



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Jan. 23, 2025



Hello Chad,

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin, the first of 2025. This month, take a look at upcoming events including a panel on covering political turmoil in South Korea [on Jan. 29](#) and the OPC Foundation's evening reception to honor this year's scholars [on March 5](#). We have a recap of a book night [on Jan. 8](#) with OPC member Alice Driver to discuss *Life and Death of the American Worker*, and information about a [new grant](#) for photojournalists. Plus, read updates on OPC community members in the People column, new resources, programs and opportunities for journalists.

Please note that the deadline to submit entries for the next OPC Annual Awards [is Jan. 31](#). Individual tickets to the April 17 dinner [are on sale now](#).




Overseas Press Club
of America

We are now accepting applications.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Honoring the Best in International Journalism

Annual Awards

Enter online
www.opcofamerica.org

Annual awards for INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE in Newspapers, News Services, Newsletters, Digital, Magazines, Radio, Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons, Books and Photography.

ELIGIBILITY: Work must be published or broadcast in the U.S. or by a U.S.-based company or be accessible to an American audience for the first time during 2023 with reporting primarily outside the U.S.

Eligibility Period:
January 1, 2024 -
December 31, 2024

General Deadline:
January 31, 2025
Cornelius Ryan Book Award Deadline:
January 8, 2025
Awards Dinner:
April 17, 2025
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

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

Click on the button below to read more and submit entries, or share the link to

help the OPC spread the word on social media.

Submit Entries

Alice Driver Investigates Hazards for Workers in Meatpacking Industry

by Chad Bouchard

When OPC member Alice Driver started reporting on the effects of Covid on the meatpacking industry in her home state of Arkansas in 2020, she had no plans to turn it into a book. She initially secured funding from the National Geographic Society and the Economic Hardship Reporting Project to write a single article in the Arkansas Times newspaper.

“And then as the pandemic progressed, some of the meatpacking workers who I’d started following began to die of Covid,” she said during an OPC discussion about her resulting book, *Life and Death of the American Worker*, on Jan. 8.

To tell the full story, she felt she had to go back to a deadly chemical accident in 2011 at a Tyson processing plant, an incident the company swiftly covered up, that left many workers with long-term damage to their lungs, and more vulnerable to the virus nearly a decade later.

“It was for me a way to connect the horrors of the Covid time period with earlier issues with safety at Tyson,” she said. “A lot of it has to do with how they’re managing training and translation. Imagine having workers who speak 20 or 30 different languages in one plant. In this case, the chemicals, when mixed, produced a weapons-grade agent that harmed a lot of workers.”

The book was published in September last year and earned “Best Book of 2024” accolades from *The New Yorker* and *The Conversation*.

Yaffa Fredrick, Senior Director of Investigations at *The Houston Chronicle*, moderated. Fredrick served as one of Driver’s first editors at CNN when the two met nearly a decade ago.

[The book is available to purchase here.](#)

Read the Full Recap



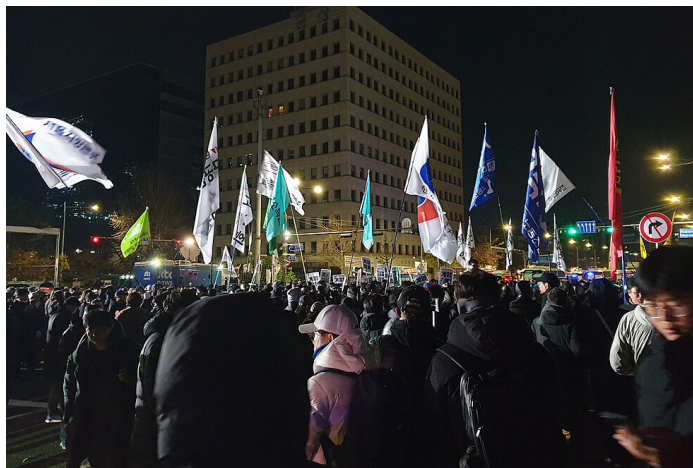
Upcoming Events

Jan. 29: In the Thick of It – South Korea

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

South Korea was thrust into political turmoil by a surprise declaration of martial law that was swiftly voted down as thousands turned out to protest President Yoon Suk Yeol. Now impeached and detained, Yoon and other senior officials are being investigated on possible charges of insurrection, abuse of authority and obstructing people from exercising their rights.



Join journalists who have been on the ground in Seoul to learn more about the challenges of covering the story, the protests, the impeachment process and where South Korea goes from here.

Max Kim is the Los Angeles Times correspondent in Seoul. He has written from the area for The Atlantic, The New Yorker, MIT Technology Review and other publications and helped to produce news documentaries for Vice News and the BBC. Kim grew up in Seoul and Princeton, N.J., and graduated from the University of Buffalo with a degree in English and comparative literature.

Chang W. Lee is a photographer for The New York Times, based in Seoul. He was part of the Times staff that won two Pulitzer Prizes in 2002, for breaking news photography coverage of the Sept. 11 attack and for feature photography

in Afghanistan and Pakistan. A South Korean, Lee has been a staff photographer at the New York Times since 1994.

Ju-min Park is a Reuters correspondent based in Seoul. She has covered the Korean peninsula since 2012, the same year Kim Jong Un took power in North Korea, and also been based as a senior correspondent in Tokyo, reporting on the pandemic-hit Tokyo Olympics, and the surprise resignation and assassination of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Ju-min graduated from Yonsei University with a degree in journalism.

Moderator:

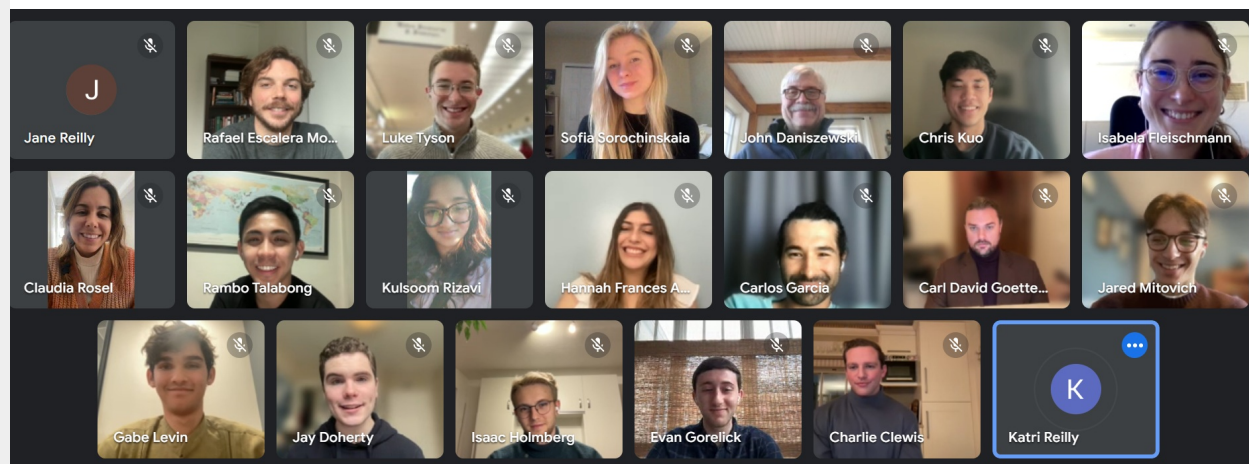
Alan Zarembo is the foreign and national editor for the Los Angeles Times. He has also been a projects and investigative reporter with a focus on medicine, science and the military. Prior to joining The Times in 2003, he was the Mexico City bureau chief for Newsweek magazine and a freelance journalist based in central Africa.

RSVP Now

Photo above - Protesters gather after South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law in December, 2024. Photo: Hashflu, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



March 5: The Overseas Press Club Foundation 2025 Scholar Awards



Time: 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Salesforce Tower, 1095 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Ave. New York

The Overseas Press Club Foundation is delighted to invite you to the 34th Annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards.

Join the foundation for an evening reception at the Salesforce Tower to celebrate the 18 journalists chosen by judges as among the best of their generation.

We are certain you will be impressed and encouraged by their talent, passion

and drive during these exceptionally trying times for all of journalism.

RSVP Now



April 17: OPC Annual Awards Dinner



ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Network with Leading Global Journalists

April 17, 2025 | Cipriani, 25 Broadway, New York City

Main reception **6pm** | Dinner and program **7pm** | VIP reception **5:30pm**

Date: April 17, 2025

Place: Cipriani, 25 Broadway in New York City.

The Overseas Press Club is excited to announce that its 86th anniversary awards dinner will take place on April 17th at Cipriani, 25 Broadway in New York City.

Individual tickets [are on sale now](#).

For more information, contact OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz at patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Major Photography Grant Launches for Documentary Projects

by Brian Byrd

Overseas Press Club photographers face growing challenges in funding documentary projects. The publishing landscape's

upheaval has led many newspapers and magazines to downsize or close entirely, severely impacting photojournalists who rely on these outlets to support their in-depth investigative work.

The Cortona on The Move festival and BarTur Photo Award have launched a \$40,000 grant program for photojournalists documenting critical global issues. The initiative offers a \$30,000 grant and two \$5,000 grants for emerging photographers under 30. Winners receive nine months to complete their projects before exhibiting at the 2026 festival in Cortona, Italy.



A distinguished jury including Kate Bubacz (WSJ), François Hébel (ICP), and Fiona Shields (The Guardian) will select projects addressing pressing social, environmental, economic and cultural challenges.

Applicants should submit their biography, CV, project summary, proposal, and budget through Picter by April 17, 2025. For OPC members, this grant combines substantial funding with international exposure at one of Europe's leading photography festivals.

For more information: <https://www.barturphotoaward.org> or contact Brian Byrd at bibyrdi@proton.me.

Read on the OPC Website

People Remembered: Peter Yarrow

by Chad Bouchard

Peter Yarrow, renowned singer from the folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary who spoke and played music at two OPC events in past years, died on Jan. 7 at his home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan at the age of 86.

Yarrow participated in an OPC event [in March 2011](#) about women in media in the Middle East, with Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Editor-in-Chief of The Yemen Times and Felice Friedson of Media Line Ltd., a group based in Jerusalem. Yarrow, who served on the board of Media Line, opened the evening with a performance with his daughter, Bethany and cellist Rufus Cappadocia.



Yarrow participated in an OPC event again [in June 2017](#), this time with a focus on the link between policy and journalism. Friedson spoke with Shirley and Arthur Sotloff, whose son Steven was murdered by ISIS in 2014, among other guests.



Yarrow spoke about the muddled landscape of digital media, disinformation, and political disdain for journalists.

“Something is happening in [President Donald Trump’s] administration that is so fascinating and so mesmerizing that the substance of what is going on and the context is obscured,” he said. “It’s increasingly difficult for the ordinary citizen to have the raw material to make decisions, and to resonate in their hearts what it is that’s being shared so that they come to a conclusion. We can’t have a democracy unless people can synthesize information.”

Photo above, top: Peter Yarrow performs at an OPC event in 2017. Photo by Gregory Partanio

Photo above, bottom, from left to right: OPC Past President Allan Dodds Frank, Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Felice Friedson, Peter Yarrow and David Andelman, OPC President at the time. Photo by Sonya Fry

OPC Joins 24 Groups Calling for Sri Lankan President to Uphold Press Freedom

The OPC joined 24 civil society organizations on Jan. 13 in urging recently elected Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to uphold press freedom. Read the excerpt below or click on the blue button to read the full letter on the OPC website.

Dear President Dissanayake,

Congratulations on your recent election as president of Sri Lanka. We, the undersigned 25 civil society organizations, are writing to respectfully urge your leadership to ensure that Sri Lanka upholds press freedom and the right to freedom of expression, which are protected by the country’s constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Sri Lanka is a state party.

We welcome the expressed commitment of the National People’s Power to uphold media freedom and pursue accountability for past crimes against journalists, as outlined in the coalition’s election manifesto.

[Read the full letter here](#)

Welcome New Members

Jessica Craig

Fellow
Vox Media
Jacksonville, NC
Active Non-Resident, Young (30-34)

Sofia Fani Gutman

Freelance Photographer
Tel Aviv
Active Overseas, Young
(29 or under)



People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Michael Wakin, the Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner in 2024, is currently working toward his PhD in International Relations at St. Antony's College, Oxford. He is a Senior Editor for Global Politics at the Oxford Political Review; also working as an editorial assistant at Perspectives on Politics, an academic journal. In a [recent piece](#) Wakin wrote for the Oxford Political Review, he talked with Richard Haass, who is the president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations. Wakin recently completed his OPC Foundation fellowship at the Dubai bureau of The Associated Press.



Genevieve Finn, the 2020 Richard Pyle Scholarship winner, started as an assistant editor at The Atlantic this month. She will primarily be fact-checking for the print magazine, but also in the newsroom and on podcasts. Prior to her new role at The Atlantic, she fact-checked at Harper's and n+1, a print and digital magazine. Finn had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Mexico City.



Meghan Sullivan, the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Fellowship winner in 2020, was among five veteran journalists [named](#) as the latest recipients of the McGraw Fellowship for Business Journalism. Each of the winning projects will receive a grant of up to \$15,000. The McGraw Fellowships, an initiative of the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Center for Business Journalism at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York, were created in 2014 to support in-depth stories that "follow the money." A freelance investigative journalist based between Alaska and Washington D.C., Sullivan will report on fraud schemes that target tribal corporations.



Isabel DeBre, the Stan Swinton Fellowship winner in 2018, has [started](#) a new role as The Associated Press' senior correspondent for the Southern Cone based in Buenos Aires, covering Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Before relocating to South America this past spring, she worked for more than five years in the Middle East, most recently as an AP reporter for Gaza and the West Bank covering the Israel-Hamas war. Prior to Jerusalem, she



worked as a correspondent in AP's Cairo and Dubai bureaus, where she covered Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Iran and the Gulf.

UPDATES

OPC member **Lucy Sherriff**, a freelancer based in Los Angeles, [has been writing](#) about her displacement and recovery from the Pacific Palisades fire that destroyed her home. She relocated to Oregon and Washington to stay with friends in the days following the fires, and has been working through filing for renter's insurance and other tasks. She wrote in a Jan. 22 article for The Story Exchange that "Trying to find the mental space to complete mundane, tedious admin tasks whilst holding emotional space to process the trauma of what you've just been through is a difficult juggle to say the least." In a piece just one week after the fires, titled "What It's Been Like to Be Pregnant and (Now) Homeless in LA," she lead with an abbreviated list of lost items: "Decades of journals, my partner Maurice's artwork ... Hard drives with years of documentary filming and photography. A small drawer I'd cleared out, empty save for a tiny onesie — our unborn baby's first piece of clothing. I could go on, and on, and on." Sherriff has discussed the fires for many outlets, including [BBC](#) and [New York Magazine](#).



The Institute for Democracy, Journalism and Citizenship (IDJC) has [announced](#) that OPC Governor **Josh Fine**, an investigative reporter and producer, will be one of its two inaugural fellows for its newly launched IDJC Visiting Fellows program. The program provides workspace for fellows at its Washington, D.C. headquarters, and a stipend for travel and projects. In a release, Fine said he plans to explore better ways to fund investigative sports journalism. "As the journalism industry changes, it's critical that accountability-based sports journalism endures."



OPC member **Astrid Landon** published a story with Prospect Magazine, published [on Jan. 11](#), about sexual assistance, a controversial practice in France. Sexual assistants, also called surrogates, are paid to provide intimate support to persons with disabilities, allowing them to experience sexual pleasure and connection. The story explores this issue through the case of APPAS, a French association which trains surrogates and connects them with clients. Reporting for this piece was supported by the International Women's Media Foundation's Kim Wall Memorial Fund.

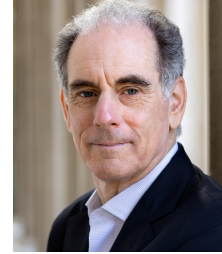


OPC member **Michael Kay** has launched a new weekly show on BBC News titled The Security Brief. In an episode that aired [in December](#), he covered a UK announcement of a new £225 million package of military support for Ukraine. Kay is a former assault helicopter pilot with the British Armed Forces. In the segment, he took viewers behind the scenes of Operation Interflex, the world's largest overseas training program for Ukrainian troops.



Mark Clifford, an OPC member and author, [published](#) a new

book in December. The book, titled *The Troublemaker: How Jimmy Lai Became a Billionaire, Hong Kong's Greatest Dissident, and China's Most Feared Critic*, chronicles Jimmy Lei's life as an activist and events surrounding the raid on pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily in 2020. Clifford was a director at Apple Daily when its journalists were jailed and the paper shut down by the government in 2021. Clifford participated in an OPC book night in [February 2022](#) to discuss a previous book, *Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow the World*. He is scheduled to speak to the Asia Society [on Feb. 19](#) to discuss *The Troublemaker*.



People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has published a safety guide for journalists covering wildfires in Southern California. The tipsheet includes preparation, best practices while on location, and driving and equipment. [Read the guide here.](#)

Poynter has posted an article outlining six ways to prepare for Trump's second term in light of past antagonism toward journalists. Tips include how to focus, find story leads, prepare legal defenses, build support systems, and pace your coverage. [Read the article here.](#)

The International Journalists' Network (IJNet)'s weekly newsletter delivers resources and opportunities for journalists in eight languages. The resource has more than 112,000 subscribers and includes practical information and real professional advice. [Subscribe here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Jan. 27, the **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** will host a webinar on how to acquire free satellite imagery for investigations. The program will include three journalists who have used satellite data in their work. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Jan. 28, **Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE)** will host a webinar on disinformation takeaways from the 2024 U.S. elections and starting points for future investigative reporting. The session will be presented by Factchequeado, a fact-checking organization in the U.S. focused on information in Spanish. [Read more and sign up here.](#)

On Feb, 4, **IRE** will host a webinar on how to make the most of mentor-mentee relationships. Speakers will be Diana Fuentes, IRE's executive director, and Josh Hinkle of KXAN-TV in Austin, Texas. [Read more and register here.](#)

The **Foreign Press Association (FPA)** has posted a recording of its program

on Georgia's fight for independence from Moscow. FPA president and OPC member Ian Williams interviewed Tinatin Japaridze, geopolitical risk analyst for Eurasia Group' specializing in security and politics. [Watch the program here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are open for the **Tarbell Fellowship**, a one-year program for early-career journalists interested in covering artificial intelligence. Information sessions are scheduled for Jan. 29 and Feb. 12. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for **Nieman Fellowships** for U.S. citizens. Candidates for academic-year fellowships must submit two essays; a professional profile and study plan summary; work samples and three letters of recommendation. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Reuters Issam Abdallah Visual Journalist Fellowship** for early-career visual journalists. This year-long, paid fellowship, based in the Reuters Dubai bureau, offers "a unique opportunity for a talented visual journalist (with up to five years of experience) to immerse themselves in impactful news reporting across the region." The deadline to apply is Feb. 2. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Report for America (RFA) is calling for applications to become an RFA Corps Member. The two-year program, with an optional third year, helps local newsrooms report on under-covered issues and communities by placing journalists at news outlets throughout the country. The deadline to apply is Feb. 3, with references due by Feb. 10. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is calling for applications for the **Edward R. Murrow Press Fellowship** for a foreign correspondent or editor. The fellow spends ten months full-time in residence at CFR's headquarters in New York. The deadline to apply is March 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Cortona On The Move | BarTur Grant supported by the Visual Storytellers Fund, provides grants and resources to support the creation of compelling documentary photo essays that address urgent social, environmental, economic, and cultural issues. Read more about the grant above. The deadline to apply is April 17. [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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