS and launching several independent projects. I would be honored to serve the OPC for a second term at this critical time for press freedom. I hope to continue to help the club support freelancers and international journalists working on the frontlines in their home countries, advocate for diversity in our industry, and create opportunities for journalists to convene and meaningfully address key challenges in our rapidly changing field.



### **Josh Fine**

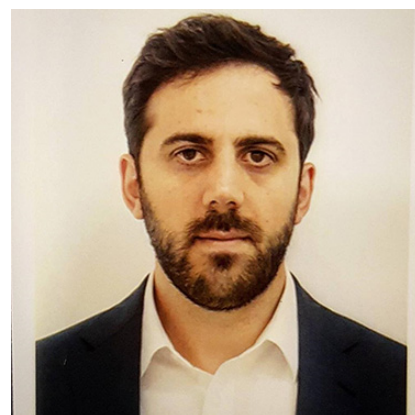
I'm an award-winning investigative reporter and producer, most recently at HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." My report on Qatar's abusive practices for achieving prominence in world sport was the first-ever sports segment to win an Overseas Press Club Award. I later won a 2nd OPC award for "The Lords of the Rings," a 77-minute report on the International Olympic Committee. I've previously served as secretary and vice president of the OPC and have been actively engaged in planning our annual dinner, judging awards, and planning programs. My primary goal is to expand our programs and have them more frequently executed with partner organizations.



### **Stephen Kalin**

I'm a foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, based in the Middle East. I've reported on conflict, politics and business for more than a decade, with postings in Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. I also began reporting from Ukraine after the Russian invasion.

I started my career with an OPC Foundation fellowship, joining Reuters in 2013. I went on to cover the U.S.-backed military campaign against ISIS and then the rise of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. I'm excited to support the OPC's mission, particularly in the Middle East, and help the next generation of foreign journalists navigate our industry's changing landscape and the growing threats to free press.\



### **Azmat Khan**

I'm an investigative reporter with The New York

Times Magazine and a professor at Columbia Journalism School, where I also lead the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism. I've served five terms on the OPC, working across the board to expand the support the club offers to freelancers, local journalists and early career reporters, while also working to adapt key club activities to our changing industry. I plan to continue these efforts, while also expanding our educational programming through an emphasis on open-source intelligence tools (OSINT) and collaborations with journalism schools. I



understand the needs of our members. For more than a decade and a half, I have reported from countries such as Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, both as a staff reporter and a freelancer. (I have twice won an OPC Award, the Roy Rowan Award in 2022 for "The Civilian Casualty Files," and the Ed Cunningham Award in 2018 for "The Uncounted.") It would be my honor to continue to help make the OPC more accessible and responsive to the challenges of our changing industry.

### **Catherine Kim**

I am executive vice president of editorial for NBC News and honored to join the board of the Overseas Press Club - an organization whose mission is near and dear to so many of us in journalism. I have had a long career in broadcast journalism working in primetime, morning television, on a daily evening newscast as a producer and later Senior Producer at CBS News, CNN, and NBC News. I've spent nearly a decade in digital media, establishing the digital newsroom for NBC News, taking the team from several dozen reporters and editors in 2015 to a prizewinning team many times that size.



At NBC News, I currently oversee editorial across digital, our multi-platform editorial units, working closely with our domestic and internal bureaus, correspondents, and producers across the news organization and the NBCU News Group.

In this new board membership, I look forward to utilizing my vast and deep experience in both video, broadcast, digital, and cable to help grow the impact of OPC, support international journalists and scale the number of stories we report and tell from around the globe for the U.S. audience. There is so much critical, urgent, nuanced, and extraordinary international news to report. I'd like to focus on ways to get more of those stories into all our feeds.

### **Marc Lacey**

Thank God for the Overseas Press Club and its important work supporting those who report on the world. I've been based in Kenya and Mexico as a foreign correspondent, with stints in Albania,



Sudan, Iraq and Haiti. That broad experience, together with the editing I've done of journalists based in conflict zones around the world, has helped me realize the dedication correspondents show, the dangers they face and the need for support from afar. I'm now the managing editor of The New York Times, where overseas reporting is an essential part of our mission. I'd be proud to serve on the OPC board.



## **Mary Rajkumar**

I'm global investigations editor for The Associated Press, and I have edited international stories for almost 20 years. Most recently, I led the team that won the 2023 Pulitzer Gold Medal for coverage of Mariupol, where the courage of reporters on the ground saved thousands of lives. I also led the team that won the 2016 Pulitzer Gold Medal for "Seafood from Slaves," which ended up freeing some 2,000 people from forced labor. I grew up in Singapore and am Indian by nationality. It would be an honor to serve another term as a governor of the Overseas Press Club, one of the oldest and most respected organizations in the industry.



## ***Associate Board***

### **Stephen J. Adler**

I am board chair of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and founding director of the Ethics and Journalism Initiative at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. Most recently, I was editor-in-chief of Reuters, from 2011-2021, and editor in chief of BusinessWeek, from 2005 until 2009. I have, at various times, judged the Pulitzer, Loeb, and OPC awards. My focus on press freedom and journalism ethics, with an underlying emphasis on the safety of journalists in the field, finds common ground with the mission and work of the Overseas Press Club, and I look forward to collaborating with the rest of the board on advancing these vital interests.



### **John Avlon**

I'm a long-time journalist with stints as editor-in-chief of The Daily Beast and most recently CNN anchor and political analyst - now running for Congress as the Democratic nominee in New York's First District. As a long-time member of the OPC board, I see our mission as more important than ever before. We need to be an advocate for



journalists working abroad, especially freelancers who operate at great personal risk to bring stories home without the support that comes with being a full-time employee of a news organization. The world is a dangerous place – especially in a time of neo isolationism – and it's essential that accurate and engaging stories reach viewers and readers at home, to remind us all of the essential interconnectedness of life on Earth.



## Minky Worden

I am the Director of Global Initiatives at Human Rights Watch, where I previously was Media Director. I have served on the OPC board twice before, am an OPC Foundation board member, and have been a devoted annual OPC Awards judge since 2000. I am a columnist for Forbes, teach at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and am a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



I would welcome the chance to return to the OPC board at this time when authoritarian regimes around the world are persecuting journalists. I am grateful to the OPC for many initiatives keeping the spotlight on press freedom, especially in Hong Kong and China where I lived and worked in the 1990s. If elected, I would seek to help the OPC board stage timely events, defend the independence of journalists worldwide, and also to help with outreach to recruit new OPC members.

## OPC Celebrates Release of Jailed Journalists in Russia

The Overseas Press Club of America is thrilled with the news that Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich has been freed from a Russian prison where he was unjustly held after being wrongly convicted of spying charges. Along with Paul Whelan and journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, among others, Gershkovich is being released as part of a prisoner swap.

Journalism is not a crime. While we celebrate the release of Evan and Alsu, this is a stark reminder that journalism is a vocation and press freedom a right, which the OPC will continue to fight to preserve around the world.

The OPC congratulates the Wall Street Journal, which has pushed tirelessly for Evan's release, as well as his family and the families of the others released from wrongful detention in Russia. Gershkovich was arrested in March 2023 while on a reporting assignment and later unjustly convicted of espionage charges for simply doing his job as a journalist. He was held for 491 days.

Almar Latour, the chief executive officer of Dow Jones and publisher of The Wall Street Journal, spoke at the OPC Awards dinner a month after Evan was captured, and told the OPC that teams were working around the clock to secure his release – and delivered a message from Gershkovich, through his lawyers, saying he was "humbled and deeply touched by all the letters I received."

The OPC, which stood with The Wall Street Journal and other organizations fighting for Evan to be freed, celebrates today's news. However, we are reminded that other journalists remain unjustly detained in Russia and around the world for doing their jobs. The OPC condemns any government for using journalists as pawns in geopolitical conflicts and condemns the Russian government for Evan's capture, imprisonment and unjust prison sentence.

Read and Share

## Upcoming Events

### Sept. 3: OPC Annual Meeting at 6:00 P.M. ET at CPJ Headquarters and on Zoom

All members are invited to attend the OPC's annual meeting on Sept. 3 when the results of the 2024 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. Registration is required. After the formal meeting ends, members are invited to stay for complimentary appetizers and beverages.

**The deadline to register for in-person attendance is Monday, Aug. 26. The maximum capacity for in-person attendance is 40, and registration is first-come, first-served.**

Important: If you will be using Google Maps to find the CPJ headquarters, please look up Henry Hall, [or use this link](#).

RSVP Now

## Non-OPC Event



### Sept. 24 to Oct. 1: Journalism Residency in Greece with Mentor Ben Taub

**Time:** Sept. 24 to Oct. 1

**Place:** Rosemary's House, Sithonia, Greece

OPC members are warmly invited to apply to [Rosemary's House](#), a selective writing residency series in Greece.

Include the code **OPC x RH** in your application to receive priority application review and a 200-euro credit toward a successful [application](#).

Providing both craft-centered and professional guidance, [mentors this year](#) include figures such as a best-selling memoirist, a former White House advisor, an executive from Disney and National Geographic, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and the vice president of a major publishing house, to name a few. OPC members are invited to apply to any of the 2024 residencies, but the program below may be of particular interest.

### [September 24-October 1: Mentor Ben Taub](#)

**Ben Taub** is a staff writer at The New Yorker, an OPC member, winner of the OPC Foundation's Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship, and winner of the OPC's 2016 Best Investigative Reporting Award. He has written for the magazine about jihadism, crime, conflict, climate change, exploration and human rights, on four continents and at sea. In 2020, he won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for his work on the lasting effects, on former detainees and guards, of American abuses in Guantánamo Bay. He has also received a National Magazine Award, two consecutive George Polk Awards, a Livingston Award and a Robert F. Kennedy Award, among other honors, and his work has appeared in recent editions of "The Best American Magazine Writing" and "The Best American Travel Writing." Taub also received the ASME Next Award for Journalists Under 30 and was named one of Forbes's 30 Under 30 in Media.

Applications are now open on a rolling basis, but only a few spaces remain. For questions and support, feel free to reach out to the admissions team at [apply@rosemaryshouse.org](mailto:apply@rosemaryshouse.org). To stay updated, follow on Instagram at [@byrosemarys](#).

Apply Now

## OPC and BarTur Photo Award to Collaborate

by Brian Byrd

In response to the challenges faced by photojournalists in the current media landscape, the OPC and the [BarTur Photo Award](#)





have formed a strategic partnership. This collaboration aims to create new opportunities for OPC member photographers, with a particular focus on supporting freelancers. The initiative offers multiple avenues for career advancement, including increased exposure and access to expanded resources.



At the heart of this partnership is the BarTur Photo Award, established in 2011, which offers \$20,000 in prizes across various categories. Judged by top photo editors from global publications and partnered with Leica Cameras, the award is free to enter, making it accessible to photographers at all career stages.

Additionally, the BarTur Award has launched Hot-Mirror, an online photography publication with over 15,000 subscribers. This platform provides interviews, portfolios, and industry insights, connecting photographers with key industry professionals. OPC members will have free access to this valuable resource.

Looking ahead, the BarTur Award is set to launch the Visual Storytellers Fund in Fall 2024. This nonprofit initiative will provide an additional \$30,000 annually in grants for long-term photojournalism projects, addressing a crucial funding gap in the industry. The fund will not only support the creation of in-depth visual stories but also assist in their distribution to publications worldwide.

For OPC members, especially freelancers, this collaboration opens doors to showcase their work, gain recognition, and secure funding for substantial projects. It also provides networking opportunities that could lead to new collaborations and career advancements.

Please watch the [BarTur Award website](#) and OPC social media for updates on the next submission deadlines.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

## OPC Hosts Session on How to Make the Most of Muck Rack

On July 23, the OPC hosted a training session with Andrew Mercier, senior director of editorial at Muck Rack, who walked participants through steps for setting up a profile on the platform, getting verified, and curating links to their work. He also covered filters to help track coverage from competitors and analyze news topics.

Muck Rack is a free online platform, launched in 2011 as a way for journalists to track news and create portfolios. It also became a resource for public relations staff to find reporters covering relevant beats and pitch stories.

Mercier, who has been with Muck Rack for more than eight years, highlighted Muck Rack's role in consolidating journalists' bylines into a single, automatically updating profile, which is "easily shareable with friends, family, and prospective employers."

Mercier discussed how to set up a Muck Rack profile, starting with the platform's landing page for journalists.

Once registered, journalists can claim their existing profiles. "Many of you may have noticed that you have [Muck Rack] profiles that come up quite high in Google," Mercier said. The journalist profiles are already automatically generated from online data, but can be claimed and "verified" using an email address or a social media account.

Mercier demonstrated how profiles can be enhanced with personal touches, such as uploading top clips and including a detailed biography. "You can upload your own clips... featuring your favorite work, your top pieces things that you're super proud about," he said.

Read more via the blue button below or watch a recording of the whole program.

[Read More](#)



## AP Journalists Discuss 2-Year Investigation Into Deadly Ocean Voyages of Migrants

by Chad Bouchard

Associated Press visual journalists Renata Brito and Felipe Dana were shocked when they first stumbled on a local news story in May 2021 about a small boat that had turned up in Trinidad and Tobago with the decomposing bodies of more than a dozen men. Having reported extensively on global migration issues, they noticed that the type of boat shown in the story was one they had often seen migrants use to cross from Mauritania to Spain.

"It made me wonder if this boat drifted across the Atlantic," Brito said. "How many others are lost or sank or are missing? It just rang alarm bells in my head

that we need to look into this.”

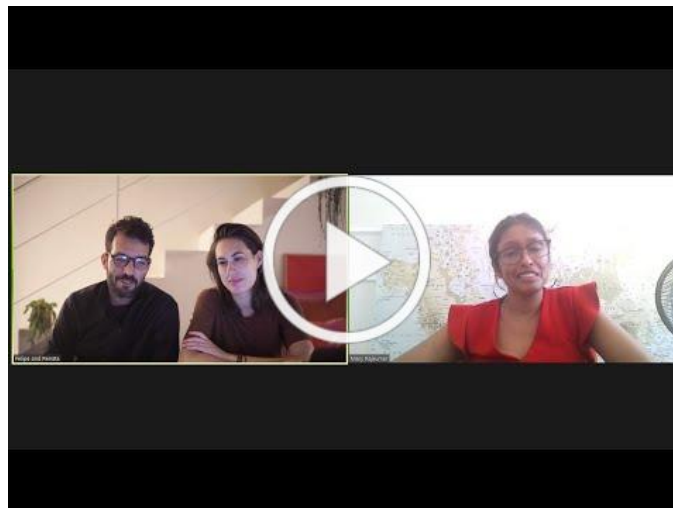
On July 17, Brito and Dana discussed this discovery and how they embarked on a two-year investigation into the perilous ocean journeys of migrants from West Africa who died or barely survived while drifting to the Caribbean.

Mary Rajkumar, global investigations editor of the AP and a governor of the OPC, served as moderator for the program. She served as an editor for the story, along with Ted Anthony. The discussion was part of the OPC’s “How I Did It” series, to discuss their AP project titled “Adrift,” which has won several awards including the OPC’s Kim Wall Award this year.

Brito and Dana discussed some of the challenges in their reporting, which covered multiple countries as they faced scant sources, resistance from governments, and the emotional difficulty in delivering tragic news to loved ones.

Read more via the blue button below or watch a recording of the whole program.

[Read More](#)



## Reporting From the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Chateau Vouilly

by Sonya Fry

A few days after the D-Day landings, an American press headquarters was set up at the Chateau Vouilly in Isigny-sur-Mer, Normandie. The press room is left as it was in 1944 and was open for tours in honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. In addition to the press room,



another exhibition entitled “War Letters to the Chateau de Vouilly” was in a separate building dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

There were three major themes: French Prisoners of War, American GI letters from the front and news reporting from war correspondents. The most well-known were Ernie Pyle, Ernest Hemingway, Robert Capa, Walter Cronkite, Andy Rooney, and Bill



Walton, who parachuted into Normandie on June 6. At the opening of the exhibition the great French reporter Patrick Chauvel was honored.

The OPC has many connections to Vouilly. Walter Cronkite and Ben Wright hung a plaque from the OPC marking the site where Allied War Correspondents covered the Battle of Normandie. OPC member John Morris, Robert Capa’s editor, spent several days at Vouilly commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pictures of him are also displayed prominently in the press room.

My son James and I also toured the many small Norman towns who all had celebrations for the big 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jeeps, tanks, parachutists, jazz and pipe bands and people dressed in 40’s style dancing to 40’s music were all part of the festivities.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Photo above, left to right: Dominique Deschavanne, Head of Contact Press Images Paris office, Patrick Chauvel, French war photographer and Sonya Fry, past OPC Executive Director.

## OPC Member Tips: Self-publishing When Nothing Else Will Do

*OPC member John McCormick is CEO of Groundhog Press Inc. and has [authored](#) 23 books, 6 with major publishers. He was the Washington bureau chief for the Newsbytes News Network, a tech wire service, and over a decades-long career has written for tech journals such as Government Computer News and Newsblaze.com, among many others. In the piece below, he shares advice about self-publishing on Amazon and Kindle Vella. Click the blue button below to read the full tipsheet.*



by John McCormick

One reason I switched from major publishers to self-publishing is the time problem. It would take about six months to go from a finished manuscript to printing – and that is often too long. I have gotten a Kindle or print book finished and published in three days, not counting my writing, with one of those days spent waiting for Amazon to approve the text.

It is even faster using the newer Vella episode format – about 12 hours from submission to publication online. More on Vella later. It is very simple.

Here is a quick guide to Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) and Amazon book publishing. First, it is all free. This is not a vanity press, this is more like being your own publishing company. I own a publishing company but am not seeking submissions. I am happy to give advice.

Kindle and print publishing take a bit of work, with considerably more formatting for paperback or hardcover books. There are multiple questions to answer about categorization, suitability for kids, pricing in various markets, digital rights management, etc., but the actual publishing is easy. Just prepare some text, download the free Kindle Create tool to format, make final edits and submit.

Read the Full Tipsheet

## Welcome New Members

### Jason Alpert- Wisnia

New York University  
Student



### Mehran Firdous

Freelance  
Srinagar, India  
Active Overseas,  
Young (29 and under)



## People by Chad Bouchard

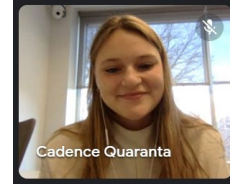
### SCHOLARS

**Dani Morera Trettin**, the 2024 Flora Lewis/Jacqueline Albert-Simon Scholarship winner, landed his first byline in Reuters [in June](#) after covering the Meta Conversations conference in Brazil and writing about the latest WhatsApp AI features for businesses. Since then, he has filed stories from Brazil on [Olympics news](#), opposition to the tightening [abortion ban](#), Sao Paulo's [Japanese neighborhood](#), and [sharks that tested positive](#) for cocaine. In a post [on LinkedIn](#), he thanked **Katie Paul**, a former OPC Foundation scholar who won the 2007 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship and is now with Reuters in New York, for “all the editorial and emotional support in the process.”



**Cadence Quaranta**, the David R. Schweisberg Scholarship winner in 2022, is starting as a reporter for TaiwanPlus, an English-language media new site based in Taipei. She has

spent the last year in Taiwan on a Fulbright grant.



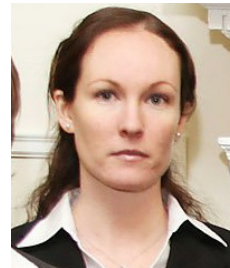
**Jacob Kushner**, who won the OPC Foundation’s Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2013, is joining the Columbia Journalism School faculty as the Newsday/Laventhol Visiting Assistant Professor of Journalism. He will teach reporting and long-form magazine writing in the fall semester. An award-winning freelance journalist, Kushner is based in Nairobi. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the AP bureau in Nairobi. In May, the OPC and Grand Central Publishing [hosted a discussion](#) of his new book, *Look Away* at the Rizzoli Bookstore in Manhattan.



**J.p. Lawrence**, the H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner in 2015, [is now](#) a reporter at the Star Tribune in Minneapolis covering southwest Minnesota. In a tweet expressing his excitement on his first day at the new job, he said it was “wild to have a childhood dream come true.” He spent more than six years as a down-range reporter with Stars and Stripes. Lawrence had an OPC Foundation fellowship with AP in Uganda.



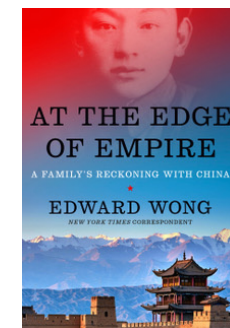
**Artis Henderson**, the 2010 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner, has been named a 2024 Fulbright-National Geographic Award recipient. She will spend eight months in Shark Bay in Western Australia studying marine stromatolites, the world's oldest living microorganisms. Her project will include the voices of the Malgana people – traditional custodians of Gatharragudu, the Malgana name for Shark Bay. Marine stromatolites play a key role in understanding both early conditions on Earth and the potential for life on Mars and are in danger of disappearing within the next 30 years due to climate change. Henderson had an OPC Foundation fellowship with AP in Dakar.



The 2005 David R. Schweisberg Scholarship winner, **Emily Steel**, and her colleagues Sydney Ember and Mike Baker at The New York Times, won the Michael A. Dornheim Award at the National Press Awards for their insider look at issues facing air traffic controllers in their investigative piece, “[Flight Risks](#).”



**Edward Wong**, an author and New York Times correspondent who won the 1998 David R. Schweisberg Scholarship, published a book in June about mysteries in his personal family history as a lens to examine 80 years of history in China. The Atlantic named [At the Edge of Empire](#) as a [top summer read](#), and it ranked as the number one release in Chinese history on Amazon.





## AWARDS

OPC Governor **Beth Knobel** has [won](#) the 2024 Diversity in Journalism History Research Award for her history paper “Breaking Barriers: Ed Bradley’s Early Years in Radio.” The award, given by the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), honors an outstanding paper in journalism or mass communication history that address issues of inclusion and the study of marginalized groups and topics. Judges said her submission “wove oral history, archival broadcast media, and traditional print journalism sources into a vivid narrative of overcoming structural inequality in the radio industry.” Knobel will receive a cash prize during a gala on Aug. 7 at the AEJMC National Convention in Philadelphia.



## UPDATES

OPC Governor **Rod Nordland** spoke [on a July 11](#) podcast that centers on a type of brain tumor, glioblastoma, which Nordland has grappled with since he had a seizure in India in the summer of 2019. The podcast, Glioblastoma AKA GBM Podcast, covered his storied career in journalism, his personal battle with the daunting diagnosis, and his advocacy for disability awareness. Nordland wrote about his experiences with the disease in [Waiting for the Monsoon](#), which was published by Mariner Books in March this year. He was Kabul bureau chief for The New York Times and worked as a foreign correspondent in more than 150 countries. Previously, he was Newsweek’s chief foreign correspondent, serving as Baghdad bureau chief from 2003 to 2005. His work has won the OPC’s 1999 Ed Cunningham Award for reporting from Kosovo for Newsweek, a Pulitzer Prize for news reporting, two George Polk awards, and many other honors. He is also the author of *The Lovers: Afghanistan’s Romeo & Juliet*.



**Sewell Chan**, an OPC member who has served as editor-in-chief of The Texas Tribune since October 2021, has [announced](#) he will join Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism as the next executive editor of the Columbia Journalism Review. In a post on LinkedIn, he said he was excited to take the helm of the CJR, which he believes “has the potential to advocate for journalists worldwide as they confront pressing challenges – technological disruption, authoritarianism, misinformation, attacks on the free press – while explaining to the public why journalism matters more than ever.” He will join CJR on Sept. 16.



A book by OPC member and photojournalist **Robert Nickelsberg** is slated to be released [on Sept. 3](#). *Legacy of Lies, El Salvador 1981-1984* will feature a series of black and white images that were not published while he was covering the Salvadoran War for TIME magazine. “The book, beautifully printed by Kehrer Verlag, has essays by Alma Guillermoprieto, Jon Lee Anderson, Carlos Dada and Scott Wallace,” Nickelsberg said.



OPC member **Alice Driver** will also have a book published [on Sept. 3](#). *The Life and Death of the American Worker: The Immigrants Taking on America's Largest Meatpacking Company* is an investigation into toxic labor practices at Tyson Foods, the largest meatpacking company in America, and follows the story of immigrant workers who fought back. Driver won a J. Anthony Lukas Prize Project Award in the Work-in-Progress category for her book earlier this year.

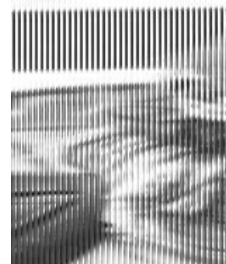


OPC member **Dian Zhang** will [speak](#) at the Asian American Journalist Association (AAJA) convention in Austin, Texas next week on pitfalls and biases in AI tools. Zhang, a senior data reporter for USA Today, uses data and quantitative analysis to tell stories and weaves news reporting with technical skills such as Python programming, scraping, and data visualizations. She has covered a wide range of topics including business and finance, crime and justice, politics and more.



**Peter Schwarztein**, an OPC member and author who serves as Global Fellow at the Wilson Center and fellow at the Center for Climate and Security, is slated to publish a book [in late September](#). *The Heat and the Fury: On the Frontlines of Climate Violence* from Island Press will cover some of his most harrowing experiences while covering climate conflicts, including pursuit by kidnappers, beatings, police detention, and getting kicked out of some countries. He visited Iraqi towns where ISIS used drought as a recruiting tool, interviewed desperate farmers who turned to piracy in Bangladesh, and grappled with security forces who blocked him from a dam along the Nile that brought Egypt and Ethiopia to the brink of war.

**André Liohn**, who won the OPC's Robert Capa Gold Medal in 2012 for his work in Libya, spoke at the Bronx Documentary Center [on July 27](#) after a screening of a documentary, *You Are Not a Soldier*, that focuses on Liohn's experiences as a war photographer. He held a Q&A session with attendees and discussed current risks for photographers working in an increasingly fractured industry as well as the importance of documentary work. His photos have appeared in Der Spiegel, The New York Times, Newsweek, The Guardian, El Pais, TIME, Stern and more. His video work has been broadcast on BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera English and France 24, among others.



People Column

## New Resources

### RESOURCES

**Drew Sullivan** of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and **Martha Mendoza** of The Associated Press spoke to the Global

Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) about recent money laundering strategies that journalists should watch out for. They covered new techniques such as trade-based laundering, so-called laundromats, offshore loans, bank capture and fake humans as proxy owners, among others. The tips were outlined during a panel hosted by Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE). [Read more here.](#)

The **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma**, a project of Columbia Journalism School, launched a resource center to help better prepare reporters to cover trauma, violence and disaster. The Trauma Aware Journalism (TAJ): A News Industry Toolkit is a new online resource for newsrooms and journalists. The project is in partnership with CBC Radio Canada and the Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma. [Explore the toolkit here.](#)

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **McGraw Center for Business Journalism** is once again calling for applications for its McGraw Business Journalism Fellowship. The program provides experienced journalists with grants up to \$15,000 and the editorial support needed to produce deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that delve into critical economic, financial or business issues across a wide array of subjects. The fall deadline is Oct. 6. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **National Press Foundation (NPF)** is offering two all-expenses-paid fellowships for the annual Wharton Seminars for Business Journalists at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania from Oct. 14 to Oct. 16. The fellowship includes full tuition, housing, most meals and round-trip transportation. If you do not receive an NPF fellowship, you may be eligible for funding opportunities through the Wharton School. The deadline to submit applications is Aug. 26. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Pulitzer Center** is organizing the AI Accountability Fellowships to support journalists with up to \$20,000 for work on stories about government uses of surveillance technologies to guide decisions in policing, medicine and more. The program is remote and will begin in September and last through July of 2025. The deadline to apply is Aug. 10. [Read more and apply here.](#)

**Free Press Unlimited** is calling for applications for its Free Press Awards. Prizes include a media scholarship for the newcomer of the year and a cash prize for the “most resilient journalist.” The nominees will be announced in September. The deadline to apply is Aug. 12. [Read more and apply here.](#)

**Action Against Hunger** is offering a grant to help photographers, videographers and other creators to explore new narrative and iconographic processes. The winner will receive €10,000 to carry out their proposed project. The deadline to apply is Aug. 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **OPC Foundation** has launched the Rukeyser Reporting Grants, a new program to help OPC Foundation Scholar Award winners find seed money to fund international freelance reporting projects. The grants range in value from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and may be combined with grants from other funders and grant-making entities. The OPC Foundation program is open to the nearly 400 journalists who have won OPC Foundation scholarships and fellowships since 1996. The project can be print, photo, video or audio. The two annual deadlines

are Sept. 1 and April 1. [Read more 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).**

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