



**Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation**

## **Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation – January 2024 Newsletter**

The new year is off to an active and exciting start. The Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation has a lot of important news to share in this month's newsletter.

### **Tickets on Sale for Hall of Fame Luncheon**

Tickets are going fast for the inaugural Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame induction ceremony and luncheon. The event is a celebration of local journalism and an opportunity to recognize the talented journalists who have contributed so much to our community.

The first inductees are Karen Devine, Bruce Fessier and Milt and Frank Jones. These talented individuals have been part of the local media for decades and are richly deserving of our thanks.

The hall of fame luncheon also will include honors for Coachella Valley Journalist of the Year and the Rising Star award, both sponsored by the California News Publishers Association. Everyone is encouraged to nominate worthy journalists for these awards. Simply go to the Hall of Fame page on our website ([www.cvjf.org](http://www.cvjf.org)) and fill out a simple nomination form. The deadline is Jan. 31.

Retired *Washington Post* editor Martin Baron – author of the book *Collison of Power: Trump, Bezos and The Washington Post* -- will deliver keynote remarks. Attendees will receive a signed copy of the book. Retired broadcast journalist, and Palm Springs resident, Hank Plante, will emcee the event.

The event is Wednesday, Feb. 28, at Thunderbird Country Club in Rancho Mirage. Tickets are \$200 and are on sale until Feb. 16, can be purchased at [www.cvjf.org](http://www.cvjf.org). All proceeds will go toward supporting local journalism.

### **A Visual History of Political Cartoons in U.S. Newspapers**

CVJF is planning a few public events this year to engage and educate the community about the important role journalists play. Several events are still in the planning stages, so we'll announce

more details as they come together, but we're excited to share news about a program that promises to be informative and inspiring.

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They've made us laugh, cringe, exasperated! Now Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Mike Thompson, formerly of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the Detroit Free Press, will trace the history of political cartoons in American newspapers and discuss the role cartoons have played in the national dialogue through the years.

The lecture presentation, "From Ben Franklin to William Randolph Hearst to Here & Now: The History of Political Cartoons in America," will take place at the Rancho Mirage Library on Tuesday, April 30, at 2 pm.

Mike will be joined by Nicky Loomis, Opinion Editor of The Desert Sun, who will comment on the history of newspaper opinion pages including letters to the editor.

The event is free. No tickets are required.

### **Ken Chavez Joins CVJF Board of Directors**



Ken Chavez, director of community and media relations at The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage, has joined the all-volunteer board of directors of the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation. Ken has worked at Sunnylands since 2014.

Before moving to the Coachella Valley, Ken worked as a reporter and editor at *The Sacramento Bee* for 25 years. He covered state and national politics, helped move the paper into the digital era as its first assistant managing editor for interactive media, and left the organization as its senior editor in charge of local news.

Ken launched his career through the Los Angeles Times' METPRO (Minority Editorial Training Program) in 1986 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in communication from Stanford University.

CVJF is talking with a couple other qualified individuals about joining our ranks to add more talent and firepower to our board. Stay tuned for more news in the months ahead.

### **CVJF to Participate in Second Annual Coachella Valley Giving Day**

Mark your calendars. The early giving period for the Coachella Valley Giving Day fundraising campaign kicks off on Monday, Feb. 5, culminating in the big day on Tuesday, March 5.

More than 150 local nonprofits participated last year and raised more than \$370,000. CVJF received a \$10,000 bonus prize from the sponsors, First Bank and the Desert Community Foundation, last year for generating the most unique donors. In total, we raised more than \$16,000. Those funds allowed us to fund three future journalists as interns with three different news teams in the Valley. You can see all the grants that have been awarded since 2020 on our website ([www.cvjf.org](http://www.cvjf.org)).

We intend to repeat our win this year with your help!

Starting on Feb. 5, all donations through our website will direct donors to our Giving Day donation page. Whether you can donate \$10, \$100 or \$1,000 please give during this important fundraiser. Winning the \$10,000 prize means a lot to our small organization.

### **Update on Our Year-end Fundraising**

Last year was an interesting year in terms of fundraising. On the positive side, we generated a record number of donations – more than 200. On the negative side, our donations came in at slightly lower levels than previous years. Ultimately, we fell about \$10,000 short of reaching our annual fundraising goal. Let’s hope all the exciting efforts outlined above will lead us to a more successful 2024!



As part of our year-end push, board member Joe Wallace generously donated an expensive bottle of champagne.

Valued at several hundred dollars, this bottle - a 1996 Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin La Grande Dame Brut – was part of a raffle for donors who generously gave \$500 or more to CVJF in the final two months of the year.

Congratulations to Will and Scott Garrick-Stettaford. Thank you for your donation, and we hope you enjoy the bubbly! We think it’s a terrific way to celebrate the new year! And to celebrate local news!

Cheers to all of you. Here’s to an informative, successful new year!

Randy Lovely, Board President  
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**To donate go to our website and click the donate button using a credit or debit card or send a check to the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation to PO Box 207, Palm Springs, CA 92263.**