



PN Members Travel Around the World - Then Head to Spring Luncheon!

**Guess Who Attended
Carnival in Venice?
Read All About It
on Pages 14 and 15.**



**Time for Our Annual Gathering!
Join Us at Sardi's
with Guest Speaker Connie Chung
Sunday, May 18th at 12 Noon.
See the Coupon on Page 23.**

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Marilyn's Page



Happy Spring, at last, and Happy Holidays to all!

Whether you are eating matzah or chasing Easter eggs, this is the time of re-awakening after a harsh, harsh winter. And things are looking up (and green!) NBC Comcast seems to still be in the acquiring mode (Time Warner Cable) and there is much transformation taking place at NBC and throughout the broadcast world. We are in the throes of digital crossover, heavily influenced by the internet, and it is rocking our world. Things are flying through the air constantly and everything is on a "link." Having said that I still see new shining faces coming through our doors looking for their futures; it's very uplifting. Time really does march on and suddenly you're on Facebook and Twitter and not sure how you got there. Every time I am on the phone walking down the street I feel like a *Jetsons* character, very retro/futuristic.

Our Spring Luncheon will be happening on May 18th and I urge you to attend. As my friend Bill Freeda noted recently, it is so important to take advantage of seeing each other and staying in touch. Speaking of that, I am hoping that we can create a PN website; we are way overdue. Anyone with ideas and expertise is welcome to contact us as soon as possible.

See you at the luncheon with Connie! Please send in your rsvp and check using the form on Page 23 or the reminder you have received in the mail.

...And now for the good stuff - the rest of the magazine...



Support Our Troops, Our Crews and Our Correspondents In Harm's Way

Current E-mail Addresses

REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address,
please remember to notify us at
[peacocknorth @yahoo.com](mailto:peacocknorth@yahoo.com).

This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.

*What's Now!***Comcast Buys Time Warner Cable for \$45 Billion**

Comcast said today it had agreed to buy Time Warner Cable for \$45 billion in a deal that would combine the two biggest cable companies in the United States. If the deal is approved, the combined group will be the coun-



try's dominant provider of television channels and Internet connections, reaching roughly one in three American homes. Analysts say the consolidation could help Comcast to compete with satellite providers like DirecTV, wireless phone companies like AT&T and new streaming services like Netflix. "This isn't about TV anymore – it's about controlling a fatter, more intelligent pipe for multiple services that emanate from it," including broadband Internet, phone and home security monitoring, said Tim Hanlon, the founder of the Vertere Group, an investment advisory firm that focuses on media and technology.

Time Warner Cable owners will be offered 2.875 Comcast shares for each share they own, valuing Time Warner Cable at about \$158.82 per share. The two companies expect the merger to take effect by the end of the year, but regulators are likely to take a close look at the potential impact on consumers. To address those concerns, Comcast said it was prepared to divest about 3 million subscribers. But it would still have about 30 million subscribers...

By swallowing Time Warner Cable on its own, Comcast will gain even more leverage over the country's marketplace for television, broadband Internet and phone services. Comcast has about 23 million television subscribers. With millions more subscribers, Comcast will add muscle in its negotiations with cable channel owners like The Walt Disney Company and Time Warner, the parent company of this website.

Time Warner Cable, on the other hand, had what the American Customer Satisfaction Index called an "industry low" score last spring. It has shed television subscribers in recent months for a number of reasons, including a protracted blackout of CBS and Showtime in several million homes. Comcast could theoretically improve Time Warner Cable's performance by bringing in its own software.

But even before the official announcement of the deal, questions arose about whether Comcast will be allowed to expand its cable footprint so substantially. Regulators used to enforce a rule that prohibited a single cable company from controlling more than 30% of the market. But Comcast led a challenge to that rule in the mid-2000s, and in 2009 a federal appeals court threw out the 30% cap. Still, the proposed combination will surely be scrutinized by the government.

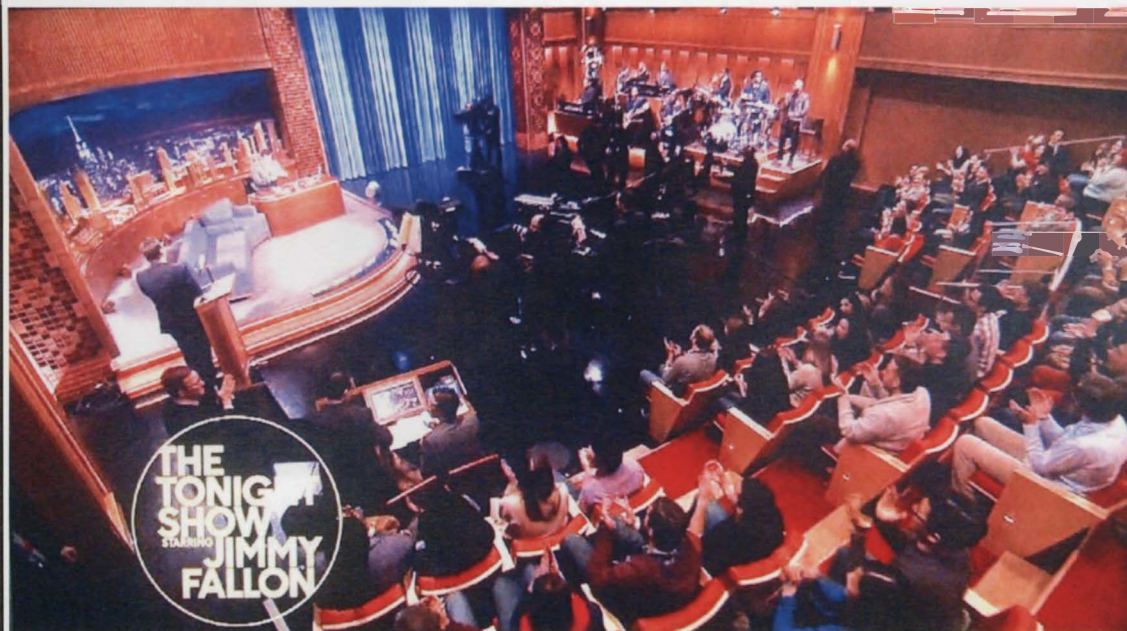
The two companies are likely to point out that they don't directly compete -- Comcast has its own markets, like Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., and Time Warner Cable has its own, like New York and North Carolina. The lack of overlap may temper antitrust concerns. Analysts also point out that Comcast is remarkably well connected in Washington. In fact, its chief lobbyist, David Cohen, was a guest at the White House state dinner for the French president on Tuesday night. Comcast persuaded government agencies to approve its \$30 billion bid for NBCUniversal in 2011. At that time it agreed to a number of conditions that were designed to prevent anticompetitive behavior. It could be compelled to do the same in this case.

On Wednesday night, some of the public interest groups that opposed the NBCUniversal deal, like Free Press, signaled immediate opposition to the consolidation involving Time Warner Cable. "Stopping this kind of deal is exactly why we have antitrust laws," Free Press said in a statement.

-- © By Brian Stelter @brianstelter - February 13, 2014
[CNN's Evan Perez contributed reporting to this article.]

What's Now!

"Tonight" Show Returns to New York After Nearly 42 Years



On Monday night, for the first time in almost 42 years, NBC's "Tonight" show will be hosted from New York. The show, which invented the form of entertainment known as late-night television, is returning to the place of its birth: Sixth Avenue in Manhattan, in the building known as 30 Rock. Much of the attention in the television industry over the past month has centered on the changeover at the historic late-night show from the longtime host Jay

Leno to the new star, Jimmy Fallon, but the change in location — so long in Burbank, Calif. — also represents a milestone, both culturally and in a business sense. "This is where it should be," Mr. Fallon said. "It's electric here. It's the trendsetting city. It's the most alive city in the world."

NBC and Comcast have made a significant investment in reclaiming "Tonight" for New York, though executives declined to give a figure beyond that it was many millions of dollars. The investment includes the cost of a new state-of-the-art studio [a total renovation of Studio 6B] and [a new music control room later this year], as well as an elaborate new lobby area to welcome the nightly audience. Eugene Lee, the renowned theatrical set designer, [was brought in] to create a new look for the studio, dominated by a wood-carved skyline of Manhattan. "I think it's Eugene Lee's masterpiece," said Lorne Michaels, the show's executive producer, who has made use of Mr. Lee's services in the past on "Saturday Night Live." NBC also paid for an opening-title sequence shot by the director Spike Lee. The new studio will include about 50 added audience seats, and a prominent platform for Mr. Fallon's house band from his five-year tenure as host of "Late Night," the Roots. [Studio 6B] is the same studio that Johnny Carson starred in before he left for California in May 1972, and that Jack Paar starred in before him. Like Mr. Michaels, Mr. Fallon, who emerged as a star on "S.N.L.," has a long association with 30 Rock. "It simply never came up that we would move to L.A.," Mr. Michaels said. Mr. Fallon, born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and raised upstate in Saugerties, N.Y., said, "This is my home. I would feel out of place in L.A."

The two NBC late-night franchises have never been housed in the same building before, and that created some logistical challenges, including how to move hundreds of audience members up and down through old, small elevators. Then there was a concern about "sound bleed." Mr. Meyers' new studio will be right on top of Mr. Fallon's and the potent beat from the Roots could have been a problem. Sound is too easily conducted floor to floor. The solutions: A new thicker floor was poured for Studio 8G, Mr. Myers' new home; and the two shows will tape 90 minutes apart: Mr. Fallon at 5 p.m., and Mr. Meyers at 6:30 p.m.

-- By Bill Carter, © The New York Times, February 16, 2014

*What's Now!***Seth Meyers: Smart Guy in the Wiseguy Seat**

Seth Meyers is the oldest, most experienced and most host-like comedian to take the reins of NBC's three-decade-old "Late Night." But starting Monday night, when he walks out into his shiny new studio at 30 Rockefeller Center, about 20 yards down the hall from where he has worked for the past 13 years on "Saturday Night Live," the only thing that will matter is whether Mr. Meyers will be as funny as the three men who preceded him: David Letterman, Conan O'Brien and Jimmy Fallon. "You can't worry about it until it's time to



worry about it," Mr. Meyers said, sitting in his unprepossessing office at 30 Rock. He acknowledged the daunting track record he will be following: Each of the previous three hosts graduated from successful runs in the 12:35 a.m. slot of "Late Night" to the big time of 11:35 p.m. shows on a network. "I'm really looking forward to mid-March," Mr. Meyers said. "When we've been on three weeks, it will be like looking at an ultrasound: Oh, I see its hand! Whereas right now we've got a heartbeat, but that's all we've got."

Worrying is locked deep into Mr. Meyer's DNA, but few around him on the new show share the condition. In his years as head writer for "SNL" and anchor of its "Weekend Update" segment, Mr. Meyers earned a reputation for reliability and intellect. "Seth is a very stable guy," said Michael Shoemaker, his producer and longtime friend. (And mature, of course. Mr. Meyers is 40. David Letterman was 34 when he started "Late Night" in 1982. When Mr. O'Brien took over in 1993, he was 30. And Mr. Fallon was 34 when he became host in 2009.) Lorne Michaels, the executive producer for both shows, who first hired Mr. Meyers for "SNL" and then installed him in "Late Night," said: "Seth is ready for this. He has the poise and the breadth."

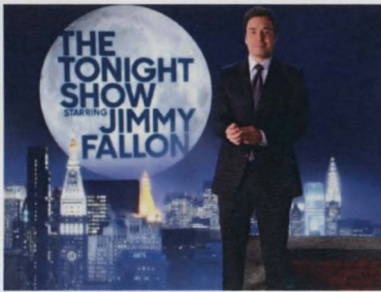
Most people who have worked with Mr. Meyers quickly cite his intelligence and his wide range of interests — from politics to sports to literature — as the qualities most likely to set him apart as a late-night host. That may mean this version of "Late Night" will represent a tilt back toward the talk in talk show, Mr. Michaels acknowledged, but not at the expense of the comedy. The monologue should be one of Mr. Meyers's strengths. He has honed a stand-up act in recent years, including a performance at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in 2011 that Mr. Shoemaker said "in many ways set him up for this." But he has also been, in his writing and anchoring chores on "SNL," a pure practitioner in the art of the joke.

Mr. Meyers has had eight months to prepare for his debut as a late-night host, almost too long, he said. Even with all the preparation, he said that he expected his nerves to jangle Monday night. "But this is not a job where you have eight months to get ready," Mr. Meyers said. "It's a job where you have 23 hours to get ready for the next one."

-- By Bill Carter, © The New York Times, Feb. 23, 2014

What's Now!

Red Carpet Treatment: A Tax Credit for the Tonight Show



New York hosted more than 180 productions last year. Most of them were feature films as well as TV shows like *Boardwalk Empire* and *Girls*. Kenneth Adams, commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development, called it “a banner year” for New York’s entertainment industry. And he said New York’s tax credit played a big role. “We do compete, against Hollywood, against Toronto, against North Carolina, Louisiana, other states that have these programs,” he said. “And so we work very, very hard to partner with the industry and keep these jobs here, and grow these jobs here.”

The state created the credit a decade ago and since then, it’s tripled. Last year, Governor Andrew Cuomo extended the credit for another five years and added some new language: For “relocated television productions” that spent “at least five seasons out of state,” “with an audience of 200 or more,” “that incur at least \$30 million in annual production costs in the state.” If that sounds similar to the *Tonight Show*, Adams said, that’s the point. “We did make changes to the program, because we did want to attract these long-running, high-budget productions to New York State.”

In addition to the *Tonight Show*, Adams said the expanded credit has helped entice *America’s Got Talent* to [tape] here as well, and he’s hoping for more. According to Adams, the tax credit pays for itself and then some: It’s capped at \$420 million a year. Meanwhile, he said, the industry generated \$2 billion in spending last year and supports 125,000 jobs. These jobs aren’t for the marquee names, whose salaries aren’t covered by the credit, but for behind-the-scenes positions like set designers, lighting technicians and wardrobe assistants.

Two studies, one from the state comptroller, and another commissioned by the Governor’s Office of Motion Picture and Television Development and the Motion Picture Association of America, found the credit boosts the local economy.

Some researchers, however, are skeptical. Marilyn Marks Rubin is a professor of fiscal policy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She recently co-authored a study of the state’s business tax credits for a commission convened by the governor. She said the film credit has gotten so big it’s basically a cash payment to production companies, which translates into higher taxes for the rest of us or fewer services. “What we found was that the economic activity generated by the industry does not merit the kind of credit they’ve been getting,” she said.

But if you missed reading this report, you’re not alone. Sources said the governor’s office didn’t approve of the findings so when the full report was published, that 140-page section was not included. The governor’s office responded that the commission was in charge of deciding what made it into the final report and noted that the report did include the study’s basic recommendation of reducing the film credit by \$50 million. But Rubin isn’t the only one in raising concerns about the tax credit. The nonprofit Tax Foundation says the incentives are a race to the bottom between states competing for business. Jared Meyer, a policy analyst at the Manhattan Institute, considers them a waste of money. “A state could really attract any industry if they paid a quarter to a third of its costs,” he said. “But what I think is a better system is to lower the tax rates for everyone and not have politicians pick the winners or losers.”

This year, one of those winners is the *Tonight Show*. NBC said the decision to move to New York was a creative one, but the credits made it possible. The company said the show will bring more than 500 full time jobs as well as a few thousand temporary positions the city.

And come tax season, NBC said it will definitely apply for the new credit.

--By Jessica Gould, © WNYC, February 17, 2014

What's Now!

Shake, Rattle & Roll - 7th Floor Construction in High Gear
by Joel Spector



During 2014 and 2015 the 7th floor of the 30 Rock studio building is undergoing yet another total makeover. From a brand new dual-display multimedia experience for the audience entry lobby to a vast central hallway covering two-thirds of the floor both tour patrons and employees will be able to look into three new high-definition television control room complexes now under construction.

The 1970s-era NBC commissary, which occupied the former office spaces of the Public Affairs department, was moved into lavish new quarters on the 9th and 10th floors of the East building, providing diners with both daylight and scenic views. This area was profiled in a previous PN issue. The NBC Medical Center, which occupied much of the opposite side of the 7th floor, has also been relocated. When your editor started working at NBC in 1965, that area was my home: Radio Recording, Room 770, and Kinescope Recording was just next door in Room 760. The Family Store had a home next door to Kine Recording for many years – that's where all of the 25-inch RCA Victor Color TVs for our living rooms came from!

Above are some early construction photos of the area. The completed control rooms will be assigned as follows: One for Studio 8G's *Late Night with Seth Myers* which is presently using the current 6A Production Control Room and one of the SNL Music Mixing Rooms.

One for Studio 6A's new Meredith Viera show (beginning this Fall) which will include music performances.



One for music mixing on the *Tonight Show*, which is currently using 6A's Music Room.

Each of the three complexes includes production control, audio, music, video and graphics areas. Each side of the central hallway will also include a master equipment room for the facilities on that side (49th and 50th Street outside walls). In our next issue we will show the construction progress.

Left: This area was formerly part of Room 770, home of Radio Recording, and later the NBC Medical Center.

What's Now!

**NBC's Top Brass Thanks "The Sound of Music Live!"
Cast and Crew for a Job Well Done**



Above left is Peyton Ella,
the show's youngest cast member,
who was profiled in a recent PN issue.
She is seen with the souvenir poster sent to all
"The Sound of Music Live!" participants.

At right is a closeup of her section.

Below is the note which accompanied the gift.



Thank you for all your passion and hard work on THE SOUND OF MUSIC LIVE!
We wanted you to have something that would invoke the great memories
of being a part of this unique show.
So, in the great tradition of Broadway and as a token of our appreciation,
here's your very own "Hirschfeld."
See you at the Stage Door!

Warmest Wishes,
Bob Greenblatt [NBC Entertainment Chairman],
Rich Licata [Executive Vice President, Communications] and all your friends at NBC.

*What's Now!***NBC Plans Live “Peter Pan” for Next Holiday Season****Mary Martin and the Original TV Cast**

NBC will go back into its past for its next attempt at live musical theater on television, bringing back the classic “Peter Pan” for a holiday season viewing next December 4th.

The network is following up the enormous success it had this past December with “The Sound of Music,” which drew an audience of more than 18 million people and prompted NBC to quickly announce its intention to make live theater an annual event. Looking for a property that would fill its main requirements — familiarity and appeal to the whole family — “Peter Pan” was a logical choice.

“Peter Pan” also evokes the early days of both the television industry and NBC. Mary Martin starred in a much-beloved live production on NBC in 1955. (NBC also mounted versions in 1956 and 1960.)

Robert Greenblatt, the chairman of NBC Entertainment, who has been an ardent advocate of bringing Broadway to network television, announced the new production on January 19th at a session with reporters covering the television business.



What's Now!

Cheryl Gould Leaving NBC News After 37 Years



After 37 years at NBC News, senior vice president Cheryl Gould has announced she will leave the network at the end of the month. Gould has worked in several different roles at NBC, including as vice president of CNBC and as the first female executive producer of “Nightly News.”

In a goodbye note to staffers sent this morning, Gould — who plans to “get going on her QTR,” or quality time remaining — recalled the highlights of her career:

My dear friends and colleagues,

Thirty-six and a half years is a not even a blip in the grand sweep of history, but when those years comprise a career with one employer, and those years happen to be MY years, it feels worthy of an upgrade from a blip to a blurb, which I offer herewith. My memory cup runneth over. Ayatollah Khomeini and the hostages. The Berlin Wall and Tom. The first Western live broadcasts from China. D-Day plus 35, plus 40, plus 50. The royal wedding—that other one, with the poufy dress. The explosion of the Challenger. And the GM pickup truck. Racing with Tom to a live shot at the Pyramids and getting stuck in a sewage ditch.

I’ve seen fire and I’ve seen rain. I’ve seen election nights that I thought would never end. Interviews with Marcos, Mubarak, Mitterrand, Mikhail, and Maggie. The fall of communism. The rise of dot.coms. The end of Basys, Hurley’s, wire machine clatter and cigars in the newsroom. The start of start-ups, selfies, news branding, and “likes.” I’ve lived through sixteen offices, nine news presidents, three corporate owners. And one new commissary.

I remember the Paris bureau’s old phone number: 359-11-71. I remember when there was a Paris bureau.

Recently, I was jolted into thinking about what the 37th year and beyond might bring. I was talking with a good friend who asked how I, a single mother with my only child off to college, was handling the empty-nest syndrome. She asked, “So, what do you want to do with your QTR?” “What the hell is QTR?” I wanted to know. “Quality Time Remaining,” she said. “Maybe now’s a good time to think about it.” Quality Time Remaining. Yikes! It sounded like the last stage before the ventilator. Who wants to think about time remaining when you’re only 61, energy and life still flow fiercely through your veins, and your kid’s friends think you’re cool? (Not that he does.)

It’s not as though I’d never thought about the proverbial “next chapter,” but I’d delayed giving myself a deadline because it’s easier to procrastinate when there seem to be endless tomorrows. Yet think about it I did. A lot. Yes, I’ve enjoyed a fine career, proudly done the woman pioneer thing, spent years helping to shape news reporting, but what about those tomorrows? Why not think about what would inspire me and what contributions I could make in the years ahead?

It wasn’t easy for me last fall when I told [NBC News President] Deborah [Turness] that I had decided to cut the cord, but I knew it was the right thing to do and the right time to do it. I’ll be here until the end of March handing off projects as well as conducting no-holds-barred archaeological triage on my career artifacts. Do I really need the lanyard and security badge from Decision ’92? Or the tchotchke I bought in the Kasbah in Algiers?

(Continued)

What's Now!

I'll miss NBC News and being in the thick of it. I'll be forever grateful to Tom Brokaw and Bill Wheatley for having had faith in a wild-haired young woman from the farmland of South Jersey to become the first woman in a leadership role at Nightly News and later the front office. I'll never tire of thinking about my Overnight colleague and friend Linda Ellerbee who showed me the art of unmasking hypocrisy and laughing at the absurd. I will never forget my dear colleagues David Bloom, Garrick Utley, and my beloved friend Tim Russert.

I'll miss all of you I've had the privilege and joy of working with, learning from, lifting up, and leaning on. I admire the professionalism of all of you in the field, the edit rooms, the newsrooms, the control rooms, the archives and research libraries, the studios, the Rights office, x4161, the law office, Englewood Cliffs, and more.

I've been fascinated by the digital natives—and those who wish they were—with their technological savvy, their devotion to what's trending, and their “app”-etite for InstatwitterFacebookYouTube. I proudly salute the seasoned news veterans—and those who value them—for their wisdom, experience, and news judgment.

I'll miss 30 Rock. Hard to imagine, but one day I might even miss the annual migration of gawking tree people in the plaza at Christmas time. (On second thought.....)

I'm enjoying sifting through memories and preserving them in a mental file marked “material for future nostalgia.”

Rich memories, yes. But for now, I'm eager and excited to get going on my QTR.

With best wishes,
Cheryl

—By Merrill Knox in mediabistro.com on March 3, 2014

TD Russ Ross Retires

On February 28th veteran Technical Director Russ Ross retired from the *Today Show* and NBC after 47 years.

Russ worked on *Another World*, *Somerset*, and many News and Sports special events. For six weeks in 1969 he and several other cameramen were sent to Burbank to help crew the *Dean Martin Show*. What a thrill for a young cameraman! There are 2 shows at the top of his list: #2 is the *Dean Martin Show* and #1 is the *Today Show*.

Russ owes a lot to the great Frank Gaeta for his excellent camera and TD skills and for passing them on to him.

Russ and his wife, Carol, are planning to remain in their Old Tappan, NJ home. Their daughters, Stephanie and Linda, are out on their own.

He is seen here with Erin Feeney, Production Manager for *Today* (Left), and Evan Klupt, Senior Production Manager for *Today* (Right).



*What's Now!***NBC Sochi Olympics Audio Folk**

Pictured above are just the tip of the Alps that is the NBC Sochi Olympics audio technical staff. Left to right: From New York: Rob Weiss, Ricardo Gomez, Anthony Sozio, Mike Noseworthy, Alex Kyriacou, and at extreme right, from Hong Kong: Mark Roberts.

*We Get Letters***Regarding the NBC Radio Network Celebrates Fifty Years CD set:**

That entire brilliant work was done entirely by my new friends....the aforementioned Charley Garment, Bud Drake, Warren Hogan and company. I had nothing to do with it until years later when, with a mint condition set on quarter inch tape gathering dust here, I asked Pete Flynn if I would run into legal problems if I decided to order new sets. Pete said as long as I sold them at my cost.....non-profit.....nobody could touch us. That is what we've been doing ever since and we've sold close to 300 sets now....beautifully packaged and boxed as a 3-ring set with my notes on the whole enterprise included. A Tampa recording studio where I do some occasional voice work does those sets for us and I'm sure will continue to as long as there is a market for them out there. I got a request and a check for those CDs just today.

ANYWAY....next time the Peacock goes to press please clarify that bit of information. Pete Flynn may well have contacted you about it by then anyway.

Don Blair, Feb 1 2014

and more details...

A great production...just one small correction. Charlie was credited as "Director". Charlie Garment was the writer, the late great Elliott "Bud" Drake was the Director. The late Warren Hogan was the very creative engineer. The programs were produced during my tenure as Director, Programs, reporting to Russ Tornabene. One of my most cherished memories and accomplishments in that job. One of my major chores was to negotiate terms for the stars [appearing in the show]. I remember talking with Bob Hope's agent at the time...and he said Bob just didn't want anything less than anyone else got. So everyone received the same remuneration which was very nominal and in some instances contributed in the spirit of participating in a one-time celebration of "the first" network.

Peter Flynn

NBC Employee Zipcar Discount

February 6th, 2013

Did you know as a NBCUniversal employee you receive Zipcar discounts? With hybrids, sedans, and pickups available by the hour or the day, Zipcar for Business is a great solution to all your needs. Take a car for a few hours, all day or overnight. Get to an offsite meeting, move across town, or reserve cars when traveling in other cities! Check out the new addition to their fleet in NY, Zipvans!

No application fee.

½ price annual membership (only \$25)

Current discounted weekday rates*

Discounted hourly rate: starting at \$10.25

Business day rate (7am-7pm): \$66

24-hour day rate: \$76

*Excludes BMW and MINI convertibles.

Each reservation includes gas, insurance and 180 miles of driving (per 24 hours)

How to join: An online application is available at <http://www.zipcar.com/nbc>

Already a member?

Email Chelsea at cmullen@zipcar.com to upgrade an existing account.

We Get Letters and Pictures

Bucket List Experiences – Carnival 2014 in Venice By Pam Butler

As one looks to check off items on one's Bucket List, it is always good fortune to have very dear friends with vast knowledge and years of experience to guide you on an adventure. Pamela Butler and Tab Butler were fortunate to accompany such friends to experience the 2014 Carnival in Venice, as only few do...from behind the mask.



Attending the Balls of Carnival, candle-lit in richly decorated grand palaces, with people wearing period-appropriate dresses and costumes suitable for Lords and Ladies of centuries ago, was an experience that left us breathless.

The year of planning for the trip was exciting for Tab and me. Costumes are a necessity, and we followed the lead of our hosts to have costumes made by our hosts' "special seamstress". My costume with a top bodice and multiple skirts would enable me to vary "the look" for the many formal balls we were scheduled to attend. Tab borrowed beautiful costumes from our friends, and I did as well, to enhance my existing clothing, providing dramatic effects for our multiple events and walks on the Piazza.

Packing these costumes, head pieces, and a Drabbit proved to be a creative challenge, given only 2 bags per person. Oh, and the Drabbit is a two-foot-high puppet that is a cross between a dragon and a rabbit, with a three-foot wingspan, which flaps its wings, moves its head, and kept people wondering if it was alive. Tab and our friends found the Drabbit at the Renaissance Festival in Tuxedo, NY. Tab, being the techie, devised a walking staff as a perch for the Drabbit, complete with remote-controlled GoPro video camera, to record people's reactions.



We Get Letters and Pictures

One of our most interesting adventures was to go in full costume to the Piazza San Marco. We would be immediately surrounded by people of all ages wanting to take our picture, or be in a picture with us. Walking across the Piazza was a slow process, for you didn't want to disappoint a single person. It gives one a great appreciation for what the celebrities go through with the tireless efforts of the paparazzi needing "just one more photo." The difference for us was that we were the center of attention while in costume, and just bystanders when only sporting a mask and a camera.



Venice, during Carnival, becomes a world set apart from the daily routines. The city and the people transform into a land of make believe combined with the renaissance grandeur of days gone by.



On the last day of Carnival 2014, we were able to experience first-hand the *Acqua Alta*, which was caused by the full moon, high tides, and strong winds, forcing the waters of the Laguna Veneta and the Grand Canal to bubble up through the drainage system across the Piazza San Marco and surrounding streets, leaving us stranded on sidewalks or seated at outdoor cafés, with over two feet of water lapping at our heels.

As quickly as the tide came in, so did the water recede, leaving us with an everlasting love for the City of Venice, and fantastic memories of Carnival with special friends.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Garrick Utley**

Longtime NBC Newsman Garrick Utley has died following a long battle with cancer. Utley, who was 74, joined NBC News as a researcher in Europe for the *Huntley-Brinkley Report*. He would later become a foreign correspondent reporting from around the world. “Garrick was the first of our generation to crack the starting line-up of NBC News in the glory days of *Huntley-Brinkley*,” Tom Brokaw writes in a note to his NBC News colleagues. “He was NBC’s first Saigon bureau chief and, later, ran our London and Paris bureaus before returning home to anchor a weekly magazine show and serve as fill-in anchor for John Chancellor on *Weekend Nightly*.”

For a time, Utley also moderated *Meet the Press* and the *Sunday Today* show.

He is survived by his wife Gertje, a brother Jonathon and sister-in-law Carol Marin, a longtime anchor and reporter at NBC station WMAQ.

Garrick’s Colleagues Remember Him

Garrick was a man for all seasons—a national political correspondent, moderator of *Meet the Press* and anchor of *Weekend TODAY*.

Always the complete gentleman, he was a gifted linguist, speaking flawless German, French and Spanish—and sharing his passion for opera with colleagues and NPR audiences. Bill Wheatley said recently, “Garrick was the quintessential foreign correspondent,” from Vietnam to the old Soviet Union, from Northern Ireland to the Eastern Bloc. Garrick embodied the history of NBC News for most of the latter half of the 20th century and he will be greatly missed.

Tom Brokaw

What’s left to say? I first met Garrick sitting on a wall in Rhodesia with his lovely young wife, Gertje, and last saw him at a table in a New York gentleman’s club, which suited him. He took our careers seriously but always with a hint of a smile. I always wondered what went on behind that knowing look. Garrick - a wonderful man and a good friend.

Martin Fletcher

So sorry to see him go. One of the last of the gentleman foreign correspondents. He was a generous colleague when we were in the London bureau. Really good guy .

John Cochran

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Years and years ago Garrick and I were en route to Tel Aviv but had a layover of a few hours in Brussels. Garrick thought it was wonderful and said "Bill this is great. Brussels has the best fried potatoes in the world, I'll take you to a great place." While heading to Brussels he told me why the fried potatoes were great. "They used a special waxy potato, the Bintje, and it is fried twice, the first time to cook the inside and the second time fried in ox fat to crisp them." He continued a detailed history of the Brussels fried potato and that was Garrick; he knew the history behind everything he talked about. He did his homework and that came through in his reporting. Oh, yes the fried potatoes and dollop of mayo in the waxed cone were sensational. Move over Nathan's of Coney Island.

One other thing. Garrick was an internationalist. I once heard him answering the phone "Ahh Johann, how are things in Vienna?" From Garrick it sounded so natural and not forced. I will never forget that "How are things in Vienna?" We will miss this superb reporter and more superb human being.

Bill Theodore

Today is a sad...very sad day. We have lost a terrific colleague and dependable friend — Garrick Utley. I had the unique opportunity to travel with Garrick to something like 70 countries, most of them several times or more, and I will always describe him as a person, as a reporter, as a Journalist, as a gentleman, as a colleague, and as a friend with nothing less than superlatives. He was the best, the finest, the kindest... Garrick and I flew off on our first assignment together on the day the Pope was shot. It was a two-day trip that took us to Istanbul, Frankfurt and Rome. For the next five plus years we globe-trotted. Garrick never lost his love for foreign assignments, but his true love, Gertje, was in New York. We were reunited later on *Sunday Today* and *Meet the Press*. I saw Garrick only occasionally in recent years, sometimes for a rare lunch, but mostly bumping into him on the street walking to his office around the corner from me, always impeccably dressed and with a cheerful greeting. He stood tall in so many ways.

Sid Feders

To me, Garrick Utley was the very model of the skilled foreign correspondent: bright, knowledgeable, multilingual - the man in the trench coat who with clarity and grace explained international affairs to domestic audiences. He reported from all over the world, in wartime and peacetime, in moments of tragedy and moments of joy. He was among the very best correspondents television has produced. And to those who had the good fortune of knowing him and working with him, he was among the kindest of colleagues. It's sad that he is now gone, but what a good and worthwhile life he lived.

Bill Wheatley

Garrick once did a very special favor for me. At the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall, I had been sending many I-News top of screen messages to Garrick in Berlin as I was doing NBC News archival research for him. I asked him if he could do me the favor of bringing home a piece of the wall for me to give to my former boss, Reuven Frank, as a souvenir. Since Reuven had produced one of NBC News' most famous documentaries, *The Tunnel*, I knew this would mean a lot to him. Garrick came home and asked me to come down to his office. When I got there he handed me a large chunk of the wall for Reuven. At this time Reuven was writing his book and on Tuesdays he would come to NBC to do work in the reference library. I ran down to the card store on the main floor of 30 Rock and got some tissue paper and gift bag and went to the library to see Reuven. I will never ever forget the look on his face when he opened the bag and realized what it was! Without Garrick this would never have happened!

Carol Aerenson

Now the Archivist for NBC Learn

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Tony Romeo Remembered By his son, Nat**

Anthony Romeo was a person who should be remembered by his wonderful smile when enjoying a good meal. I can still hear his “aaaaahhhhhh” as he would sip his CK Fortissimo wine. It was then he was at his best.

He at times would tell me stories of when I was little. He recalled showing me around the NBC studio where he was the technical director. I remember watching him command the shows on TV. I remember seeing TV shows before they aired. One time I went home and told my friends what would happen before it happened that night on TV.

I remember him taking me by the hand and introducing me to the well-known Chuck Scarborough. I was in awe meeting someone who was on TV. My siblings, who are a bit older than me, met Wolf Man Jack and Johnny Carson as well. The tour of the studios fascinated me, the electronics, the cameras, the computers - he loved every minute of it. He even let me record myself professionally

In his last days he spoke of replacing tubes in amplifiers and running cameras for shows. NBC was a good part of his life; he worked there the better part of 30 years. He made some life-long friends who were wonderful people. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about my dad, who some of you may know well.

He had 5 children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

Remember his happy face - Anthony C. Romeo - July 16, 1919 - January 4, 2014

If anyone would care to send a card to my mother her address is

Josephine Romeo
10 Huckleberry Lane
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Contributions in his name may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Go to www.woundedwarriorproject.org to download a form
or mail your donation to:

Wounded Warrior Project
P.O. Box 758517
Topeka, Kansas 66675

**The members of the Long Island Lunch Bunch will miss our dear friend and senior member,
who was in high spirits the last time any of us spoke with him.
Vaya con Dios, Amigo!**

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Laurie McCall**

Laurie McCall, a longtime producer and writer for television network news, passed away on Monday, Feb. 3, in Brooklyn, New York after suffering cardiac arrest. She was 60. Though she never regained consciousness, Ms. McCall was surrounded at the time of her death by family, friends, and former and current colleagues from around the nation, who had come to visit her at The Brooklyn Hospital Center.

She began her news career in the late 1970s at KGO-TV in San Francisco, where she had been hired as a temporary secretary. Her flair with writing won her a tryout on the news desk and began a career that took her to UPI in Chicago, and then to New York, where she held positions at *ABC Good Morning America*, *CBS Morning Show*, *ABC News Prime Time*, and finally, *Dateline NBC*.

As a freelancer, Ms. McCall worked on *Massacre at Mystic*, as part of the History Channel's *10 Days that Unexpectedly Changed America*, which won the 2006 Emmy® for Outstanding Nonfiction Series. She also worked over the years doing research on various projects for Steven Spielberg.

In short stories she wrote at Powderkeg, a Brooklyn-based collective that supports professional and emerging women writers, Ms. McCall focused on the importance of family, and fictionalized her own complicated familial connections. She was born at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital on April 27, 1953, to Lillian Blumberg McCall, who raised her as a single, divorced mother. Mrs. McCall was a friend to Beat Generation figures like the artist Robert Motherwell and the author and future Nobelist Saul Bellow, who often seemed surrogate family to young Laurie. A memorial service is tentatively planned to be held on her birthday at Powderkeg, 33 Flatbush Avenue, in Brooklyn.

In addition to her son, Evan, she is survived by her husband, Douglas N. McLeod; her sisters, Katherine McCall, Caroline McCall, Helen McCall Racherbaumer, Mary McCall, and Susan McCall Taylor.

CONTACT:

Doug McLeod: 718 230-0542, dnmcleod@earthlink.net

**Bert Medley Remembered by Bob Dotson**

Bert Medley, who started TODAY's American Story series with me back in 1975, has died of cancer at age 69. He was a big-time NBC News producer when he wandered up to a rookie reporter with a story that would change our lives: Bert had found a Philadelphia beat cop, Bill Sample, who granted wishes to sick kids. That cop's neighborhood effort paved the way for Make a Wish and all the other similar charities that followed. Bert's story was nominated for an Emmy, the first of many.

Bert and I were a team for nine years, seeking similar people in all 50 states, until Bert's fascination with evolving broadcast technology helped lay the groundwork for the digital media we have today.

Bert Medley was a futurist. He invested in a computer long before they became a household staple, realizing that this device could engage the "viewer" with words, pictures and sound. And that this rich multimedia experience — controlled and guided by the user — could have a much greater impact on presenting news content than the passive television screen.

In 1995, NBC became the first broadcaster to go online, and one of the first news organizations to produce original journalism on the Internet. There was no how-to book; it was Bert Medley's vision that helped lead this small band of digital news pioneers into a new age of journalism.

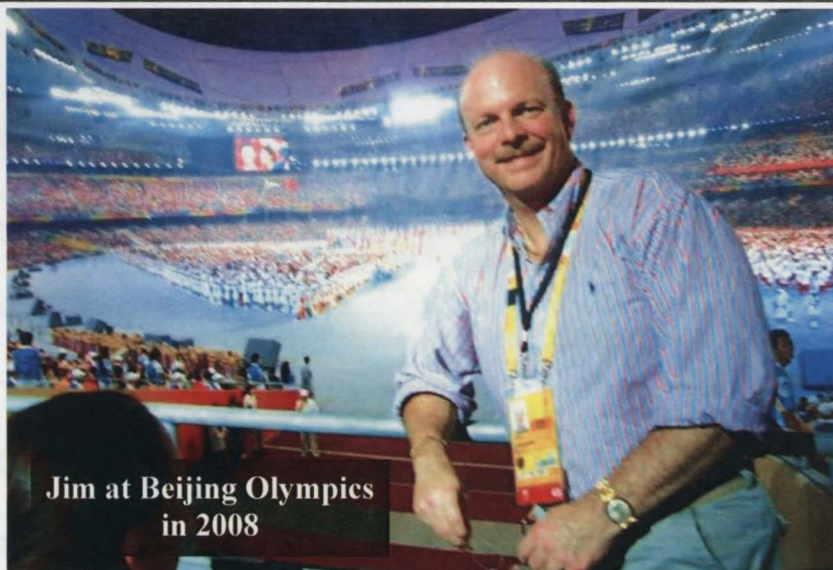
Bert was with our NBC family for 33 years. We like to think that he has simply gone on to a better assignment.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Jim Ellis Remembered By Mike Meehan**

It is with the most profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of our friend and colleague Jim Ellis, who lost his battle to pancreatic cancer on March 18, 2014.

Jim was a 35-year veteran of NBC, the last nine with NBC Sports Group, and he was one of the most valued and respected individuals in our company and across the industry. Jim was diagnosed in 2012, yet refused to give up or give in to his illness. During this personally challenging time, he became a vital part of the build-out of our new facility here in Stamford, and was instrumental in its day to day operation, always with the most positive attitude and spirit. Most recently, he was in charge of Master Control in Sochi for the Winter Games, a position he held for every Olympics dating back to Sydney in 2000.

No one respected our business of sports television more than Jim. On the production, operations, and engineering levels, Jim leaves a void in our lives, and more importantly in our hearts. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time.



**Jim at Beijing Olympics
in 2008**

He leaves behind his wife of 32 years, Ellen, children Taylor Evan and Donald E. II, his parents Don and Jean, brother John, and niece Adriana.

Jim graduated Ithaca College in 1979 and worked as a Sports Producer for NBC Sports for 35 years, having been awarded 8 Emmys for his work on the Olympic Games.

The funeral service was held on March 22nd at Parkway Community Church in, Hicksville, NY.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory would be appreciated to the either:

Lustgarten Foundation,
111 Stewart Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714

or

Parkway Community Church
95 Stewart Ave.
Hicksville NY 11801.

Contact the family at:
15 Bobolink Lane
Levittown, NY 11756-2121

Tributes to Silent Microphones

**We regret the lack of details for the following people.
Will friends and family please send in photos and remembrances for our next issue.**

Joe Coggins, Network Newswriter and talented artist.

Bill McConnell, Network Advertising and Promotion Writer/Producer.

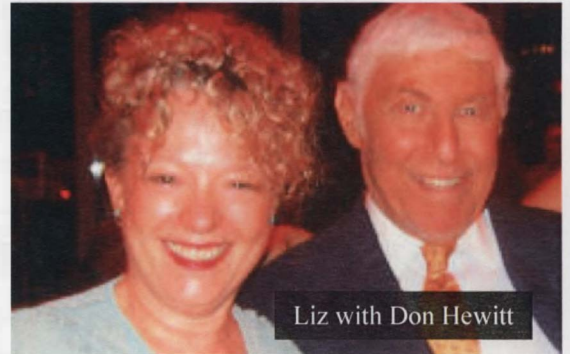
Marvin Korman, Network Advertising and Promotion Vice President.

Fred Wagner, Network Video Tape Supervisor.

Elizabeth Sweetnam

Former WNBC News and CBS News video tape editor Elizabeth Sweetnam, died March 21st in Haven Hospice in Manhattan after a brave fight with breast cancer. She was 66 and lived in Manhattan and Shelter Island. Elizabeth first worked for CBS in local news at WCBS in New York, breaking in as an editor in the early 1980s. She moved to WNBC soon after, where she spent a decade before taking jobs at ABC and Fox. She joined CBS News Productions in the mid-1990s.

“Liz was a spirited, talented, cheerful woman,” said Jeff Fager, 60 Minutes executive producer and the chairman of CBS News. “She’s done so much great work over all of her years at 60 Minutes, but most of us will remember her as a pleasure to be around.” Elizabeth helped launch the webcast 60 Minutes Overtime in 2010, delivering original 60 Minutes content to the Internet for the first time. Before that, Elizabeth edited numerous stories for the Sunday broadcast, including the Emmy®-nominated “Mammoni,” a classic 60 Minutes story about the reluctance of Italian men to leave their homes and doting mothers. It was her favorite work.



Elizabeth Ann Sweetnam was born in Vancouver B.C., on August 7, 1947. She graduated York University in Ontario and then took post-graduate classes at Brown University. Later, she was a member of the University of the New World at Valais, Switzerland. Elizabeth became a U.S. citizen a few years ago. She began her career in television as a producer for West Side Women’s Video after teaching English courses in New York City high schools and The College of Staten Island. At West Side, she produced cable programming. Among her many works was a widely acclaimed documentary about homeless women.

She is survived by her husband, Vincent Novak, also a former NBC EJ Editor, of Manhattan and Shelter Island, and her brother, Jerry Sweetnam, her nephews Eric and Jason, of Duluth, Minn., and many other family members and friends in the U.S. and Canada.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Donations can be made to the Haven Hospice Visiting Nurse Service of New York or to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family at:
110 Sullivan Street, Apartment 6A
New York, NY 10012-3670

—Based on an article posted at CBS Interactive Inc. © 2014.

Warren Wolfsohn

Warren Wolfsohn, former NBC Video Tape and Radio Engineer, passed away on February 26, 2014 at home in New York City.

He is survived by his brother Marc and niece Jessica.

Services were held on March 2nd, at Schwartz Brothers, Forest Hills, NY.



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Maurice Verschoore



Maurice Verschoore was born and raised in the Detroit area of Michigan. After high school, during World War II, he served in the United States Navy as a military radio operator. After his service he moved to New York and in 1951 at 24 years of age he obtained a job at WNBT. During his employment at NBC he worked on various different assignments, often as a Lighting Director. In 1983 he won an Emmy® award for his work as a camera operator for *Saturday Night Live*.

He was married to Ramona Sofie, from 1954 until her death in 2007. They had two sons, Jeffery and Christopher.

In 2010 Maurice returned to Michigan, his home state, where he passed away in March, 2014.

He is survived by his son Jeffery and his grandchildren Eric and Heather, and daughter-in-law Karen, who was married to the late Christopher.

**Grandpa Maurie
with Heather
and Eric**



**Cards may be sent to
Karen Verschoore
11 Fischer Avenue
Islip Terrace, NY 11752**

**(L) George Kiyak
and (R) Maurie,
ca. 1950s**



**Maurie in 8H for
Election Night
1964**



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Sharon Stucker, John Fider

(Membership Coordinators)

E-mail: peacocknorth@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:

PO Box 112

Rowayton, CT 06853

Loretta Alden spent 42 years at NBC from 1971 to 2013.

She was in Affiliate Relations.

Sharon Sosa Cabello worked in News and Olympics from 2000 to 2010.

**Lloyd Siegel spent 21 years at NBC, from 1993-2014,
retiring as NBC News Vice President for News Partnerships.**

**Joe Thornley worked for eight years as a freelance mechanic for NBC,
17 years in Sports/Studio-Field
and 17 years for Net EJ News Operations, for a total of 42 years.**