

# 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 racism, 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 passionately in support of the exodus of Jewish displaced persons from Europe to Palestine, and later criticized Israel’s 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*. A new documentary celebrates his legacy — *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I. F. Stone*. Read more at [IFStone.org](http://IFStone.org), the official website created by Izzy’s son Jeremy Stone.

Previous Izzy Award winners are GLENN GREENWALD, AMY GOODMAN, JEREMY SCAHILL, ROBERT SCHEER, *CITY LIMITS*, SHARIF ABDEL-KOUDDOUS, the CENTER for MEDIA and DEMOCRACY/“ALEC Exposed,” *MOTHER JONES*, JOHN CARLOS FREY, NICK TURSE, NAOMI KLEIN, DAVID SIROTA, JAMIE KALVEN, BRANDON SMITH, and *INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS*/“Exxon: The Road Not Taken.”

GLENN GREENWALD, JEREMY SCAHILL, and AMY GOODMAN have been inducted into the I. F. Stone Hall of Fame.

Izzy Award judges all nine years have been JEFF COHEN, PCIM director; LINDA JUE, director and executive editor of the G. W. Williams Center for Independent Journalism; and ROBERT W. McCHESNEY, author and University of Illinois professor.

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](http://ithaca.edu/indy) and “friend” us on Facebook. We deeply appreciate the generous support of the Park Foundation and of the late Jeremy Stone.

PARK CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

presents

NINTH ANNUAL

## IZZY AWARD

honoring

**Shane Bauer,**

**Ari Berman,**

**Seth Freed Wessler,**

and

**“America Divided”**

April 12, 2017

Emerson Suites, Ithaca College



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

The award is 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).

**Tonight’s ceremony is dedicated to Jeremy Stone — mathematician, peace advocate, longtime supporter of PCIM and the Izzy Award, and elder son of I. F. Stone (1935-2017).**

## Izzy Award Winners

**Shane Bauer** A senior reporter at *Mother Jones*, Bauer produced the blockbuster investigative piece “My Four Months as a Private Prison Guard.” After being hired for \$9 an hour as a Louisiana prison guard by the country’s second-largest private prison company — Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), now rebranded as CoreCivic — Bauer witnessed violence, lockdowns, and his own disturbing transformation, and told it all in a gripping 35,000-word story, supplemented by undercover video footage. The widely discussed story shook up CCA and helped prod the Obama administration to distance itself from private prisons. The *New Yorker*’s Emily Nussbaum wrote that Bauer’s investigation “is literally why journalism exists and why we have to pay for it.” Later in the year Bauer produced another insider report, “Undercover with a Border Militia,” on his experience with a well-armed, unofficial U.S. militia group patrolling the Mexico border. “Bauer’s bravery,” commented the Izzy Award judges, “is matched by the vividness of his storytelling.”

In 2009, while on a trip with friends, Bauer was apprehended near the Iran-Iraq border and spent 26 months in an Iranian prison, four of them in solitary; he wrote of the ordeal in *A Sliver of Light*.

**Ari Berman** A senior contributing writer for *The Nation* and a reporting fellow at The Nation Institute, Berman wrote dozens of articles last year that exposed various state actions to depress voter turnout, especially targeting minorities and youths. Amid the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act, he uncovered the facts and motives behind new voting restrictions in more than a dozen states. In “The GOP’s War on Voting Is Working” (contrasting Wisconsin and Minnesota) and “Texas’s Voter-Registration Laws Are Straight Out of the Jim Crow Playbook,” he wrote of a “two-tiered democracy.” Berman was called to present his findings to Congress; he is the author of *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*.

Said the Izzy Award judges: “Unfortunately, many mainstream outlets ignored or downplayed the national scandal Berman documented, a scandal that threatens to worsen in future.”

**Seth Freed Wessler** is a reporting fellow with The Investigative Fund at The Nation Institute. Through exhaustive documentary research, a Freedom of Information lawsuit, dozens of interviews with current and former inmates, federal officials and prison officers, and expert review by independent physicians, Wessler produced a series of reports revealing medical neglect and failing government oversight in privately-run federal prisons that led to dozens of avoidable deaths. Wessler’s reporting on these prisons — separate and unequal facilities designated for non-citizens — was published by *The Nation* and *Reveal*, in collaboration with The Investigative Fund. Following its publication, one of the most troubled prisons was closed and the U.S. Department of Justice ordered the Bureau of Prisons to end its use of private prisons.

“It’s breathtaking to see a dogged journalist uncovering so much and proving so clearly that lives were needlessly lost as a result of privatization, greed, and official neglect,” commented the Izzy judges. “And the Trump administration is reportedly seeking to expand private prisons.”

**“America Divided”** With the 2016 election approaching, a team of documentary filmmakers — including creators/executive producers **Solly Granatstein, Lucian Read,** and **Richard Rowley,** and senior producer **Rebecca Teitel** — created a series on U.S. structural inequality and issues such as mass incarceration, environmental racism, housing discrimination, worker exploitation and voter suppression. The series utilized well-known actors and artists as correspondents (Rosario Dawson, America Ferrera, Common, Amy Poehler, Norman Lear, and others), but relied heavily on experts and social justice advocates. It premiered on the EPIX channel and is now being seen in community gatherings across the country.

“The Izzy Award doesn’t usually consider documentary work,” said Jeff Cohen, PCIM director and Izzy judge. “But since *America Divided* was so engaging on the biggest issues our society and journalists must address, we felt compelled to recognize it with a ‘special documentary honor.’”