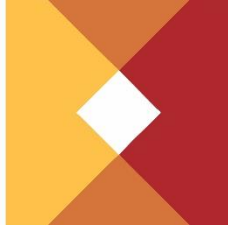


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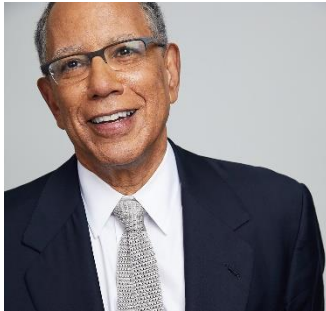
## October 2024 Newsletter

### [Meet your 2025 Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame honorees](#)

The Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation created the Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame in 2024 to recognize and celebrate the talented journalists who have contributed so much to our community.

We're excited to announce the 2025 inductees: John White, Laurilie Jackson, Adolfo Iñiguez Lomelí, and Gloria Greer (posthumous).

These talented individuals have spent years informing, enlightening and entertaining Coachella Valley residents, and they are richly deserving of our thanks. They will be inducted at an exclusive in-person event featuring former *New York Times* executive editor Dean Baquet on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas resort in Rancho Mirage.



Baquet will discuss his new initiative to strengthen investigative reporting in local communities — including our own Coachella Valley. In addition, several local journalists will be honored with our Journalist of the Year and Rising Star awards.

KESQ anchor Karen Devine will emcee the event.

All proceeds will support local newsrooms via grantmaking by the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation.

The luncheon runs from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from our website, [www.cvif.org](http://www.cvif.org). Individual tickets are \$195, and include lunch, beverages and self-parking. Tables of 10 may be purchased at a discounted price of \$1,750.

We ask that you consider **deepening** your commitment to CVJF by joining our Fourth Estate Membership Program. If you join at the Guardian level, your membership includes a table for 10 guests at the Hall of Fame luncheon, while the Defender level includes two seats at the event. The additional funds from your membership donation support our various programs. Details about the Fourth Estate program are attached. For questions, please reach out to me at [cvjournalismfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:cvjournalismfoundation@gmail.com)

Here is more information about the 2025 Hall of Fame inductees:

## **John White**



John White is in his 25th consecutive year at KESQ News Channel 3. He started his career as a broadcast journalist in the Coachella Valley in 1991 with stints at KNWZ radio, a local cable program, and KESQ before leaving the Valley briefly in 1997 to work at a CBS affiliate in Pennsylvania.

John received a Pacific Southwest Emmy Award in 2016 for his reporting on the Salton Sea. Other accolades include multiple Emmy nominations and a Golden Mic in 2021.

In 2022, John traveled to the White House to report on the signing of the PACT Act that included benefits for veterans who had been exposed to toxic burn pits. (*His travel was funded through a grant from CVJF.*) John started reporting on the issue in 2017, when he brought viewers the story of local veteran Jennifer Kepner, who later died of pancreatic cancer she blamed on burn pit exposure during her service in Iraq. John continued to report on the issue as it gained attention in Congress and eventually turned into legislation that brought new benefits to millions of veterans.

John's career has included reporting on the Valley's growth from the early days of Indian gaming to the latest resort developments. He has covered local politics and elections from the 1990s when Sonny Bono first ran for Congress to the Valley's most competitive races this year.

John's sister-in-law recently died from Parkinson's Disease, and John now serves as co-chair of the nonprofit Parkinson's Resource Organization.

His wife, Cynthia, first brought him to the desert before they were married. The Chicago-area native was captivated by the Valley and all it had to offer. The couple have been married for 31 years and have a wonderful daughter, Jacqueline, who's now contributing to her hometown through social work after earning a psychology degree at Northern Arizona University.

## **Laurilie Jackson**



Laurilie Jackson is a media professional and educator with extensive experience in media production and academia. She is an associate professor at College of the Desert, a guest lecturer at California State San Bernardino and an anchor/reporter at KESQ News Channel 3.

Laurilie is dedicated to training the next generation of media professionals through education and practical, hands-on experience. She leads the film, television and media department at College of the Desert and advises the nationally recognized COD Roadrunner Radio and the award-winning newspaper, *The Chaparral*.

Her bachelor's degree is in sociology and communication, and she has a master's in broadcast journalism. She interned at KNBC Los Angeles, CNN Hollywood, Larry King Live and Entertainment Tonight.

Before moving to Palm Springs, Laurilie worked as a production assistant at Universal Studios Florida, served as a weekend reporter for WAVY News, and hosted a national newscast for the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia.

Laurilie has received several awards, including the 2019 Helene Galen Excellence in Education Award from the Women Leaders Forum, the 20-Year Service to Education Award from College of the Desert, and recognition as a national finalist for the 2020 Best Faculty Advisor Award from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Systems in New York City.

Laurilie is the vice president of Palm Springs Women in Film and Television and serves on the advisory board for the Women Leaders Forum. Originally from Vancouver, Canada, she moved to the Coachella Valley in 1997, where she raised her three daughters, who are her greatest pride and joy.

### **Adolfo Iñiguez Lomelí**



Adolfo Iñiguez Lomelí is celebrating 29 years as the morning personality and programmer with “La Poderosa” 96.7 FM, the highest-rated radio station in the Valley, regardless of language, across multiple demos in the region. He has been in the broadcasting profession for more than 35 years.

Adolfo is originally from Capilla de Milpillias, Jalisco, Mexico, and came to the United States in 1987. A year after arriving in the United State, he volunteered at two radio stations in the region, Radio KUNA and KCLB. He ultimately was hired by KCLB and worked there for about three years as a part-timer in the early hours on weekends. He then later worked at Radio KUNA 96.7 in the afternoon shift.

After a stint working at a radio station in Los Angeles, he returned to the Valley in 1996. Since then, he has worked at Radio KUNA, which Adolfo changed to “La Poderosa.” Adolfo is the programmer and host of “El Show del Greñas” on “La Poderosa” from 5 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday. Adolfo voices the characters on his show, including the popular “El Greñas,” a contributor who says what he feels, and feels what he says. Over the years, other characters have appeared on his show, including “La Colorina,” “Don Cascarrabias,” “El Hermano Cruzvelly,” “El Pifas,” and “El Coruco.”

Adolfo's interest in radio extends to his childhood. As a child he underwent tonsil surgery and since then he has had the ability to manipulate his voice to create the characters that appear on his show.

Adolfo has been married for 32 years to his wife, Olga, who is a teacher with the Coachella Valley Unified School District. They have three children, one who is also a teacher. The other two are in college.

### **Gloria Greer (posthumous)**



Gloria Greer was a talented writer, editor, publisher and broadcaster who chronicled the icons of the desert for decades — and in doing so became an icon herself.

For more than 20 years, Greer was a feature writer for the *Press-Enterprise*, penning her "Stars on the Desert" column. She also wrote for *Variety*, *Newsweek*, the Associated Press, and *Town and Country Magazine*. When TV came to the desert, Greer brought her "Stars on the Desert" to the local ABC affiliate, and then to the NBC affiliate, where she appeared for 25 years on the nightly news.

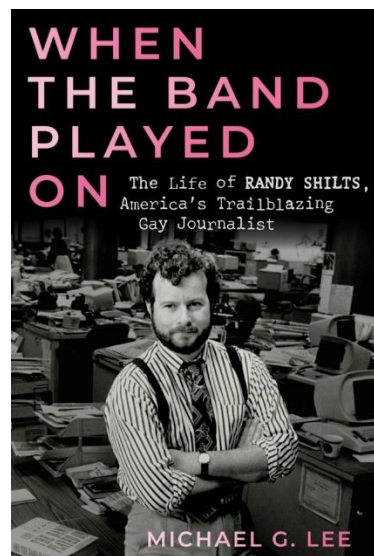
She edited and published *Sand to Sea* magazine, founded in 1974 with her mother, and sold it to *Palm Springs Life* in 1999. She then became society editor for *Palm Springs Life*.

Greer created, produced and hosted two TV shows for Time Warner and PBS in Southern California: "Conversations with Gloria Greer" and "Exploring the Arts."

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences inducted Greer into its prestigious Silver Circle for her 25+ years on air.

Greer founded the nonprofit ACT for MS and was active on multiple boards, including the Palm Springs Air Museum and Palm Springs Cultural Center. She died in 2015 at age 87.

### **Join us for a conversation about "trailblazing" journalist Randy Shilts**



In the 1980s, Randy Shilts was the first openly gay journalist to work for a mainstream newspaper, *The San Francisco Chronicle*. His bestselling book, *And the Band Played On: People, Politics, and the AIDS Epidemic*, published in 1987, brought attention to what he saw as the government's indifference to the deadly disease. But Shilts often found himself at odds with the gay community over his reporting on AIDS.

Now, a new biography pulls the curtain back on Shilts himself. In *When the Band Played On: The Life of Randy Shilts, America's Trailblazing Gay Journalist*, author Michael G. Lee interviewed friends, colleagues, critics, and college professors to draw a portrait of Shilts' personal life. Shilts died of an AIDS-related illness in 1994 at age 42.

In partnership with KGAY and *Gay Desert Guide*, CVJF is hosting a discussion with Lee at the Palm Springs Cultural Center at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16. Lee will sit down with Palm Springs' own renown journalist, Hank Plante, for a talk about the book and his discoveries about the life of Randy Shilts. [Tickets to the event are available on Eventbrite.](#) General admission is \$27.37 and priority seating and a hardcover copy of the book is available for \$52.69.

We hope to see you there.

Randy Lovely, Board President  
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[www.cvjf.org](http://www.cvjf.org)

**To donate to CVJF, 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.**