Overseas Press Club of America

Bulletin
Sept. 17, 2026

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this September edition of the Bulletin.

This month's issue features a summary of the OPC Annual Meeting, including the welcoming of new governors, as well as the announcement of Lauren Walsh as the incoming Executive Director of the Overseas Press Club of America. Also inside is an OPC Reel that premiered at the Annual Meeting, highlighting the organization's work over the past few years, and a Q&A with OPC President Scott Kraft reflecting on his time with the OPC.

You'll also find upcoming events in September and October, welcome announcements for new OPC members and Columbia journalism students, and a Hot Mirror feature by Brian Byrd commemorating the 25th anniversary of September 11.

Also inside: new resources, reporting guides, grants and fellowship opportunities for journalists, including the 2027 OPC Foundation Scholar Awards.

We hope you find this issue informative and useful.

Please note: OPC dues invoices have been sent out. A reminder will be emailed soon to those who have not yet paid their dues. Thank you to all our members for supporting the OPC this year!

2026 Annual Meeting Recap: Sandra Stevenson Elected President of the OPC; Lauren Walsh to Become Executive Director

By Cathy Manso

Sandra Stevenson was elected president at the Overseas Press Club of America's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at CPJ's headquarters in New York.



(Forward-facing left to right) Marcus Yam, Sandra Stevenson, Patricia Kranz, Scott Kraft, Steven L. Herman
(Back-facing) Lauren Walsh, Peter Spiegel, Brian Byrd, and Mindy Worden

Fifteen members gathered in person and over 16 gathered on Zoom to review the results of the 2026 election, discuss club business, review the past years and announce leadership changes, including the upcoming retirement of Executive Director Patricia Kranz after 12 years with the organization.

Stevenson, managing editor at Education Week, succeeds Scott Kraft, editor at large of the LA Times, as president. Other officers include Amran Abocar of Reuters, Marc Lacey of The New York Times, and Peter Spiegel of the Washington Post as vice presidents; Deborah Amos of Princeton University as treasurer; and Stephen Kalin of The Wall Street Journal as secretary.

The newly elected active governors are John Avlon, Susan Chira, James Fontanella-Khan, Julia Ioffe, Azmat Khan, Catherine Kim, Kate Linthicum, Majorie Miller, and Jeannie Ohm while the newly elected associate governors are Josh Fine, Steven L. Herman, and Minky Warden.

"I look forward to building on the solid foundation that the two of you have established for the organization," Stevenson said, thanking Kraft and Kranz for their leadership. She also thanked the board and staff and said she was looking forward to working with the new board and incoming Executive Director Lauren Walsh.

Kraft, who served as president for four years, reviewed several developments during his tenure, including the OPC's partnerships with outside organizations and institutions focused on international journalism. He highlighted a collaboration with Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, which brought together journalists and academics for a discussion on China, as well as the organization's continued programming and awards.

A major focus of this election was the OPC's effort to change its tax status from a 501(c)(6) organization to a 501(c)(3). Members unanimously approved moving forward with the process, which the OPC expects to complete in early 2027. The change would allow the club to accept tax-deductible gifts and provide additional fundraising opportunities.

Kraft also discussed the ongoing renovation of the OPC's headquarters at Club Quarters, which has limited the club's ability to hold events there. The renovation is expected to be completed in 2027, with plans to develop a theme highlighting the building's literary and foreign-correspondent history.

The gathering was the final annual meeting to be organized by Kranz. She reflected on her tenure in her remarks and they will be published in full in the next Bulletin.



"Passing the Gavel"
(Left to Right) Sandra Stevenson, Patricia Kranz, and Scott Kraft

Lauren Walsh will become the OPC's next executive director on Oct. 1, with Kranz remaining for the month to help ensure a smooth transition. The organization plans to hold a reception in early October to thank Kranz and welcome Walsh.

Walsh thanked Kranz for agreeing to overlap with her and said she was looking forward to working with Stevenson, the board, and the members.

"I'm grateful to be in this room and Zoom," Walsh said. "I look forward to getting to know the board and many more of the members."

Jane Reilly, representing the OPC Foundation, reported that the Foundation presented 18 scholarships and fellowships at its March reception hosted by Bloomberg. The program included the second year of the Rob Urban Award, with recipient Yuri Stasulik placed in Bloomberg's Brussels bureau. The deadline for the 2027 scholarship and fellowship application is Nov. 15. Reilly also highlighted the third year of the Rukeyser Reporting Grants, which support freelance reporting by current and former OPC Foundation scholars. The next application deadline is Oct. 1. And the foundation also launched the OPC Foundation Exchange in August, an initiative designed to keep alumni connected through informal gatherings, virtual conversations and opportunities to share experiences.

Kranz reported that the club is financially healthy. After some years of financial concern, she said the club has gotten onto a better track by increasing revenue and reducing costs while still maintaining the high standards of the annual awards dinner.

Governors Brian Byrd and Marcus Yam shared ideas for expanding the OPC's outreach and membership, including a revival and modernization of the 1962 Overseas Press Club cookbook, a series of short "walk-and-talk" interviews with journalists and award recipients, and a proposed "Dinner for Seven" video series featuring journalists in informal conversations.

The meeting closed with thanks to Kranz, Kraft, Stevenson, the board and staff for their work and with a welcome to the incoming leadership team as the OPC enters a period of transition.

For a list of the full board, please click here.

Board of Governors | Read and Share

Lauren Walsh appointed Executive Director of the Overseas Press Club of America



NEW YORK, September 8, 2026 – The Board of Governors of the Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) today announced the appointment of Lauren Walsh as the organization's next Executive Director. Walsh will assume the role on October 1, 2026, succeeding Patricia Kranz, who is retiring after 12 years of inspired and dedicated service to the Club and its members.

An internationally recognized leader in journalist safety, media ethics, and photojournalism education, Walsh has built a distinguished career at the intersection of teaching, research, industry partnerships, and widely published work on journalism, photography, and visual culture.

She joins the OPC from the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation, where she served as Managing Director of Journalist Safety Initiatives, leading the Reporting with Resilience project, which equips U.S.-based journalists and newsrooms with practical resources to strengthen safety, stamina, and well-being. She has also led journalism safety and mental health initiatives internationally, including pioneering research and training in wartime Ukraine and a multinational initiative supporting the well-being of Arab World photojournalists.

Dr. Walsh is a professor at New York University, where she teaches journalism and visual culture and is the Founding Director of the Gallatin Photojournalism Intensive. She holds a PhD from Columbia University and also directs Lost Rolls America, a national archive preserving photography and memory. Her work examines conflict reporting, moral injury, war crimes, visual ethics, and the human impact of journalism. She is the author and editor of several acclaimed books, including Conversations on Conflict Photography and Through the Lens: The Pandemic and Black Lives Matter. In 2023, she was appointed a Fulbright Specialist in Photography and Ethics, and has also been named a Rockefeller Bellagio Residency Fellow for her work exploring conflict resolution and peacebuilding through the lens of journalism.

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Continue Reading Here



Click the button below to read more about the new President of the OPC of America.

Press Release: Sandra Stevenson Elected President of the OPC

International Journalism, Awards & Mentorship



The above reel premiered at the OPC's 2026 Annual Meeting on Sept. 9.

Edited by Cathy Manso, the reel is narrated by outgoing OPC President Scott Kraft, and features highlights from the past few years of OPC events, panels, meetings, programs and Annual Awards.

Clips and photographs are drawn from OPC video archives, event recordings, social media and website coverage, as well as materials submitted by OPC members and award recipients.

Q&A: Scott Kraft on the Overseas Press Club, Foreign Correspondence and

Journalism's Future

By Cathy Manso



In this Q&A, Scott Kraft, the outgoing OPC president, reflects on his journey with the Overseas Press Club, from serving as a Hal Boyle jury chair to leading the organization. A longtime foreign correspondent who spent more than a decade reporting from Africa and Europe for the Los Angeles Times, Kraft is now its editor at large. He discusses what drew him to the OPC and why its community of international journalists remains so meaningful to him.

As he hands over the presidency to Sandra Stevenson, Kraft looks back on some of the defining moments of his tenure and shares his hopes for the OPC's future, including how the organization can continue adapting to a rapidly changing journalism landscape.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Manso: How did you discover the OPC?

Kraft: I think I first became aware of the OPC when one of our foreign correspondents won an award. But I became more involved when the awards chair at the time, Robert Friedman from Bloomberg, reached out to invite me to chair the Hal Boyle awards jury.

The judging process got me hooked on the OPC. As a jury chair that year and for several years after, I was able to select my jury, so it was a wonderful excuse to reach out to talented, award-winning journalists I knew (and some I didn't yet know) and invite them to join the jury. Reviewing the entries and debating the final decision with my fellow jurors is always inspiring. The ambition and quality of the work was – and remains – extraordinary, and it was heartening to see that it came not just from major organizations but also from smaller outlets and freelancers.

That whole process is what made me want to get more involved.

Manso: What inspired you to take on the role of president of the OPC, and did you feel you fulfilled the role you envisioned?

Kraft: I think anyone who has been a foreign correspondent is profoundly marked by that experience. It becomes something that is kind of in your blood because it's an experience like no other. I was a correspondent for the LA Times for a little over 10 years in Africa and Europe, and even later, when I became an editor in the home office, I still remembered the excitement, the challenge, and the camaraderie of being a foreign correspondent.

After a few years as a jury chair, I was asked by the chief judge to take over and run the awards process, which I did for about five years. During that time, I

joined the Board.

The glue that holds the OPC together, I believe, is that we are all people who care deeply about international news and many of us have this shared experience of having been foreign correspondents. And I've always felt a special kinship with OPC members. These are my people and I feel so comfortable working with them.

In addition, the work we get to judge and the awards we present every spring are reminders that this work still matters. It's so fulfilling to be part of that.
I'd also say that it's been a lot of fun and incredibly gratifying to be able to lead this organization. We've accomplished many of the things we hoped to, but there is still much more to do. I hope we've left the new leader and the new Board something to build on.

Manso: What have you learned during your presidency with the OPC?

Kraft: One of the biggest things I've learned is how important the Board of Governors is. It represents many walks of life in journalism, many generations, and many perspectives. It's also a working board. It does the work of the organization, from programming to judging awards.

That makes the OPC quite different from many nonprofit boards. The strength of the board is one of the most amazing things about the organization.

Manso: What makes the OPC board different from other boards?

Kraft: As a foreign correspondent, I always found that my closest colleagues were often people from other organizations. You share tips, travel together, and help each other out in the field even if you're competitors back home.
The OPC board feels like a reflection of that. It brings together people from different news organizations who share a mission to support foreign correspondence and international reporting. It feels like your own news organization in a way.

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Continue Reading the Full Q&A

Upcoming Non-OPC Event

Sept. 18: UNGA Breakfast Conversation

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Coco's at Colette
167 Fifth Avenue, New York

The Future Investment Initiative (FII) will host an intimate media breakfast leading up to the United Nations General Assembly week, bringing together a small group of senior international editors, correspondents and media leaders for an informal conversation about major developments shaping the Middle East and stories expected to remain important beyond the UN General Assembly.

The breakfast will also provide an opportunity for journalists covering UNGA to meet members of the FII team, learn more about FII10, taking place in Riyadh in October, and connect with international journalists covering the region.

Space is limited. OPC members, editors, correspondents and journalists in New York for UNGA are invited to RSVP as soon as possible.

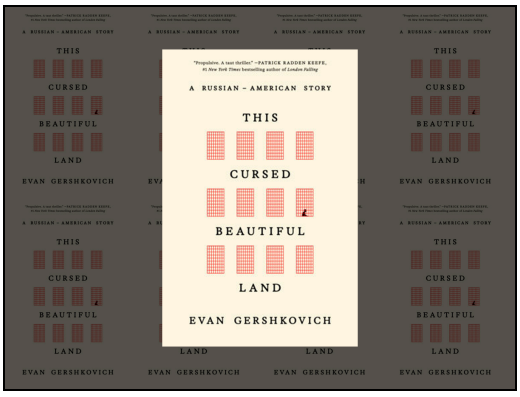
Kindly RSVP as soon as possible by emailing media@fii-institute.org.



Oct. 23: Book Talk- This Cursed Beautiful Land by Evan Gershkovich

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: The Brown Institute at Columbia University, Pulitzer Hall,
2950 Broadway, New York



Columbia University's Harriman Institute and NYU's Jordan Center will host a book talk with journalist **Evan Gershkovich**, moderated by Alexander Cooley of Columbia and Joshua Tucker of NYU.

Gershkovich will discuss his new memoir, This Cursed Beautiful Land, which recounts his nearly 500 days in Russian prisons after he was arrested by the Federal Security Service (FSB) in March 2023 while reporting in Yekaterinburg. Accused of espionage, Gershkovich was held in Moscow's Lefortovo prison until his release in August 2024 as part of a multinational prisoner exchange.

The book traces Gershkovich's path from growing up in New Jersey in a family that left the Soviet Union to building his journalism career in Moscow. It also chronicles his experiences in Russia's prison system and his continued efforts to document life inside the country despite his imprisonment.

For event information, contact Eileen Huhn at eph2125@columbia.edu or (212) 854-6217.

To attend, please use the button below to reserve your seat. **Registration REQUIRED by 4pm on October 22, 2026 in order to attend this event.**

Reserve your seat

"This Is What We Do" Seven Who Photographed September 11 - 25 Years Later

By Brian Byrd



On the morning of September 11, 2001, Jim Lowney was running the Getty Images picture desk in New York when the first plane hit. He picked up the phone and sent Mario Tama, one of his photographers, downtown while the towers were still standing. Twenty-five years later, both men answered the same questions about that assignment -- the editor who made the call and the photographer who carried it out. Their paired accounts anchor the new special issue of Hot Mirror, the photography magazine I edit, published this month.

The issue gathers seven people who documented that day: Robert Clark, Lori Grinker, Matthew McDermott, Stan Honda, Jennifer S. Altman, Tama, and Lowney. Each of the photographers contributed roughly ten images, some iconic, some never published. I conducted the interviews myself over the summer, and for some of them it was the first time they had looked at their negatives in 25 years.

The thread through every conversation is a line from a different war. In The World at War, Paul Tibbets described what happened after Hiroshima: "We took pictures as rapidly as we could." I put that sentence to each photographer, and their answers -- about instinct, duty, and what it means to keep working when the ground is coming apart -- became the spine of the issue. McDermott's shorthand for why he kept shooting gave his interview its title, and this piece its headline.

"This is what we do," is the whole tradition in four words. Robert Capa went ashore with the first wave at Omaha Beach and died in Indochina stepping on a mine to get closer. Gerda Taro was killed at Brunete, Dickey Chapelle in Vietnam, Larry Burrows over Laos, Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros in

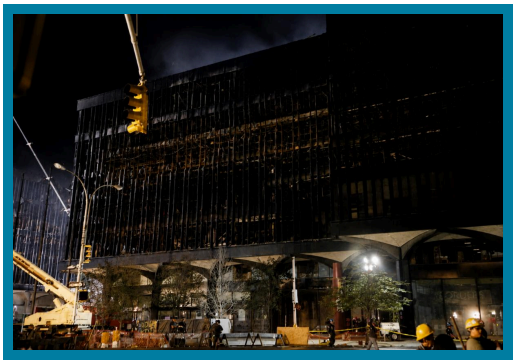
Misrata, Anja Niedringhaus in Afghanistan. On September 11 itself, Bill Biggart kept shooting at the foot of the North Tower until it came down on him. This is the lineage the OPC honors each year with the Robert Capa Gold Medal, and it is the lineage the seven people in this issue belong to.

September 11 was the day the foreign story came home. I was in Manhattan that morning, working at The Rockefeller Foundation. The people in this issue did what OPC members have done in Sarajevo, Baghdad, Kabul, and Kyiv, except in their own city, on assignments that began with a phone call to a desk a few blocks from where the Club meets. The OPC exists to hold up the standards of that work and to defend the people who do it. This issue of Hot Mirror is an argument, in seven voices, for why both still matter.

It is also a working document. The interviews are not reminiscence; they are craft -- how Lowney decided whom to send, how Tama read a scene changing by the second, what the others chose to shoot and not to shoot, and how they got their film and files out before anyone knew what the day would become. Younger members will find a record of judgment under pressure that no textbook provides. Older members will recognize decisions they have made and may never have talked through.

The issue was timed to run alongside “The Day That Changed the World,” a six-night global broadcast from PROJECTIONS, Frank Meo’s platform for photography as witness and historical record. From September 6 through the anniversary, it gathered more than 30 photographers and editors -- Joel Meyerowitz, David Hume Kennerly, Pete Souza, Ron Haviv, and MaryAnne Golon among them -- along with current and former staff of the Associated Press, TIME, The Washington Post, and Getty Images. Honda and Altman appear in both. Every session is archived permanently on the PROJECTIONS website and YouTube channel.

And there is the matter of time. PROJECTIONS put it in a line I keep returning to: “before history was written, it was photographed.” The people who can still explain how that record was made are a finite group, and this may be the last round-number anniversary on which most of them can be gathered. Between the Hot Mirror issue and the PROJECTIONS archive, their testimony now exists in a form that will outlast them. Part of the OPC's mission is preserving the profession’s memory of itself. This is a piece of that memory, collected before it is gone.





Photos: Brian Byrd

Hot Mirror

The issue is free to read at Hot Mirror, with an audio option at upper left.
The PROJECTIONS broadcasts are archived at projectionsnyc.com/911.
Subscriptions to Hot Mirror are free.

Welcome New Members

Dmitry Belyakov

Freelance Writer
Rutland, Vermont
Associate Non-Resident



Haruki Fujimoto

Founder & CEO of Pasion Co.
Osaka, Japan
Associate Overseas



Reid Newton

Editor-in-Chief of Ideas Beyond Borders
Edgewater, New Jersey
Active Young (30-34)



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:

Achillefs Frangos
Adelaide Madary
Afton Okwu
Karin Novelia
Karla Perez
Karthik K. Aggarwal

Agharim Nduka-Irabor
Aiden James Konold
AISHA GANI
Aiswarya Raj
Ajoi Jenece Adams
Akua Oforiwa Darko
Alexa Wells
Alexander Miller
Alexia Garcia Massoud
Allie Wong
Amelia DiGiano
Amelia Smorszczewska
Amy Gabrovsek
Ana Elisa Andrade Parrella
Ana Federica Wallis
Ana Murillo Quiñones
Anastasia Jackson
Anastasiia Morozova
Anis R. Heydari
Anita Fallani
Anna Rankin
Annapurna Bhattacharya
Annia Pallares zur Nieden
Arianna Hull
Audrey Ashdown
Autriya Maneshni
Aya Aleily
Beau Jessup
Brian Gordon
Bridget Morse-Karzen
Caitlin Doherty
Cate Frist
Catherine Guerrero Knight
Celeste Hoberman
Chandra Verma
Charlie Chua
Charlotte Dulany
Christopher S Muncy
Chujiao Zhang
Connor O'Leary Herreras
Cordelia Weld
Cris Aguasvivas
Cristina Alvarez
Daniel Barth
Daniel Rivero Alvarez
Danielle Cooper
Daria Dzen
David Sorbaro
Defne Pelin Feyzioglu
Devadeepa Das
Diana Fonte
Donna Chang
Ed Siddons
Eddie Bailey
Éilis Mathur
Kate Thorpe
Katherine Harron
Kathryn Rice
Katie Rose Caalaman
Kavya Pillai
Kayla Singer
Kelsea Frobes
Kiara Moore
Kimora J. Wong Sing
Kyra Kewalramani Amin
Lara Sayess
Laura Scofield
Lauren Rosenfield
Lauryn Williams
Lena Maassen
Liam Kennedy
Liz Bell
Lucy Wu
Luz Miyar-Mullan
Macy Strader
Maddie Hengerer
Maria de Feo
Maria Knodt
Maria Paula Beltrán
Mariam Sankanu
Mariel Ferragamo
Marina Roman
Matthew Herskowitz
Maximus Masiello
Maya Elisabeth Himelfarb
Meg Butler
Michelangelo Pellis
Mika Travis
Misha Valencia
Nadine Ismail
Nandita Rajshekhar
Natalia Barbican
Nataliya Zaboychenko
Nicholas Clarke
Nicholas Gutteridge
Nicholas Mossman
Nicole Alonso
Nicole Einbinder
Nicole Williams Quezada
Nils Schniederjann
Nina Auslander-Padgham
Nina Milagros Rodriguez
Noel James Okoth
Olivia McAlpine
Olivia Morrison
Olivia O’Haver
Panyin Conduah
Patrick Philip Johnson
Paula Ojeda
Pierrot Ismaël Benjamin Bacon

Ellen Eberhardt
Evelyn Ahdieh
Fonie Mitsopoulou
Francesca Di Muro
Gabriela Goitia Vazquez
Gabriela Paola Velasco Ramirez
Gabriella Gagliano
George Maringa
Georgia Campbell
Georgie Middlemiss
Gianna Clarke
Ginestra Faeta
Grace Sullivan
Hannah Lalonde
Hannah Raslan
Harry Frahn
Haya Panjwani
Heather Chen
Helen Vivas
Helu Wang
Hong Ta
Ian Pumphrey
Ime Ekpo
Ines Merry del Val Barbavara di-Gravelllona
Isabella Ketchen
Isabella Small
Ivana Grandic Acevedo
Jacob Fertig
Jacqueline Lisbona
Jake Borden
Jake Klingensmith
James Foster
Jason Seter
Jenna Jarrah
Jessica Mathews
Jihye Yoon
Joanna Antonowicz
Johnoy J. Davis
Jonny Peña Nuñez
Joséphine Gorel
Judith Silfrene-Georges
Julia Dooley
Kaitlin Reed
Pilar Gerena
Rachel Lim
Sabine Zednik-Hammonds
Samantha Marshall
Sameer Yasir
Samuel Sommer
Sania Mahyou
Sarah Moran
Sasha Rivers
Satvik Shubham
Scout Thomas Hudson
Sean Boynton
Sean Wenzel
Sebastian Wright
Sena Ho
Sierra Benayon-Abraham
Sofia Brazda
Sonia Schlesinger
Sophie Holin
Sophie McDougall
Stanley Clark
Su Kim
Suchita Thepkanjana
Suki Natasha Datar Jones
Tavish Mohanti
Theo Scheer
Theo Wayt
Thisanka Siripala
Thomas Francisco Correa
Valeria Cortés Bernal
Victoria Taylor
Vipul Kumar
Virginia Noone
Wanjiku Mungai
Wardah Kamran
Weslley Galzo
Whitney Lynn
Yaelle Perla Zribi
Yashovardhan Maheshwari
Yiping Zhang
Yoohyun Son
Zachary O'Connor
Ziyuan Yin

People By Cathy Manso

John Avlon, an OPC governor, wrote in Rolling Stone on Sept. 7 that the next U.S. president should commit to restoring the White House's East Wing after the Supreme Court allowed President Donald Trump's demolition project to continue. In "Donald Trump Took a Wrecking Ball to the White House. The Next President Must Do the Same," Avlon argues that the East Wing is now "beyond the point of return" and calls for the next president to restore the People's House to its pre-Trump state. Earlier this month, Avlon also moderated a conversation

with Bob Crawford, bassist for the Grammy-nominated Avett Brothers, about Crawford's new book, America's Founding Son: John Quincy Adams, From President to Political Maverick. The Sept. 4 event at The Church in Sag Harbor explored Crawford's biography of Adams, which was published in March by Zando and received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal*.





OPC Governor **James Fontanella-Khan** was among the Financial Times journalists reporting on Mark Walter's efforts to secure financing backed by his stake in the Los Angeles Lakers. The Sept. 11 report, "Mark Walter sought loan from Apollo backed by Lakers stake," also examines scrutiny of investment practices at Walter's insurance and asset-management empire. Fontanella-Khan reported from New York with Eric Platt, Sun Yu and Oliver Barnes, with Lee Harris reporting from London.

Julia Ioffe, an OPC governor and founding partner of Puck, wrote about a diplomatic dispute involving the U.S. and France in "A Very French Diplomatic Scandal," published Sept. 10. Ioffe, Puck's Washington correspondent and a co-author of *T*he Best & The Brightest newsletter, reported on the State Department's blocking of the succession of French ambassador Aurélien Lechevallier, leaving veteran diplomat Laurent Bili in an unusual diplomatic limbo. Read the article here.





Marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11, the Knight First Amendment Institute and Columbia's Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism convened journalists, scholars, lawyers and activists on Sept. 9-10 for The Forever War and the First Amendment, a symposium examining the lasting impact of the War on Terror on freedom of speech and the press, with OPC governor **Azmat Khan** serving as moderator of a panel on new media institutions and delivering closing remarks. Khan, who leads the Li Center, later discussed the symposium and the lessons of post-9/11 journalism on *Democracy Now!*; learn more about the symposium and view its full program here.

NBC News has expanded its editorial leadership structure, with OPC Governor **Catherine Kim** named executive vice president of editorial and content, adding oversight of NBC News Now and specials. Kim will continue to lead digital publishing, digital documentaries, social, the network's Here's the Scoop team and Decision Desk, while working with Executive Vice President David Verdi on bureaus and newsgathering. Rebecca Blumenstein, NBC News president, editorial, announced the expanded role in a memo to staff, writing that bringing streaming, digital and newsgathering closer together under Kim would help the network "move faster" and make the most of its journalism across platforms.





Kate Linthicum, OPC governor, has won a 2026 Maria Moors Cabot Prize for her coverage of Latin America and contributions to inter-American understanding. Columbia Journalism School announced the honorees on July 29, with Linthicum among four Gold Medal recipients recognized for excellence in reporting on the Americas. She continues to report from the region for the *Los Angeles Times*, most recently writing about the complicated role of avocados in a small Mexican town in "For one small Mexican town, avocados were a lifeline — and a curse." Readers can learn more about the 2026 Cabot Prize winners here.



Human rights and the 2026 FIFA World Cup were the focus of an opinion piece by **Minky Worden**, an OPC associate governor and Human Rights Watch director of global initiatives. In a July 17 *Forbes* article, "For Next FIFA World Cup, Make Human Rights The Goal," Worden examined the human rights issues surrounding the tournament and called for greater attention to human rights in future World Cup planning. Read the full article here.



OPC governor **Juan Arredondo** provided visuals for two New York Times stories published in September, including coverage marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11 and reporting from earthquake-stricken Colombia. On Sept. 6, Arredondo's photographs accompanied "Who Cleans the 9/11 Memorial Pools?," about the workers responsible for maintaining the memorial pools, with text by John Leland. Earlier, on Sept. 2, he reported from Pereira, Colombia, with journalist Juliana Castro Varón for "After the Earthquake, They Used A.I. to Mobilize Aid," documenting how volunteers and technology workers organized relief after a 7.4-magnitude earthquake disrupted vital services across the region.

CNN has hired **John Simons**, an OPC associate governor, as senior director of business and media news, where he will oversee reporters and editors covering business, technology and media. Simons, who will report to CNN Vice President of Business and Media Marie Beaudette, returns to journalism after serving as a partner at Brunswick Group. He previously was executive editor at TIME, overseeing national and business news and technology coverage, and held several editorial leadership roles at The Wall Street Journal, including deputy health and science editor and bureau chief for health business.





Nilo Tabrizy, an OPC governor and Iran correspondent for Reuters focusing on visual investigations, was among the reporters behind an analysis of a deadly strike on an Iranian wedding published Sept. 3. In "Deadly strike on Iranian wedding was likely a direct hit by a US munition, analysis shows," Tabrizy and her colleagues examined images and video verified by Reuters and consulted weapons experts, finding that the strike in the southern Iranian town of Kuhestak likely resulted from a direct hit by a U.S. munition. The strike killed four people and injured at least 68 others, raising renewed questions about the civilian toll of the war.



The legacy of feminist icon Gloria Steinem was remembered in a Sept. 3 edition of Bloomberg's Women, Money & Power Report, with reporting by OPC governor **Laura Zelenko** and Jacqueline Simmons. "Remembering Feminist Icon Gloria Steinem" recounts Steinem's decades-long advocacy for women's equal rights and her final public appearances, including a March interview at New York's Park Avenue Armory for Bloomberg New Voices. Steinem died Sept. 3 at age 92.



Samaan Lateef, an OPC member since May, reported on the controversy surrounding a meat-free menu served to world leaders at the BRICS summit in New Delhi in a Sept. 14 article for *The Telegraph*. In "India accused of 'imposing vegetarianism' on world leaders," Lateef reported on criticism from Indian opposition leaders who accused the government of presenting a narrowly vegetarian version of Indian cuisine to visiting leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Read the full article here.

The continuing conflict between the United States and Iran was the focus of a Sept. 10 opinion column by **Mohamad Bazzi**, an OPC member and Guardian US columnist. In "Trump's repeated threats to 'wipe out' Iran are normalizing mass violence," Bazzi examined the implications of President Donald Trump's repeated threats against Iran and argued that such rhetoric should not become normalized. Bazzi is also director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies and a journalism professor at New York University. Read the full column here.



New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism** at CUNY launched in May 2026 JESS, an AI-powered safety resource designed to help journalists access guidance on physical, digital and other safety concerns. The tool provides journalists with information and resources to help them prepare for and respond to safety risks. Read more here.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published a collection of resources for journalists covering conflicts and other high-risk environments, including practical guidance for foreign journalists preparing to report from Ukraine. The resource center includes guides and recommendations on physical and digital safety, as well as other issues affecting journalists working in dangerous environments. Read more here.

The **Global Investigative Journalism Network** (GIJN) has published a Guide to Investigating Tech and AI in Modern Warfare, offering journalists guidance on investigating the technology, companies, financial systems and supply chains shaping modern conflicts. The guide encourages reporters to look beyond the immediate effects of war and trace the decisions, contracts and infrastructure behind the use of emerging technologies, including AI, drones and digital systems. Read more here.

The **Society of Professional Journalists** (SPJ) is reviewing its Code of Ethics for the first time since 2014 and has sought input from journalists and the public as part of the process. The review considers how the code should address changes in journalism, including AI-generated content, misinformation, social media and the evolving definition of journalism. Read more here.

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **Associated Press**' AI Essentials for Content Professionals is a two-part online workshop designed for journalists, editors, corporate communicators and public relations professionals. The sessions will cover responsible uses of AI in content creation, including protecting confidential information, evaluating AI-generated output for accuracy and bias, understanding data and licensing risks and determining when to disclose AI assistance. Through demonstrations, case studies and guided exercises, participants will develop practical approaches for

incorporating AI into their workflows while maintaining accuracy, judgment and audience trust. The workshop will take place Oct. 6 and 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EDT. Participants will receive advance materials, worksheets, session recordings and other resources through the online classroom. Read more and register here.

The **Public Media Journalists Association**'s Near + Now regional professional-development series is bringing a full day of peer learning to newsrooms around the country. The New York City event, "Emerging Tech & AI: Tools, Ethics & Smarter Workflows," will take place Sept. 9 at the Newsroom at Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY and will focus on practical and responsible uses of emerging technology in journalism, including AI tools, ethics, newsroom guidelines and workflows. The series is open to reporters, producers, hosts, editors, podcasters, digital leads and other public media professionals at all career stages. Registration is $150 for PMJA members and $199 for nonmembers, with five scholarships available for each event. Additional Near + Now events are scheduled for Austin in February 2027 and San Francisco in March 2027. Read more and register here.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has released a practical guide to help foreign journalists prepare to report from Ukraine safely and effectively. The guide, produced by the RSF Kyiv Press Freedom Center, is available as an online PDF and is accompanied by a short explanatory video and three upcoming webinars in October, including two in English and one in French. The resources cover preparation for journalists reporting from Ukraine, building on the center's support for more than 600 foreign journalists with equipment, training and advice since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. The webinars are open to journalists and media professionals reporting from Ukraine or considering doing so. Read the guide and learn more about the webinars here.

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Overseas Press Club Foundation** is accepting applications for two programs supporting emerging and early-career international journalists. The **Reporting Grants Program**, with a deadline of Oct. 1, is open exclusively to current and former recipients of OPC Foundation Scholar Awards. The grants range from $1,000 to $5,000 and support ambitious international reporting projects in print, photo, video or audio, including investigations, documentaries, podcasts, photo projects and books. **The Scholar Awards**, with a deadline of Nov. 15, are open to college juniors, seniors and graduate students at North American colleges and universities, as well as American students studying abroad, who have demonstrated an interest in international journalism. In a typical year, the Foundation awards 18 scholarships or fellowships, with winners receiving either $3,000 for independent work or $4,000 to fund time in a bureau of a leading news organization. Read more about the Reporting Grants Program and Scholar Awards or for more information, email Katri Reilly, Executive Director, at katri@opcofamerica.org.

The **McGraw Fellowships for Business Journalism,** an initiative of the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, applications are now open for the Fall 2026. The Fellowships provide experienced journalists with a grant up to $15,000 and the editorial support needed to produce deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories with a strong economic or financial

angle. The deadline to apply is October 12, 2026. Previous McGraw Fellows have explored a wide variety of issues -- and you don't need to be a business reporter to apply! Many have been generalists, or cover areas such as health care, inequality or the environment. The Fellowship is open to both freelance and staff journalists in all forms of media with at least five years' professional experience. Journalists from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. If you'd like to learn more, go to www.mcgrawcenter.org.

Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) is accepting Applications for their 2026 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. 3, 2027. 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.

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