Overseas Press Club of America

Bulletin
October 16, 2026

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this October edition of the Bulletin.

This month's issue features highlights and recaps from key events, including a reflection from exiting Executive Director Patricia Kranz and photos celebrating Kranz's retirement and welcoming new Executive Director Lauren Walsh.

Also inside: a profile article about the OPC from *Editor & Publisher* magazine.

You'll also find upcoming event listings, including Oct. 27th's FIFA's Game of Thrones panel, along with member updates, scholarship news, and member resources.

Reflections on Twelve Years Running the Overseas Press Club



At the OPC annual meeting on Sept. 9, outgoing Executive Director Patricia Kranz reflected on the club's challenges and accomplishments since she took the job in March, 2014.

by Patricia Kranz

First, I would like to thank all of the OPC presidents who worked very closely with me to ensure the survival and health of the OPC. Michael Serrill was president when I was hired. The first president I worked with for a 2-year term was Marcus Mabry, then Pancho Bernasconi, Deidre Depke, and Paula Dwyer. I was very fortunate to work with Scott for 4 years.

When I started in 2014, the membership was aging and it was hard to recruit new and younger members. Social media was beginning to replace in-person gatherings and news organizations were closing foreign bureaus, laying off correspondents, and declining to pay for OPC memberships for their journalists.

As more journalists became freelancers, many found it hard to pay dues themselves.

To entice young and freelance journalists to join the OPC, the board approved a special membership category for journalists 29 and under with dues of $20, the price of a drink or two at a midtown bar. Freelance journalists can request a dues subsidy if they cannot afford full dues. We initiated the OPC press IDs, which became hugely popular. The IDs, which expire after one year, also serve as an incentive for members to pay dues each year.

In 2019, the OPC partnered with London's Frontline Club for two panels on How to Freelance Safely. Marcus Mabry was OPC president, and he and I went to London so he could participate on the second panel, which included Frontline Club founder Vaughn Smith. Those panels led to a discussion about bringing together news organizations and freelancers to cooperate on safety training and protocols. Vaughn later came to New York City, where the OPC organized a meeting that included the two clubs, representatives of Reuters, the New York Times and other news organizations, Human Rights Watch, and journalism safety groups. That meeting was the start of a process that culminated with the creation of A Culture of Safety, commonly called ACOS. (The OPC Foundation helped administer ACOS for many years.)

COVID was a big challenge. The office was inaccessible for about six months because Club Quarters was boarded up. We had to cancel the 2020 Awards dinner just one month before it was to be held. We scheduled a dinner for April 2021 but ended up postponing it until September. As a safety precaution, we asked all winners to send us an acceptance video in case we had to do the September dinner virtually. In the end, we had the in-person dinner in September and showed the videos there. People loved the videos, which enabled us to showcase the actual work as well as see and hear the journalists. We continue that practice to this day.

Technology helped us survive. I could remotely access my office computer, which contains the OPC member database. To keep programming alive, we started a Winners series, where each of the 2020 OPC Award winners discussed their winning work with an editor or producer on Zoom. Those 20 Zoom programs were a big success, and set a precedent for the series we now call How I Did It.

During lockdown, Bill Holstein suggested that the OPC raise money to give emergency grants to freelance journalists who could not work, or who could not get home. That year the OPC gave grants of $750 to 49 journalists. In 2021, the president of the Ford Foundation gave the OPC a grant that allowed the club to give $1000 grants to another 92 journalists.

In 2022, the OPC gave $133,000 in grants to 33 journalists who fled Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban and were resettling in the United States, again with a generous grant from the Ford Foundation and member donations.

In December of that year, the OPC began distributing 18 grants of $2,000 each to journalists who were struggling to do their work in Ukraine. Sony Electronics kickstarted the fund with a $25,000 donation.

It was heartwarming to be the one to communicate the happy news to grant recipients. But getting the money to them was another story. The OPC uses

Chase Bank. Their website does not easily handle online wire transfers to countries in Africa or the Middle East, among others. So I had to go in person to a Chase branch to make each of the grant payments.

It was even harder to pay Ukrainian grantees. Chase would not send any money to Ukraine because it was on their list of “corrupt” countries. Western Union’s website also would not handle online payments to Ukraine. In the end, I had to go to Chase and withdraw thousands of dollars in cash and then go to a check cashing outlet, which was willing to send payments to Western Union offices in Ukraine, where the recipients would pick up the money. It reminded me of banking in Moscow when I was a journalist there in the 1990s. We all got used to carrying around large amounts of cash.

Digitizing the OPC’s archives was a major project. I hired a company to scan all OPC Bulletins and Dateline magazines that were in the office. The Bulletins chronicle all of the club’s activities and challenges over the decades. Dateline magazine lists award winners from each year, and stories written by famous journalists about major issues of their day. The OPC has a rich history and I am gratified that much of it is available to anyone on archive.org.

I want to thank Sandra Stevenson for leading the program committee for the past several years, building it up and bringing in more governors to help develop program ideas. Thanks to Cathy Manso, who came on board a year ago to handle social media and edit the Bulletin. She jumped right in, is willing to take on any task we throw at her and is a pleasure to work with.

Heartfelt thanks to Scott, who has presided over the OPC in a tumultuous period for international journalists. He was a hands-on president who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get input from the executive committee and other governors on issues important to the OPC. He helped guide me through many challenges. He spearheaded the drive to convert the OPC into a 501-c-3, which will help ensure the future of the club. I will miss our weekly calls.

Lastly, I want to welcome Lauren Walsh. She has the perfect credentials to lead the Club in a rapidly changing world.

Share Letter

OPC Celebration

Photos

The OPC marked a change in leadership at a party on Oct. 6 hosted at the New York Times (NYT) building by Marc Lacey, managing editor of the NYT.

Outgoing OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz reminisces about the OPC and her career.

(Photo credit: Brian Byrd)





Scott Kraft of the Los Angeles Times, Marc Lacey and Patricia Kranz toast new OPC Executive Director Lauren Walsh. (Photo credit: Brian Byrd)



Marc Lacey, Lauren Walsh, Patrica Kranz and Scott Kraft (Photo courtesy of Marc Lacey)



OPC President Sandra Stevenson thanks Patricia Kranz for her 12 years at the OPC. (Photo credit: Brian Byrd)



Josh Fine and Pancho Bernasconi

(Photo credit: Brian Byrd)



Brian Byrd, Charles Graeber, Patricia Kranz and Minky Worden.
(Photo courtesy of Brian Byrd)



Azmat Khan laughing as she shows Patricia Kranz the press IDs she made for Columbia Journalism students before they started ordering professional press IDs from the OPC.
(Photo credit: Brian Byrd)

E&P Magazine- Dispatches from the world: OPC honors the most impactful storytelling, filed from abroad

Editor & Publisher reached out to the OPC in early August to work on a profile of the club. They interviewed Patricia Kranz and Scott Kraft, then executive director and president of the

OPC. It was published in late September. Please take a look at E&P's comprehensive profile to get an overview of OPC's activities and history.



Attendees of the 2026 Annual Overseas Press Club Awards included (left to right): Shivangi Sen, Aida Alami, Azmat Khan, Michael Mitsanas, Simon Li, June Li, Christopher Mendell Jr., Hikari Hida, Marina Roman and Max Rykov.
(Photo credit: Jennifer S. Altman)

by Bob Miller | E&P Magazine

They are the Lewis and Clarks, the Neil Armstrongs and Christa McAuliffes of international journalism. Foreign correspondents are more than reporters and photographers. They're adventurers, leaving the comforts of their homes to explore the rest of the world, telling stories of people, politics, economics and war beyond the borders of the U.S., often in dangerous places. Since 1939, the Overseas Press Club (OPC) of America has committed to giving these journalism journeyers their due.

Continue Article

Upcoming OPC Events

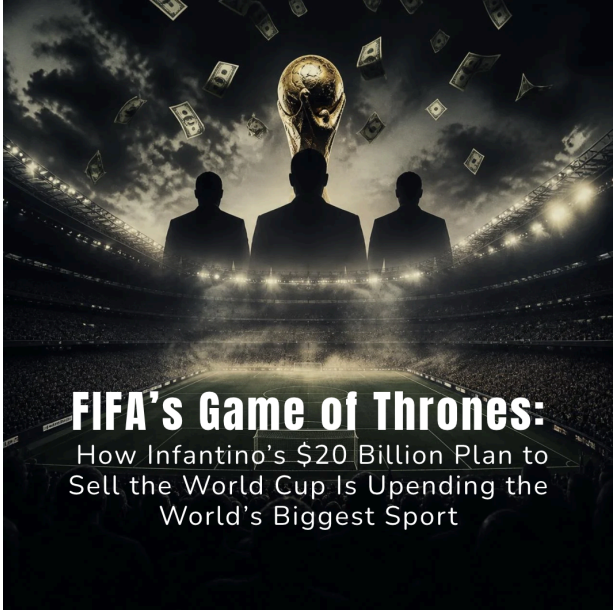
Oct. 27: FIFA's Game of Thrones- How Infantino's $20 Billion Plan to Sell the World Cup Is Upending the World's Biggest Sport

Location: Online via Zoom
Date: 27 October 2026
Time: 12:00 p.m. ET

Nine days after the most lucrative World Cup in history, investigative journalists revealed FIFA President Gianni Infantino's plan to sell a 20% stake in a new $20 billion subsidiary controlling the World Cup's commercial rights, with Joshua Kushner, brother of Donald Trump's son-in-law, as anchor investor. The news sparked what Reuters calls an "unprecedented civil war" in world soccer, including a UEFA boycott threat, high-level resignations, and FIFA's own chief operating officer saying staff had been "deceived" by "the project of one person." Within days, the plan was dead.

Will Gianni Infantino's presidency be next? The global football leader spent the last decade cultivating Vladimir Putin, Qatar, and US President Donald Trump

with a “FIFA Peace Prize.” FIFA’s human rights commitments have been ignored as thousands of workers died to deliver the 2022 World Cup, and Saudi Arabia was awarded the flagship tournament for 2034.



November 18 is the deadline for FIFA presidential candidates to submit formal nominations to stand against Infantino. How are reporters covering the fight for control of the world’s biggest sport? Who is lining up for soccer’s top job, and will they continue the federation’s famous legacy of corruption and turmoil?
Join us to hear from leading experts covering FIFA’s current crisis:

Panelists:

Sophia Cai, a White House reporter at POLITICO and co-author of West Wing Playbook, covering the intersection of the Trump administration and FIFA. Her reporting has examined Joshua Kushner’s Thrive Capital and the emerging field of challengers to Infantino, including Qatari sports executive Nasser al-Khelaifi.

Minky Worden, Director of Global Initiatives at Human Rights Watch, who has led the organization’s reporting on FIFA World Cups in Russia, Qatar and North America. She is a governor of the OPC and a contributor at Forbes, covering FIFA’s human rights record and the 2026 tournament.

Martyn Ziegler, an award-winning journalist at The Times and The Sunday Times focusing on sports governance and the business of sport. He broke the news of Infantino’s private equity plan, leading to its cancelation.

Moderated by **OPC Governor Josh Fine**, an investigative reporter and producer whose work has appeared on HBO’s Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel, CBS News’ 60 Minutes, and ABC’s World News Tonight. Winner of two Overseas Press Club Awards, and 19 Emmys, he is currently a Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton.

Register Here

Upcoming Non-OPC Events

Oct. 22: The Arab & Middle Eastern Journalists Association 2026 Awards Ceremony

Location: Atolye Venue & Bar 236b 6th Street

Brooklyn, NY
Date: 22 October 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. ET

Join **AMEJA** for a special evening celebrating journalism that sheds light on Arab, Middle Eastern and SWANA stories.

The 2026 AWARDS CEREMONY brings together journalists from across the country for our biggest event of the year. We'll be honoring courageous storytelling and the journalists who bring our communities to light.

What to expect:

- Reception & community networking
- Presentation of the AMEJA award winners (seven categories)
- A fireside chat with the journalists Leila Fadel, Farnaz Fassihi and Joe Snell
- A performance by the comedian Nataly Aukar
- Food, dessert and non-alcoholic refreshments included

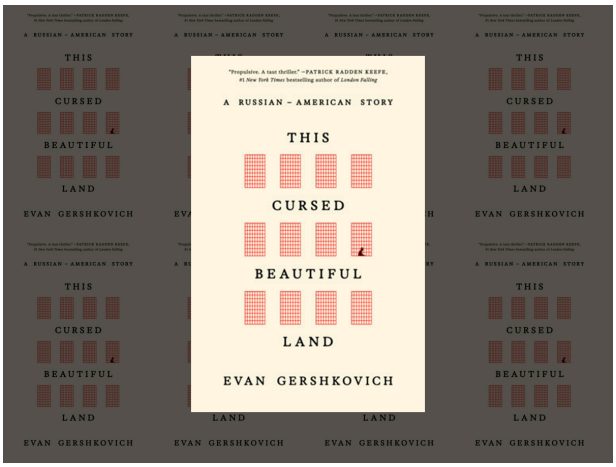
Tickets are available for **AMEJA members**, **non-members**, and **supporters**. Tickets directly fund mentorship programs, safety resources, and advocacy for Arab and Middle Eastern journalists in U.S. newsrooms.

Register Here

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

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

Time: 5:00 p.m. ET



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.**

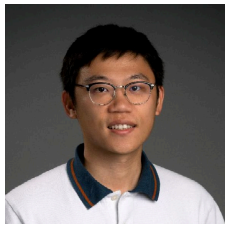
Reserve Your Seat

Welcome New Members

Nabih Bulos
Middle East Bureau chief at the Los Angeles Times
Beirut, Lebanon
Active Overseas



Yutao Chen
Senior Designer at The Washington Post
Washington D.C.
Active Young Non-Resident

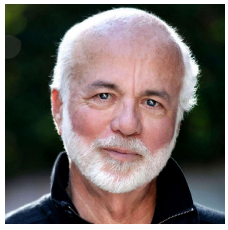


People by Cathy Manso

UPDATES



OPC member **Robert Nickelsberg** is preparing to release "Kashmir, the Valley" a book of archival photographs documenting the region from 1989 to 2011 and beyond, drawn from his years covering South Asia. Nickelsberg was based in New Delhi for 11 years. Printing began at Heidelberg publisher Kehrer Verlag in Frankfurt, Germany. The book is scheduled for release in Europe and Asia on Nov. 12, 2026, at Paris.



David Hume Kennerly, an OPC member since 1992, is releasing a new book, "In the Room: 60 Years on The Front Lines of History," on Nov. 24 through Rizzoli. Kennerly's hardcover brings together six decades of images documenting pivotal moments in American and world history. Kennerly, who won the Pulitzer Prize at 25 and later served as President Gerald R. Ford's chief White House photographer, has reported from more than 100 countries. His photographs span the Vietnam War,

Watergate, the Ford White House, presidential elections and the Sept. 11 attacks. The book's release coincides with a major exhibition of his work at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library currently in Medora, North Dakota.



In The New Yorker on Oct. 12, OPC member and 2026 recipient of the Whitman Bassow Award **Ben Taub**, reflected on his first journey to the Turkish-Syrian border in 2013, when he was 22 and considering a career in journalism. In "My Education on the Border of the Syrian War," he recounts setting out to meet war correspondents and learn about the moral and logistical challenges of reporting from conflict zones. Read more here.



Twenty-five former CBS Radio colleagues, including OPC member **Beth Knobe**l, gathered to accept the Radio Television Digital News Association's Overall Excellence Murrow Award, despite the network's radio service having shut down in May. Knobel described the ceremony as a final show of displeasure and an opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues. The evening also honored journalists Scott Pelley, Kristin Welker and Terry Gross, host of NPR's "Fresh Air."



Stephen Kalin, OPC secretary, co-authored a report in *T*he Wall Street Journal on Oct. 10 with Georgi Kantchev and Summer Said examining how Houthi missile attacks on Saudi airports threaten the kingdom's international air connections. The article explores the potential consequences for business travel, tourism and Saudi Arabia's efforts to attract foreign investment.



The Overseas Press Club Foundation has welcomed Past President **Scott Kraft** to its Board of Directors. Kraft is senior vice president and editor at large for enterprise journalism and special projects at the Los Angeles Times, where he oversees investigations, standards and practices, and newsroom-wide reporting initiatives. Kraft served for a decade on the OPC Board of Governors and is a longtime advocate for international journalism and the next generation of correspondents.



American photojournalist **Lynsey Addario** was honored at the fifth annual Albies, hosted by the Clooney Foundation for Justice on Oct. 9 at the Natural History Museum in London. Addario praised George and Amal Clooney for using their public platform to draw attention to human rights issues, war crimes and the silencing and imprisonment of journalists around the world. Addario was the OPC's President's Award Winner in 2025.



Julia Ioffe, an active governor of the Overseas Press Club of America and founding partner of Puck, examined the Kremlin's efforts to influence U.S. policy toward Ukraine through potential business deals in her Oct. 8 article, "Kushner and Witkoff's Pipe Dreams." Ioffe reports on discussions involving Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, and U.S.

envoy Steve Witkoff over a potential multibillion-dollar deal for assets belonging to Russian oil company Lukoil, which are frozen under U.S. sanctions. She explores how Russian President Vladimir Putin may be using the prospect of future profits to encourage the Trump administration to shift its approach to Ukraine.



Nilo Tabrizy, an active OPC governor, contributed to a Reuters special report published on Oct. 8, alongside Mari Saito, Emily Giles and Kaylee Kang. “Iran’s wartime hunt for protesters at home and abroad ushers in a new era of repression” investigates how Iranian authorities target government critics inside the country and abroad, using surveillance, prosecutions, executions and pressure on dissidents’ families to suppress opposition.



In Columbia Journalism Review on Oct. 7, OPC Governor and investigative reporter **Azmat Khan**, co-authored “Remembrance” with Palestinian journalist Aseel Mousa, examining the lives and work of Palestinian journalists killed in Gaza. Khan draws on her years investigating the civilian toll of war to examine how the deaths of journalists are reported, arguing for greater attention to their work, lives and humanity.



OPC Vice President **Marc Lacey** revisited a landmark moment in eyewitness journalism in The New York Times on Oct. 2, recounting reporter Earl Caldwell’s coverage of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis in 1968. Part of a series marking the newspaper’s 175 years of eyewitness journalism, the article explores Caldwell’s firsthand account of the shooting, the limits of what reporters can witness and the decades of dispute that followed.



A report by OPC Governor **Kate Linthicum** and Albert Brave Tiger Lee was published in the Los Angeles Times on Sept. 29. “More than 25,000 people have been deported to countries where they have no ties” examines the U.S. government’s deportation of people to countries with which they have no established connections, documenting the scale of the practice and its human consequences.



Neal Shapiro stepped down as President and CEO of The WNET Group on September 21 after nearly two decades of leadership. During his tenure, Shapiro revitalized programming, nearly doubling arts and culture offerings, and set new fundraising records. He transitioned to a President Emeritus role to continue supporting fundraising and organizational goals. Before joining The WNET Group, Shapiro was President of NBC News, leading its top-rated news programs. He has been an OPC member since 2001.

New Resources

AWARDS AND PROGRAMS

The **Double Exposure Film Festival**, hosted by the 100Reporters organization, will take place from Nov. 5 to Nov. 8 in Washington, D.C. this year. The festival focuses on investigative journalism and cinematic storytelling. This year's themes explore democracy, journalistic rights and accountability. Read more here.

The **Committee to Protect Journalists** (CPJ) will host its 36th annual International Press Freedom Awards and benefit dinner on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, in New York City. The event will honor journalists Christina Assi (Lebanon), the Eritrea 16 (Eritrea), Szabolcs Panyi (Hungary), Estefany Rodríguez (Colombia) and Sai Zaw Thaike (Myanmar) for their work and resilience in the face of threats to press freedom. Salvadoran journalist Carlos Dada, co-founder of El Faro, will receive the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award for his contributions to investigative journalism despite government persecution and exile. Lulu Garcia-Navarro of The New York Times and "The Interview" podcast will serve as master of ceremonies, with Cesar Conde, chairman of the NBCUniversal News Group, chairing the event. For event details, visit the CPJ International Press Freedom Awards website.

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Wall Street Journal is calling for applications for its Summer 2027 internships. Applications close on Oct. 31 at midnight Eastern Time. Read more and apply here.

Applications are open for the **Open Notebook's Early-Career Fellowship Program** for 2027. The one-year program is a paid, part-time fellowship for early-career science journalists. Fellows will work with a mentor to plan, report, and write articles for publication at The Open Notebook and become part of the editorial team. The application deadline is Oct. 31. Read more and apply here.

Journalists in the global network of the **Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project** (OCCRP) are invited to apply for the Hans Staiger Investigative Reporting Award to pursue an investigative project of their choosing. The deadline to apply for the 2027 award is November 15, 2026. The award was established by the **International Center for Journalists** (ICFJ) in honor of Staiger, a longtime reporter and editor for the BBC and media development consultant with ICFJ for more than 12 years until his death in February 2023. ICFJ will administer the award. Read more here.

The **International Student Fellowship** (ISF) is offering paid journalism internships for spring and summer 2027 in partnership with newsrooms across the United States. Placements include the Los Angeles Times, Religion News Service, Zeteo and Borderless, with stipends ranging from $5,000 to $8,400 depending on the position. Opportunities vary by location and season, with remote and in-person placements available. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, green card holders or DACA recipients, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and be undergraduate juniors or seniors, graduate students, or recent graduates within the past 12 months studying journalism or a related field. The application deadline is Nov. 1, 2026; review eligibility requirements 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

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