



Two VIPs and Record Crowd Rock Sardi's for Spring Luncheon



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Marilyn's Page



Joyful, Joyful...

This is always my favorite edition of the magazine, the one following the Spring Luncheon. I have probably said this before but it warrants repeating: FUN is not over-rated!

This year's luncheon was the most attended ever. 170 strong! Anticipating a hefty crowd due to our guest speaker, Bob Costas, and a need for video monitoring, we moved to the 4th floor of Sardi's, which is a larger space than our former location. As the saying goes, "If you build it they will come"...and they did! It was the first time we were able to accommodate everyone including the latecomers. The extra space enhanced everyone's ability to move around and socialize. I have never gotten quite so many compliments about the luncheon as I have this year. The camaraderie was truly joyful.

Each year Peacock North has been blessed with exceptional speakers and attendees. This year was no exception. Bob Costas was magical as our headliner, as was Jeff Zucker, albeit on "tape" (old word, old habit) as Bob's introducer and straight man. These two have a great history together and it shows.

The membership came out in droves. Among our guests was Lucy Jarvis, one of the first female producers in News. She is celebrating her 100th birthday this June and the crowd honored her with a standing ovation. Also Gary Iorio, ex-Technical Director, attended the luncheon. He is a dapper 94 years of age, very busy bowling, playing golf and ballroom dancing. He too got a shout out. Just a note of interest: many of our members are either still working, have found 2nd and/or 3rd careers, or are doing extensive volunteering. It is all very inspiring.

Thank you all for your great support. We have added a number of new members shown here on the opposite page. Please spread the word. Now that our website www.peacocknorth.com is up and running, and can accommodate new membership and payment, it is easy to join and keep us in touch with each other.

As a note, please make sure we have your email address as the website will require a password after this edition gets mailed. I will email everyone the information.

For all the marvelous kudos I have received for the luncheon and the magazine, I do not do this alone. I want to thank the team of people who help put all this together:

My husband, John Fider...irreplaceable on all accounts,
Sharon and Lenny Stucker, Liz Davis, Richard Munde.

The last person I want to thank is our Editor, Joel Spector. Joel's commitment to PN magazine is truly a labor of love. He is always on the hunt for a good story and brandishes a meticulous work ethic and high-brow editing skills. He is the heart and soul of the magazine. Thank you. Thank you all!

Now for the good stuff, the rest of the magazine....



Current E-mail Addresses

REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify us at peacocknorth@yahoo.com.

**Support Our Troops,
Our Crews
and Our Correspondents
in Harm's Way**

What's Now!

New Member News

Peacock North welcomes these new members...

Tracey Lyons-Arrowsmith worked on Nightly News from 1992 to 2016, retiring as Senior Producer.

Richard Azar worked in Network Graphics from 1990-2016.

Curtis Block was at NBC from 1969 to 1994 and retired as VP of Media Relations

Vincent Bailey worked in TOPS, and joined NABET and eventually became Technical Director

Elena Brodie-Kusa worked in News from 1985 to 2010.

Jeffrey Cokin was with NBC Sports from 1980 to 1989, first as the Director of Sports Contract Negotiations and then the Vice President of Negotiations.

Timothy Dwight was an Electronic Maintenance Engineer from 1978 to 1987.

Marilyn Heiss was a Video Tape Editor from 1975 to 1986.

Dorene Hyman was a Video Tape Editor from 1978 to 1989.

Imogene Jones was a WNBC News 4 EJ Editor from 1973 to 2001

Ronnie Jordan-Blondi was a cameraperson at RCA Records from 1975 to 1981, shooting Country & Rock groups such as Jefferson Starship and Average White Band in concert (handheld & pedestal). She then came to NBC as a Studio/Field cameraperson in 1980 until her retirement in 2016, working on a wide variety of programs, from Soaps to *Today* to Conventions and Elections.

She was a regular on the *Donahue* camera crew from 1985 to 1996.

Bob Levy was a Director for NBC Sports from 1974, starting on *Grandstand*, and continued until 1994.

Geoffrey Mason was a Sports Producer who was Executive Vice President of NBC Sports from 1977 to 1983.

Bob Natoli worked as a TV Transmission Engineer from 1975 to 2017.

Kathy Salvio was at NBC from 1980 to 2007 in Video Tape Production, On-Air and Genesis.

Michael Weisman started as a Page in 1971, rising to Executive Producer of NBC Sports in 1989. His later stints at NBC include The Jane Pauley Show in 2004, Morning Joe (MSNBC) 2014-2015, as well as the Salt Lake City, Torino and China Olympics.

Francine Winiker worked in Sports production from 1980 to 1997.

*What's Now!***SNL and 2018 Olympics Live in All Time Zones**The logo for Saturday Night Live, featuring the words "SATURDAY" and "LIVE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, with "NIGHT" in blue, bold, sans-serif capital letters below "SATURDAY". The background is dark with some blurred light spots.

Starting on April 15, the show will air live simultaneously across the country for the first time in its history, coinciding with the East Coast airing, Variety has learned. This schedule change impacts the final four episodes of the current season. The episodes will be hosted by Jimmy Fallon on April 15, followed by Chris Pine on May 6, Melissa McCarthy on May 13, and Dwayne John-

son for the season-ender on May 20. McCarthy's portrayal of White House press secretary Sean Spicer has been one of the highlights of the season, driving the show to ratings heights. Each episode will air live at 11:30pm ET; 10:30pm Central; 9:30pm Mountain; and 8:30pm PT. ("SNL" will be repeated at 11:30pm in the Mountain and Pacific time zones.)

"'SNL' — enjoying its most popular season in two decades — is part of the national conversation, and we thought it would be a great idea to broadcast to the west and mountain time zones live at the same time it's being seen in the east and central time zones," said NBC entertainment chair Bob Greenblatt. "That way, everyone is in on the joke at the same time."

The show has been on a ratings roll since President Trump's upset victory in the Nov. 8 presidential election, fueled by Alec Baldwin's portrayal of the commander-in-chief. Overall, "SNL" viewership for the season to date is up 19% in adults 18-49 (3.5 vs. 2.9 rating) and up 22% in total viewers (10.6 million vs. 8.7 million) over the comparable period in the 2015-16 season.

NBC also recently announced plans to extend the run of the show into the summer. "Weekend Update" hosts Colin Hanks and Michael Che will also get a limited run in primetime in August when NBC airs four half-hour broadcasts of the faux-news showcase.

Debra Birnbaum, © Variety March 16, 2017

In a related story: For the first time ever at a Winter Olympics, NBC will broadcast all of its Olympic programming live across all time zones. Whether daytime, primetime or late night, all U.S. viewers will be able to watch NBC's coverage of the PyeongChang Winter Games at the same time.

"Nothing brings America together for two weeks like the Olympics, and that communal experience will now be shared across the country at the same time, both on television and streaming online," said Jim Bell, President, NBC Olympics Production & Programming. "That means social media won't be ahead of the action in any time zone, and as a result, none of our viewers will have to wait for anything. This is exciting news for the audience, the advertisers, and our affiliates alike."



NBC's PyeongChang primetime coverage begins Thursday, February 8, 2018. The Opening Ceremony takes place on Friday, February 9, 2018.

What's Now!

30 Rock Lobby Exhibit on 1933 Mezzanine Photo Murals



Your Editor recently noticed and photographed this new showcase on the magnificent photo murals created in 1933 by Margaret Bourke-White for the NBC Mezzanine Visitor's Reception Area.

Only a few of the items on display are shown here in close-up, so hustle on down to the 49th Street side of the 30 Rock lobby to view the entire collection. The Mezzanine, closed by GE in the late 1980s, has been completely refurbished by Comcast, as has been detailed in past editions of Peacock North Magazine.

What's Now!

Jimmy Fallon "Race Through New York" Ride Opens at Universal Florida



It is Universal Studios Florida's newest ride, a motion simulator that takes guests on an over-the-top adventure through the streets of New York, below New York Harbor, to the moon and back, following along with *The Tonight Show* host Jimmy Fallon's wild antics. The entire experience begins outside the building, which is made to look like a smaller version of the famous "30 Rock" in New York City where Fallon hosts his show. Inside, guests find themselves face-to-face with a thoroughly NBC-branded experience, complete with NBC Pages as guides. Throughout the time spent inside, it's easy to get lost in the details that make it feel like a reasonable facsimile of the real thing. The walls are lined with tributes to *The Tonight Show* — not only showing clips of Fallon's work but also featuring displays of past hosts: Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, and even including the short-lived run of Conan O'Brien (complete with Triumph the Insult Comic Dog). Each display plays clips of *The Tonight Show* from that hosts' reign on a television set common to that era.

Race Through New York Starring Jimmy Fallon has a unique system for "waiting in line" in that there isn't actually a line to wait in. Instead, guests receive a colored ticket from Pages behind a help desk in the first waiting room.





There is one color for each of the “feathers” of the iconic NBC peacock logo. When it is time for your colored group to enter the next phase of the queue, the peacock logo lights up entirely in that color.

Lights throughout the upper floor all coordinate to inform which color group is permitted to pass onto the next phase of the queue, and the famous NBC chime alerts everyone when the color is changing. The third phase of the queue moves you through the Studio entrance, and for the first time you are asked to get in an actual line where you retrieve your 3D “racing goggles.” Once the goggles have been acquired, guests enter the fourth and final phase of the queue— a pre-show area featuring Jimmy Fallon rapping safety rules and precautions. With 3D glasses in hand, it is finally time to sit in a hydraulic theater, designed to resemble the actual seating of Fallon’s set in New York. In front is a huge screen, made to look like the opening curtains of *The Tonight Show*.

By JeniLynn Knopp, © insidethemagic.com, March 2, 2017

Photos marked “BTM” are © www.beyondthemagic.com

[Ed. Note: It is really uncanny how the designers reproduced the fine details of 30 Rock’s exterior and interior elements, including the brass rectangles inlaid into the black marble flooring!]



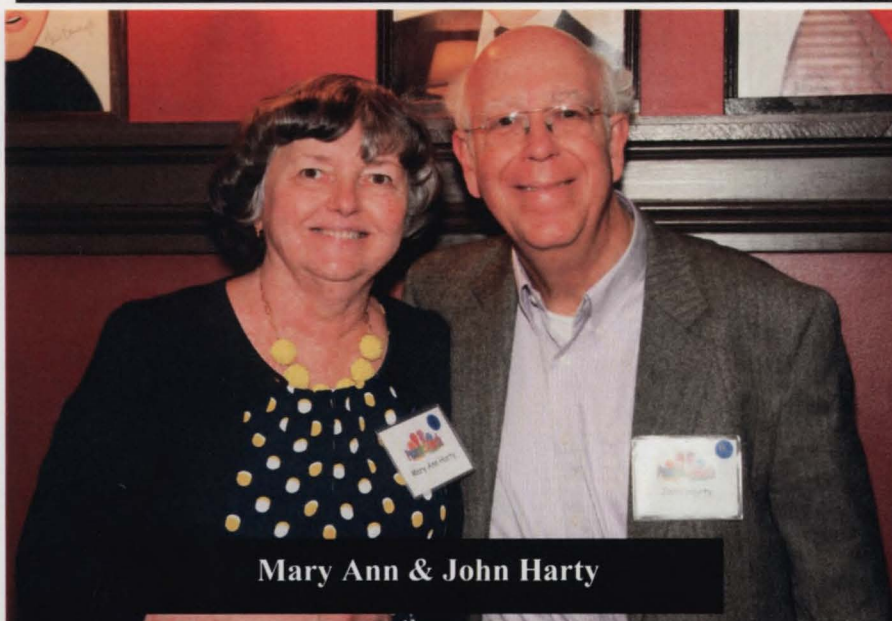
Spring Luncheon Photos by Barbara Lassen
(except where noted)



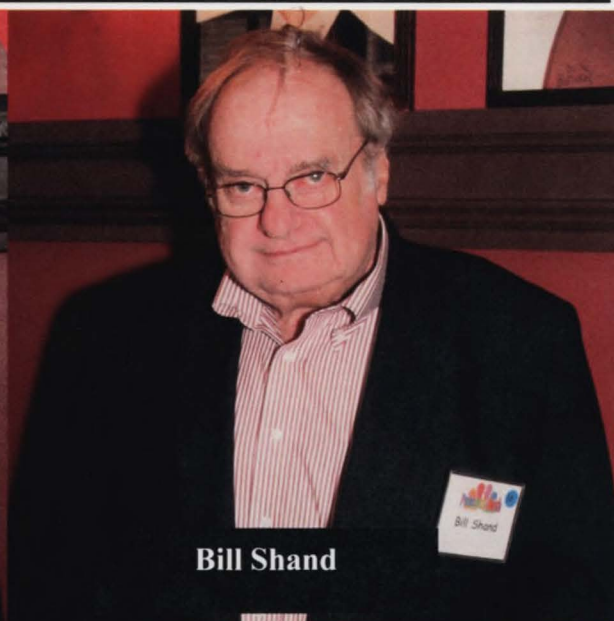
Suzanne & Don Vierling and daughter Samantha LoBue



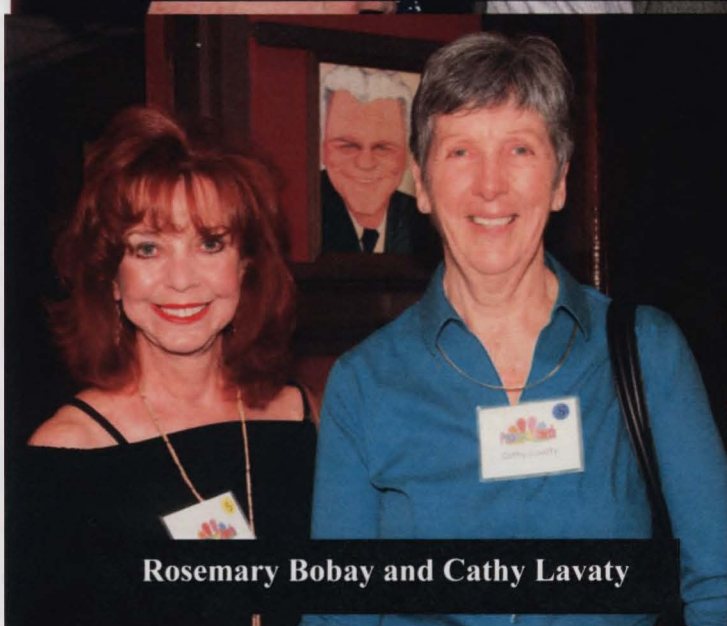
**From Lower Left to Right: Pat Lang, Teri Lukin, Chris Oliver, Vince Bailey,
Doug & Joanne Skene, Tom & Margaret Launer, George Ann Muller**
(Photo by Kathy Salvio)



Mary Ann & John Harty



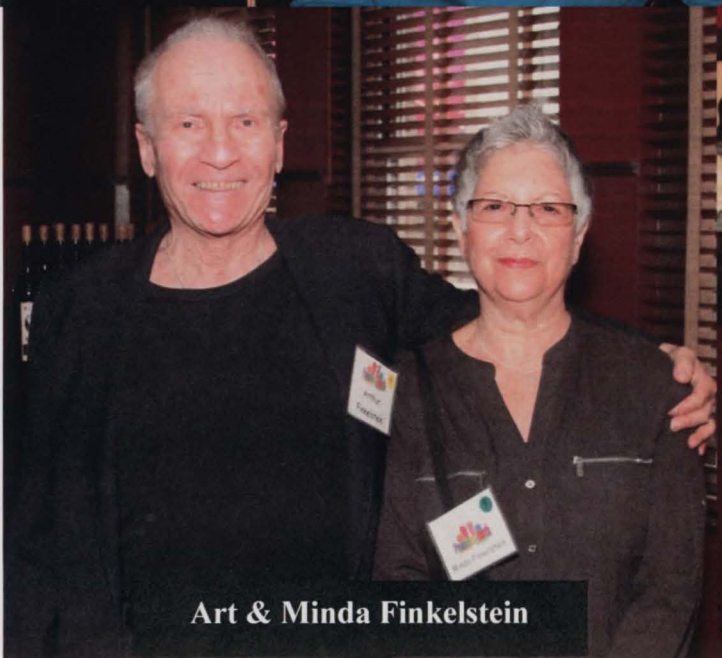
Bill Shand



Rosemary Bobay and Cathy Lavaty



Donna Griffo-Johnson, Lisa Ann Magavero



Art & Minda Finkelstein



Jon Jones, Cheryl Kobrock



Above: Jennifer Arnold, Gary Iorio, Bob Van Ry

Below: Clockwise from front center: Steve Gonzalez & Tammy Brainin, Bill & Janet Vaccaro, Rich Azar, Claudette Blackwood, Pam & Tab Butler, Gene Richards (Photo by Kathy Salvio)





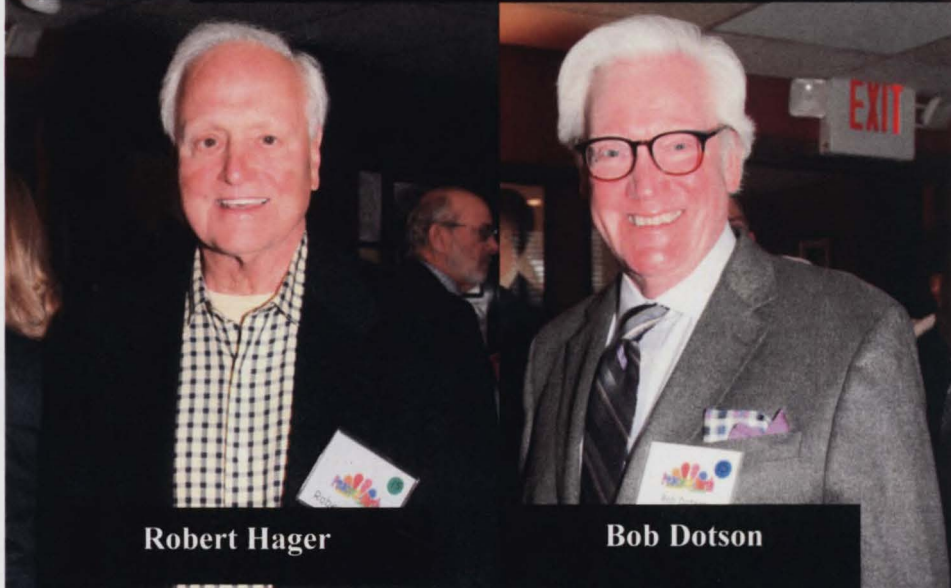
Above: Ginny Seipt, Ann Marie Foran, Bob Ferraro

Below: Judy Friedman, Teri & John Pinto





Rick & Jeanne Fox, Jim Blaney



Robert Hager

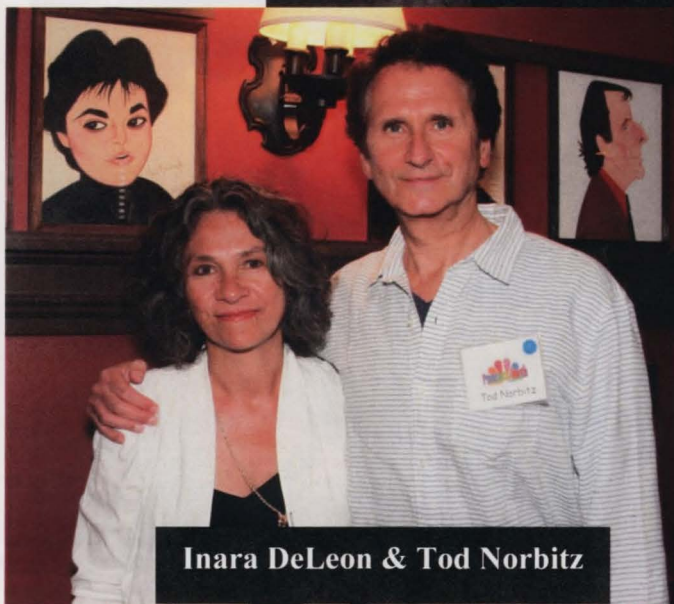
Bob Dotson



Ray Smith, Rich Stern, Mary Muzina



Maureen , Pete & Peter Stamm



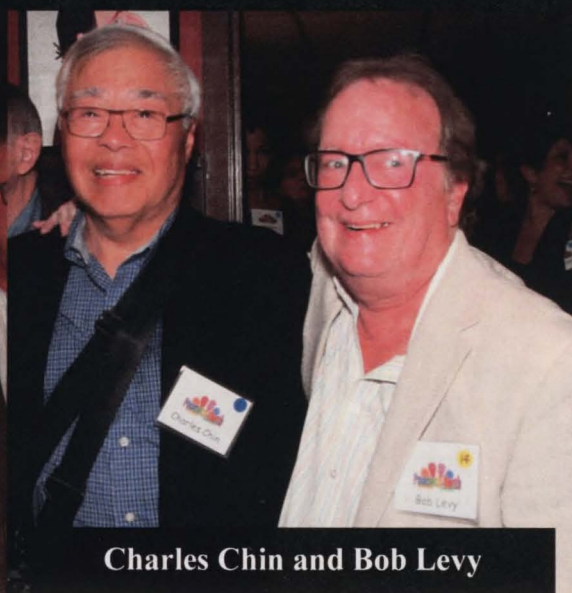
Inara DeLeon & Tod Norbitz



Margot & Don Critchfield



Fran & Brian Wickham

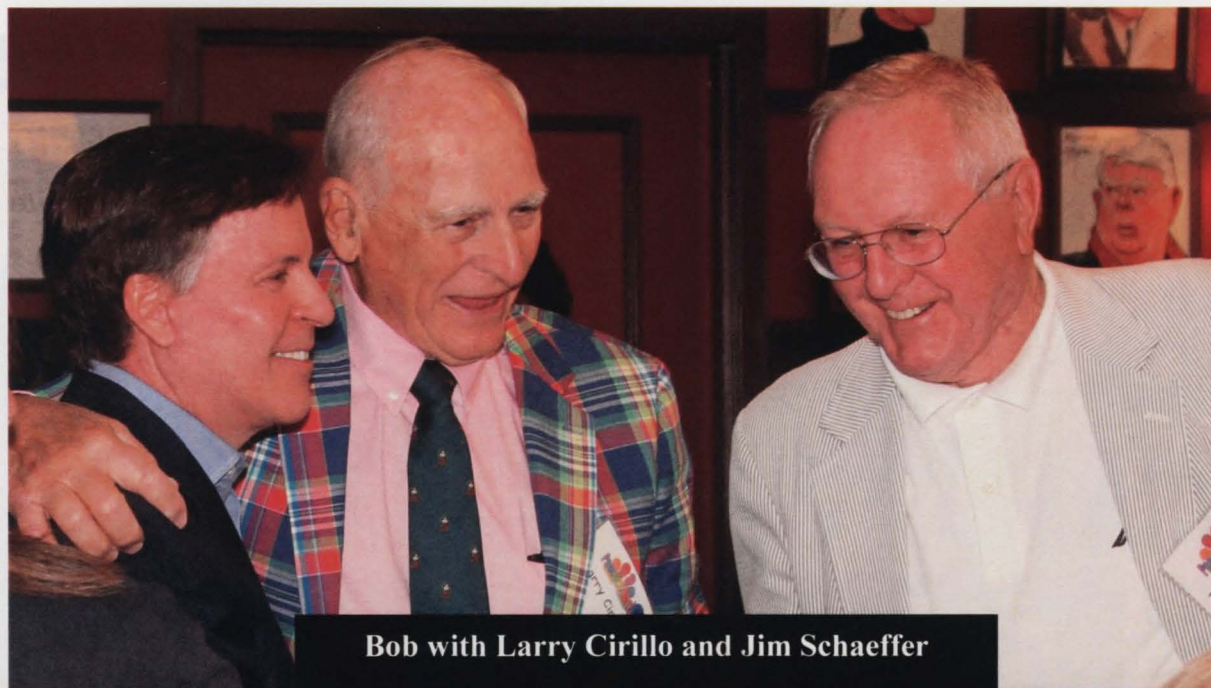


Charles Chin and Bob Levy



Bob
on
a
roll





Bob with Larry Cirillo and Jim Schaeffer



Carla Engelman, Bill Potts, Bob, Ginny Seipt, Julia Sansavere, Jeffrey Cokin, Mary Muzina



Bob with Marilyn Altman and Julia Sansavere



Above: Kathy Babiak, Bill Knight
Below: Carol Weisman, Rita Sultana

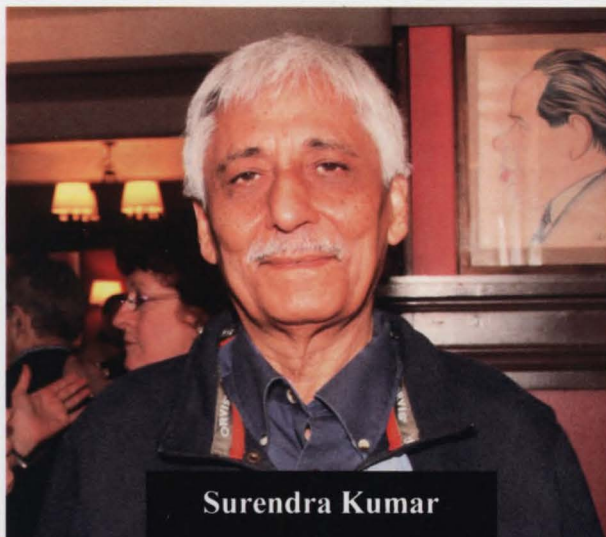




Above: Julie Jones, Jo-Anne Stathis

Below: Judy Farinet, Doug Skene, Joel Spector, Rich Azar (Photo by Rhonda Hansome)

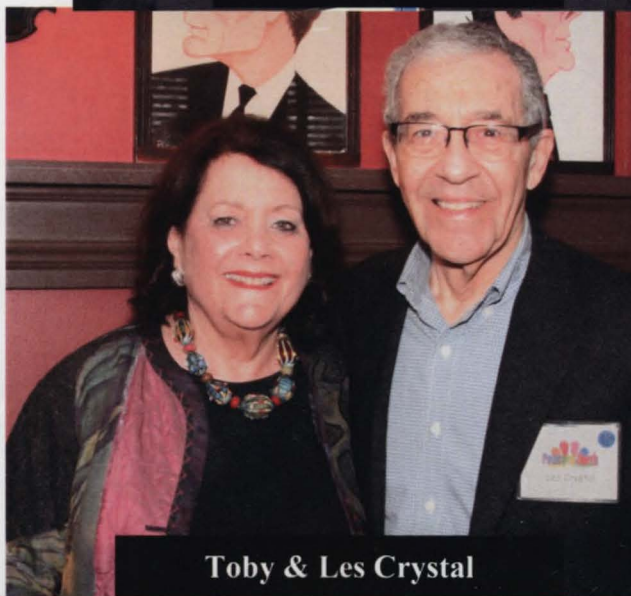




Surendra Kumar



Ann Taylor



Toby & Les Crystal

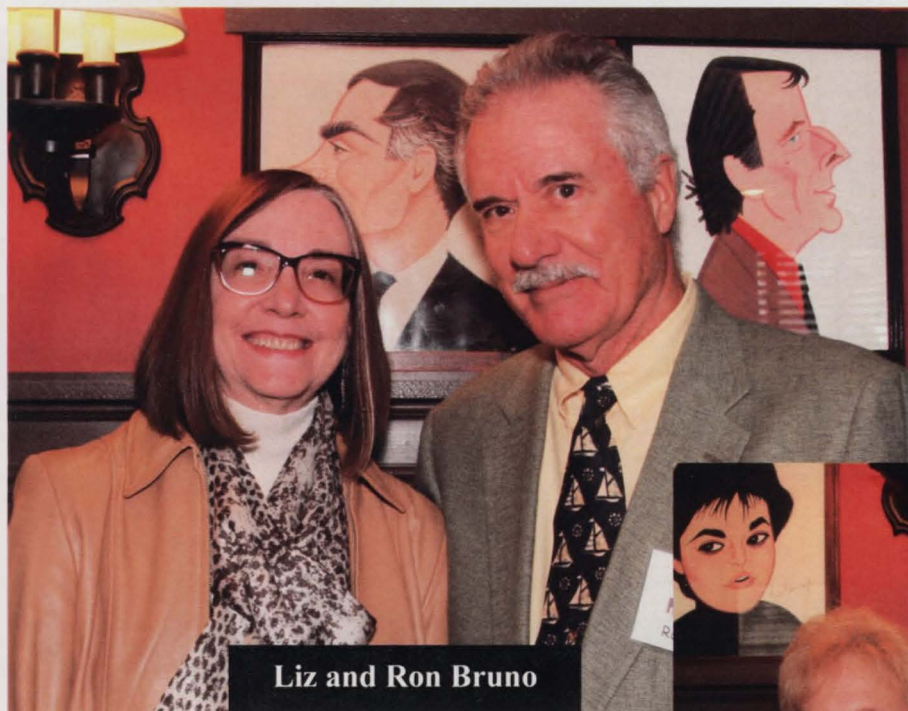


Tracey & John Arrowsmith

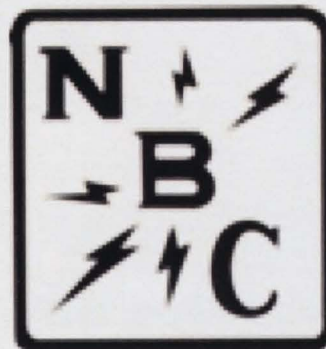


Front: John & Teri Pinto

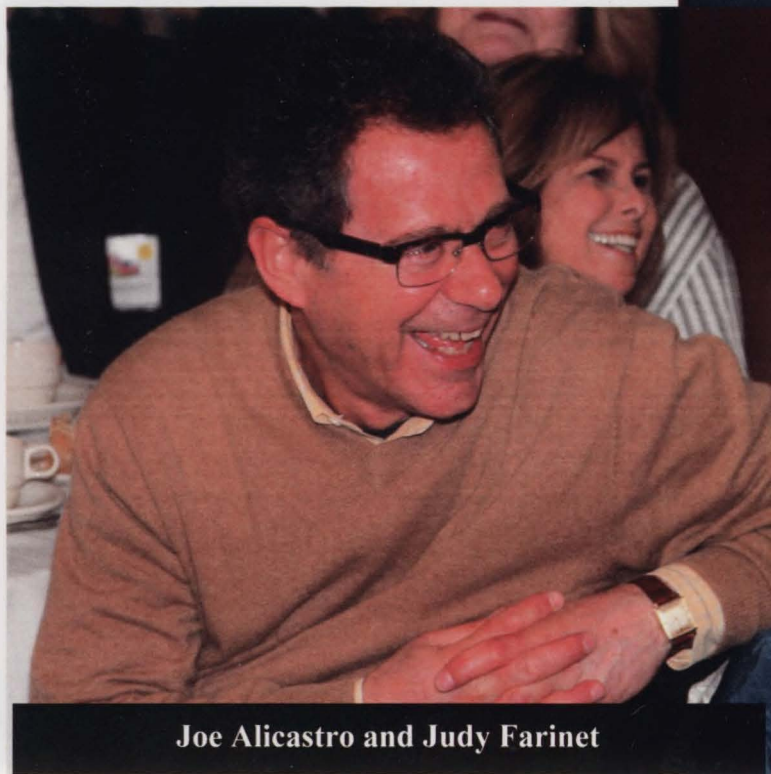
Back: Steve Cimino, Richard & Julia Sansavere, Laurie & Bob Palladino,
Bob Van Ry, Rick & Jeanne Fox (Photo by Kathy Salvio)



Liz and Ron Bruno



Ethel & George Corrado



Joe Alicastro and Judy Farinet



Pat Lang and Mary Muzina



Above: Cynthia Selchert and Pat Mauger

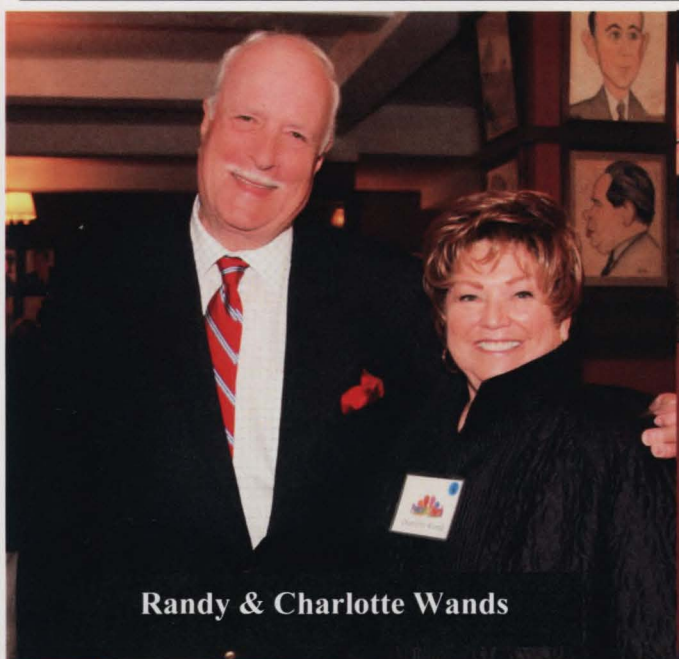
Below: Lauren Fairbanks



Above: Paul Scrabo & George Ann Muller

Below: Bob Natoli, Peter Sullivan and Jay Markowitz

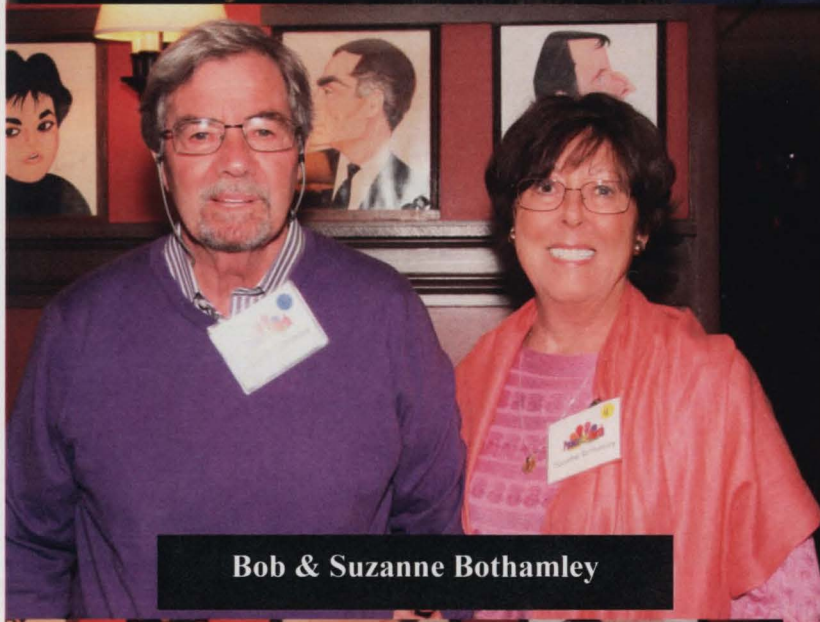




Randy & Charlotte Wands



Joanne & Doug Skene



Bob & Suzanne Bothamley



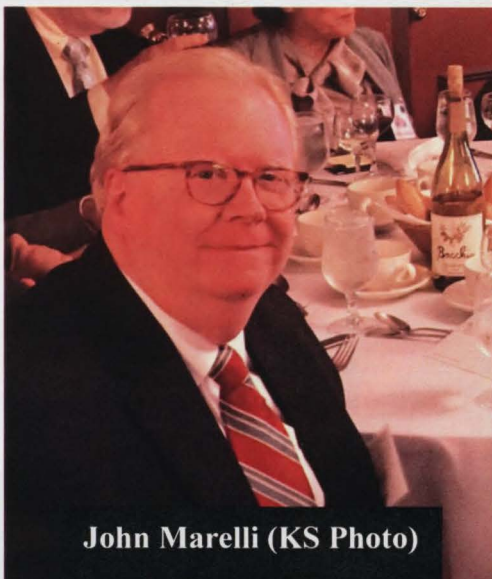
Lois Borth, Claire Cashin



Lucille Weener and Joyce Werney



Dana & Melinda Matlin



John Marelli (KS Photo)



Julia and Richard Sansavere



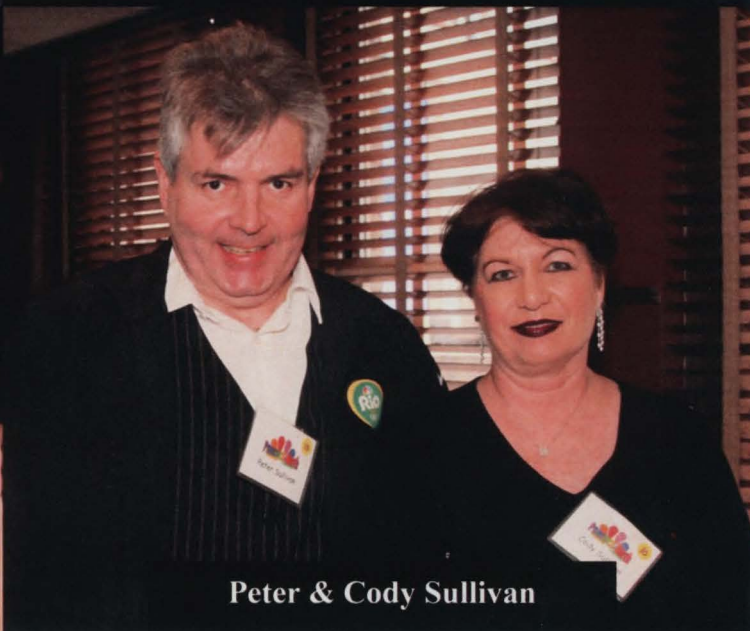
Carla Engelman



Angela Vierville, Suzanne Bothamley
and Ann Marie Foran



Larry & Sandy Cirillo



Peter & Cody Sullivan



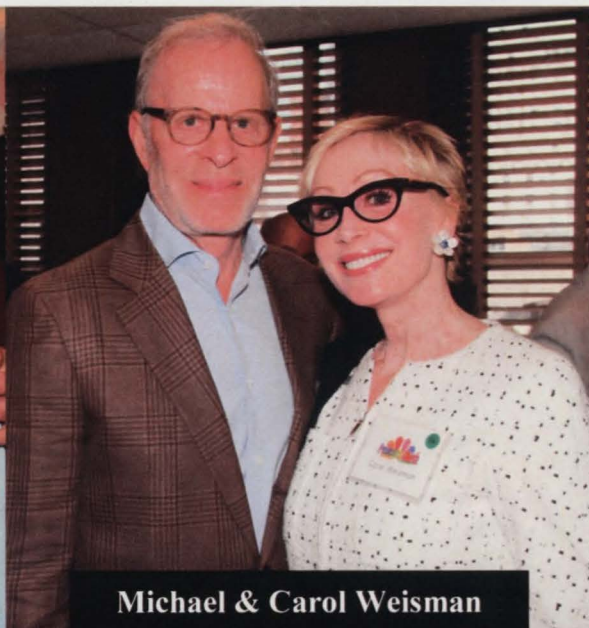
Above: Lucille Weener, Bambi Tascarella, Enid Roth

Below: Pam & Tab Butler, Len & Sharon Stucker





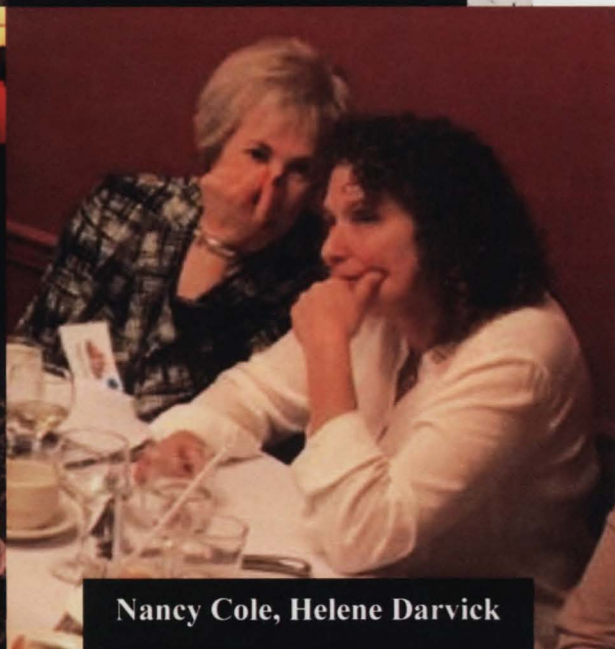
Herb Oxman, Gigi Harold



Michael & Carol Weisman



Dorene Hyman, Bill Freeda, Marilyn Heiss



Nancy Cole, Helene Darvick



Mary Muzina, Emerald Aagard



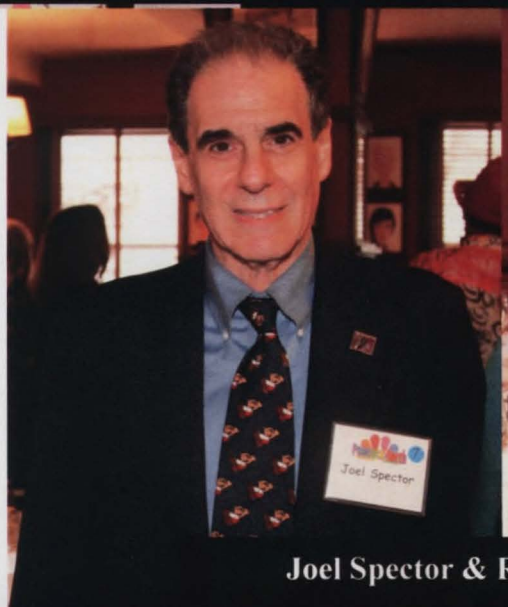
Lea Whitener, Bonnie Optekman



Laurie & Bob Palladino



Teri Lukin, Chris Oliver



Joel Spector & Rhonda Hansome



**Surendra Kumar, Melanie Rock, Harilyn Heiss, Jo-Anne Stathis, Charles Chin.
Kathy Babiak, Steve Skroupka, Howard Hirsch (Photo by Kathy Salvio)**



Jo-Anne Stathis, Steve & Alyson Vogel
(Photo by Kathy Salvio)



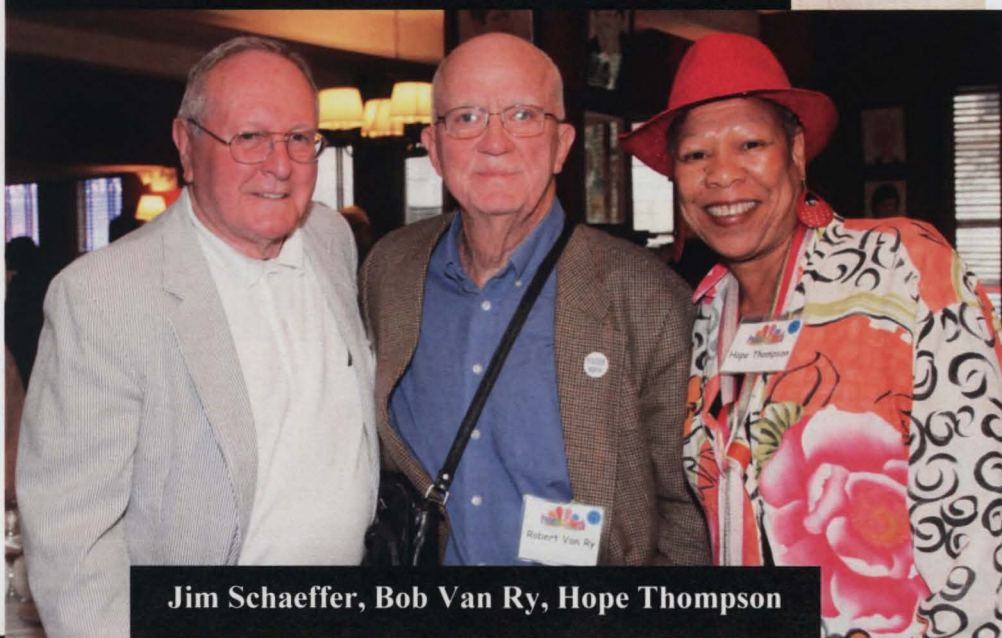
Carole Wendt, Karen Curry



Above: Les Crystal, Susan Drury, Carol Aerenson, Ray Smith

Below: Jeffrey Cokin, Christine Huenke, Allison Davis







Above: Francine Winiker, Cathy Donahoe, Tim Dwight
Below: Ken Aagard, Rick Stern, John Fider, Bob Levy, Steve Cimino





Above: Marilyn Altman, Len Stucker, Kathy Salvio

Right: Lucy Jarvis, Ronee Hoade

Below: Scott MacArthur, Lucy Jarvis,
Claudette Blackwood



Luncheon Photos from NBC East Page



Mick Cauette, Jo-Anne Stathis, Susann Thomas



Howard Hirsch, Dorene Hyman



Kathy Babiak, Steve Skroupka



Enid Roth, Marilyn Heiss



Inara DeLeon, Frank Shanbacher, Rosemary Bobay, Cathy Lavaty, Tony Gannon, Rita Sultana, Bob Ferraro

Peacock History

September 2000 - Your Show of Shows Scripts Found in Locked Closet

The Egyptians may have King Tut's tomb. But now New Yorkers have Max Liebman's closet. The staff of the City Center in Manhattan has found 47 boxloads of long-lost scripts and other memorabilia from "Your Show of Shows," "The Admiral Broadway Revue" and many other pioneering television productions. The papers were stashed away in the closet by Mr. Liebman, a legendary producer from the golden age of television who died in 1981 at the age of 78. The closet, which was locked and painted shut, is believed to have been undisturbed for close to 40 years.

The closet is but a few steps away from a mythic spot of New York real estate on West 56th Street: the sixth-floor office suite long known as the writers' room, where Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca and Carl Reiner created their classic comic sketches in the early 1950's with a raucous dream team of unruly and soon-to-be famous writers who included Mel Brooks and Neil Simon. Few rooms have been celebrated more repeatedly: on television in Mr. Reiner's beloved comedy "The Dick Van Dyke Show," on film with the 1982 movie "My Favorite Year" (also a musical in 1992) and on Broadway with Mr. Simon's 1993 memoir, "Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

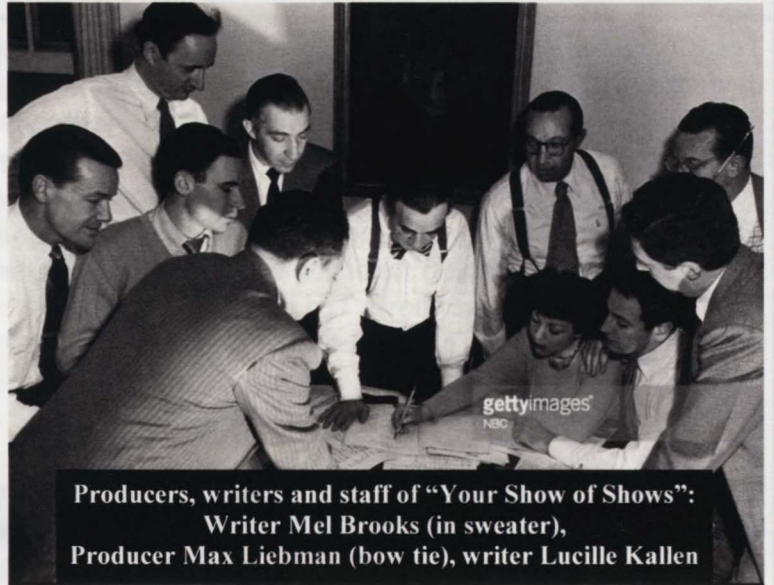
Ronald C. Simon, the television curator at the Museum of Television and Radio in Manhattan, said that "'Your Show of Shows' was a pinnacle of television history," and with this discovery, scholars would be able to examine how the shows were put together. Dr. Patrick Loughney, head of the Moving Image section of the Library of Congress, which will add the documents to its television collection, said that the discovery "is near miraculous." Records at the television museum, where videotaped versions of some of the original shows can be seen, indicate that there were 160 "Show of Shows" episodes from Feb. 25, 1950, to June 5, 1954. The closet contained 137 of the working scripts -- some of them scribbled on, and many in multiple copies -- according to City Center's preliminary inventory.

Fast forward to Sept. 11, 2000, when the documents came to light. The onetime writers' room was scheduled to be occupied by a new tenant who requested more storage space. And so, a maintenance crew tried to open the perpetually locked door on Floor 6M of the 12-story City Center office building at 130 West 56th Street. There was no key, and the frozen lock could not be picked. "It took an hour to pull out the hinges and pry off the door," said Maximo Perez, an operating engineer. He and his partner peered into the closet, flipped a light switch and miraculously, a 40-year-old bare bulb came to life and illuminated hundreds of manila files stacked on black-painted industrial metal shelves in a 5-by-6 1/2-foot room. The floor was covered in six inches of dust.

They informed their supervisors, who alerted Judith E. Daykin, City Center's president. The moment she saw the collection, "I knew," said Ms. Daykin, a fan of the Liebman shows who has studied the kinescopes in researching the "Encores" series of Broadway-musical revivals at City Center. She began examining hundreds of thick, yellowing 8.5-by-11-inch manila folders in the closet, some bound with fat, half-inch-thick rubber bands and others tied with string. The folders contained scripts for each show, some penciled with working notations. Ms. Daykin telephoned Jane Klain, the manager of research services at the Museum of Television and Radio, which has archived some "Show of Shows" episodes and held tributes and television festivals devoted to the show and its former writers. Ms. Klain said that "The scripts are a window on the period when live television was created, and illuminate the process of these shows that have haunted the creative imagination of comedy writers ever since." Acting on Ms. Klain's advice, City Center transferred the cache into 47 boxes that are currently waiting in a secure office at City Center.

Still unsolved, however, was the mystery of the closet's abandonment "It's as if Max locked it all away and moved on," said Ms. Daykin. "It makes you wonder," he said, "what other treasures like that might be sitting in New York City."

By Glenn Collins © The New York Times, November 14, 2000 (This article has been edit to meet our space requirements.)



Producers, writers and staff of "Your Show of Shows":
Writer Mel Brooks (in sweater),
Producer Max Liebman (bow tie), writer Lucille Kallen

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Ted Elbert**

Ted Elbert, veteran NBC Network News Producer and Foreign Bureau Chief, died on April 5th at his home in Terre Haute, Ind., following an illness. When he graduated from the University of Illinois with a journalism degree, Uncle Sam grabbed him up and he found himself in the U.S. Army. He created a radio program on Armed Forces Radio from downtown Chicago -- and *Army Reserve Time with Pvt. Ted Elbert* hit the air waves. In the '50's, Chicago night clubs featured big stars like Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole. Ted took his tape recorder to the clubs and after the shows Ted interviewed the artists and got them to do a spot to join the Army. Those interviews made his radio show a big hit and he realized he was a really good interviewer. After his hitch in the Army, he signed on with CBS News, then on to NBC Network News and he never looked back.

He became a field producer for NBC out of the Chicago Bureau, covering an area south all the way to New Orleans, east to West Virginia, and west to Colorado. In 1978 he was named NBC Network Bureau Chief in Frankfurt, Germany. Three and a half years later, he was awarded the coveted title Bureau Chief of NBC News, Paris, France, during the Reagan presidency, at which time the Iranian immigrants began an uprising in Paris. He was assigned to cover unrest in the black townships outside Johannesburg, South Africa, the Olympics in Seoul Korea and ship wrecks in the North Sea. As Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev instituted the policy of glasnost in the U.S.S.R., it became the hottest news story worldwide and NBC assigned their go to guy, Ted Elbert, to be the Moscow Bureau Chief. Ted and his crew pumped out stories nearly every evening for NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, bringing to America the democratization of the Soviet Union.

When he returned to the United States, he worked out of 30 Rockefeller Plaza on news magazine programs, including *Dateline NBC*. Whenever new network correspondents were hired on, they were assigned to the tutelage of Teddy Elbert to learn to do things the right way. Among those entrusted to his care: Jim Avila, Judy Woodruff, Gwen Ifill, Anne Thompson, David Gregory, and Brian Williams.

In 1997, he was awarded the National News and Documentary Emmy for Outstanding General Coverage of a Single Breaking News Story for the Grand Forks, North Dakota, Flood. He and correspondent David Bloom cover the O.J. Simpson Murder Trial in Los Angeles for *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw* for one whole year, and his was the first network news crew at the scene of the arrest of the Unabomber. The total number of national and international news stories he covered is impossible to know, but certainly in the thousands. He moved to Terre Haute 20 years ago with his wife, Vicki Weger.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki Weger, who considers herself the luckiest girl in the world. He has a son, Steve Elbert, of Melrose Park, Ill.; daughter, Jeanne Elbert of Bloomington, Ill.; daughter and son-in-law, Linda Elbert and Michael Amidei of Chicago; daughter, Melanie Elbert Buck, Okeechobee, Fla.; and grandson, Jonathon Elbert, Aurora, Ill., and Christopher Amidei of Chicago.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Ted Elbert to ISU Men's Basketball, Suite 106, 401 North 4th, Terre Haute, IN 47809.



Vickie Elbert and Teddy's colleagues remember him.
Your Editor has excerpted these from nearly five full pages of tributes.

Teddy's difficult journey is finished. He died very peacefully as he slept yesterday morning. I am so happy you got to live life with Teddy in the full bloom of his life. I was honored to hold him in my arms and love him with all my heart as the last small breath of air slipped from his tired body. I take joy in knowing he is no longer trapped in that broken earthly shell and tonight I dream he will hang extra stars in the heavens for all those of us he loved. We will have a gathering of friends to remember him later this month.

Vicki Elbert

I will never forget the night in a very expensive restaurant in Rome when the fellow at the piano began to softly play 'Chicago is My Kind of Town' and Teddy grabbed Pat Thompson's hand and proceeded to dance with her around the elegant main dining room. After some stunned silence, the diners broke into a round of applause. There will never be another like him.

Bill Wheatley

What I remember most about Teddy was his laugh – that hearty, infectious laugh that filled the room. How he loved a good story and how he enjoyed life! I like to think that he and Gene and all the wonderful friends we've lost are now sharing all those good times. He will be missed.

Judy Farinet

After the Gorbachev/Reagan summit in Moscow in 1988, I traveled to (then) Leningrad to see if I could track down my mother's long lost first cousins. After a long hunt, I discovered I had a doppelgänger 2nd cousin, Masha, who was just 15 at the time. I was the first American she had ever met. The next year, I went back to Moscow for another story, and this time I invited Masha to come with me (she had never been to Moscow) which meant she was hanging out at the bureau a lot with me and the Moscow NBC clan. Teddy was the first American man she ever met. Even though she spoke only rudimentary English at the time, Teddy made a huge fuss over her and made her giggle constantly with his antics. That night she asked me, "Eez all American men so laughing and so funny?" Sigh. No, Masha... if only...

Cheryl Gould

Jim Cummins used to tell a story about being on a stakeout with Ted in rural Wisconsin, where state troopers were manning barricades at the entrance to a Native American reservation in a dispute. They'd sent a track to an editor at the affiliate to cut a protective spot for the Today Show. Then, an all-night stakeout on the roadside. No place to get warm except the cars, every couple of hours, check to see if there are any developments, then drive to the nearest pay phone (yup, the pre-cell world) and call the desk and the show. Anyone who's ever done one of those remembers it. You can't sleep in the car because the other guy is snoring, or you wake up with a start and realize you haven't checked with the desk or the cops in the last hour. Finally, at around five-thirty, Elbert wakes everybody up, listens to the grumbles, and says, according to Cummins, "C'mon guys, this is great! They're PAYING US TO be here!"

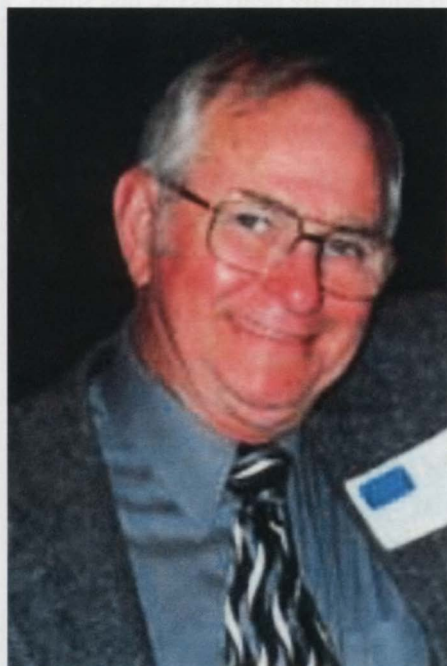
At the Republican Convention in Detroit in 1980 on the Saturday before the opening, there was a meeting of all the coverage and floor producers to go over communications with each other and the control rooms, Inside, Outside and Air. Twenty or thirty people in the room. And this meeting, in the pre-GE days, occurred at a restaurant over dinner and drinks. While the plates were being cleared, Joe Angotti was leading the discussion, which was deep in the weeds about PLs, and high shots, and camera platforms at hotels, when Teddy raised his hand, and said Joe? Yes Teddy? said Joe. Joe, says Teddy, if you would please order a couple more bottles of wine, we could have a toast in your honor! The room dissolved, the meeting ended by acclamation, and we all left, laughing.

Then there's the story about Ted and Vicky discovering that the Unabomber had a pen pal....

Ted was a marvelous journalist, producer, and bureau chief.

Jim Connor



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Cliff Adkins Remembered by Bob Dotson**

The first person to welcome me at NBC was Cliff. His wisdom and warmth guided my life and many others. Cliff was working with sound man Frank Greene, a whiskery little guy, standing on a chilly sidewalk waiting for a crew car to take us on assignment that first day. Frank maintained a two-inch ash on the cigarette that he dangled from the corner of his mouth even when he talked. He greeted me with one eye squinting through smoke.

"I just want youse ta know one 'ting," he said, his voice a low rasp. "I've been here thirty years and I'll be here when you leave!"

Frank was nearing retirement. He must have had underwear older than I was. I had seldom worked with anyone over 50 and didn't know what to say. Frank didn't want an answer. He was simply telling me what to expect.

"When we go out on stories, I sits in the right front seat." A stiff breeze finally knocked the ash off Frank's cigarette. "I always sits next to the heater." He paused to puff. "The cameraman drives, unless he doesn't want to. Then, the electrician drives. Otherwise, the electrician—who we call 40-watt, 'cuz he's usually a dim bulb—he sits in the back seat on the hump."

Another puff. Frank smoked Camels. Once he lit a cigarette, it stayed in the corner of his mouth until he took it out to light another. Frank glanced at the crew car garage. No sign yet of our ride. He continued, "The producer always sits in the back left seat, behind the driver, so he can flick 'em on the ear and tell 'em to turn right or left."

A small smile. "You? Reporters sit in the right rear seat." He wiggled his index finger. "Don't crowd 40-watt." The crew car pulled to the curb. Frank popped into the front seat next to the heater. "Welcome to Cleveland," he chortled, pointing to my place in back.

This was the first time that I had ever worked with a guy who cared more about heat than stories. At noon I learned he cared about food, too. "Hey, Dotson," he rasped. "Youse got ten more minutes! "Ten minutes until what, Frank?" "Ten minutes, den I'm pulling my audio plug outta da camera and sittin' in da car until we go to lunch." We were filming children on a playground. True to his word, ten minutes later, Frank yanked his audio line from the back of the camera and left. I looked at cameraman Cliff Adkins. Cliff shrugged. "Well," said Cliff. "At least Frank waited until we got a minutes worth of audio in the can. No one can fault him for not doing his job."

I looked around glumly. "Yeah, but what are we going to do?" Was this the end of my big time career? "Do you want to drive Frank nuts?" asked Cliff. I grinned. "Sure." "He's going to expect one of two things. Either we yell at him when we go back to the car or we give him the silent treatment." I nodded. Made sense. "If you really want to drive him crazy, let's act like nothing ever happened." "How will that drive him crazy?" "You see, he wants to pick a fight so he can file a union grievance," Cliff said. "That'll take him out of the cold for days while the grievance committee sorts it all out. Meanwhile, he'll be warm and get lunch on time." "Why doesn't he just talk to the managers who assign the story? It's not our fault he's working through lunch." "He's afraid," said Cliff. "It's easier and safer to take out his frustrations on us." "Great," I sighed, looking glum. "Well, let's do it," said Cliff. "Let's pretend as if nothing ever happened, but you have to promise me one thing." "What's that?" "You've got to talk to Peter Menkes, the assignment editor, and remind him that Frank needs his lunch on time. Food and heat are important when you're over sixty," Cliff grinned, but he meant it.

We finished our shooting, then walked back to the crew car. Frank was hunkered in the front seat, next to the heater. Engine running. "Hi, Frank!" I said. "Hey, where do you want to go eat?"

Two weeks later, we worked together again, meeting on that same chilly corner. Frank was pacing back and forth. "Hello, Frank..." "All Right!" Frank growled. "What's goin' on!" "Going on? What, Frank?" "How come youse never yelled at me?"

"Yell at you, Frank? Why?"

"You know why!"

"Well," I said. "I thought you made a good point about missing lunch, so I talked to the assignment editor when I got back to make sure you didn't miss any more."

"You did?"

"Yeah."

Frank Greene was not our best soundman. He was known for letting the needle ride in the red. Didn't pay much attention to over modulation, but from that day forward he got better when he worked with me. I always made sure to highlight Frank's audio in my stories. If he climbed down a hill to get sound of a rushing river, I would pause in my narration to let the sound play. Gradually, grudgingly, we became friends.

My wife, Linda, was eight months pregnant at the time. The day she flew from Oklahoma to join me in our new home, I met her at the airport with Frank and the crew. We were on our way to Cincinnati, assigned to do a Today show story. Would she care to fly along in the Lear jet?

"What's another plane ride?" said Linda.

Off we went.

When we arrived in Cincinnati, 40-watt pulled the rental car alongside the plane. Frank hopped out and opened the car door -- the front passenger door.

"Mrs. Dotson," he motioned. "Would youse like to sit next to da heater?"

The next morning, over coffee, Cliff Adkins shook his head.

"I've worked for thirteen years with Frank Greene and I've never seen Frank give up the heater, not even for a pregnant nun!"

"Cliff," I laughed, "Why is it we can communicate clearly with millions of people, but can't seem to talk to the guy sitting next to us in the crew car?"

"We seldom work well together," said Cliff, "because we blame everyone else while overlooking our own failures. I say, 'My story would have been an award winner, but you wrote a terrible narration.' You say, 'Hey, Cliff, your shots are shaky and the audio is unusable.'"

"Remember, Bob, the only person you can change is you. You want to get better. Make yourself better by helping others become better, too."

The people who help us thrive in this world are not always the most pleasant. I've learned not to waste life waiting to work with the 'best' or cursing fate when faced with a 'Frank Greene.' Life is a rough and tumble business, like a football game. Change when you see an opening.

I remember something Cliff told me when I thought my career wasn't catching fire.

"Try to make yourself one of a kind. That will give you a distinctive voice others will want to hear. You might not get every assignment you want, but someday, someone will say: "We need a Bob Dotson story."

I've told this tale to many young journalists over the years. Cliff's wisdom lives on.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Nancy Adams**

Nancy Adams, 73, wife of the NBC Sports' Publicity Department's Chuck Adams, passed away suddenly on March 13, 2017 while hospitalized battling aggressive lung cancer. They lived in Cypress Village in Jacksonville. Below is a 2012 profile of the couple from Jacksonville.com.



Chuck Adams may not have taken his sweetheart to the senior prom, but he did escort her to the class reunion ... 50 years later. In April 2011, Chuck, who worked in public relations for the PGA Tour until his recent retirement, sent a mass email to the people organizing his 50th high school reunion. Nancy Lorey, a classmate from a tough English course, wrote back, "Talk about something rising from the mist," and they began corresponding via email. When Nancy, a widow, visited her daughter's family in Ponte Vedra Beach — coincidentally, just miles from Chuck's home — the pair met for lunch at Barbara Jeans.

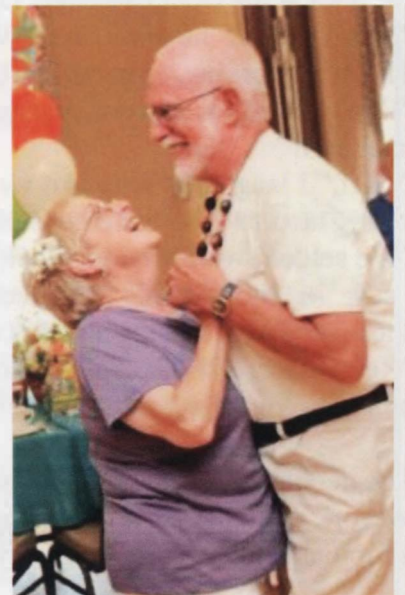
Though she was nervous that the magic would fade along with the mystery once they were face-to-face, Nancy returned from their date uncharacteristically giddy. They grew closer over the course of several more dates and kept in close contact after she returned home to Warren, Ohio. By the high school reunion in September, they were a couple, much to the delight and surprise of the rest of the Lakewood High School class of 1961.

That fall, Chuck proposed over the phone. But because her sweetheart loves to joke around, Nancy's first words were, "Are you kidding?" At Christmas, while Nancy was cooking a delicious spaghetti dinner, Chuck bravely got down on one knee — he's had both knees replaced — and asked the question again, this time holding a ring. The second time around Nancy, a semi-retired co-owner of a video production company, didn't ask if he was serious before she said "yes."

Over the Fourth of July weekend, friends and family gathered for a days-long celebration that included a pool party, a Cleveland Indians game and, to top it off, a wedding. Surrounded by their nearest and dearest, including children, grandchildren, cousins and Nancy's 94-year-old mother, the couple said "I do" at the bride's alma mater, Hiram College, on July 7, 2012. Carolyn Hall, one of Nancy's two daughters, says, "They've been so happy since rediscovering each other that, even though we don't know Chuck that well, we were so happy they made the decision to get married."

When anyone asks why the self-described "proverbial snowbirds" — they split time between Ohio and Florida — didn't realize that they were a perfect pair 50 years ago, they simply say, "The time was right for us now."

By Claire Reed © Jacksonville.com October 7, 2012



In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hiram College Development Office, Hiram, OH 44234.

Contact Chuck at
4523 Middleton Park Cir W
Jacksonville FL 32224-6613
cbadams58@hotmail.com

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Cecilia Alvear**

Cecilia Alvear racked up an astonishing number of “firsts” in a lifetime that spanned 77 years. A news producer with NBC network news for 25 years, she liked to joke that she was the first native of the Galápagos Islands ever to work in American television. When she was born, her father was military governor of the Galápagos, part of Ecuador, and Cecilia took her first steps on island beaches populated by exotic birds, strange iguanas and packs of sea lions.

As Cecilia, one of five sisters, grew up, the family lived on the Ecuadorian mainland in several different cities. Cecilia had a desire to explore the world beyond Ecuador and as a young woman in the mid '60's, learned English, obtained a green card and went to seek her fortune in the USA.

In 1971, she was hired at the NBC TV station in Los Angeles as a production assistant and was the first Latina in that sort of position. She also broke the gender barrier when the California Chicano News Men's Association accepted Cecilia as one of its first female inductees and changed its name to the California Chicano News Media Association, an organization that would later give birth the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ). Cecilia would go on to serve as NAHJ president from 2000 to 2002 and be inducted into the association's hall of fame in 2007.

In 1982, NBC News hired Cecilia to run its bureau in Mexico City. She was the first Latina news producer at any of the three major TV networks, covering wars in Central America, unrest in Chile, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia, and earthquakes in Mexico City, El Salvador and Ecuador. She also produced interviews with Fidel Castro in Cuba.

In 1988, she was selected for a Nieman fellowship at Harvard University, becoming the first Latina in the program, designed as a year of study for mid-career journalists. Returning to NBC the next year, she was assigned to the Los Angeles bureau.

That brought a wide variety of assignments from coverage of the O.J. Simpson murder trial to earthquakes, fires and floods in the western United States.

Her career was interrupted in 1994 with a diagnosis of stage three breast cancer. Cecilia chose an aggressive course of treatment that included high dosage chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant at the City of Hope Hospital near Los Angeles.

The cancer stayed in remission for eighteen years during which time Cecilia made the “Hispanic Business” list of “100 most influential Hispanics in the United States.” She constantly pushed for more diversity in newsrooms, serving on the boards of Unity-Journalists of Color and the Nieman foundation. Many Latinos in journalism credit Cecilia with helping start their careers as she encouraged them to attend workshops and job fairs sponsored by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Cecilia frequently returned to the Galápagos Islands to help out the elementary school founded by her father as the first public school on the archipelago. She started the school's first computer lab and aided local women in the formation of a business cooperative that bears her name. She also hosted workshops for journalists in the islands and began a blog about news from Galápagos.

As a cancer survivor, Cecilia joined the organization Padres Contra el Cancer, which helps poor Latino families who have children undergoing treatment for the disease. She also worked with Dr. Susan Love's foundation on projects designed to increase cancer awareness among Latinas.

Cecilia is survived by her four sisters, Alexandra, Magdalena, Montserrat and Rocio; by her partner, George Lewis, a retired NBC News correspondent; and by two half-brothers, Eduardo and Alfredo.

The family requests that people wishing to remember Cecilia donate to the City of Hope at <https://ourhope.cityofhope.org/> Cecilia

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bob Walsh**

As an executive vice president of NBC, Robert S. "Bob" Walsh jetted around the world to oversee coverage of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Wimbledon and the French Open. In addition to NBC Sports, he was responsible for NBC radio and the TV stations owned and operated by the network. He reported to Grant Tinker, NBC's legendary chief. In his office, where others might have shown off awards, the Chicago native displayed a city firefighter's helmet. "That was given to him by his neighborhood friend who grew up to be a battalion chief," said Al Jerome, who succeeded Mr. Walsh as president of the NBC stations group. "That was a symbol of what neighborhoods and Chicago meant to him." "Bob always said he really wanted to be a Chicago fireman," said Marion, his wife of 61 years.

Mr. Walsh, 88, died at his Wilmette home April 23 of complications from Parkinson's disease.

He was a Golden Gloves boxer who went on to become a captain in the Marines — something he made sure to inform young men who came calling on his daughters. He studied to be a teacher at Northern Illinois University but instead wound up working more than 25 years at NBC. "He was Grant Tinker's right-hand man in the world of 'must-see TV,'" said news anchor Carol Marin, referring to NBC's slogan when it dominated the ratings in the 1990s. She called him "one of the greatest of bosses." "Usually, when the big boss walks in the newsroom, everybody freaks out and tightens up," said Giangreco. "When Bob walked in, he released this calm that washed over everyone's desk." "Everybody figured . . . this is the guy you can trust," Ruddle said.

Mr. Walsh retained more than a touch of his blue-collar upbringing. "He was a bowl-of-soup-and-sandwich kind of guy," Marin said. "He'd go to firehouses and have lunch" with childhood friends. When Mr. Walsh became an NBC executive, he supported its boxing programs, televising championships. "He was constantly doing things for the parks," Kelly said.

Mr. Walsh met Marion Whelan in 1954 when they stood up in a wedding. They got married in 1955 and spent five years in Philadelphia, where he worked as an advertising manager for Household Finance.

In the 1960s, he returned to Chicago, where he did radio and TV sales for NBC, rising to be general manager at WMAQ. Later, he moved to New York City, where Mr. Walsh was one of Tinker's executive vice presidents.

Tinker credited him for his eye for talent, saying Walsh questioned him when Tinker wanted to fire Howard Stern "because I didn't want his stuff on NBC." "He was doing very well on the NBC radio station in New York," Tinker said in the book "80: Our Most Famous 80-year-olds." "I heard it, and I said to Bob Walsh, 'Get rid of this guy.' Walsh said, 'He's going to do awfully well somewhere else.' I said, 'Fine, let him do that.'"

"When he wasn't working, he was with his family. He wasn't sitting around in saloons," said his friend John Lane. He believed "you should always have a guest bedroom for someone to stay, and a dining room table to have a place to gather people," said his daughter Margy Roberts.

Tinker left NBC in 1986, after GE bought the network. After overseeing coverage of the 1988 Olympics, Mr. Walsh returned to Chicago and did consulting.

Mr. Walsh is also survived by another daughter, Kathleen; son Tom; sisters Mary Mosher, Colleen Jennings and Margy McCall; and five grandchildren.

By Maureen O'Donnell, © The Chicago Sun-Times, April 29, 2017

*The Kicker***TV Fashion Statements**

Here are some suggestions for the well-appointed Peacock North member!

Please send us your comments.

Your Editor.



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**We have so many new members that
they are listed in detail on their own page inside.
Please turn to Page 2 to welcome them!**