



MAY 2019
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FIJ – SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

People in this Issue

Steve Sapienza
Sandy Bergo
Seymour Hersh
Lauren Lee White

News from FIJ



- **The Fund for Investigative Journalism's 50th Anniversary Dinner**
featuring a conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh

Thursday, October 24, 2019

National Press Club
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC

We hope you will save the date to join us as we celebrate investigative journalism's achievements over the last fifty years.

Formal invitation with ticket details to follow.

The Fund for Investigative Journalism was founded in 1969 by the late **Philip M. Stern**, a public-spirited philanthropist who devoted his life to “balancing the scales of justice,” in the words of a friend. Stern was convinced small amounts of money invested in the work of determined journalists would yield enormous results in the fight against racism, poverty, corporate greed and governmental corruption. Stern’s theory proved true in the Fund’s first year, when a modest-sized grant enabled reporter Seymour Hersh to begin investigating a tip concerning a U.S. Army massacre at the Vietnamese village of My Lai. And it’s still true today. A grant from the Fund helped author Eliza Griswold win a Pulitzer Prize this year for her book “Amity and Prosperity,” an investigation of the fracking industry. For further information, contact event planner Ivory Zorich, ivory@ivoryzorich.com.

More...

NEXT FIJ GRANT DEADLINE: TBD

News from FIJ *cont'd.*



- Come join us Friday, June 14, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for a brown bag lunch hosted by the Fund for Investigative Journalism in honor of its 50th anniversary at the **2019 IRE conference in Houston**.

FIJ will team up with the Pulitzer Center to give out tips for winning reporting grants. **FIJ Executive Director Sandy Bergo** (top) and **Pulitzer Center Senior Strategist Steve Sapienza** (bottom) will explain the nitty-gritty of applying for grants and fellowships from both organizations, and will answer any questions. Grab carry-out from one of the vendors at the hotel, then join us for the one-hour session in Kingwood, located on Level 3. We will provide drinks and desserts.

FIJ is a proud sponsor of [the 2019 IRE conference](#).



From left to right: FIJ treasurer Mark Greenblatt, FIJ diversity fellow Maria Martin, Sandy Bergo, and Angelika Albaladejo. Martin is an FIJ fellow working with Reveal; FIJ fellow Albaladejo is working with the Marshall Project for the year.

- **A postcard from FIJ Executive Director Sandy Bergo, on a break from the Reva & David Logan Symposium on Investigative Reporting at the University of California, Berkeley.**

At the conference, we heard Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists describe, “how the sausage is made,” that is, how reporters come up with ideas, get interviews with reluctant sources, report in war zones, verify facts, and work with editors. Hany Farid, a newly hired UC Berkeley computer science professor, showed us how easy it has become to manipulate audio and video so that, in his demonstration, Jordan Peele’s words were coming from Barack Obama’s mouth. He said the technology has a benign purpose, to help movie producers avoid using subtitles on foreign language films, but could be misused by public officials to

deny that a video had accurately captured their words.

Investigation Spotlight

- At the Los Angeles County Century Regional Detention Facility for women, former and current inmates say prison deputies submit prisoners to a range of sexually abusive acts—from overt assault to more subtle misconduct. A recent federal audit found the jail, located in Lynwood, a small city adjacent to Compton and Watts, to be in violation of federal sexual safety laws, and found evidence of “serious and troubling allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.”

But in her story, [The California Jail Where Women Say Guards and Medics Preyed on Them](#),

more...

NEXT FIJ GRANT DEADLINE: TBD

Investigation Spotlight *cont'd.*



Michele Infante says she was raped at Century regional detention facility in 2011. Photograph: Tobin Yelland

...published by The Guardian and [WitnessLA](#), **Lauren Lee White** describes an even more toxic culture where guards and other officials promote subtler encounters and behavior: Prisoners who flirt get extra food, and others who engage in exhibitionism get more time outside their cells. This behavior is harder to track than overt sexual assaults.

A Gentle Reminder from FIJ



- The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, a long-standing supporter, has awarded \$75,000 to FIJ's grant-making program for domestic investigations in 2019. This amount includes \$25,000 to be awarded if FIJ raises an additional \$25,000 in new funding before December 31. [Help us](#) reach that matching goal – because, as always, all of it helps to fund even more watchdog journalism. And thanks!

This FIJ Newsletter was compiled by Jerry Redfern.

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