

December 2024 Newsletter

Finding humor in politics with editorial cartoonist Mike Thompson

LAUGHING OUT LOUD:

THE PROVOCATIVE HISTORY OF POLITICAL CARTOONS IN AMERICA FROM BEN FRANKLIN TO DONALD TRUMP

FREE!

Tuesday, Dec. 17
Palm Springs Library
3 - 4:30 p.m.

The Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation hosts cartoonist Mike Thompson the longtime editorial cartoonist and animator with *USA Today* and the *Detroit Free Press*, for a humorous lecture on the history of political cartoons in America.

Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation
www.cvjf.org

Politics is not a laughing matter – except in the minds of political cartoonists. Mike Thompson, one of the nation’s best political cartoonists today, will demonstrate how cartoonists have skewered the powerful for centuries during a free lecture next week at the Palm Springs Library.

In “Laughing Out Loud: The Provocative History of Political Cartoons in America from Ben Franklin to Donald Trump,” Thompson will trace the evolution of political cartoons from our colonial past to the present day.

Thompson’s talk is at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Join us for a humorous, and insightful, look at the history of political

cartooning, a unique journalistic art form. The library is at 300 S. Sunrise Way in Palm Springs.

Thompson, a four-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, is a longtime editorial cartoonist and animator with *USA Today* and the *Detroit Free Press*. He won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for cartooning in 2017.

Please support local journalists as you make charitable donations

As you consider your year-end charitable giving, we hope you will donate to CVJF. While donations are up year-over-year, we are still \$10,000 short of our fundraising stretch goal.

The importance of contributions from donors like you cannot be overstated. With your help, CVJF has funded The Desert Sun’s Opinion Editor position for four years. We provided funds for four local news organizations to hire interns and fellows in the past year, and we continue to offer small one-time grants to help with reporting projects.

The best way to support CVJF is to join our Fourth Estate Membership Program, which provides us with sustained funding while providing donors with benefits from CVJF in return. When we launched the membership program last summer, we set a goal to have 50 donors qualified as members by the end of the year. We still need a handful of donors to sign on to reach our goal.

Please consider joining at <https://cvjf.org/membership/>. Or make a one-time donation of any amount by going to our website at www.cvjf.org.

Honor the Valley's best at the Media Hall of Fame awards in January



John White

Laurilie Jackson



Adolfo Íñiguez Lomelí

Gloria Greer

CVJF is excited to be inducting its second class of distinguished journalists into the Coachella Valley Media Hall of Fame in January, and we'd love for you to share in the festivities.

Four individuals whose careers helped shape the Coachella Valley media landscape will be honored at an exclusive, in-person luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage.

Former New York Times executive editor Dean Baquet will give the keynote address. KESQ anchor Karen Devine, inducted into the Hall of Fame last season, will serve as emcee.

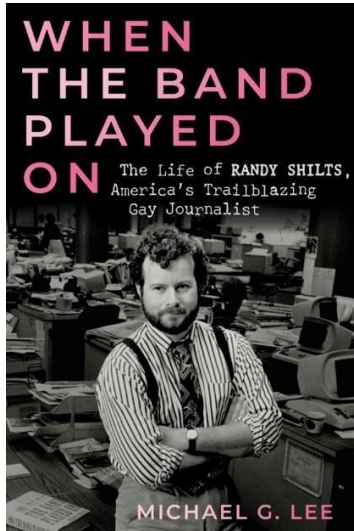
This year's honorees are:

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

See their [full bios here](#).

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. Tables of 10 may be purchased at a discounted price of \$1,750. Tickets are only on sale until the end of the year, so buy yours now.

Author event draws engaged audience to hear “When the Band Played On”



CVJF hosted author Michael G. Lee for a discussion of his new biography of acclaimed journalist Randy Shilts on Nov. 16, and about 75 community members attended the event.

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, the Coachella Valley's own Hank Plante led an engaging conversation with Lee.

The “State of the State” for CVJF is strong and growing

As we approach the end of the year, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to give you an update on how things are going with the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation. Here are some interesting facts:

- CVJF is quickly approaching 850 donations since we launched in September 2020 – almost 100 additional donations since I provided a mid-year assessment in June.
- Donations have been received from more than 350 individuals or organizations, with many of our donors giving more than once. Donations range from \$10 to \$30,000. We are truly a grassroots organization.
- While we rely on grassroots support, we also want to recognize our growing number of major supporters:
 - We have 16 donors who have given CVJF more than \$5,000 since we launched, four more than this summer.
 - We have 35 donors who have given CVJF more than \$1,000, up six from mid-year.
 - We have 28 donors who have given CVJF more than \$500, the same as in June.

- We have 36 donors who have given CVJF more than \$250, an increase of 11.
- That's more than 100 major supporters --- **thank you! We'd love to add you as one of our major supporters.**

On behalf of the board of directors of CVJF, we wish you the very best this holiday season.

Thank you for your ongoing support of local journalists.

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.