

PARK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

presents

EIGHTH ANNUAL

IZZY AWARD

honoring

*Inside Climate News,
Jamie Kalven and Brandon Smith*

and

I. F. STONE HALL of FAME

inducting

Amy Goodman

April 6, 2016

Park Hall Auditorium, Ithaca College

The **Izzy Award** recognizes outstanding achievement in independent media.

The **I. F. Stone Hall of Fame** honors those who have won the Izzy and continue producing content that would qualify them to win it again. This occasional honor is reserved for our era's greatest and most productive journalists . . . the new generation of Izzy Stones.

Both are named for I. F. "Izzy" Stone, the legendary 20th century journalist who for decades exposed government deceit and assaults on civil rights and liberties, notably through *I. F. Stone's Weekly* (1953-71).



Izzy Award Winners

Inside Climate News, which is being represented tonight by its founder and publisher, **David Sassoon**, was launched in 2007 as an “independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization” covering climate change, energy, and the environment. ICN is staffed by professional journalists, many of whom came from mainstream outlets. In its short life it has earned national recognition and prestigious journalism awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and now, the Izzy Award.

ICN is being honored for its impactful series “Exxon: The Road Not Taken,” by reporters **Neela Banerjee, David Hasemyer, John H. Cushman Jr., and Lisa Song**. The stories exposed that Exxon had conducted cutting-edge scientific research on the “greenhouse effect” back in the 1970s and 1980s. Exxon’s pioneering research stands in stark contrast to the anti-scientific denialism that the corporation supported and funded in the ensuing decades.

ExxonMobil now faces official investigations for fraud.

Jamie Kalven is a writer and human rights activist whose work has appeared in *The Nation* and *Columbia Journalism Review*, among many other publications. His reporting on Chicago police abuse continues to figure centrally in public discourse on police reform; he has long fought to force the Chicago Police Department to reveal public complaints about police misconduct, and in 2014 the Illinois Appellate Court ruled in *Kalven v. Chicago* that documents bearing on allegations of police misconduct should be made public.

Kalven is generous with other reporters, sharing background and sources. He cofounded a unique journalistic venture called the Invisible Institute, dedicated to “enhancing the capacity of civil society to hold public institutions accountable and to make visible perspectives too often excluded from public discourse.”

Within weeks of the October 2014 Chicago police shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald, Kalven was questioning the official story. He is being honored tonight for his dogged work on that story, including a crucial article for Slate, “Sixteen Shots,” which analyzed the autopsy report that had been dislodged by Kalven’s FOIA request.

Brandon Smith is a Chicago-based freelance journalist whose blog is “Muckraker! – showing powerful people the consequences of their actions since 2007.” His work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Chicago Reader*, and *In These Times*. He has also worked for mainstream newspapers in Ohio.

Smith, the youngest journalist ever to receive an Izzy Award, is being honored for his work on the Laquan McDonald shooting. After other news outlets had given up, Smith filed suit to force release of the police car dash-cam video of the shooting. In November a judge ruled in Smith’s favor. After the video’s release led to murder charges against the police officer, Smith was not allowed to attend the mayor’s news conference that his own suit had triggered. Days later, Smith titled his blog post: “The video out, the officer charged, the problem persists.” The video has been seen around the globe.

I. F. Stone Hall of Fame

Amy Goodman is the host and executive producer of *Democracy Now!*, the daily independent news program airing on more than 1,400 public television and radio stations worldwide. *DN!* celebrated its 20th birthday in February. Her appearance in Ithaca tonight marks the beginning of her 100-city tour promoting the new book, *Democracy Now!: Twenty Years Covering the Movements Changing America*, coauthored with David Goodman and Denis Moynihan.

Democracy Now! in its 20th year offered exceptional coverage on issues from the U.S. election to Syria’s ongoing violence to the contamination of Flint’s water, from police brutality and the Black Lives Matter Movement to climate change and the Paris COP21 summit.

In 2008 Goodman shared the first Izzy Award with blogger Glenn Greenwald; tonight she becomes only the third person to enter the I. F. Stone Hall of Fame (alongside Greenwald and Jeremy Scahill).

Goodman is the first journalist to receive the Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize,” for “developing an innovative model of truly independent grassroots political journalism that brings to millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by the mainstream media.”

Goodman has coauthored five *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Silenced Majority: Stories of Uprisings, Occupations, Resistance, and Hope*, and *Breaking the Sound Barrier*, both with Denis Moynihan.

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 D.C. editor of *The Nation*, he exposed U.S. corporations doing business with Hitler’s Germany. He was one of the first journalists 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, Senator 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 IFStone.org, the official website supervised by Izzy’s son Jeremy Stone.

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

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

The inaugural Izzy Award was presented to GLENN GREENWALD and AMY GOODMAN; the second honoree was JEREMY SCAHILL; the third award was shared by ROBERT SCHEER and *CITY LIMITS*; the fourth by SHARIF ABDEL-KOUDDOUS and the CENTER FOR MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY; the fifth awardee was *MOTHER JONES*; the sixth award was shared by JOHN CARLOS FREY and NICK TURSE; and last year the honors went to NAOMI KLEIN and DAVID SIROTA.

In 2014 GLENN GREENWALD and JEREMY SCAHILL were inducted into the newly established I. F. Stone Hall of Fame.

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, author and University of Illinois professor.