



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Dec. 6, 2025



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin. This newsletter features recaps of two recent film screenings and conversations, along with insights from a digital security training tailored for reporters working abroad. You'll also find highlights from a Book Night examining China's one-child policy through one family's story.

Look ahead to our upcoming events at the American Library in Paris on Dec. 10 and our "How I Did It" series returns with correspondent Yusra Elbagir on Dec. 15.

As always, read OPC member news in the People Column, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.

Happy Holidays!

Please note that submissions for the OPC Annual Awards are open.



 **Honoring the Best in International Journalism**

We are now accepting applications.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

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 Period:
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

General Deadline:
January 30, 2026

Cornelius Ryan Book Award Deadline:
January 9, 2026

Awards Dinner:
April 20, 2026
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

We are **NOW** accepting applications for 22 awards.

Submit your entries <https://overseaspressclubofamerica.submittable.com/submit>

General Deadline is **January 30**.

Cornelius Ryan Book Award deadline is **January 9**.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 10: American Library in Paris – This Year in Review

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

Place: Online and at the American Library in Paris, 10, rue du Général Camou

The American Library in Paris and the Overseas Press Club of America will jointly present a hybrid panel discussion bringing together seasoned journalists.



Sign up to attend in person or to get the Zoom link [here](#).

From political upheaval in France to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, 2025 has tested journalists across the globe. Paris-based correspondents will come together to reflect on their reporting and the stories behind the headlines.

About the Panelists:

Liz Alderman is chief European business correspondent for The New York Times. Criss-crossing the continent from Paris, Liz has tracked the fallout of Trump's tariffs, Europe's ballooning debt crisis, how it connects with rising far-right nationalism, and the potential for a broader economic downturn. She was previously based in New York and Washington.

Dov Alfon, Editor in Chief, Libération. Dov has led the French daily since 2020, boosting subscribers 500% and overseeing award-winning stories. Raised in Paris and Tel Aviv, he was previously editor of Israel's Haaretz newspaper. He's also a prize-winning novelist, for his bestseller *Long Night in Paris*, based on his experiences in Israel's elite high-tech intelligence unit 8200.

Ben Barnier is a senior correspondent for France Info TV. He has tracked this year's history-making news from Washington, Kyiv, and Israel, and in between, has analyzed the impact from the studio. He has previously worked for ABC News in London, and has degrees from Sciences-Po and Columbia University's journalism school.

Saskya Vandoorne is CNN Paris bureau chief. She has covered French political upheaval, as President Macron makes major diplomatic moves globally while fending off troubles at home. Previously based in CNN's New York headquarters, Saskya has also covered the global economy and reported from

Kenya and Ukraine. She has degrees from Durham University and Columbia University's journalism school.

(Moderator) **Vivienne Walt** is TIME & FORTUNE Paris Correspondent, and contributor to The New York Times DealBook. She has reported from 50 countries across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. She has covered the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the Arab Spring, Gulf global power and Europe's far-right movements. Her TIME covers include interviews with President Macron, Marine Le Pen and Steve Bannon. She graduated from the University of Cape Town, her hometown. She is currently on the Board of Governors of the Overseas Press Club of America.

[RSVP Now](#)

Dec. 15: How I Did It – Yousra Elbagir on Covering Sudan

Time: 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Place: on Zoom

Join us for a lunchtime conversation with Yousra Elbagir, Sky News Africa correspondent and the winner of the International Women's Media Foundation 2025 Courage in Journalism Award.



The program is cosponsored by the Overseas Press Club of America and the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia University.

Alexis Okeowo, a writer at The New Yorker and an OPC governor, will moderate.

We'll hear from Elbagir about covering the ongoing war and genocide in Sudan: what it is like reporting on the ground in a place few international journalists have been able to access, and how her own personal story intersects with the humanitarian crisis.

[RSVP here](#)

Non OPC Events

Dec. 9: Kyiv Independent- Stories from Democracy's Front Line

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Ukrainian Institute of America
2 E 79th St, New York, NY 10075

Join Kyiv Independent for an evening of live storytelling that brings reporting off the page and into the room. Kyiv Independent journalists will share first-hand accounts from their work on the ground — from front-line cities and court proceedings to long-form investigations and deeply reported features. Guests will hear directly from the reporters and editors behind the headlines, and from the people whose lives shape their coverage: survivors, investigators, and ordinary Ukrainians confronting extraordinary circumstances.

This program offers a rare look at the human side of war reporting — stories not only of conflict, but of resilience, defiance, and community.

Proceeds from this event support the Kyiv Independent's War Crimes Investigations Unit.

THE KYIV INDEPENDENT

About the War Crimes Investigations Unit

The Kyiv Independent's War Crimes Investigations Unit documents and investigates war crimes and Russian atrocities in Ukraine. Led by experienced investigative journalists, the unit produces in-depth reporting and documentary work that examines crimes committed during Russia's ongoing invasion. According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, Russian forces have allegedly committed more than 80,000 war crimes since the start of the full-scale invasion. The unit's mission is to uncover these crimes, center survivors' voices, and shed light on the human impact behind each case. Their investigations support efforts to seek justice, assist law enforcement in gathering evidence, and help the international community understand the scale and severity of Russia's actions in Ukraine.

[RSVP Now](#)

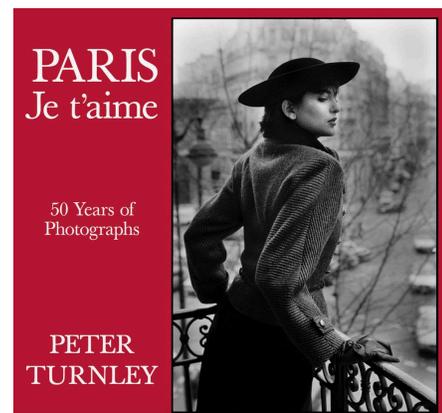
[More Details](#)

Dec. 13: Behind the Binding- Peter Turnley's "Paris Je t'aime"

Time: 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Place: 406 West 13th Street, New York

Photographer and OPC member Peter Turnley will give a presentation and sign copies of his new book, "Paris—Je t'aime – 50 Years of Photographs", at the Leica Store and Gallery in the Meatpacking District on Dec. 13 at 11:00 a.m.



The book gathers a half-century of Turnley's life in Paris, tracing his arrival in 1975 through decades of photographing the city alongside a global career that took him to more than 90 countries. Inspired early

on by figures such as Henri Cartier-Bresson, André Kertész, Edouard Boubat, and Robert Doisneau—whom he later assisted—Turnley’s work offers a sustained portrait of the city he ultimately made his home.

Attendance is free.

[Register Here](#)

[Buy Book](#)



“2000 Meters to Andriivka” Screening and Discussion

by Cathy Manso

On Nov. 12, 2025, the OPC cosponsored a screening of “2000 Meters to Andriivka,” the latest film from Mstyslav Chernov, the Oscar-winning director and Pulitzer Prize-winning Ukrainian journalist. From the team behind “20 Days in Mariupol,” the documentary follows a Ukrainian brigade fighting through a single, brutal mile of forest in 2023 as they seek to liberate the occupied village of Andriivka. Blending Chernov’s frontline reporting for The Associated Press, Ukrainian Army bodycam footage, and moments of stark reflection, the film captures the human cost of every meter retaken and the emotional weight carried by the soldiers who continue to advance through their shattered homeland.

Following the screening at the Columbia Journalism School, Chernov, who directed, wrote and produced the documentary, joined executive producer and OPC member Raney Aronson-Rath and producer/editor Michelle Mizner for a conversation moderated by Azmat Khan, director of the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism and a governor of the OPC. The panel explored earning trust in the trenches, navigating ethical decisions around graphic content, and crafting a “simple story about a complex topic.” In addition to the OPC, the event was co-sponsored by the Li Center, the Harriman Institute, the Ukrainian Film Club, and presented with FRONTLINE PBS.



Video provided by Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism

FPF Leads OPC Training on Digital Security for Journalists Abroad

by Cathy Manso

Digital security has become a cornerstone of safe international reporting, as journalists navigate increasingly aggressive surveillance environments and cross-border risks.



On Nov. 12, the OPC hosted a virtual training session led by David Huerta and Harlow Holmes of the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF), who outlined practical strategies for protecting devices, data, and sources while traveling.

The presenters framed digital travel safety as a risk-assessment process: identify what you need to protect (i.e. files and contacts), consider who might want access to it, and weigh the likelihood and potential impact of a compromise. That calculation, they noted, should drive every decision about what to bring and how to secure it.

Huerta and Holmes highlighted two common approaches to preparing for travel: reducing an everyday device to a minimal, encrypted “travel state,” backed up and easily restorable afterward, or provisioning a dedicated travel device with only essential apps and data. They emphasized the importance of full-disk encryption paired with strong passcodes.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

“Armed Only With a Camera” Screening and Discussion

by Cathy Manso

On Nov. 13, 2025, the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia University and the Overseas Press Club hosted a screening of “Armed Only With a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud,” a documentary chronicling the professional life of the American journalist killed in Ukraine in 2022. Juan Arredondo, the film’s producer and a governor of the OPC, guides viewers through Brent’s career covering some of the world’s most dangerous conflicts—from Iraq and Haiti to Somalia and Honduras—culminating in his fatal assignment near Kyiv. The film juxtaposes harrowing frontline footage with intimate moments reflecting the human toll of war and the risks journalists take.

The screening was followed by a conversation with Arredondo and Lucy Westcott, chief emergencies officer at the Committee to Protect Journalists, moderated by Azmat Khan, director of the Li Center and an OPC governor. The discussion explored frontline safety, ethical reporting decisions, the psychological impact of trauma and survivor guilt, and the vulnerabilities faced by freelancers in conflict zones. Arredondo emphasized the importance of trust, preparation, and community, noting, “You have to learn how to shut up. Just shut up and listen.” Westcott highlighted CPJ’s “trifecta” approach to journalist safety: physical, digital, and psychosocial support. She also placed Brent’s death within a broader global pattern of increasing threats to journalists.



Video provided by Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism

Barbara Demick Explores China’s One-Child Policy Through a Family’s Divided Story

by Cathy Manso

Barbara Demick, an award-winning foreign correspondent, spoke about the families and fractured histories at the heart of her latest book, *Daughters of the Bamboo Grove*, during an OPC Book Night on Nov. 17 in conversation with Edward Wong, diplomatic correspondent of *The New York Times*.



Demick described how reporting on Chinese adoption took her far beyond familiar narratives about girls “discarded” under the one-child policy. Her work led her into remote villages in Hunan and Guizhou, where family-planning officials wielded sweeping power and where parents with limited literacy often struggled to push back. “China is a great recycling culture — I found it hard to believe that healthy human babies were discarded, so casually,” she told the audience, describing villages where rags on a clothesline could mark a household with an infant and illiteracy left parents vulnerable to official coercion. She shared photos from these communities and recounted encounters with families living in wooden cabins, some of whom petitioned for answers about children who had disappeared.

At the center of her book is the story of biological twin sisters born in China. Shuangjie grew up in the Chinese countryside and Fangfang, later named Esther by her adoptive family, was abducted, placed in an orphanage, and adopted by a family in Texas. Demick’s reporting eventually linked the two girls. In 2009, after reviewing orphanage files and online postings, she found a likely match, but delayed publishing details out of concern for the child’s safety. She recalled how she first notified the birth family privately, “I didn’t think you could out a 9-year-old as being stolen.”

[Read the Full Recap](#)





Welcome New Members

Barbara Demick

Author/Freelance
New York, NY
Active Resident

Winnie O'Kelley

Bloomberg Professor
of Business
Journalism
Columbia University
Montclair, NJ
Active Resident



Alice Finno

Reporter/ VT Digger
Montpelier, VT
Active Non-
Resident Young, 29
or under



Probal Rashid

Independent
Photojournalist
Zuma Press
Annandale, VA
Active Non-Resident



Nour Idriss

Video Journalist
New York, NY
Active Resident



Edward Wong

Diplomatic Correspondent
The New York Times
Active Non-Resident
Washington, D.C.



The OPC is grateful to OPC Governor Azmat Khan, director of the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia University, for subsidizing OPC memberships and OPC press IDs for the following Columbia journalism students:

Abbie R. Hopson

Ali Rauf Jaswal

Alisha Teora Mess

Ana Castelain

Audrey McGlinchy

Avery Young

Brooke Witherow

Christina Baris

Dagmar Rothschild

Esmeralda Jimenez

J.P. Saconi

Jorge Alejandro Medellín Hernández

Kalohe Danbara

Katherine Weyback

Kyle Campbell

Lainy Jernidier

Mashaël Shah

Muskaan Darshan Shah

Nathan Keowen

Noëlle de Leeuw

Pooja Reddy

Sage Olivia West

Sigrid Adamsson

Tannu Jain

Tanya Raghu

Thomas Mutch

Zahra Tayeb



SCHOLARS

Rambo Talabong, winner of the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial in 2025, published an [article](#) for [Inside Climate News](#) on Nov. 29 examining misleading coverage of New Jersey's rising electricity costs. Talabong reported that Murdoch-owned outlets "laid the groundwork as early as August" by blaming higher bills on green mandates during the state's gubernatorial race. He cited a Media Matters analysis finding the outlets repeatedly linked the roughly 20 percent summer spike to renewables, despite the increase stemming from soaring demand and grid delays. Talabong noted that "about 1,330 projects totaling at least 100 GW" remain stuck in PJM's interconnection queue, most of them renewable projects.



Evan Gorelick, recipient of the OPC Foundation's 2025 Fritz Beebe Scholar Award, has been named to the [Forbes 30 Under 30 – Media](#) list for 2026. One of the youngest staff reporters at The New York Times, he writes for The Morning, which reaches more than 16 million subscribers. His coverage spans politics, tech, trade and public policy, including major reporting on the Trump administration. Gorelick previously worked at Bloomberg News, where his investigation into Uber and Lyft's wage practices helped trigger an FTC antitrust probe. He was also a finalist for two 2025 Gerald Loeb Awards and won a 2025 New York Press Club Award.



Yucheng Tang, recipient of the OPC Foundation's 2023 Richard Pyle Scholarship, won an [American Community Award under the Arts and Culture category](#) for his piece "Day of the Dead festivity leads to cultural rediscovery." Tang reflects on a Día de los Muertos celebration in Chico's Meriam Park, where music, dancing and marigolds prompt him to reconsider his memories of the more solemn Tomb Sweeping Day traditions of his childhood in China. His story explores how ritual connects the living and the dead, ending with a marigold-shaped sticker he wrote on at the festival that now sits on his desk, guiding reflections on home and ancestry.



Daniel Shailer, recipient of the OPC Foundation's 2023 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholar Award, won the [Eric and Wendy Schmidt Award](#) for Excellence in Science Communications from the National Academies. Shailer completed an OPC Foundation fellowship with the Associated Press in Mexico City in 2023 and has since worked as a reporter for The Shetland Times. He was honored alongside other winners at the National Academies' ceremony in Washington, D.C., Nov. 11–14, 2025.



UPDATES

On Nov. 19, OPC governor **Juan Arredondo's** text "[Las Blancas Manos no se Queiebran](#)" ("White Hands Don't Break") has won a [Simón Bolívar National Journalism Prize](#) in the Chronicle text category. The piece recounts his near-fatal wounding by a Russian sniper in Ukraine and the death of his colleague Brent Renaud. In clear, unsentimental prose, Arredondo retraces his transfers

between hospitals, the refugees who honored him on a train, and the moment he noticed his fingers still stained with Brent's blood. Rather than dwell on suffering, he frames survival as a privilege. The award, part of Colombia's prestigious [Simón Bolívar National Journalism Prize](#), marks nearly five decades of honoring excellence.



OPC student member **Nino Benashvili's** documentary, "Of The Trees Unmoved", was one of 35 selected, out of more than 600 submissions, for this year's DOK Leipzig Co-Pro Market. During the event, it received multiple Letters of Interest. The Co-Pro Market is a key forum for connecting documentary teams with producers, financiers, and distributors through more than 850 curated meetings. Held October 27–28 during the 68th DOK Leipzig Film Festival, the market offers a concentrated opportunity to build partnerships and move new creative documentaries toward completion.



OPC Governor **Brian Byrd** wrote an essay for the latest issue of [Hot Mirror](#) on the [Hôtel de Ville exhibition](#) bringing Robert Doisneau's poetic vision of Paris back home. Byrd reflects on the enduring impact of photographer Robert Doisneau, writing, "Doisneau's work represents not just a career but a philosophy: the belief that every moment holds potential magic, that ordinary life deserves the most careful attention." Byrd's essay celebrates Doisneau's ability to transform everyday scenes into unforgettable stories, a reminder of the power of observation and craft in journalism and photography alike.



Pakhi Dixit has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), United Kingdom, an honour she credits in part to her membership with the Overseas Press Club of America (OPC), which she joined in 2021. She currently serves as Social Media Manager for the Genomes2People Research Program and the Franca Sozzani Fund for Preventive Genomics at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Her work focuses on science communication, particularly in genomics, health equity, and ethics, while also extending to writing on arts and fashion through a cultural and critical lens. Her interdisciplinary practice seeks to bridge research, digital storytelling, and public trust, advancing conversations that connect science and society across global platforms.



OPC member **Nicolas Niarchos** published a piece for The New Yorker on [Nov. 7](#) about newly surfaced videos documenting mass killings in Sudan's Darfur region, from October 27. In the article, he describes the video that became viral, "At least nine men sitting slumped in a row beside a dirt track in the city of El Fasher." Niarchos reported that analysts believe "the R.S.F. has been conducting mass killings," and noted growing fears that the group is preparing an assault on Tawila.



OPC Secretary **Jodi Schneider** will join The New York Times Washington bureau as night editor on [Dec. 8](#). A veteran journalist with deep experience in the capital, Schneider has held key roles at The Washington Post,

Congressional Quarterly and Bloomberg News, where she spent 14 years overseeing congressional and tax policy coverage before serving as an editor in Japan and Hong Kong and later as political news director for Bloomberg TV and radio. She is a past president of SABEW, a former president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, an active member of the National Press Club and currently serves as Press Freedom Committee chair for the Overseas Press Club of America.



New Resources

RESOURCES

The Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) has posted a reporting guide to investigating extreme heat. The guide includes tips on finding angles to examine medical consequences and strain on healthcare systems, labor conditions, agriculture, sports, and how to report on policy and technology solutions. [Read the guide here.](#)

PEN America and the **Coalition Against Online Violence (CAOV)** collaborated to create a new guide for news organization to protect and support journalists harassed online. The 26-page document covers best practices for editors and managers to better support their staff from online abuse. The guide was developed with the assistance of over a dozen press freedom and civil society organizations, as well as news organizations. [Read the guide here.](#)

MUCK RACK

In case you haven't signed up for Muck Rack's newsletter for journalists and PR professionals, the **Muck Rack Daily** [link to join is here.](#)

Muck Rack Academy also provides training on a range of topics from measuring metrics to social media basics. The group offers live trainings and tutorials as well as on-demand recordings of past webinars. [Read more here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Nov. 26, the **Rory Peck Trust** hosted its annual awards ceremony at the BFI Southbank in London. The awards honor outstanding achievements by freelance journalists and filmmakers working in news and current affairs. [Read more here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted videos from the organization's 2025 Tribute to Journalists at the 41st Anniversary Awards Dinner on Nov. 13. The evening included presentations of the ICFJ International Journalism Award recipients, which included Lester Holt of NBC News and Philip Obaji Jr., correspondent for The Daily Beast based in Nigeria, as well as the non profit Code for Africa. [Watch a playlist of videos here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Mobile Photography Awards is calling for photo and essay submissions for a competition and touring exhibit to promote mobile photography and art. A grand prize photography winner will receive \$3,000, and the MPA Photo Essay winner will receive \$500. Submission fees \$15 for one image, \$30 for three images, \$50 for six images and \$100 for 15 images. The entry for the MPA Photo Essay is \$29. The deadline to apply is Dec. 17. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Fund for Investigative Journalism is offering grants up to US\$10,000 to support investigative projects that break new ground and expose wrongdoing. The next deadline to apply is Jan. 26. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **James B. Steele Fellowship in Investigative Business Journalism** is accepting applications. The Fellowship targets early-career journalists who are looking to jump-start their career as business journalists and is open to applications from the U.S. and abroad. The deadline to apply is Jan. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Documentarians in Eastern Europe and Central Asia can apply for the **Artdocfest/Riga IFF Pitch Session**, which will take place in March 2026, in Riga. Ten documentary projects will be selected. The deadline to apply is Dec.15. [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 Cathy Manso at cathy@opcofamerica.org.

OPC Resources Page

Donate

Your support helps us stand with journalists when it matters most.

Thanks to donor contributions, the OPC can provide emergency aid to freelancers in conflict zones, help reporters replace equipment lost in disasters, offer professional development programs, and host panels that bring urgent global stories to U.S. audiences.

Use the button below to make a donation, or visit our website to learn more about how your gift makes a difference.

OPC Donation Page



Overseas Press Club of America | 40 West 45th Street Club Quarters | New York, NY 10036 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!