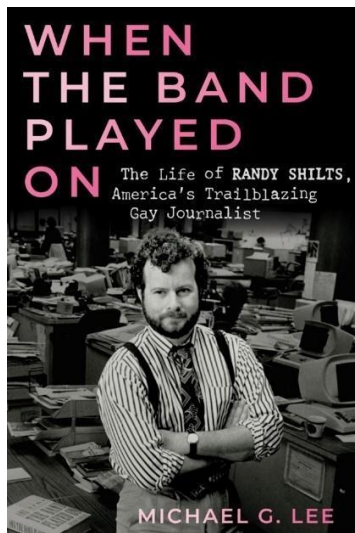


November 2024 Newsletter

You know it's season in the desert when your calendar is suddenly full of social engagements, and your phone is buzzing with texts from friends in town for the weekend.

Still, you will want to add these three CVJF events to your busy calendar. One of our primary goals is to better connect the community to dedicated journalists to demystify the profession. These events were planned with that goal in mind. We hope you will join us!

[Join Hank Plante in conversation with 'When the Band Played On' author](#)



On Saturday, Nov. 16, the Coachella Valley's own Hank Plante will discuss a new book on the life of the acclaimed journalist Randy Shilts with biographer Michael G. Lee.

In the 1980s, 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 disease. Shilts died of an AIDS-related illness in 1994 at age 42.

Lee's new book pulls the curtain back on Shilts himself. In *When the Band Played On: The Life of Randy Shilts, America's Trailblazing Gay Journalist*, Lee interviews friends, colleagues, critics, and college professors to draw a portrait of Shilts' personal life.

In partnership with KGAY and the Gay Desert Guide, CVJF is hosting Plante's evening discussion with Lee at the Palm Springs Cultural Center at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16.

[Tickets to the event are available on Eventbrite.](#) General admission is \$25 and priority seating is \$35. Copies of the hardcover book will be available for purchase at the event.

'Laugh Out Loud' with cartoonist Mike Thompson



With the election now in the rearview mirror, nationally recognized cartoonist Mike Thompson will help you find humor in politics when he comes to the Palm Springs Public Library for a look at the history of political cartoons in America.

Thompson will trace the evolution of political cartoons from America's colonial past to the present day at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec 17.

His presentation, "Laughing Out Loud: The Provocative History of Political Cartoons in America from Ben Franklin to Donald Trump," is free to the public. The Palm Springs Public Library is helping to underwrite Thompson's presentation.

A longtime editorial cartoonist and animator with *USA Today* and the *Detroit Free Press*, Thompson is the winner of the 2017 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for cartooning. He has been a finalist four times for the Pulitzer Prize.

Toast the newest inductees to the Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame



John White

Laurilie Jackson

CVJF invites you to join us in celebrating the careers of this year's inductees at the second annual Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame luncheon.

This year's honorees are:

- Longtime KESQ anchor John White
- Media educator Laurilie Jackson
- "La Poderosa" radio personality Adolfo Íñiguez Lomelí
- Celebrity columnist and broadcaster Gloria Greer (posthumous)



Adolfo Íñiguez Lomelí

Gloria Greer

These deserving individuals (read their full bios [here](#)) will be inducted at an exclusive, in-person luncheon featuring former *New York Times* executive editor Dean Baquet on

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage. KESQ anchor Karen Devine will emcee the event.

The luncheon runs from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from our website: www.cvjf.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.

Nominations sought for annual journalism awards

CVJF is seeking nominations from the public for its 2024 Journalist of the Year award and its 2024 Rising Star award.

The Journalist of the Year award honors a professional who demonstrated excellence and high ethical standards in their coverage of issues in the Coachella Valley with reporting that had a significant impact on our community in the past year.

The Rising Star Award honors a journalist under age 30 (or with less than 5 years in the industry) who has worked for a valley media organization for at least a year and produced notable journalism in 2024 that indicates they will be a strong contributor to telling the valley's story in the years to come.

The ideal nominees are journalists working in print, broadcast or digital media who have shown commitment to in-depth reporting, provided context and analysis, and enlightened the public on important local issues over the past year. Their work should exemplify journalistic values such as accuracy, integrity and fairness. Each award comes with a \$500 cash prize.

Nominations are open to the public and are being accepted through Dec. 1. A selection committee will review nominations and select the Journalist of the Year and Rising Star Awards, to be announced Jan. 14, 2025, at the Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame luncheon at Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort. To nominate a journalist for either award, please fill out [the nomination form](#) and provide information on the nominee and their exceptional work.

Join our Fourth Estate Membership program; support CVJF initiatives

Our new Fourth Estate Membership program is off to a strong start. With a goal to enlist 50 members by the end of the year, we currently have 24 donors signed on. We hope you'll consider becoming a member. Get all the details at: <https://cvjf.org/membership/>

Members receive invitations to exclusive events. Recently, we had our first membership event – a behind-the-scenes tour of KESQ's new studio. Check out the slideshow: <https://cvjf.org/galleries/>

CVJF seeks new board members; support a worthy organization

Last spring, the CVJF board voted to amend its bylaws to allow seating up to 11 individuals on its board of directors. We currently have seven members, so we have room to add individuals who believe in our mission and who bring the skills and commitment we need to be successful. You don't have to be a journalist – we have that area covered. In fact, we really need other skills to round out the board. We're looking for individuals with nonprofit development, grant writing or fundraising skills as well as individuals with finance or accounting backgrounds. Please let me know if you'd like to learn more.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Randy Lovely, Board President
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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.