



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin April 25, 2025



Hello Chad,

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin, which features our annual roundup of videos and photos from this year's OPC Annual Awards. Scroll down for links to slideshows and video clips, as well as previews for three upcoming events:

- A book night with two journalists who will discuss their memoirs of working in Russia [on May 1](#).
- A panel on alternative publishing platforms for freelancers [on May 6](#).
- A book night with Guillaume Bonn to discuss *Paradise Inc.* [on June 3](#).

Plus, download a copy of this year's [Dateline magazine](#), catch up on updates for OPC community members in the People column, and find new resources, digital tools, programs and opportunities for journalists.



PHOTOS & VIDEO: OPC Annual Awards

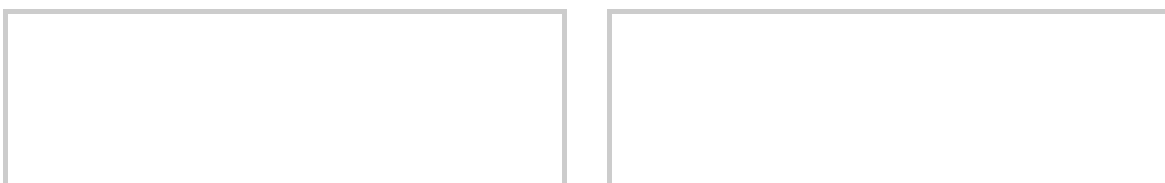
Click the blue button below to see a page of photos and videos from the OPC's 85th Annual Awards Dinner.

[Read a recap of the evening by Jack Stone Truitt here](#)

[Click here to see the list of this year's recipients of Citations for Excellence](#)

Watch Videos and See Photos from the Annual Awards Dinner

Photos from our Awards Dinner slide show:





New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof delivered the keynote speech at the OPC Annual Awards Dinner..



OPC President Scott Kraft, OPC Past President Allan Dodds Frank, Ghazi Balkiz, OPC Awards Head Judge John Daniszewski, OPC Past President William J. Holstein, OPC Treasurer Deborah Amos, and OPC Past President Marcus Mabry.



Photojournalist Lynsey Addario, recipient of this year's President's Award, on the right, sits with OPC President Scott Kraft, OPC Vice President Sandra Stevenson and OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz.



OPC Governor John Simons, Rowena De Silva and Joe Dyke.



Charles Forelle, deputy editor of The Wall Street Journal, talks about the release and return last year of Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich before the annual



Julie Pace, executive editor of The Associated Press, lighting the Press Freedom Candle.

lighting of the Press Freedom
Candle.



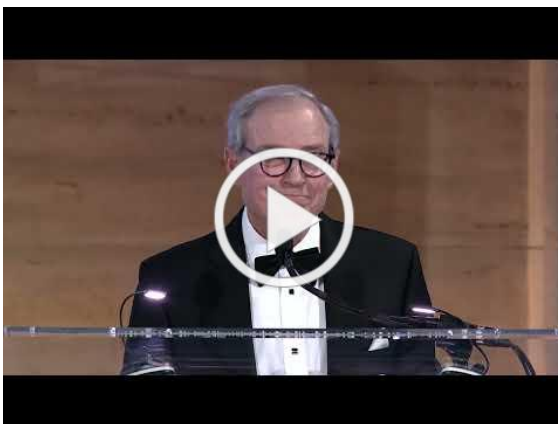
OPC Governor Mary Rajkumar,
OPC Vice President Deborah
Amos and OPC Treasurer
Marjorie Miller.



Guests gather at a cocktail
reception sponsored by
Bloomberg following the awards
celebration.

Photos: ©Jennifer S. Altman

Videos linked on our Awards Dinner page:



Opening Remarks OPC President
Scott Kraft



Keynote Speech: Nicholas Kristof
New York Times Columnist



The OPC President's Award
Lynsey Addario
Award-winning Photojournalist



**Lighting of the Press Freedom
Candle**

Charles Forelle

Deputy Editor of The Wall Street
Journal

and

Julie Pace
Executive Editor of The
Associated Press

Click the window below to watch the whole awards program in its entirety.



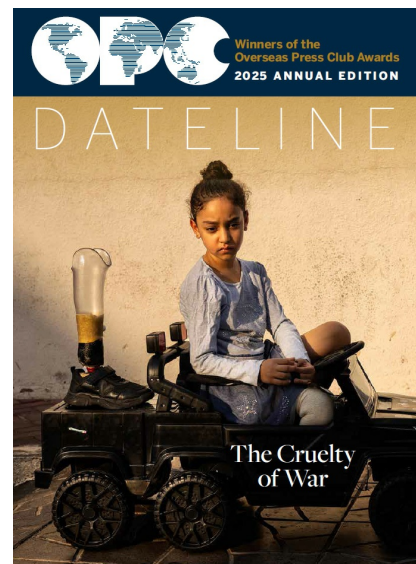
Dateline Magazine

This year's Dateline magazine, an annual magazine the OPC publishes in conjunction with the awards, is available to view or download as a PDF.

Click the image on the right to open a copy directly, or click the blue button below to browse past issues, including this year's.

The 2025 issue includes information about all of the year's award winners and winning photos, a letter from OPC President Scott Kraft, and more.

If you wish to receive a hard copy of Dateline, email patricia@opcofamerica.org.



Upcoming Events

May 1: Book Night – Russian Memoirs by Jill Dougherty and Marvin Kalb

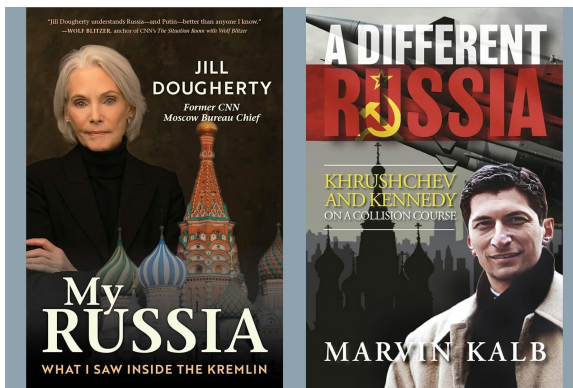
Time: 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Take a break on May Day to hear two journalists discuss their memoirs of working in Russia.

Jill Dougherty's *My Russia* is a memoir detailing her 50-plus years working and studying in Russia.

Although Jill is best known for being the former CNN Moscow Bureau Chief and its current Russia expert, she's been in and out of Russia since 1969. The book covers modern Russian history – particularly the life of Russian President Vladimir Putin – as well as Jill's personal history.



Marvin Kalb's *A Different Russia* is the third of his three memoirs, detailing his work in Russia from the late 1950s into the early 1960s. The book covers Kalb's work as the CBS Moscow correspondent, covering Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and in particular, the Cuban Missile Crisis. The book is based on extensive records from Kalb's time in Moscow, including all the scripts he wrote for CBS and copies of all the letters he and his wife wrote and received during their time in Russia. Kalb draws many comparisons between the Russia of Khrushchev and the Russia of Vladimir Putin.

OPC Governor **Beth Knobel**, an associate professor at Fordham University who spent 14 years working as a journalist based in Russia, most of it as Moscow Bureau Chief for CBS News, will moderate.

[RSVP Now](#)



May 6: Alternative Media Options for Freelancers

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Journalists are looking for – and creating – new platforms to connect directly with the

public or to showcase their work to news organizations. OPC Past President David A. Andelman, a former correspondent for The New York Times and CNN commentator who now publishes Andelman Unleashed on Substack, will moderate a discussion about some new options.



Panelists are:

Laura Bassett has reported on reproductive rights abroad, and after being laid off as the EIC of Jezebel, started a now-popular Substack on politics:

<https://www.laura-bassett.com/>

Jane Ferguson is the founder and CEO of Noosphere, a monetization platform for journalists. Ferguson is also a journalist and has worked as a foreign correspondent for PBS NewsHour and others. Ferguson spent 14 years in the Middle East, based in Dubai, Kabul, and Beirut.

Adriana Teresa Letorney is the co-founder of [Visura.co](https://visura.co), a global platform for visual journalists and storytellers to connect with a global network and license their images directly to buyers.

RSVP Now

Photo above by Fredericknoronha, [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/), via Wikimedia Commons



June 3: Book Night – Guillaume Bonn's 'Paradise Inc.'

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Please join the Overseas Press Club for another edition of our book night series.

New York Times Managing Editor and OPC governor **Marc Lacey** will moderate a conversation with photojournalist **Guillaume Bonn** about his new book, *Paradise Inc.*, which focuses on environmental conservation issues as climate change and other human activities transform the planet. The book is a compilation of Bonn's twenty-year effort to visually document the vulnerable East African wilderness



Welcome New Members

Mohammad Imon Kazi
Editor
The Asia Times
Company Ltd.
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Active Overseas,
Young (30 to 34)



Pau Torres Pagès
New York University
New York
Student



Natascha Tahabsem
Freelance
Photojournalist
ZUMA Press/COVER
Images
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident, Young (29 and under)



Sofia Tomacruz
Caucasus Regional
Correspondent
Eurasianet
Tbilisi
Active Overseas,
Young (29 and under)



People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Jared Mitovich, winner of the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship this year, after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in May, will [join](#) The Wall Street Journal as a full-time news associate based in New York this fall. He will join **Christopher Kuo**, the 2025 Seymour and Audrey Topping Scholarship winner, who has also been announced as news associate for the Journal. Both will start there in September.



Rafael Escalera Montoto, winner of the 2025 Jerry Flint Fellowship for International Business Reporting, is currently in Mexico City for his OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters. He already landed a byline [on April 10](#) in a piece co-written with colleague Anthony Esposito about the Bank of Mexico's reaction to President Donald Trump's tariffs, which board members said would add uncertainty to inflation forecasts, and a greater possibility of a further exchange rate depreciation and economic weakening.



Three OPC Foundation scholars are among the New York Times 2025 fellows. **Kailyn Rhone**, the 2023 Reuters Fellowship winner, **Sonia Rao**, the 2024 Freedman Scholarship winner, and **Simar Bajaj**, the 2024 winner of The



Harper's Magazine Scholarship in memory of I.F. Stone, have been selected for the Times' one-year Fellowship program starting in June. Rhone will be the paper's business fellow, Rao will report from the National Desk about disability issues in America, and Bajaj will focus on health reporting.

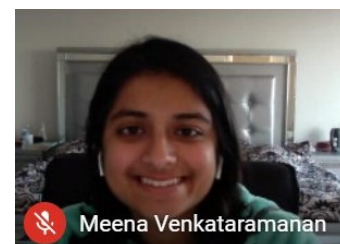
Carlos Garcia, the 2025 Harper's Magazine Scholarship winner, has been hired by The Wall Street Journal as a production assistant on its daily podcast "The Journal." An audio producer focused on business reporting, he has been covering how U.S. migration affects the economy, a theme he also reported on for NPR.



Kate Selig, winner of the 2024 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholar Award, has been selected as a reporting fellow for the 2025 Journalism Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). FASPE annually grants up to 90 fellowships to graduate students and early-career professionals in the fields of Journalism, Business, Clergy, Design & Technology, Law, and Medicine. Fellows participate in a two-week program in Germany and Poland. Selig is a reporting fellow on the National Desk at The New York Times, where she covers breaking news with a focus on extreme weather and climate.



Meena Venkataramanan, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2021, wrote a review for The Washington Post [on April 12](#) on *Searches: Selfhood in the Digital Age* by Vauhini Vara. In the book, Vara collaborated with a chatbot to write essays on digital technology, surveillance capitalism and her family's immigrant experience. "Across 16 chapters, Vara journeys through the evolution of the internet, ethical quandaries surrounding AI, and her own life with her characteristically piercing, yet unadorned prose," Venkataramanan wrote. Venkataramanan also wrote a piece for the Public Books site [on April 17](#) about a neighborhood of London known as Banglatown, or Brick Lane, and its multicultural history as a refuge for Huguenots, Jews, and Bangladeshis.



UPDATES

OPC Vice President **Sandra Stevenson** joined Education Week as managing editor, overseeing visuals and immersive experiences [in February](#). She previously was deputy director of photography at The Washington Post, where she managed a team of photo editors covering international, climate and health news. Over her career of more than two decades she was



associate director of photography at CNN, assistant photo editor and picture editor at The New York Times. At the Times, she supervised digital photo editors on the news desk and contributed to the "[Race/Related](#)" newsletter and projects such as "[Gender](#)," "[This Is 18](#)," and "[Overlooked](#)." In a welcome message Beth Frerking, editor-in-chief of Education Week, said staff was excited about "leveraging Sandra's creativity, her strong journalism chops, and her dedication to mentoring and helping guide colleagues' career growth. And we welcome – especially in these busy times – what several colleagues described as Sandra's preternatural ability to stay calm under pressure." Separately, Stevenson spoke and presented her work at the Women Street Photographers Festival [on April 12](#), in a presentation titled "Beyond the Frame: Developing Photo Projects that Get Published."

OPC member **Steve Herman**, chief national correspondent for Voice of America, wrote a piece for the [April-May issue](#) of the Foreign Service Journal on the silencing of colleagues and "de facto destruction" of the international news service. He called efforts to silence the VOA "nothing less than a betrayal of the ideals that gave birth to the institution and made it relevant throughout World War II, the Cold War and the decades after the collapse of the Berlin Wall." [On April 22](#), a federal judge blocked the Trump administration's effort to scuttle the news service, and ordered that VOA journalists be allowed to resume their jobs.



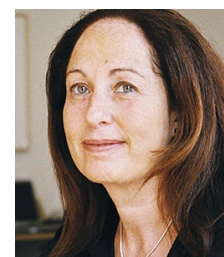
OPC Governor **Marc Lacey**, managing editor of The New York Times, will participate in the paper's Well Festival [on May 7](#). The day-long event highlights reporting on health and wellness topics, and features mainstage interviews between Times journalists and health industry experts.



OPC member **Ali Velshi**, host and chief correspondent for MSNBC, has been working on a book that is slated to come out later this year. Recent website biographies about Velshi promoting speaking engagements have [stated](#) his book, *Open Space: How The Second Great Space Race Will Shape Our Future*, to be published by Knopf, will explore the implications of the new space race, focusing on its economic and military benefits. Velshi is author of *Gimme My Money Back* and co-author with Christine Romans of *How to Speak Money*. His most recent book, *Small Acts of Courage: A Legacy of Endurance and the Fight for Democracy*, was [published](#) by St. Martin's Press in May last year.



OPC member **Vivienne Walt** wrote a profile [on April 16](#) for TIME magazine about Duma Boko, who was elected President of Botswana in what she called a "seismic election upset" in October last year. She wrote that the 55-year-old Harvard-trained lawyer ousted the party that had ruled for nearly six decades since its independence from the United Kingdom. Walt said voter frustration with political corruption and flagging global diamond prices set the stage for his victory. Her profile was part of a TIME roundup of "100 Most Influential People of 2025." Walt writes for TIME and FORTUNE from Paris.



Dana Thomas, an OPC member and freelancer based in Paris, reported for The New York Times in article published digitally [on March 25](#) that appeared in print on April 1, about an exhibition at the Louvre-Lens in France that examines the relationship between art and fashion, including artists' clothing and what they illustrate about their place in society. "The Art of Dressing: Dressing Like an Artist" features 200 artworks and fashion items and runs through July 21. Thomas wrote that the show explores clothing and gender identity, with pieces on writer George Sand and Andy Warhol, as well as pieces from Louise Abbéma and Georges Achille-Fould's "shocking" 1893 portrait of her mentor, Rosa Bonheur wearing brown pants and a smock.



OPC member **Keith Richburg** wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post [on April 7](#) about President Donald Trump's use of name changes as a political tool, and how the move has apparently empowered other conservative global leaders to follow suit. He said Trump's executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America" and the stripping of Alaska's Indigenous name of Denali as Mount McKinley, echoes the conservative Australian opposition leader Peter Dutton's promises to remove Aboriginal names at Australian military bases, and a movement in New Zealand's Parliament to ban the use of the country's Indigenous Māori name, Aotearoa. "Trump seems to enjoy the name game, and he's inspiring fellow autocrats and would-be autocrats to join in," Richburg wrote.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Richard Bernstein, an author and former correspondent for TIME and The New York Times who attended and spoke at many OPC events and shared expertise on Asia and Europe, died [on March 31](#) in New York at the age of 80. Bernstein started writing about Asia for TIME magazine in 1973, and opened the magazine's first bureau in China as Beijing bureau chief in 1979. He started working at the Times in 1982, and during his tenure there he served as bureau chief for the United Nations, Paris and Berlin, and as national cultural correspondent and book critic. In an OPC program that gathered Hong Kong correspondents in [December 2018](#), Bernstein expressed nostalgia for his years there, saying Westerners who became journalists after studying Mandarin and China at the time formed a fellowship of "China watchers," adding that "it never stopped thrilling me to just be in this place." A recap and video of a 2018 panel on the future of Taiwan that he participated in is available [here](#).



People Column

New Resources

MUCK RACK

Muck Rack is calling for journalists to participate in its annual State of

Journalism survey. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and covers “what’s working, what’s changing and what challenges lie ahead.” Respondents can choose to remain anonymous. Participants receive early access to the final report. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The International Symposium on Online Journalism (ISOJ) led a workshop in late March to guide journalists on how to leverage Google’s artificial intelligence tools for more efficient reporting. Iain Christie, trainer for the Google News Initiative, led the workshop at the University of Texas at Austin. The program included briefings on Google Lens, Google Maps, Gmail, AI Overviews, Gemini, Fact Check Explorer, NotebookLM, Pinpoint and News Consumer Insights. [Read a recap of the program with links to the mentioned tools here](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The International Press Institute (IPI) and **International Media Support (IMS)** are calling for nominations for this year’s World Press Freedom Hero Award and Free Media Pioneer Award. Both awards will be presented during a ceremony at IPI’s 2025 World Congress from Oct. 23 to 25 in Vienna. The deadline for nominations is April 30. [Read more and make nominations here](#)

The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) and **Indigenous Journalists Association** are accepting applications for the 2025 Pacific Islander Journalism Scholarship. Up to two scholarships of \$5,000 each will be awarded this year. The scholarship is open to aspiring journalists and students of Pacific Indigenous backgrounds. The deadline to apply is May 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Incubator for Media Education and Development (iMEdD) is launching a newsroom of young journalists in Greece and is searching for the “next generation of reporters who will shape the future of independent journalism.” The program starts January 2026. Recent graduates or final year college students can apply by July 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Nova Media Fellowship program is calling for applications for its 2025 Scholars and Fellows program. The project supports “outstanding print, digital, and/or broadcast journalists and nonprofit newsrooms who are reporting on the complex, intertwined factors that affect health and well-being.” The deadline to apply is May 19. [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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