



Overseas Press Club  
of America

## Bulletin Sept. 5, 2024



Hello Chad,

Our September issue of the Bulletin includes a [summary](#) of the Annual Meeting on Sept. 3, a statement [condemning](#) the convictions of editors in Hong Kong, a remembrance of influential Japan correspondent [Robert Neff](#), a look at an upcoming discussion on populism at the American Library in Paris [on Sept. 18](#), OPC member news in the People Column, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.

OPC members, please note that OPC dues invoices will be sent out soon. Thank you to all for supporting the OPC this year!

## Scott Kraft Re-elected President of the OPC, Welcomes New Board of Governors at Annual Meeting

by Chad Bouchard

On Tuesday night, about 30 OPC members gathered on both Zoom and in-person at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) offices on 38th Street for a hybrid Annual Meeting to discuss club business, announce results of the Board of Governors election, and welcome incoming board members and officers.



Scott Kraft, editor at large for enterprise journalism and special projects for the Los Angeles Times, was reelected to serve a second term as president.

“We take very seriously our responsibility to nurture new generations of journalists, people who want to report from abroad, are reporting from abroad, freelancers – but also those working for small- and medium-sized organizations,” Kraft said. “And we’ll continue to defend and speak out as we always have, to protect the rights of journalists to do this work anywhere in the

world.”

Kraft reviewed highlights from the past year, such as recent [changes to award names](#) and programs, including [training](#), new installments in the “[How I Did It](#)” series, in addition to collaborations with the [American Library in Paris](#). Kraft said in the coming year the OPC will build on the success of its programs.

Jane Reilly, the executive director of the OPC Foundation, said the organization was gearing up for applications to offer 18 scholarships and fellowships in March, including a new Rob Urban Award for those with an interest in reporting in Eastern Europe. She recalled successes of the past year, including the announcement of the William Rukeyser Reporting Grants to help fund the work of freelancers who are current or past OPC Foundation scholars.

Other incoming OPC officers and Governors include three vice presidents: Sandra Stevenson, deputy director of photography at The Washington Post; Deborah Amos, a longtime NPR correspondent who covered the Middle East for three decades and now teaches journalism at Princeton, Columbia and SUNY New Paltz; and Peter Spiegel, US managing editor of the Financial Times. Jodi Schneider, political news director at Bloomberg TV and Radio is Secretary and Marjorie Miller, Administrator of The Pulitzer Prizes, is Treasurer.

Joining the board are Yinka Adejoke, founding editor of Semafor Africa; Stephen J. Adler, board chair of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, founding director of the Ethics and Journalism Initiative at NYU’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute and former editor-in-chief of Reuters and BusinessWeek; Stephen Kalin, a foreign correspondent with The Wall Street Journal; Catherine Kim, executive vice president of editorial for NBC News; Marc Lacey, managing editor of The New York Times; and Minky Worden, director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch.

Governors reelected to a new term are: Amran Abocar, Global General Manager at Reuters; Singeli Agnew, an independent video journalist; John Avlon, former CNN anchor and political analyst; Josh Fine, an investigator reporter and producer, most recently at HBO’s “Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel”; Azmat Khan, an investigative reporter with The New York Times Magazine and a professor at Columbia Journalism School; and Mary Rajkumar, global investigations editor for The Associated Press.

Kraft thanked outgoing governors whose terms have expired: Emma Daly, Albert Goldson, Laurie Hays, Rod Nordland; Liam Stack and Vivienne Walt.

For a list of the full board, [please click here](#).

Read and Share

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 18: American Library in Paris - Populism in**

# 2024

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. in Paris, 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time

**Place:** Online and at the American Library in Paris

The American Library in Paris, in partnership with the OPC, will present a discussion online and in person for a panel of distinguished journalists and experts organized by the OPC.



The 2024 Trump campaign and the success of the National Rally in June's legislative elections in France show that populism is alive and well, yet the victory of Labour in the U.K. and other election results in Eastern Europe paint another picture. What's the state of play of populism in 2024, a year in which voters in more than 64 countries will go to the polls?

### Panelists:

**Martin Gelin** is a longtime award-winning journalist on the U.S. far-right, and author of eight books on American politics, including the forthcoming "The White Storm: How Racism poisoned American democracy." He writes for The Guardian, The Washington Post, and other publications. He moved to Paris in August. [linktr.ee/martingelin](https://linktr.ee/martingelin)

**Elisabeth Zerofsky** is a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine, and has written extensively on the rise of right-wing populism in Europe and the U.S., from France, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Italy, and the US. She is currently working on a book on this topic for Farrar, Straus and Giroux. She lives in Berlin, and will join the panel by Zoom. <https://elisabethzerofsky.com/>

**Thierry Arnaud** is international editor for France's BFM-TV. Thierry joined BFMTV in 2006 as its US Correspondent, and served as the network political editor for six years. Thierry began his career in print journalism, and was based for several of these years in London and New York.

RSVP to Attend Online or In-person

## Non-OPC Events

### Sept 20: El Salvador, Legacy of Violence - Robert Nickelsberg and Fred Ramos

**Time:** 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Place:** Bronx Documentary Center, BDC Annex, 364 E. 151st St

The Bronx Documentary Center will host an opening reception for an exhibition featuring photographs from OPC member Robert Nickelsberg and Salvadoran photographer Fred Ramos.



The exhibition, "El Salvador: Legacy of Violence," pairs two important and historic photographic projects done three decades apart—one by Nickelsberg, the other by Ramos—bodies of work that mirror, inform and resonate, each with the other.

The two projects define El Salvador's troubled Cold War history, document today's political evolution and focus on US complicity and negligence in the small Central American country's troubled past and present.

The exhibition will be on view from Sept. 20 to Oct. 27.

Admission is free.

Gallery Hours: Thursday to Friday 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Saturday and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## 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](https://www.instagram.com/byrosemarys).

Apply Now

## OPC Condemns Hong Kong Convictions of 'Stand News' Editors

The Overseas Press Club of America condemns the guilty verdicts in Hong Kong of two former editors-in-chief of Stand News, Chung Pui-kuen and Patrick Lam, on charges of sedition. A Hong Kong court has found the editors, arrested in December 2021, guilty on charges of publishing and reproducing seditious publications. The conviction is part of a crackdown on news publications in Hong Kong since an opaque National Security Law went into effect in mid-2020.

Hong Kong has fallen on the Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index to 135 from 80 since 2021 – out of 180 places on the list.

Also in Hong Kong Jimmy Lai, founder of the defunct pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, is currently on trial on charges of conspiracy and collusion with foreign forces under the Beijing-imposed National Security Law.

During the trial of the Stand News editors, the government said the articles and opinion pieces published were a threat to national security as they were biased against the government. The editors maintained that the articles were similar to those the news organization had been publishing for years and have maintained their innocence, with Chung saying in his testimony that they were operating within solid journalistic principles and within the public interest.

The OPC stands with these journalists who were trying to do their jobs and strongly condemns attempts in Hong Kong and elsewhere to harass, threaten, jail or wrongly convict reporters and editors of crimes for practicing journalism.

## People Remembered: Robert C. Neff

by William J. Holstein

Robert C. Neff, who was at the center of America's debate about a rapidly rising Japan in the late 1980s, died on July 31 at his home in Hayama, Japan, south of Tokyo, after a long illness. He was 77 years old. He is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Fumiko Sekizawa. His death was announced by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.



Neff was born on July 22, 1947, in St. Louis, Missouri. His missionary parents were posted to Asia. Spending much of his youth in Japan, where he attended the American School in Japan, Neff developed native fluency in the Japanese language, which is rare among gaijin – foreigners.

Neff was best known for his Business Week cover story entitled “Rethinking Japan,” which appeared in August 1989 at a time of sharp debate in the United States and inside the magazine about whether Japan would open its markets and adopt a more Western-style economic and political model.

The debate was important because Americans wondered whether Japan would use its political and economic model to overwhelm American industries or, instead, would abandon its post-World War II model in favor of a broad opening.

Neff's words on the cover of the magazine seemed remarkably bold at the time: “After years of haggling, the U.S. still runs a \$52 billion annual trade deficit with Japan, and Japanese society remains closed in crucial ways. As a result, a radical shift in U.S. thinking about Japan is under way. This revisionist view holds that Japan really is different and that conventional free trade policies won't work. Once, such views would have been dismissed as ‘Japan-bashing,’ but now they have an intellectual base.”

[Read More](#)

Photo above: Robert C. Neff, left, and Fumiko Sekizawa in Tuscany in 2005. Photo: Urban Lehner

## Welcome New Members

Emily Byrski

Indy Scholtens

Columbia University  
New York  
Student



Columbia University  
Washington, DC  
Active Resident,  
Young (29 and under)



## People by Chad Bouchard

### SCHOLARS

**Noelle Harff**, the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholar Award Winner in 2024, returned home after a fellowship with Reuters in Argentina. In a message to the OPC Foundation in August, she reflected on her experience over the last six months as she began her final semester at the University of North Carolina. “As an economics major, I arrived with a fascination for finance, but exploring economics from Argentina has changed how I see the world,” she said. “Six months ago, the subway fare in Buenos Aires was 67 pesos. Today it’s around 630. From credit to crypto, I was never short on ideas. I was even able to break the news that Argentina won its 16th consecutive continental title during Copa America! Thanks to the OPC Foundation, those ideas turned to bylines.”



**Olivia George**, the Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner in 2022, was named Outstanding New Journalist by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) at its annual Sunshine State Awards presented in a ceremony at the Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center, Hollywood, Florida, on Aug. 17. George covers local government at the Tampa Bay Times, a job she started shortly after graduating from Brown in 2022.



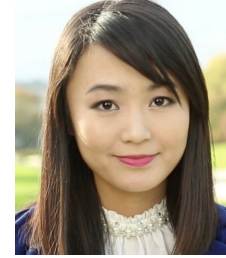
### AWARDS

The Radio Television Digital News Association (RTNDA) has [announced](#) that *20 Days in Mariupol*, a documentary by FRONTLINE (PBS) and The Associated Press that [won](#) this year’s Peter Jennings Award from the OPC, has also won two RTNDA 2024 Edward R. Murrow Awards. OPC Governor **Raney Aronson-Rath**, the executive producer of FRONTLINE (PBS), was part of the team that produced the documentary, with Michelle Mizner, Derl McCrudden and Mstyslav Chernov. Chernov was also part of the team that won the 2022 Hal Boyle Award for AP coverage of Mariupol. The film also [won](#) the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature earlier this year.



Two OPC members were among the finalists [announced in August](#) for the 2024 Loeb Awards. **Karen Ye** is part of an ABC News Studios team that is a finalist in the video category for a piece titled “IMPACT x Nightline: Unboxing SHEIN”. **Vernon Silver** of Bloomberg News was part of a team named as finalist

in the visual storytelling category for “Power Plays.” Winners will be announced at the Loeb Awards banquet and celebration on Oct. 10 at the Rainbow Room in New York.



## UPDATES

OPC Governor **Alexis Okeowo**, a longtime staff writer at The New Yorker, is writing a new memoir slated for publication in August 2025. *Blessings and Disasters: A Story of Alabama*, to be published by Henry Holt & Company, will examine Okeowo’s own history growing up in Montgomery as the child of Nigerian immigrants, weaving memoir with state history and reporting on present-day legislative battles. Okeowo also wrote a longform piece for the New Yorker [on Aug. 26](#) about a cult leader in Kenya. The story follows a doomsday pastor named Paul Mackenzie, who is alleged to have led more than 400 followers in a starvation suicide pact, their bodies later found in mass graves in Kenya's Shakahola Forest. He was arrested in April and along with co-defendants has pleaded not guilty to murder charges.



OPC Governor **Singeli Agnew** [directed](#) a four-part series for PBS that follows high school students across the country as they grapple with critical questions about democracy. The first episode, “Chasing Victory,” premieres on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time on PBS and the next three episodes will air each Tuesday in October at the same time. The series, created by [Retro Report](#), will also stream on Amazon Prime. Agnew and her team spent more than 145 days on the ground with students and teachers across the US over the last year. “While it’s easy to get discouraged about the state of politics in this country, this new generation of voters shows us what it means to be civically engaged *and* civil,” Agnew said. “After decades spent following war and conflict, this was one of the more inspiring projects I’ve been part of.” The Wrap [flagged](#) the series as one of their “60 Most Anticipated Shows of Fall 2024.”



**Brian Byrd**, an OPC Governor, a program officer at the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) and a freelance photographer, recently [wrote](#) an article for Hot Mirror Magazine about Paul McCartney's photo exhibit “Eyes of the Storm.” The exhibit, which ran from May to August 2024 at the Brooklyn Museum, featured images captured by McCartney during The Beatles' rise to global fame in late 1963 and early 1964. In his piece, Byrd, a lifelong Beatles fan, described approaching the exhibit with both excitement and trepidation. He wrote, “To my delight and surprise, McCartney's photographs revealed an even more nuanced and human story than I had hoped.” Byrd was particularly captivated by images depicting quiet, intimate moments with the band’s inner circle of “confidants, protectors and loved ones who formed the Beatles’ inner sanctum during this whirlwind period.” Byrd highlights photography's power to “actively shape perception, memory, and cultural narratives,” and notes how “in the act of





observing, we often become part of the story ourselves, forever altering the narrative we seek to document.” Hot Mirror, the online photo publication where Byrd's article appeared, serves as an educational partner of the BarTur Photo Award. The OPC is collaborating with this award to create new opportunities for OPC member photographers, with a particular focus on supporting freelancers.

OPC member **Stephen Shepard** is publishing a book titled *Salinger's Soul: His Personal & Religious Odyssey*, which examines how J.D. Salinger's private life influenced his famous stories. Shepard writes that Salinger's son, Matt, has been sorting through the unpublished writing his father left behind after his death in 2010. Most of these stories will be released soon, and are heavily influenced by his years in seclusion. *Salinger's Soul* recounts his traumatic experience in World War II, as well as his transition from the Judaism of his youth to his embrace of a mystical form of Hinduism known as Vedanta. The book is available for Kindle and is slated for publication in print on Sept. 10.



A book by OPC member **Adriana Carranca** has been named as a finalist for the Christianity Today Book Awards. *Soul by Soul*, which was discussed at a book talk co-hosted by the OPC at Book Culture [on May 2](#), follows the rise of evangelical Christian missionaries secretly trying to convert Muslims in Kabul. Winners will be announced in December. Carranca will be participating in a series of book events this fall, including a discussion at CUNY on Sept. 17 and an online discussion hosted by New America [on Oct. 9](#). She received the OPC Foundation's 2018 Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone.



## PRESS FREEDOM

To mark the 10-year anniversary of American-Israeli journalist Steven Sotloff's murder by a member of ISIS, Marc Marginedes, a Spanish reporter who was in captivity with Sotloff, [wrote](#) a piece for TIME magazine remembering Sotloff's courage, "humor, and relentless quest for justice, despite the incredible dangers they'd experienced." He said over the six months they were held captive together, he had witnessed "how this young and brilliant journalist, 14 years younger than me, had dealt with the harrowing situation he was put in with serenity, efficiency, honesty, and enormous bravery, becoming an example for me and, very likely, for others." Sotloff was killed on Sept. 2, 2014, just two weeks after American journalist and video reporter James Foley was killed by ISIS. In an opinion piece for The New York Times to mark that anniversary, Diane Foley, James' mother, said on the day of his murder she "felt almost more rage against our government than I did against his killers," adding that it seemed "that Jim was considered collateral damage by our political leaders. The government has claimed that it did all it could to bring Jim home, but I refused to accept what I saw as its inaction." She said since her son's death, she has tried to direct her grief to enable hope and change. "To be moral, we must have courage, and we must speak out about our loved ones captured and wrongfully imprisoned overseas."

Reuters safety adviser Ryan Evans was [killed](#) in a strike on a hotel in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk on Aug. 25. Two of the agency's journalists were treated in a hospital, and one of them was seriously injured. Evans, a

former British soldier, advised journalists on safety around the world, including in Ukraine, Israel and at the Paris Olympics. He was 38.

People Column

## New Resources

### RESOURCES

**Muck Rack** has launched a new job board for journalists to find curated postings from top media job boards and associations. Hiring managers can also submit open positions for consideration. [Explore the job board here.](#)

**VPN Mentor** has posted an **Online Privacy Guide for Journalists 2024**, with tips for secure applications, using devices that are isolated from remote access, and protecting private information of sources, among many others. [Read more here.](#)

**Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** has published a tipsheet for journalists and students who want to learn more about in-depth investigative techniques and data journalism. The roundup of advice includes items on looking for stories, ethics, specialization, networking and finding funding sources. [Read more here.](#)

The **Committee to Protect Journalists' (CPJ)** Emergencies team has launched a new chat-based safety initiative on WhatsApp to access the organization's physical, digital, and psychosocial Journalist Safety resources. Add CPJ's chatbot using the number **+1 206-590-6191**, and text the number "Hello." You can then select from a menu of journalist safety resources. [Read more here.](#) CPJ is also calling for feedback on the app with [a survey here.](#)

A **ProPublica** reporting team has shared tips with the **Journalist's Resource** organization about their yearlong investigation into power, money, access and ethics on the U.S. Supreme Court. [Read the tipsheet here.](#)

### TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Sept. 12, **The Associated Press** will host a discussion on how artificial intelligence is reshaping local political landscapes. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept. 19, the nonprofit organization **Reporters Shield** will participate in webinar with **GIJN** about its efforts to defend investigative newsrooms against legal intimidation. The project is designed to counter the financial and time costs of so-called SLAPPs, or strategic lawsuits against public participation, which the organization says "bad actors increasingly use to muzzle investigative stories or even ruin critical newsrooms." [Read more and register here.](#)

**The Foreign Press Association (FPA)** has posted video clips and a recap of a July book launch with Ali Velshi of CNN, who discussed his new book, *Small Acts of Courage*. The book explores Velshi's extended family history in India,

including ties with Gandhi in the struggle for civil rights for Indian subjects in South Africa. In recognition of Velshi's exemplary journalism and his book the FPA presented him with its "Sharp Pen Award" at the event. [Read more and watch video clips here.](#)

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Fetisov Journalism Awards**, which honor international journalists from around the world, are open for nominations. Entries must have been published between June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024 and be translated into English. Self-nominations are also accepted. The deadline to apply is Sept. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Journalists and visual artists can apply for a residency program, the **MacDowell Colony**, in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The program provides time and space for journalists to work on long-form projects. The next residency will take place March 1, 2025 to Aug. 31, 2025. A stipend, funding for transportation and more will be provided. The deadline to apply is Sept. 10. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **Alicia Patterson Fellowship** is calling for applications. The program is open only to U.S. citizens who are full-time print journalists, or to non-U.S. citizens who work fulltime for U.S. print publications, either in America or abroad. Freelancers are welcome to apply. The deadline to apply is Oct. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **McGraw Center for Business Journalism** is 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 **Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE)** is accepting Applications for their 2025 Journalism Fellowship. The program is an intensive, two-week study program in professional ethics and ethical leadership. FASPE is neither a Holocaust studies course, nor a genocide prevention program. Rather, the curriculum is designed to challenge Fellows to critically examine constructs, current developments and issues that raise ethical concerns in their professions in contemporary settings in which they work. The deadline to apply is Jan. 2, 2025. [Read more and apply here.](#)

## More Resources

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at [chad@opcofamerica.org](mailto:chad@opcofamerica.org).

OPC Resources Page



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