



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin June 10, 2024



Hello Chad,

We hope you enjoy this June Bulletin, which features event recaps, upcoming events, a book review and more. This issue includes:

- A celebration of Patricia Kranz's [10th anniversary](#) as OPC Executive Director.
- A look ahead at a "How I Did It" program with Associated Press journalists to discuss "Adrift" [on July 17](#).
- Recap of a book night with Jacob Kushner about *Look Away* [on May 9](#).
- A video of a memorial service for AP journalist Terry Anderson [on May 8](#).
- Recap of a panel with Adriana Carranca to discuss *Soul by Soul* [on May 2](#).
- A [book review](#) of Nicholas Kristof's *Chasing Hope* from William J. Holstein.

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 Celebrates Patricia Kranz's Tenth Anniversary as Executive Director



On June 7, a group of current and past OPC governors and presidents gathered at Hutong in Midtown to celebrate Patricia Kranz's 10th anniversary as executive director of the club.

"We are so lucky to have had an executive director for the past 10 years who was not only a foreign correspondent but who wrote from Moscow, one of the toughest locales in the world. She understands the rigors and unique requirements of the job," said Paula Dwyer, who organized the luncheon and served as president from 2020 to 2022.

"Many, many things get done behind the scenes by Patty," she said, but most especially her planning and execution of the OPC Annual Awards Dinner, "which has — and this is just a ballpark estimate — two million moving parts."

Dwyer was among many attendees who expressed their gratitude.

"As I'm sure all past presidents feel, I was very grateful that Patty was there to guide me through those two years. It was an honor to work alongside her," Dwyer said.

OPC President Scott Kraft added, "we owe so much of the success of our club to you. You've protected the OPC, helped us navigate the shoals of the pandemic and also been hugely responsible for the growth of our organization and especially the growth of its stature."

"Your skill set is remarkable," he said. "Somehow, you are a recruiter, a diplomat, a financial wizard, an events coordinator and so much more. You've worked seamlessly with so many OPC governors, many of whom, including so many people in this room, are pretty demanding folks! You've made a difference and helped our organization grow into what it is today."

"We are so fortunate to have you at the helm. And I am especially grateful for your wise advice and counsel."

Pictured above, left to right: David A. Andelman, Josh Fine, Jodi Schneider, Albert Goldson, Chad Bouchard, Beth Knobel, Scott Kraft, Anup Kaphle, Patricia Kranz, Kaley English, Singeli Agnew, Emma Daly, Allan Dodds Frank, Alexis Gelber, Shaun English, Deidre Depke, Paula Dwyer, Michael Serrill, Brian Byrd and Ginger Thompson.

Read on the OPC Website

Upcoming Events

July 17: How I Did It – Renata Brito and Felipe Dana

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Associated Press visual journalists Renata Brito and Felipe Dana won the OPC’s Kim Wall Award for their 2023 series “Adrift.” Over two years, from West Africa to the Canary Islands to Paris and all the way to the Caribbean – journeys that those aboard died to make – the two assembled a painstaking portrait of a trip of hope gone wrong, and the people who suffered because of it.



The human story was staggering. But there was a larger theme behind it all. The tale of ocean migration in the 21st century is a messy one, complicated not only by natural elements like unforgiving seas and unpredictable, climate-change-fueled weather patterns, but by governments unwilling or unable to seize responsibility for human lives and by traffickers who dismiss those same lives as simply items on a balance sheet. Brito and Dana dug into this, too, showing the nuanced connections among systems that almost seem designed to prevent would-be migrants from safely realizing their dreams.

Brito and Dana will discuss their reporting and storytelling with Mary Rajkumar, global investigations editor of the AP and a governor of the OPC, in the latest program of the OPC’s “How I Did It” series.

You can read the stories here:

[Adrift](#)

[36 Days](#)

[AP Mini-Doc Reconstructs the Journey of Migrants Who Survived 36 Days at Sea](#)

RSVP Now



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. To stay updated, follow on Instagram at [@byrosemarys](#).

Apply Now

Jacob Kushner Discusses Resurgence of Far-right Violence in Germany in ‘Look Away’

by Chad Bouchard

Before OPC member and author Jacob Kushner started research for his new book, [*Look Away: A True Story of Murders, Bombings, and a Far-Right Campaign to Rid Germany of Immigrants*](#), the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall had mostly evoked images of celebration and families reuniting in the streets.



“That sort of thing is what we saw in the West, but we didn’t see what I found in Human Rights Watch and other reports – the immediate violence against immigrants,” he said during a book night on May 9 at the Rizzoli Bookstore in Manhattan. Kushner said a spate of xenophobic attacks seemed aimed at “defining what a newly reunified Germany was, and what it wasn’t – who didn’t belong.”

On May 9, the OPC partnered with the bookstore and Grand Central Publishing for a conversation about his book, which follows breadcrumbs from the violence of the 1990s to more recent terrorist attacks by three white nationalists, exposing blind spots and racist reflexes in law enforcement that helped the terrorist cell evade police. Seyward Darby, author of *Sisters in Hate*, moderated.

Kushner, who won the OPC Foundation’s Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2013, said he first heard about the National Socialist Underground (NSU) group during a stay in Berlin during a journalist exchange program in 2016. The NSU is responsible for a series of murders of nine immigrants and a police officer between 2000 and 2007, as well as a spate of bank robberies and bombings. Kushner started down his years-long “rabbit hole” of research after contacting a lawyer with a group that represented the families of bombing victims.

“My interest was in how [the NSU] got away with it,” he said. The lawyer told him to dig into German intelligence agencies and the network of informants that they relied on when investigating the terrorist attacks. “You have to look not just at the police, but what these agencies in Germany – that are meant to protect Germans and Germany from existential threats and anti-democratic threats – what they failed to do.”

[Read More](#)

Family and Colleagues Celebrate the Life of Terry Anderson at the AP

Friend and family gathered at the Associated Press headquarters on May 8 to celebrate the life of AP correspondent Terry Anderson.

Anderson, who was held captive in Lebanon for almost seven years during the Lebanese Civil War, died on April 21. 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.

Speakers included Terry's fellow hostages John McCarthy and Brian Keenan, former AP president and CEO Lou Boccardi, Terry's friend and AP alum Don Mell, his daughter Sulome and life partner Madeleine Bassil, and New York State Senator James Skoufis, among others.

Click the window below to watch a recording of the livestream.



Panelists Discuss Latin American Missionaries in 'Soul by Soul' by Adriana Carranca

by Chad Bouchard

Brazilian journalist Adriana Carranca, an OPC member who received the OPC Foundation's 2018 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone, stumbled into an unusual story during a reporting trip to Afghanistan in 2008 when she learned that a couple from her home country was running a pizza delivery



business in Kabul. She wondered why a couple with two children would relocate to one of the most dangerous places in the world to make pizza. After some digging, she discovered the two were operating covertly as Christian missionaries, trying to convert Afghans in the face of extreme risks.

On May 2, the OPC and [Columbia Global Reports](#) hosted a panel at Book Culture about Carranca's book, [Soul by Soul: The Evangelical Mission to Spread the Gospel to Muslims](#). Carranca is a Columbia Journalism School graduate who covers conflicts and human rights. Samuel Freedman, a professor of journalism at Columbia who was one of Carranca's teachers, moderated the discussion.

When she returned to Afghanistan in 2011, she visited the missionaries again to pursue the story, and found that the Latin American missionary community had grown.

"I started meeting this entire group, a huge group of Argentinians, Colombians, people from Chile, from all over Latin America. And many, many Brazilians. Brazil is now the second largest sending country of missionaries, only behind the U.S."

She said the appearance of missionaries from Latin America in Kabul is part of a larger shift in the religious landscape over recent decades.

"The change that Latin America went through, you started really seeing in the 70s. Latin America turned from four centuries of being under the Roman Catholic Church to Protestant and actually evangelicalism."

[Read the Full Recap](#)



Nicholas Kristof Traces His Road to Journalism in 'Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life'

by William J. Holstein

If you have ever wondered what motivates a journalist such as Nick Kristof to travel to hellholes such as the Sudan's Darfur region, Myanmar and Yemen, or to ride his bicycle into the middle of the Chinese army's crushing of pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989, then you will be intrigued with Kristof's latest book, *Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life*.

Kristof's motivations were shaped by the fact that his father was a refugee from the horrors of World War II in Europe. He was an Armenian Catholic living in North Bukovina, which is part of Ukraine today, and used the Polish version of his name, Wladyslaw Krzysztofowicz. He suffered at the hands of both the Soviets and Nazis and risked his life on multiple occasions to escape to America, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon.

Kristof's mother was from Chicago and the family moved from Chicago to New York City to Palo Alto to Waterloo, Canada, before both father and mother were able to get jobs at Portland State University back in Oregon. The two of them obviously believed in religious and intellectual freedom, not to mention freedom from enslavement and persecution. "A tortuous family history helped turn me into the kind of reporter I became," Kristof wrote. "We Kristofs were spies, prisoners and refugees, and we were rescued by strangers." Elsewhere, he writes that he believes in "purpose-driven journalism that exposes injustice."

CHASING HOPE

A REPORTER'S LIFE

NICHOLAS D.
KRISTOF

Two-Time Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
and Coauthor of HALF THE SKY



[Read the Full Review](#)

IAPC Names 'Information Resistance' as Recipient of the 2024 Freedom of Speech Award

The International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC) honored a Ukrainian project called "Information Resistance" as the recipient of the organization's Freedom of Speech Award for 2024 [on May 9](#). Information Resistance is a non-governmental organization founded a decade ago to fight disinformation and other threats against Ukraine in areas including military, economic, energy and information security.



The IAPC is a group of dozens of press clubs and foreign correspondents' clubs from around the world. Each year, the group of member clubs from more than 30 countries names recipients who made exceptional contributions to the defense of free speech or supported efforts to promote freedom of speech.

In acceptance remarks, Oleksandr Kovalenko, an analyst and columnist for Information Resistance, thanked the IAPC for the award, "which motivates our team to achieve even greater and higher goals in the field of free journalism. This is socially useful work, and we understand the importance in all corners of the civilized world to share the experience we have gained – and are gaining – in the fight against Russian propaganda and lies."

[Watch Kovalenko's remarks here.](#)

Welcome New Members

Harsh Aditya

Columbia Journalism School
New York
Student

Vivian Lin

Columbia Graduate
School of Journalism
New York
Student



Aneeta Mathur-Ashton

Congress Reporter
U.S. News and World Report
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident, Young (29 or under)

John McCormick

Chief Operating
Officer
Groundhog Press
Punxsutawney, PA
Active Non-Resident



Mathilde Augustin

Columbia Graduate
School of Journalism
New York
Student



Nicholas Greyson Ward

Freelance
New York
Active Resident,
Young (29 or under)



Rachel George

Freelance
Akaroa, New Zealand
Active Overseas,
Young (30-34)



Arshi Qureshi

Columbia Journalism
School
New York
Student



Surbhi Gupta

Dian Zhang

South Asia Editor
New Lines Magazine
New York
Active Resident,
Young (29 or under)



Senior Data Reporter
USA TODAY
Sarasota, FL
Active Non-Resident, Young (29 or under)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Stephen Kalin, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2013, has been named to the 2024 class of Ochberg Fellows at the Dart Center at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Fellows attend seminars with leading experts in trauma science and journalism practice. Kalin is a foreign correspondent based in Dubai for The Wall Street Journal.



Alex Pena, the first Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship winner in 2011, has [joined](#) The New York Times as a senior video journalist, focusing on breaking and continuing video news coverage. Most recently he was with VICE News and before that, he spent eight years at CBS News as a producer and digital journalist based in Miami.



Anupreeta Das, the Reuters Scholarship winner in 2006 who is now finance editor of The New York Times, has written a book titled *Billionaire, Nerd, Savior, King: Bill Gates and His Quest to Shape Our World*, slated to be published on Aug. 13. The book is billed as an examination of Bill Gates, “one of the most powerful, fascinating, and contradictory figures of the past four decades, and an eye-opening exploration of our national fixation on billionaires.”



AWARDS

Staff of The New York Times [won](#) the Pulitzer Award for International Reporting for the same coverage of the Israel-Hamas war that won the OPC’s Hal Boyle Award this year. Two past OPC award winners were also among the crop of Pulitzer winners. **Hannah Dreier**, the 2016 winner of the Hal Boyle Award, won the Pulitzer for Investigative Reporting for stories about migrant child labor in the U.S. for The New York Times, and **Sarah Stillman**, winner of the 2011 Joe and Laurie Dine Award, won the Pulitzer for Explanatory Reporting for reporting on inequality in the U.S. legal system for The New Yorker. Stillman spoke on a panel co-hosted by the OPC on May 6 about OPC member Adriana Carranca’s book, *Soul by Soul*. See the recap above or watch [a recording of the program here](#).

Staff of the Outlaw Ocean Project, which won this year’s Roy Rowan Award

for reporting on China's shady seafood operation, also [won](#) the 2024 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights journalism award for the same reporting in the International Print category.

UPDATES

ProPublica has [named](#) OPC Governor **Ginger Thompson** as the organization's managing editor. Thompson has worked for ProPublica for 10 years, as reporter and then as chief of correspondence. In a release, the organization applauded her achievements, including establishing a department that manages recruitment and professional development, leading an investigative editor training program, and working closely with ProPublica's diversity and inclusion committees.



Thompson's new role will include oversight of immigration coverage and the Washington D.C. bureau, among other duties. Before joining ProPublica, she worked at The New York Times for 15 years and served as a correspondent in Washington and as bureau chief in Mexico City. She has won several awards during her career, including the OPC's 1995 Eric and Amy Burger Award for human rights reporting in Honduras for The Baltimore Sun.

OPC members **Jon and Kem Sawyer** are [stepping down](#) from their positions with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting this month after serving in key roles at the organization for many years. Jon, the organization's founder and CEO, has been with the organization since its launch in 2006. Lisa Gibbs, vice president for philanthropic development at The Associated Press, will serve as the Center's next CEO and president. She previously served as director of news partnerships and as global business editor for the AP. In an invitation for an event to celebrate the changes on June 3, Jon said Gibbs "shares our values and passion for the work and will also bring her own bold ideas to make the Center stronger." Kem is stepping down as reporting fellows program director after serving the center since 2011. She has led the center's Campus Consortium program, which "provided hundreds of fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students and developed a robust alumni network spanning the globe." In addition Emily Pulitzer, who has chaired the center's board since its beginning, is retiring. She will now be chair emeritus while continuing to serve on the board. Dick Moore, a longtime board member and great-grandson of the first Joseph Pulitzer, will replace her as chair.



The Nieman Foundation for Journalism has [selected](#) OPC member **Marcus Yam** as one of 24 Nieman fellows for 2024. The fellows from around the world will spend two semesters studying at Harvard University, where they will research climate change, the use of artificial intelligence in newsgathering, the proliferation of misinformation, campaigns to silence press freedom, among other issues. The cohort will begin this fall. So grateful to [the Los Angeles Times] for allowing me on this journey and [the Nieman Foundation] for this incredible opportunity," he wrote in a tweet [on May 10](#) on X. "Looking forward to spending an academic year at Harvard, exchanging ideas and growing with everyone!"



For the first time in OPC member, author and photojournalist **Steve Raymer's** career, which spans more than 110 countries and six decades, a person in one of his photographs recognized themselves and contacted him. Raymer, now a professor emeritus at the Indiana University Media School, took the photograph



in Hanoi in 1994 while working on his book, *Land of the Ascending Dragon: Rediscovering Vietnam*. The photo depicts a couple with their daughter riding a motorcycle outside of the Metropole Hotel in Hanoi during the Tết Lunar New Year. The girl in the photo, Linh Do, had recognized her father in an image posted on Facebook, noted Raymer's watermark and tracked him down. "Imagine how I felt when I got this email: 'Dear Professor Ray, I am the little girl in the blue outfit in the picture you took 30 years ago this month in Hanoi?' I couldn't imagine it," he said. Raymer, Do and her sister Hong Do Thuy have continued to correspond since that first email. He served as a young lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, and returned to the country 24 times since. "It's my favorite country for lots of reasons. Part of it is the beauty and the beauty of the people too," Raymer said in a piece for the [IU Media School's website](#).

OPC Vice President **Azmat Khan** and Governor **Anup Kaphle** participated in a panel about international reporting for the South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) [on May 17](#).

Khan talked about her first experiences reporting in Pakistan in 2008, "pitching herself backwards" for local TV channels covering the U.S. election. "Having that opportunity to see the country through the lens of people who live there meant that I was working on stories that wouldn't necessarily get told otherwise," she said. Kaphle moved to the U.S. to study journalism and soon landed an internship at Newsweek International in 2006 and started studying at Columbia University. He said SAJA played an important role in his transition to international journalism with a fellowship with The Atlantic and received a grant to report in Afghanistan. "The goal was to tell stories that other people weren't telling," he said. Morgan Till, foreign editor for PBS NewsHour whose work won OPC awards in 2016 and 2021, also joined as panelist. SAJA board member Jennifer Chowdhury served as moderator.



PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Longtime OPC member **Robert Essman**, who worked as art assistant and art director for LIFE magazine and later creative director for Businessweek, died [on May 1](#) at the age of 87. Essman joined the OPC in May 1974, and this year was

among the members who celebrated their 50th year with the club. For an article honoring 50-year members in January, he [recalled](#) first meeting veteran correspondents who were OPC members at a club venue downtown, saying he was “quite young and a bit overwhelmed being in their company and even more impressed that they never made an issue of my youth!” Essman designed the OPC’s previous black-and-white logo was in use by the OPC club until 2017 and is still used by the OPC Foundation. He designed many other logos, including the 1976 New York City Bicentennial logo. During his tenure at LIFE, which began in 1962, he produced layouts covering banner stories such as Winston Churchill’s funeral in 1965, the Beatles in 1968, and the lunar landing in 1969, among others. After working as art director at Businessweek, he served as founding art director for People magazine from 1974 to 82. After retiring from People, Essman moved first to California and then Vermont, to be closer to his niece’s family.



People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** has launched an online resource for newsrooms titled Trauma Aware Journalism (TAJ): A News Industry Toolkit. The project is the result of a partnership with **CBC Radio-Canada** and the **Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma**. [Explore the resource here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** partnered with University of Sheffield computer scientists to produce pioneering big data case studies on targeted women journalists. The case study subjects have suffered intense, prolonged and coordinated attacks that are emblematic of online violence against women journalists in their regions. [Read more about the case studies here.](#)

The **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** has posted a 2024 AI Elections Tracker. The project provides an ongoing log of examples of AI being used around elections. Examples are flagged to the team, verified, and reported on before a summary is added to the tracker’s timeline, with the context and links to the original image, video, or post. [Read more about the tracker here.](#)

TRAINING

Rory Peck Trust’s Training Fund makes Hostile Environment and First Aid Training (HEFAT) courses affordable and more accessible to freelancers so they can stay safe. 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.](#)

PEN America, the **Committee to Protect Journalists** and the **International**

Women's Media Foundation are hosting free webinar sessions over several days through July 30 on how to stay safe while covering U.S. elections. The series will provide safety guidance on assessing risk, bolstering digital safety and online abuse defense, ensuring physical safety when covering rallies and protests, understanding the legal rights of journalists, and addressing psychological safety and mental health. [Read more and register here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **OPC Foundation** is launching 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. There are two annual deadlines: Sept. 1 and April 1. [Read more here.](#)

The **Pulitzer Center** has an open call for proposals on reporting related to the Israel-Gaza war. The organization invites reporters, editors, and media organizations to submit project proposals that "go beyond breaking news headlines and share underreported stories from the region." [Read more here.](#)

Applications are open for the **2024 Hinzpeter Awards**. The awards were established by the Korea Video Journalist Association and the May 18 Foundation, with a goal to "globalize Hinzpeter's legacy and promote the ideals of democracy, human rights, and peace." The application period began on June 1 and is open until July 7. [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

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.

[OPC Resources Page](#)





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