

THE PARK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

presents

THE FIFTH ANNUAL

IZZY AWARD

honoring

Mother Jones

with speakers

David Corn, Steve Katz, Kate Sheppard

April 17, 2013

Emerson Suites, Ithaca College



I. F. "Izzy" Stone

The Izzy Award recognizes outstanding achievement in independent media — journalism created outside traditional corporate structures.

The award is named after I. F. "Izzy" Stone, the legendary muckraker who for decades exposed government deceit and assaults on civil rights and liberties, notably through *I. F. Stone's Weekly* (1953-71).

***Mother Jones* (“MoJo”)**

Mother Jones is a nonprofit news organization that specializes in investigative, political, and social justice reporting via two main platforms: a bimonthly magazine of news and analysis and a website with original reporting.

It was named for Mary Harris Jones (1830-1930), an Irish-born progressive labor hero affectionately dubbed “Mother” for her nurturing attitude toward workers. For her labor and social reform activities with the United Mine Workers, Social Democratic Party, and Industrial Workers of the World, she was dubbed something much different by authorities: “the most dangerous woman in America.”

The independent news outlet named for her is being honored here for many outstanding 2012 offerings, including the 47% video exposure by D.C. Bureau chief David Corn; the database and analysis of U.S. mass shootings led by Mark Follman; and Andy Kroll and colleagues’ coverage of “dark money” the funding of candidates by secretive super-PACs and nonprofits.

Accepting the Izzy Award on behalf of the staff are Washington Bureau chief David Corn; publisher Steve Katz; and environment, energy, and reproductive rights reporter Kate Sheppard ’06.

David Corn has been *Mother Jones*’s Washington Bureau chief since 2007, when the magazine lured him from his post as Washington editor of *The Nation*.

Patient negotiation with a source led Corn to secure a video recording of Mitt Romney at a \$50,000-per-plate fundraising event in Florida, proclaiming that 47 percent of Americans are “victims” who are “dependent upon government.” Its release rocked the campaign and sent Romney’s ratings downward.

Corn’s books include *Hubris: The Inside Story of Spin, Scandal, and the Selling of the Iraq War* (with Michael

Isikoff) and *The Lies of George W. Bush: Mastering the Politics of Deception*. He has broken stories on Hillary Clinton, Newt Gingrich, Rush Limbaugh, Colin Powell, the CIA, the Pentagon, and other players. He appears often on TV and radio as a liberal commentator.

Steve Katz has more than 30 years' experience in journalism, environmental advocacy, the arts, neighborhood housing, and social justice. He joined MoJo in 2003 after serving as vice president of development for Earthjustice, a leading nonprofit environmental law firm, and was named publisher in 2010.

Since then, MotherJones.com has more than doubled its monthly traffic to 2 million-plus visitors, and the magazine has maintained a steady paid circulation of 200,000 readers. The organization is supported by a community of more than 1,000 individual donors, as well as by subscribers and advertisers.

Katz serves on the coordinating committee of The Media Consortium, a network of more than 50 progressive, independent North American media organizations.

Kate Sheppard '06 double-majored in journalism and politics, wrote for *The Ithacan*, and was a leading force in the independent student-run magazine *Buzzsaw Haircut* at IC.

After graduation she worked as a political reporter for Grist and was a writing fellow at *The American Prospect*. She joined MoJo in 2010 as D.C.-based environment reporter, and since then has expanded her portfolio to other issues including reproductive rights. She blogs once or more daily, contributes weekly pieces for MotherJones.com, and writes longer investigative articles for the magazine.

Sheppard has written for other outlets such as *New York Times* and *Guardian* blogs, *Foreign Policy*, *High Country News*, *In These Times*, and *Bitch*. She serves on the Park Scholars admission committee at IC and regularly visits campus to talk with students about careers in independent journalism.

I. F. “Izzy” Stone

“All governments lie,” said Izzy Stone, the ultimate un-embedded reporter. He launched his first independent publication at age 14 and went on to become a reporter, editor, columnist, and powerful journalistic advocate for FDR’s New Deal at the then-liberal *New York Post*. As Washington, D.C. editor of *The Nation*, he exposed U.S. corporations doing business with Hitler’s Germany. He was one of the first to sound the alarm about the Nazi holocaust and battled the National Press Club over its exclusion of African Americans.

Founded in 1953, *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* stood bravely against racial discrimination, Sen. Joe McCarthy’s witch-hunting, and the lies propelling the Vietnam War.

Izzy Stone has inspired generations of journalists and social-justice activists. “In this age of corporation men, I am an independent capitalist, the owner of my own enterprise . . . beholden to no one but my good readers,” Stone wrote in 1963. A true independent, he wrote books that passionately supported the birth of Israel, but strongly criticized its mistreatment of Palestinians. He advocated peace and negotiations with Soviet Russia, while denouncing its rulers. He despised racists, but defended their civil liberties—as he defended everyone’s.

His books include *Underground to Palestine*, *The Hidden History of the Korean War*, and *Killings at Kent State*. His collected writings appear in *The Best of I. F. Stone*. Read more at the official website supervised by Izzy’s son Jeremy, www.IFStone.org.

The **Park Center for Independent Media**, launched in 2008, studies news media outlets that create and distribute content outside traditional corporate systems. Visit us online at www.ithaca.edu/indy, and “friend” us on Facebook.

We deeply appreciate the support of the Park Foundation and of Jeremy Stone.

The inaugural Izzy Award was presented to GLENN GREENWALD and AMY GOODMAN; the 2009 honoree was JEREMY SCAHILL; the 2010 award was shared by ROBERT SCHEER and *CITY LIMITS*; and last year’s Izzy went to SHARIF ABDEL-KOUDDOUS and the CENTER FOR MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY.

Izzy Award JUDGES are JEFF COHEN, PCIM director; LINDA JUE, director and executive editor of the G. W. Williams Center for Independent Journalism; and ROBERT W. MCCHESENEY, University of Illinois professor and author.



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