

Winners of the James Aronson Awards for Social Justice Journalism
Department of Film & Media Studies
Hunter College of the City University of New York

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Public invited to awards event at the Lang Recital Hall, Hunter College
Monday, May 21st, 2018

"I believe that there is in the United States a company of honest journalists of all ages, conscious of the potential power of an informed people . . ."

— James Aronson

We are proud to announce that Herb Boyd will be our keynote speaker and winner of the Aronson Outstanding Career Achievement Award.

Winners will discuss their inspiration and the challenges of reporting these stories at a free public presentation Monday, May 21st from 6:30–9 pm at the Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York City. Esteemed journalist Katti Gray will host the Aronson Awards for Social Justice Journalism ceremony.

The winners are:

Herb Boyd, Keynote and Outstanding Career Achievement Award

Herb Boyd is a recognized journalist, historian, activist, and author of 23 books. His award-winning books give profound meaning to the Black experience in American life, from *We Shall Overcome: A History of the Civil Rights Movement*, *Black Panthers for Beginners* to biographies of James Baldwin, Sugar Ray Robinson and others. This year his profile has catapulted even further with the release of his latest book, *Black Detroit: A People's History of Self Determination*. Part memoir, part love letter, part historical chronicle, Boyd shares his reflections on this iconic American city and explains in detail the significant contributions African Americans have made to Detroit and Detroit to the nation.

Zoe Carpenter and Dani McClain

Black Births Matter

The Nation

Black infants in the U.S. are twice as likely as white infants to die before their first birthday. The writers document how it is racism rather than race fueling this national health crisis. In a personal meditation McClain reflects on her own experiences as she fights for a healthy pregnancy and on what

it is about the American experience that “tears at the black body.”

What's Killing Black Infants

What It's Like To Be Black and Pregnant

Emmanuel Felton

The Secessionist Movement in American Education

The Nation in partnership with the Hechinger Report

A groundbreaking story about how officials in Jefferson County, Alabama have created six new school districts that hoard resources for white children at the expense of black and Hispanic children—exposing the federal government’s retreat from the principle of school integration that *Brown vs. Board of Education* heralded.

Resegregation of American Schools

A riveting series about the duplicity of American companies like Case Farms in Ohio and insurance companies in Florida who recruit undocumented workers and then report them to immigration when they are injured or attempt to organize. The writers travel to Tectitán, a Mayan village in Guatemala, where Case Farms is a familiar reference. Through first person accounts they tell the stories of workers and families bearing the scars of a brutal, U.S. supported military dictatorship and its aftershocks, and their flight to the north to escape violence, only to find themselves subjected to inhumane conditions, exploitation and injuries.

Sold for Parts

They Got Hurt at Work - Then They Got Deported

Who Would Pay \$26,000 to Work in a Chicken Plant?

Ronnie Polaneczky

Falling off the Cliff

The Philadelphia Inquirer

A beautifully written and heart-wrenching series about the plight of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, documenting difficulties parents face in getting quality care for their offspring, from underpaid and underperforming caregivers to the enormous problems of how to plan for the death of aging parents.

Falling off the Cliff

Lisa Riordan Seville and Lukas Vrbka

Sold Short

BuzzFeed News

Examines how discrimination in housing is at the root of the housing boom in gentrifying Brooklyn neighborhoods. The authors take on the journalistic challenge of contextualizing the experiences of a star broker from the cable TV show *Million Dollar Listing NY*, eager white homebuyers, and the African American and Latino homeowners pushed out of the communities they created.

Sold Short



Steve Sack

Cartooning with a Conscience Award

Steve Sack has been the editorial cartoonist for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* since 1981. The St. Paul native has won an assortment of national honors for his work, including the Pulitzer Prize in 2013. The just-released collection of his work, *The First and Only Book of Sack — 36 Years of Cartoons for the Star Tribune* was recently named Best non-Fiction Book by the Minnesota Book Awards.

Dori Cohen

IMA/MFA Documentary Award

Freelance Nation

“No Shifts, No Boss, No Limits” reads a giant billboard in one of the main transportation hubs of NYC. From adjunct professors to taxi drivers, many people are finding themselves outside of the traditional employment model, with no benefits and little job security. This transformation is further exasperated by technological developments and the rise of the “gig economy.” *Freelance Nation* explores the other side of the popular “sharing economies” from the perspective of Uber drivers as they struggle to organize for workers’ rights being eroded under the guise of freedom and opportunity.

Nicholas Augustine

Undergraduate Student Journalism Award

A Hunter College senior, Roosevelt Scholar and Media Studies/Journalism and Political Science major, Augustine covered the South Bronx neighborhoods of Longwood and Hunts Point as a reporter at the *Hunts Point Express*. While there, he reported on the governor’s plans for the Hunts Point Market and the failures of “Vision Zero” for poor communities like Hunts Point, among other stories.

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