

May 2024 Newsletter

As we head into the normally quiet months of summer, the board of directors of the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation isn't slowing down. While we remain committed to our three current projects (funding the Desert Sun's Opinion Editor position, underwriting internships for the next generation of journalists, and providing small grants to assist newsrooms with reporting projects), we are looking to the future and identifying more ways we can enhance journalism for Coachella Valley residents. We will share more details in the coming months, but please know that your support is appreciated, and we are committed to increasing our impact.

CVJF awards four grants to fund internships/fellowships

For the past three years, your generosity has allowed CVJF to underwrite internships or fellowships with local news organizations to provide on-the-job training for the next generation of journalists. In 2022, we launched this effort by funding two internships. In 2023, that number grew to three, and we're pleased to announce that your donations this year allow us to award four grants. Once these individuals have been selected, we will share more details about these young journalists. For now, congratulations to:

- KESQ, The Desert Sun and the Palm Springs Post. They each will hire summer interns.
- Coachella Valley Independent. They will hire a fall intern.

If you want to learn more about previous interns that CVJF has funded, you can read their bio information on our website at <https://cvjf.org/cvjf-grant-awards/>.

The History of Political Cartoons and Newspaper Opinion Pages



About 130 people attended a lively and informative presentation last month about the history of political cartoons and newspaper opinion pages in America.

The CVJF-sponsored event featured award-winning editorial cartoonist Mike Thompson and Desert Sun Opinion and Engagement Editor Nicky Loomis. Mike and Nicky traced the history of editorial cartoons, opinion pages and letters to the editor from Ben Franklin to the late 20th century. Mike spotlighted some of the best (and his favorite) artists, sharing

cartoons that were provocative, insightful and sometimes truly memorable, including the 1963 depiction by Bill Mauldin of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial statue in Washington, D.C., crying over the death of President John F. Kennedy. Mike's presentation ended in the 1980s with the handoff of the U.S. presidency from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan. Mike also explored the art form itself, including techniques deployed by different cartoonists.

Nicky traced the evolution of the newspaper editorial page from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, when the separation of news coverage and editorial features became more formal, spurred by the advent of television and new federal regulations aimed at ensuring "fairness" in the form of objective news coverage. Among other artifacts, Nicky shared early letters to the editor that appeared in The Desert Sun and one of the newspaper's first U.S. presidential endorsements, which was in favor of President Gerald Ford in the 1976 election.

CVJF hopes to sponsor a second event next year that highlights the evolution of political cartoons and editorial pages in the 21st century, including animated cartoons and memes, and the sometimes blurry nature today between news and opinion.

Mike is the winner of the 2017 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for cartooning; a two-time winner of the Society of Professional Journalists' national award for cartooning; and winner of the Overseas Press Club Award, the National Press Foundation Award, the National Headliner Award, the Scripps Howard Award, and the national Women in Communications Clarion Award. He has been a finalist four times for the Pulitzer Prize. Nicky worked as a reporter and columnist for the Pasadena Star News and The Associated Press before joining The Desert Sun.

Donations from CVJF supporters helped enable this presentation and community discussion at the Rancho Mirage Library. Thank you!

[CVJF website receives a fresh look](#)

Over the past few weeks, you may have noticed changes to our website – www.cvjf.org. The refresh cleans up inconsistencies in typography and design across the site and introduces a more dynamic color palette that matches our logo. We want to thank donor and CVJF supporter Derek Evan, who generously donates his time to maintain and update our site. If you haven't been to the site in a while, you can learn more about:

- Grants awarded since we launched CVJF in late 2020.
- Details about this year's Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame inductees and Coachella Valley Journalism Award winners.
- Photo galleries from past events.
- Biographies of CVJF board members.
- A list of CVJF's top supporters.

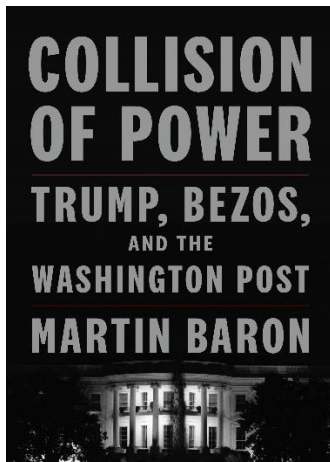
The site also includes a News section that includes links to media coverage of CVJF as well as our past monthly newsletters.

Of course, the site also provides plenty of opportunities to click on the “donate” button to give generously to CVJF!

CVJF reaches milestone with its social media presence

Last fall, CVJF launched its social media presence to help keep you informed about our activities and for us to celebrate local journalism. I’m pleased to say that we recently surpassed 100 followers on our Facebook page, and we are approaching 150 followers on LinkedIn. If you’d like to follow our happenings, we have links to our social media accounts at the bottom of the main page of our website, or you can search for us on your apps.

Signed copies of Marty Baron’s book available for sale



A couple donors took advantage of our offer to purchase a signed copy of Marty Baron’s book, *Collision of Power: Trump, Bezos and The Washington Post*, after we announced last month that extra copies were available. Well, we still have a few copies remaining.

Marty’s remarks were a highlight of the Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame event we hosted in February, and his book provides fascinating insights into his time leading *The Washington Post*.

If you are interested in purchasing a signed copy of the book for \$30 (it retails for \$34.50) please send me an email at cvjournalismfoundation@gmail.com

Thanks. Next month we’ll provide a mid-year update.

Randy Lovely, Board President
Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation
cvjournalismfoundation@gmail.com
www.cvjf.org

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