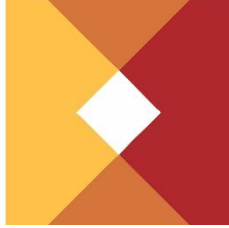


**Coachella
Valley
Journalism
Foundation**



March 2025 Newsletter

Final call for the CV Giving Day campaign to fund summer interns

There is just one day left! Tomorrow, March 4, marks the end of the month-long Coachella Valley Giving Day campaign.

This year, we're raising money to fund summer internships in Valley newsrooms. One way to keep local journalism strong is to give aspiring journalists the experience they need to succeed. Toward that end, a generous donor has pledged a \$3,000 contribution if we can raise that amount from other sources. Guess what? It's coming down to the wire. We're close but we're not quite there.

Here's how you can help: Contribute to CVJF via the Giving Day website. Here is the link: <https://www.cvgivingday.org/organization/supportjournalism>.

We thank you for your support and your consideration.

Travel through cartoon history with Mike Thompson



Join us for a provocative look at the history of political cartoons in America with nationally recognized cartoonist Mike Thompson.

Thompson will appear at the Palm Springs Public Library, 300 S. Sunrise Way, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18.

His free lecture, "Laughing Out Loud: The Provocative History of Political Cartoons in America from Ben Franklin to Donald Trump," traces the evolution of political cartoons from our nation's colonial past to the present day. A four-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and a longtime editorial cartoonist and animator with USA TODAY and the Detroit Free Press, Thompson won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for cartooning in 2017.

Members of our Fourth Estate program will be invited to a reception to meet Thompson before the program.

Racist Trees screening showcases the power of local journalism



A special thanks to those of you – more than 100 people! – who attended the special screening of the documentary *Racist Trees* at the Palm Springs Cultural Center on Feb. 16.

CVJF partnered with the Palm Springs Black History Committee to bring the film back to the Valley after it debuted at the Palm Springs International Film Festival in 2023.

The film, about a push by residents of a predominantly African American

neighborhood to remove a row of tamarisk trees that divided their homes from the rest of Palm Springs, showcased the power of local journalism.

In a question-and-answer session with the audience, Sara Newens (above right), the movie’s co-director and producer, said the filmmakers were drawn to the story by a series of articles published in *The Desert Sun* in 2017. Kate Franco (above left), *The Desert Sun*’s executive editor, said it was the type of story that only a local news outlet would take the time to adequately explore and report through numerous interviews and a careful review of documents and archival photos.

“So, the ‘Racist Trees’ depicted in the film are gone, thanks to the city of Palm Springs, which removed them. So why are we here?” said CVJF Board Member Cary Brazeman at the event. “The film lays bare two lessons of history: First, about the power of a neighborhood that makes their case for change to the powers that be, and second, the power of media to shine the light on a story that’s even bigger than the neighborhood.”

Fourth Estate Membership Program continues to grow

In just a few months since we launched our membership program, more than 80 donors have made contributions that qualified them for the Fourth Estate Membership Program. This fundraising effort provides us with sustained funding while offering donors benefits from CVJF in return.

We have set a goal to have 200 donors qualified as members by the end of the year. If you have not joined, please consider doing so. The membership program offers a range of giving levels that fit your gifting strategy.

To join the membership program, which offers perks to members, such as an invitation to meet award-winning cartoonist Mike Thompson during a members-only reception before his March 18 presentation, just go to www.cvjf.org/membership.

Palm Springs Speaks to host event with NPR journalist Mary Louise Kelly

National Public Radio journalist Mary Lousie Kelly will appear on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Palm Springs Cultural Center as the final speaker of Season Six of *Palm Springs Speaks*.

Mary Louise Kelly is co-host of *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio's flagship and award-winning newsmagazine. Previously, she spent a decade as national security correspondent for NPR News.

Her debut espionage novel, *Anonymous Sources*, was published in 2013. It's a tale of journalists, spies, and Pakistan's nuclear security. Her second novel, *The Bullet*, followed in 2015. Her most recent book, a memoir, *It. Goes. So. Fast. A Year of No Do-Overs*, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Tickets to see Kelly are available for \$45 for general admission and \$65 for premium seating, which also includes a copy of her latest book. This event will be held at the Palm Springs Cultural Center, 2300 E. Baristo Road in Palm Springs. Kelly will sign books following her presentation. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit palmspringsspeaks.org. The series is sponsored by the Friends of the Palm Springs Library.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support of the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation.

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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.