



## Luncheon Magic!



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## Marilyn's Page



This edition of PN Magazine is really the official recap of the Spring luncheon. It is one of the year's highlights for me and everyone who attends. This luncheon is always a raucous afternoon filled with warmth, memories and love. This year's held up that tradition well. The gathering was a broad swath of NBCers enjoying each other's company and stories. The stories, by the way, seem to grow in size and hilarity as the years pass.

This year, with Connie Chung as our keynote speaker, the level of humor was at its zenith. Hard to believe she is not booked to do stand-up comedy. Connie has always been both formidable as an interviewer and funny as a person. She exhibited both these skills in her speech. Seriously, "she killed"!

As a woman of a certain age, it was my pleasure to invite another woman of a certain age as our keynote speaker and celebrate some of our accomplishments through those glass-ceiling-shattering years. We have "come a long way, baby" and it was wonderful to recollect how we started, worked through problems and made permanent and important inroads in broadcasting and our society at large. Connie Chung is one of the women who really put a face on that progress in the past 35 years. She represents all the women in this business from behind the scenes who were part of that progress as well. And then there is Lydia Houghtelling, who recounts her NBC story on Page 11 of this issue.

Now, note of deep appreciation. PN's success, especially the luncheon, is a team effort. I want to take this time to say, "Thank You" to Lenny and Sharon Stucker for their constant help and support in keeping membership lists up-to-date and being actively involved with the luncheon. I want to thank my husband, John Fider, who patiently helps go through every piece of mail, membership and luncheon dues as well as generates a myriad of lists to keep me and Peacock North on track. Lastly, I want to thank Joel Spector, who puts endless hours into the editing of this magazine and then does audio at the luncheon! We are lucky to have someone with his talent as an editor and his dedication to PN. Thank you all. Please take a bow!

A big shout out to NBC News Producer Frank Shanbacker who is retiring after 44 years with NBC, most recently with *Dateline*. Congratulations and happy travels. We look forward to hearing from you....

Now for the really good part, the pictorial recap of our luncheon...a really great party!

## 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.

*We Get Letters and Pictures***Martin Fletcher, Author!**

I left NBC News in 2010 when I was writing a novel and a new character, Otto, entered a room. At that point NBC sent me to Afghanistan for three weeks. When I got back and sat at the computer to resume the story, I read the last few pages and thought: Who the hell is Otto? I didn't have a clue. Why was he entering the room? Who was in it? Where did he come from? That's when I understood that if I wanted to write fiction it was all or nothing. I needed to resign.

I had been able to write two non-fiction books while still at NBC: "Breaking News", about my career as an NBC foreign correspondent, and "Walking Israel". For non-fiction was simpler. You divide the book into chapters. Each chapter has a beginning, a middle, and an end, and you can pick up the story whenever there's free time. But fiction is so much more complex. There are multiple characters, each on their own journey, different plot lines develop at different speeds and pacing, and all must be seamless, logical and gripping, while remembering who is who.

So I decided if I really wanted to write fiction, I had no choice but to give up my day job and pursue my dream - paperback writer. After a year's productive work I found that led to another problem: selling the novel. Publishers estimate that two hundred thousand are submitted each year. A thousand books compete for each bookshelf space in dwindling bookstores. Thanks to digital self-publishing, five million titles are on sale today in America. So what publisher wants yours? Tom Brokaw's contacts will only get you so far. You become desperate.

One day my wife phoned me, sobbing. She said, "You won't believe what happened. I'm so sorry. I was cooking, your agent called, I forgot the frying pan, the kitchen caught fire, the house burned down, poor Fluffy..."

"Wait a minute", I said. "Back up. My agent called?"

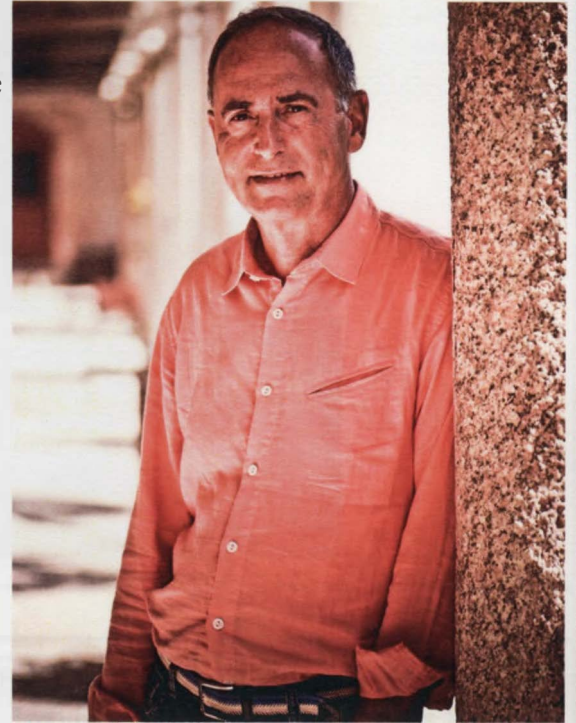
Then when you sell it, people have to buy it. After I resigned, and was back on freelance duty at NBC, I was covering riots in London. We rushed to a shopping complex where every single shop-window had been smashed, everything was looted and stolen. Only one shop had been left untouched: The bookshop.

I thought, "Oh, boy, did I make a mistake leaving NBC. I need an income!"

But as writers say, nothing is sacrosanct, everything is copy, and the good news is that more than three decades of field reporting left me with a wealth of amazing moments, anecdotes, revelations and insights that I draw upon daily to give meat to my character's bare bones.

Especially in my next book, 'The War Reporter', which draws heavily upon my times at NBC. I've never laughed so much while writing a book. Every character reminds me of someone, and numerous times my editor said to me, "This better not be true. We'll get sued."

"No problem," I said. "I'm a writer. I'm bankrupt."



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Catch up with Martin at his webpage [www.martinfletcher.net](http://www.martinfletcher.net)  
or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/martin.fletcher.1291>



*What's Now!***Brokaw News Center is Dedicated on NBCU Lot**

NBC News has named a new broadcast facility located on the lot of Universal Studios after longtime NBC News journalist and former chief “NBC Nightly News” anchor Tom Brokaw.

The “Brokaw News Center,” will house the West Coast operations of NBC News, CNBC, MSNBC and Telemundo News and local stations NBC4 Southern California/KNBC and Telemundo 52/KVEA. Brokaw has spent nearly his entire career with NBC News, starting as a Los Angeles bureau correspondent and a KNBC anchor, then of course rising to anchor NBC’s evening news. For Brokaw, who joined NBC News in California in the 1960s the honor brings back a lot of memories. “I just turned 26 years of age,” he recalled in a short interview. “It was a life-changer for me.”

He would go on to cover the free-speech movement Berkeley, the Charles Manson murders, unrest in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Watts and more. “It was a very strong team,” he remembered. “It was very exciting. It was very hard to get me to leave. In 1972 [NBC News anchor John Chancellor] came to me and said, ‘It’s time to come East and be a grown up,’ and I said, ‘I am a grown up in California.’ I liked it. And then a year later: ‘You’ve got come go to the White House.’ I was ready to go then.” The newsman, who now works in a special correspondent capacity for NBC News, would go on to host “Today,” the network’s evening-news program and even “Meet The Press,” albeit briefly.

The journalist has maintained an active schedule since stepping down from “Nightly News,” despite fighting multiple myeloma, which he disclosed earlier this year. He said he is “working on a book about my health experience,” but declined to offer specific details. He also has other projects he is working on for NBC, he said. “I’m very encouraged by the treatment” and will determine his future schedule after looking at his health “in the fall.”

Brokaw joins NBCUniversal icons Abbott and Costello, Alfred Hitchcock, Carl Laemmle, Sidney Jay “Sid” Sheinberg and Steven Spielberg in having various buildings and streets on the Universal Studios lot named after them. The 150,000-square foot news center comprises two three-story buildings featuring the latest technologies and enhancements. Once fully occupied later this spring, the center will house more than 600 people.

—By Brian Steinberg, Senior TV Editor, Variety, April 28, 2014



*What's Now!*

## Brokaw News Center



## Peabody Awards Honor Tom Brokaw

This year's 46 winners, the most in the organization's 73-year history, were chosen from more than 1,100 entries by the 16-member Peabody board and presented at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Awards are not given in categories; the sole criterion for winning is excellence in storytelling.

Veteran NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw received the organization's achievement award recognizing his long career in journalism.

The award states:

*A personal Peabody is given to Tom Brokaw, the longtime reporter and anchor of NBC Nightly News. With his TV projects and celebrated books like *The Greatest Generation*, the anchor emeritus has only enhanced his reputation since he left the desk in 2004.*

"This is a humbling moment for me," Brokaw said. "If you live long enough these kind of awards come to you and/or you get cancer. Turns out, I ended up getting both. It's going to work out. Life is going to be OK because I'm in the enviable position of getting the best treatment in the world and it has made me much more conscious of what a privilege it is to have the kind of job that I have."

Brokaw went on to tell the crowd that "we are living through the most transformative time in the history of journalism." "It's not just about 140 characters," Brokaw said. "It's not just about who you are going to meet for coffee. It's about serving mankind with the information they need to know to make good decisions about their lives."

— Variety, May 19, 2014



*What's Now!***NBCU Opens New Studios on Universal Lot**

UNIVERSAL CITY, CA - (February 13, 2014) - NBCUniversal has opened a brand new state-of-the-art headquarters for its west coast news and television operations on the Universal Studios lot in Los Angeles. Starting February 2, NBC4 Southern California / KNBC was the first to broadcast from the new 150,000-square foot technologically-advanced facility, to be followed by the Los Angeles bureaus of NBC News, CNBC, MSNBC and Telemundo News as well as Telemundo 52 / KVEA later this spring. Co-locating the news operations in the 24/7 broadcast center will enable their collective resources to be fully leveraged, fostering even greater collaboration. Featuring the latest technologies and enhancements, the space - which spans two three-story buildings - is a full-service multi-platform production facility and includes four newsroom facilities, six production studios and an advanced content distribution center.

"NBCUniversal is committed to long-term investments in our core businesses located in Los Angeles, which is the home of our west coast headquarters," said Michael Moore, President and General Manager, NBCUniversal Studio Operations Group. "It is essential that our west coast news and television operations are supported by a state-of-the-art broadcast center to best deliver the news and programming to our viewers worldwide."

The multi-million dollar investment also includes:

- State-of-the-art audio and video production systems to create news and entertainment programming on-air and digitally;
- Forty satellite feeds monitored simultaneously, a 40 percent increase from the previous location;
- Over 12,000 individual strands - more than 380 miles - of fiber crossing between both buildings;
- Mactech LED lighting, innovative technology installed by Universal Studios, with 50,000 hours of energy efficient usage;
- Drought-tolerant landscape that is sensitive to Southern California's water shortage crisis; and
- A spacious outdoor courtyard which lends itself to community or employee events.

The center's first occupant - NBC4 Southern California - is broadcasting from a dynamic new set uniquely designed to enhance story-telling and deliver breaking news. The set features 27 high-definition monitors capable of displaying rich multimedia graphics for an even greater viewer experience and adaptable for live and taped video. "The strength of NBC4 has always been in our story-telling and newsgathering, coupled with production and delivery of valuable on-air and digital content," said Steve Carlston, President and General Manager, NBC4. "The expansion to the broadcast center gives us even more ability to effectively compete in the marketplace and continue to deliver meaningful stories about the diverse communities in Southern California."

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The investment by NBCUniversal to create a state-of-the-art west coast broadcast center reaffirms the company's commitment to keep and grow its businesses in Los Angeles. More than 600 people will work out of the broadcast center in addition to the more than 10,000 other employees who already work on the Universal Studios lot.



*What's Now!***NBC Extends Olympics Deal Through 2032**

NBC Universal agreed on May 7th to pay \$7.75 billion for the exclusive broadcast rights to the six Olympic Games from 2022 to 2032, highlighting with that staggering sum the supreme value that media companies are placing on live event programming in a market disrupted by modern viewing habits.

As more viewers consume media on their own schedules, often without commercials, broadcasters regard live events as the only content that compels most viewers to watch in real time, as one vast audience, without filtering out advertisers. The Olympics have long been NBC's most prized possession, but ESPN has used its billions of dollars in annual subscriber fees to build a portfolio of enormous deals for live sports, and Fox, CBS and NBC have long-term agreements with the National Football League.

The agreement between NBC Universal and the International Olympic Committee also captures just how technologically frenetic the media landscape is. Once, such deals had to contemplate only television, but smartphones and tablets have become an increasingly large segment of the viewing audience, and no one can guess how people will watch sports in 2032. The new Olympic contract acknowledges this, stipulating that NBC will have the exclusive rights to broadcast the Games on whatever technology emerges between now and then.

As the dominant force in Olympic television in the United States since 1992, NBC has shifted from the old-line model that utilized only broadcast television to one that added cable channels to one that, at last February's Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, embraced live video streaming of all events to computers, smartphones and tablets. NBC, which has swooped to make billion-dollar Olympic rights acquisitions before, is now looking at extending its dominion further than ever. By 2032, nearly all its top executives will have retired.

NBC is, to an extent, using its successful Sochi template and planning to adapt along the way. An average of 21.4 million viewers watched the Sochi Games in prime time. But there were also 62 million digital users and 10 million live online video viewers. And in one finding from surveys conducted after the Sochi Games, 67 percent of people said that the Olympics were more enjoyable because there were more ways to consume them than ever before.

"I'm confident people will watch the Olympics however the technology changes," Steve Burke, the chief executive of NBC Universal, said in a telephone interview. "But if that ecosystem changes, we have all the rights in every form of exploitation. So if the world changes, we're allowed to change our way of disseminating the Olympics."

Comcast, NBC's parent company and the largest provider of cable and broadband service in the United States, is wagering that it will continue to profit from the Olympics however technology develops — and that consumers will not flee in droves from the bundle of channels that cable, satellite and telephone companies rely upon for revenue. More than ever, Comcast and NBC executives see the Olympics as part of the company's programming foundation, and they are willing to pay huge sums to hold on to it.

"NBC's probably going to win its first season in 10 years in adults 18 to 49, and the Olympics played a part in it," said Brad Adgate, senior vice president and director of research at Horizon Media. "The Olympics works as a platform for their programming; 'The Tonight Show' with Jimmy Fallon showed how they leveraged the Olympics to bring success to its programming changes. And the Olympics have let them leverage social media, mobile devices, mobile apps and online video."

In preserving its critical Olympic franchise — one that, every other year, dominates the ratings in prime time, where most of the advertising revenue is still produced — NBC has highlighted the value of live content like sports to keep viewers riveted and advertisers paying stiff rates. Networks that want to maintain their grip on the sports properties they have, and to snap up the ones that they covet, now routinely pay billions of dollars over contracts that last 8, 10, 12 and 15 years.

--By Richard Sandomir – The New York Times - May 7, 2014



*What's Now!***A New Mezzanine for 30 Rock**

There was a time in the 1930s and '40s when the excitement of attending an NBC broadcast at Rockefeller Center began long before you were ushered into Studio 6B, where Bob Hope held forth, or the astonishing 1,500-seat Studio 8H, home of Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony Orchestra. While waiting on the mezzanine of 30 Rockefeller Plaza to go upstairs to the studio complex, you stood in a rotunda, already immersed in the world of radio, as envisioned by the powerful photography of Margaret Bourke-White. Giant microphones, vacuum tubes, capstans, switches, rheostats and broadcast towers erupted around you in a circular photomural 67 feet in diameter. The images promised that you — you, the audience members — were about to witness a modern miracle of science and show business.

Both the photomural and rotunda are long gone. But NBCUniversal, as the company is now known, said this week that it hoped to bring back some of the excitement by recreating the mezzanine rotunda at 30 Rock, connecting it directly to the ground-floor lobby with a 16-foot-wide staircase and creating a waiting lounge for visitors on the mezzanine level. “We want to give people an elevated experience,” said Tina Silvestri, senior vice president of business services at NBCUniversal. The reconstructed rotunda and new lounge are expected to be completed in spring 2015. NBCUniversal declined to put a price tag on the renovation, but the scale of the work — including breaking through a floor slab — would suggest something in the tens of millions of dollars.

The rotunda is not intended as a replica of the original, said Michael Gabellini of Gabellini Sheppard Associates, the architects of the planned renovation. The point, he said, was “not to embalm history, but to unveil it.” Instead of a photomural, there will be two LED screens, each one five feet high and 60 feet long, projecting images — moving or static — related to the shows that audiences have come to see. It would seem hard to improve on the original 1933 installation by Bourke-White. “In her mural, large simple forms in bold patterns abruptly shifted to more complex patterns in different formats, like the odd disjunction when the dial turns from a violin solo to a lecture,” Vicki Goldberg wrote in “Margaret Bourke-White: A Biography.” “The rhythm was fast, jazzy, bold, dissonant.” By the early 1950s, however, as the new miracle of television took hold, the photos must have looked increasingly old-fashioned. Workers dismantled the mural, even though it was a landmark in the career one of America’s most celebrated photographers. About 20 years later, the mezzanine rotunda itself disappeared and was eventually replaced by a large, plain corporate conference center.

Today, audiences waiting to see the “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” (Studio 6B), “Saturday Night Live” (Studio 8H) or “Late Night With Seth Meyers” (Studio 8G) stand unceremoniously in the lobby or on the mezzanine, under instructions to line up in single file, not sit on the floor and keep their voices down — there are serious office tenants around. It has not been an especially easy experience either for 30 Rock tenants, which include Lazard and Deloitte, or for visitors. And it didn’t get any easier when “Tonight” moved back to Studio 6B in February, after almost 42 years in Burbank, Calif. “Loading hundreds of additional audience members and tour guests daily into a vertical studio building via elevators has its challenges,” said John Wallace, a former NBC page who is now the president of operations and technical services at NBCUniversal.

While focused on Studio 6B last year, Mr. Wallace said, NBCUniversal executives also studied how to manage the increased demand on the building. In one meeting, Lorne Michaels, the creator and executive producer of “Saturday Night Live,” recalled the long-lost mezzanine rotunda. “About that same time,” Mr. Wallace said, “our team uncovered black-and-white photos of spaces we had not seen before, one of which was the incredible guest space Lorne had mentioned.” “We located the building’s 1933 blueprints,” he added, “and immediately saw the wisdom in the original guest lobby design.” Much of the space that is to be renovated is owned by NBCUniversal as a commercial condominium. The principal owner of Rockefeller Center is Tishman Speyer Properties.

I asked Mr. Wallace whether any thought might be given to recreating the Bourke-White photomural digitally and displaying it at regular intervals in the rotunda. “I thought that was an excellent suggestion,” he answered.

So stay tuned. As they say.



*What's Now!*

**A rendering depicts a new rotunda with a 16-foot-wide staircase that will connect it directly to the ground-floor lobby.  
(Credit: Gabellini Sheppard/NBCUniversal)**



**The original 1933 mezzanine and lobby architecture, featuring marble and redwood walls and the photo murals of Margaret Bourke-White.**



*What's Now!***Comcast Seeking to Replace G.E.'s Initials Atop 30 Rock****Proposed New Sign**

Comcast, which last year bought General Electric's remaining 49 percent stake in NBCUniversal, applied for a "certificate of appropriateness" from the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace G.E.'s 24-foot-high initials on 30 Rockefeller Plaza. G.E., now based in Fairfield, Conn., has long had a presence in New York. Whether another name change will be embraced by the public is arguable. It's been a quarter-century since the two glowing red letters were installed, yet many New Yorkers still refer to it as the RCA Building, after the company that founded the NBC network. The RCA name had capped the 70-story Manhattan landmark, which at 850 feet amounts to the city's tallest billboard (the MetLife Building is considered second), for more than 50 years. When the original letters were first illuminated in 1937, they were hailed as the loftiest neon sign on the planet.

As proposed, more modest 12-foot-high light-emitting diode signs that spell Comcast in white uppercase letters would be installed on the broader north and south limestone exteriors, crowned by 10-foot-high NBC peacock logos. A 17-foot-high peacock would appear by itself on the western facade more or less facing Philadelphia. Measured in overall square feet, the new signs would be slightly more compact than the existing G.E. signs.

A new entrance and marquee would also be installed on Avenue of the Americas to promote "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." (Among the other shows produced there is "Saturday Night Live," one of whose alumni, Senator Al Franken, a Minnesota Democrat, opposes Comcast's acquisition of Time Warner Cable.)

"Nothing has been finalized yet," Cameron Blanchard, a spokeswoman for NBCUniversal, said of the proposed renovations. The new sign and marquee were approved on Thursday by the local community board. The preservation commission scheduled a hearing for Tuesday on Comcast's request.

Built by Artkraft Strauss and outfitted with General Electric equipment, the original signs faced north, south and east and symbolized nearly a century of corporate history. In 1919, the Radio Corporation of America was formed by General Electric, which owned it until 1930. RCA and its NBC radio network were among the first tenants of 30 Rockefeller

Plaza, just a few months after the stock market crashed in 1929.

RCA's original sans-serif initials, outlined in amber helium-filled tubes, endured until 1969, when a sleeker red neon version was introduced. Because Rockefeller Center was declared an official city landmark in 1985, General Electric's request to replace the RCA rooftop sign provoked some resistance.

Peg Breen, the president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, said that since the sign had been changed before, the odds are that the commission will approve another change. "I just hope it's a tasteful sign," she said.

--Excerpted from an article by Sam Roberts ©The New York Times June 13, 2014



*We Get Letters*

## Lydia's Story—as told by Lydia

I'll give you a short résumé of my years at NBC...

My background career has always been in some form of entertainment: music publishing company; p.a. for TV variety shows; film production (during my many years in Rome); etc. In 1974 I returned to the U.S. and started as a temp in the NBC Radio division....was there for several months and then placed with Gordon Manning's Specials Unit. Reuven Frank's office was on the same floor but I never once saw him although I watched his *Weekend* show every month. The Specials Unit then moved to a higher floor gearing up for the upcoming primaries and conventions. I had never worked in News before and this was literally an "on the job" learning experience. I became



Gordon Manning and Lydia in the Oval Office 1976

acquainted with practically everyone in the news division. After a few years, I worked for Nigel Ryan (a VP from England), but then there was an opportunity to work on *Weekend*, which was going to be broadcast weekly. I worked for Linda Ellerbee and Lloyd Dobyns...and that's when I got to know Reuven. The show was ultimately canceled and we were all in limbo. Reuven took me on as his secretary, although we had little to do, but ironically, here I was, back in the same office and same desk where I had started with Gordon Manning. Bill Small (the then President) told Reuven he had to produce a documentary, and Reuven did: the blockbuster *If Japan Can...Why Can't We?* Reuven became the "born again producer". Another doc and then Reuven was asked to become President of NBC News, replacing Bill Small, who had reinstated Reuven's reputation as a newsman. Ironical isn't it?

Connie Chung is a very special kind of person and I have always been quite fond of her, although we were all so busy in the News Division that we hardly had time to really get acquainted. I met Connie on a cold winter day when she came in to be interviewed by Reuven. She was so excited to be hired that she left her coat behind in my closet. I phoned and got her coat to her hotel, etc. But that's Connie. The same when we had the electrical fire at 30 Rock and we had to rescue her from her typewriter to get her out of the building, while she's yelling that she had a show to do that evening. Such dedication!

Reuven was a great mentor. From him I learned much about journalism as well as corporate politics. Larry Grossman replaced Reuven, and I continued in my position because Reuven wasn't sure he was going to stay on. He did, and during the Dallas Convention, Reuven requested that I assist him in the control room. Larry agreed, and so I worked for Larry and other VP's in the morning and then in the control room during airtime.

It was so wonderful and I am thankful for that experience.

Even after Reuven left NBC, he often invited Lois Marino and me to lunch and, as always, we had very stimulating conversations. My fondest memories and people at NBC also included Brinkley and Chancellor, who ranked high on my list, as well as most of the newsroom and NN personnel. Bambi (who ran NN) and especially Billy Boyd with his wild sense of humor. Arax Kazanjian became my best friend shortly after I started there - so sad that she's gone. When I left NBC, I received a note from Connie, asking where I was? Since then we've exchanged Christmas greetings right up to last year when I wrote her to ask for a favor... which she graciously provided.

I think of Connie as a generous, loving lady with a great sense of humor, not afraid to laugh at herself, knowing that it makes others laugh with her. A sign of a well-balanced human being! We should all do a little of "laughing at ourselves!!"

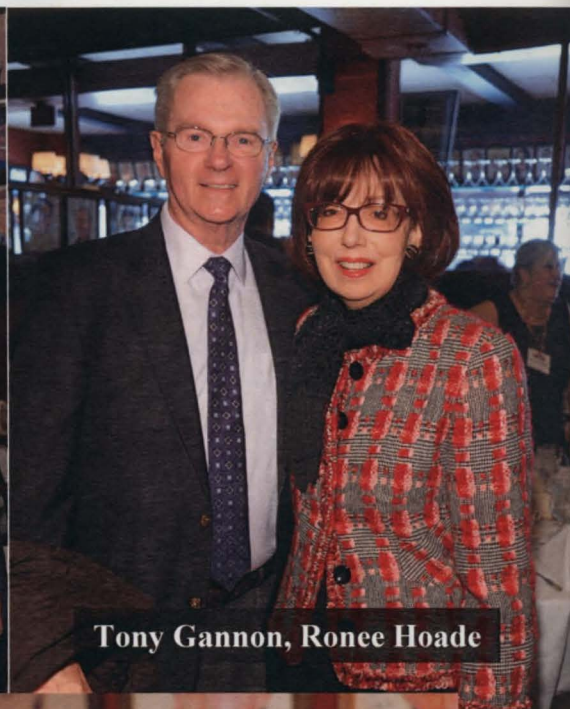
Best and thanks again,  
Lydia Houghtelling



Spring Luncheon Photos by Rob Rich



Lauren Fairbanks, Carol and Russ Ross, Pat Lang



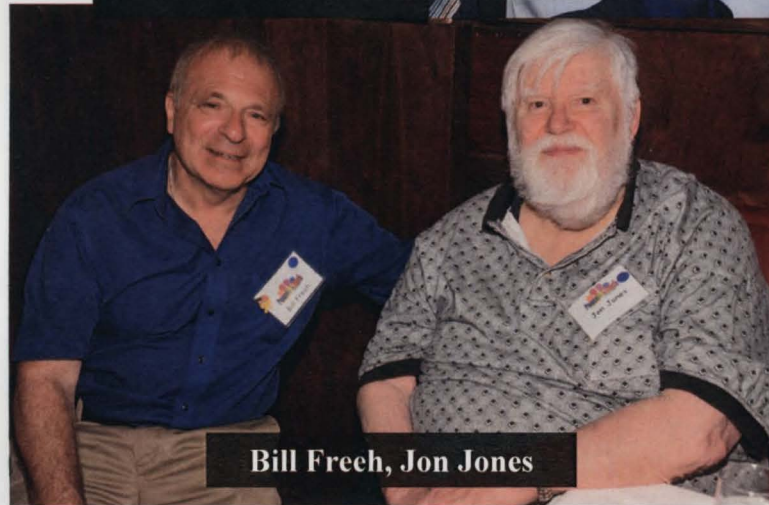
Tony Gannon, Ronee Hoade



Rick and Jeanne Fox



Ginny Seipt



Bill Freeh, Jon Jones

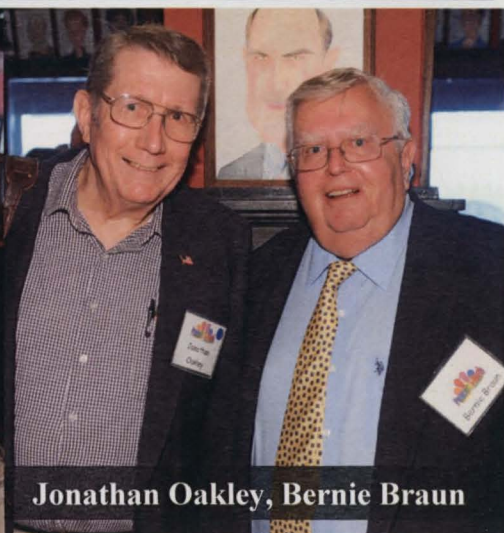


Carol Aerenson, Joyce Werney





Jodi Squires, Laura Klein, Mary Muzina, Steve Ulrich



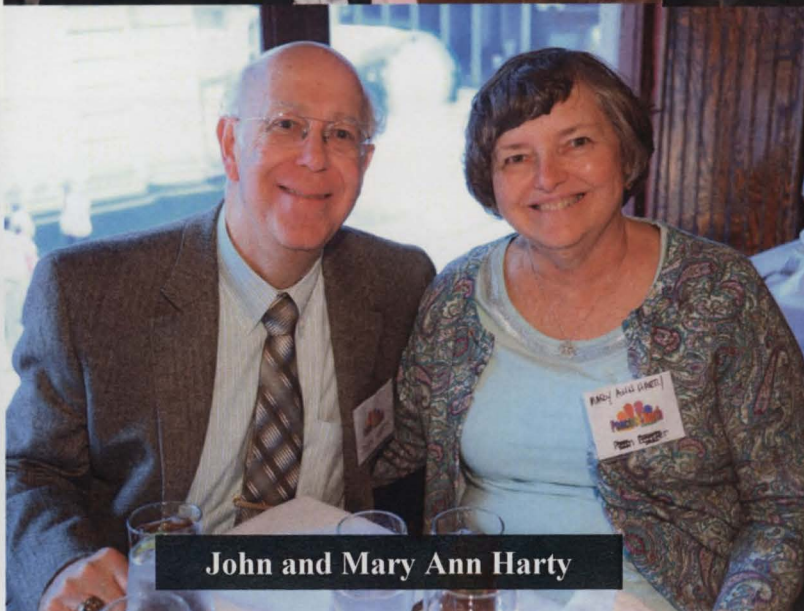
Jonathan Oakley, Bernie Braun



Mariel and Bruce Morin



Howie Hirsch, Kathy Babiak, Neil Goetz



John and Mary Ann Harty

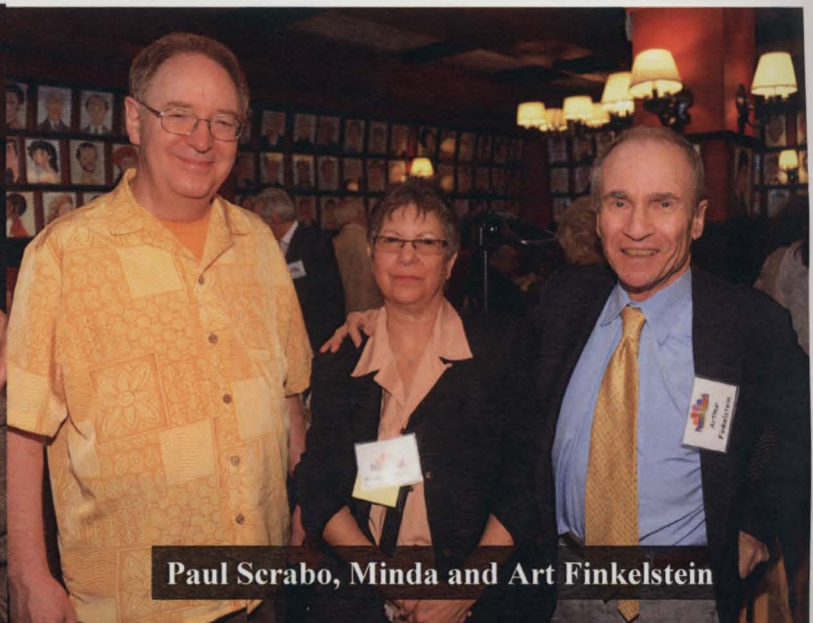


Jean Ackerson and Bob Rizzo

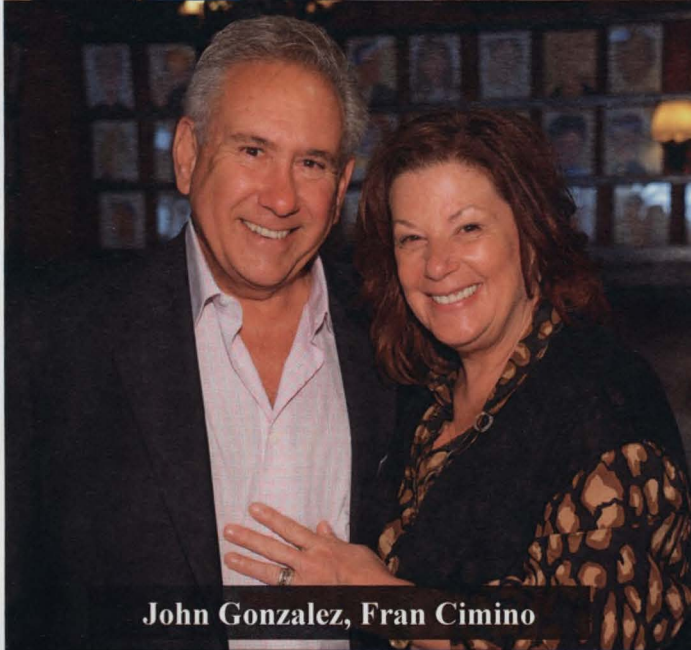




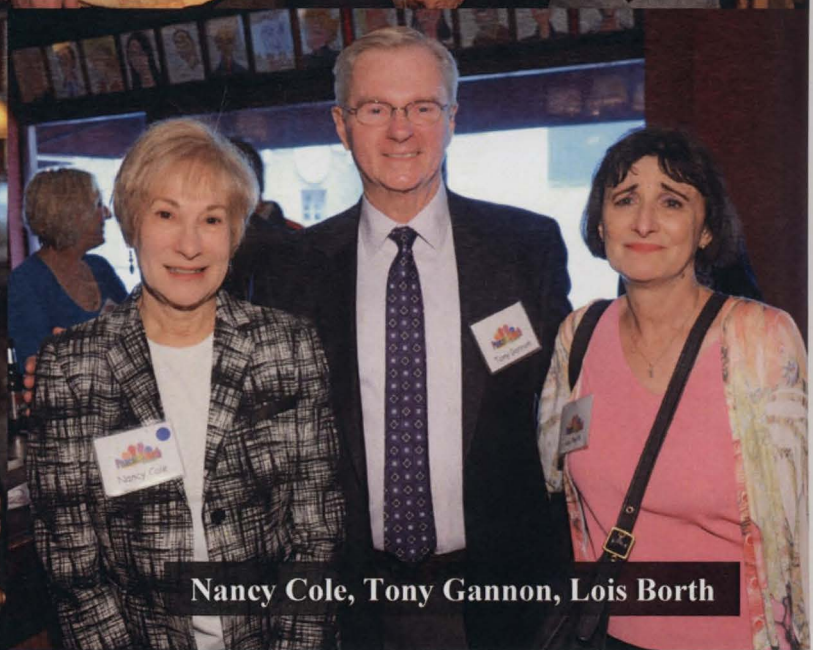
John Zacherle, John Fider



Paul Scrabo, Minda and Art Finkelstein



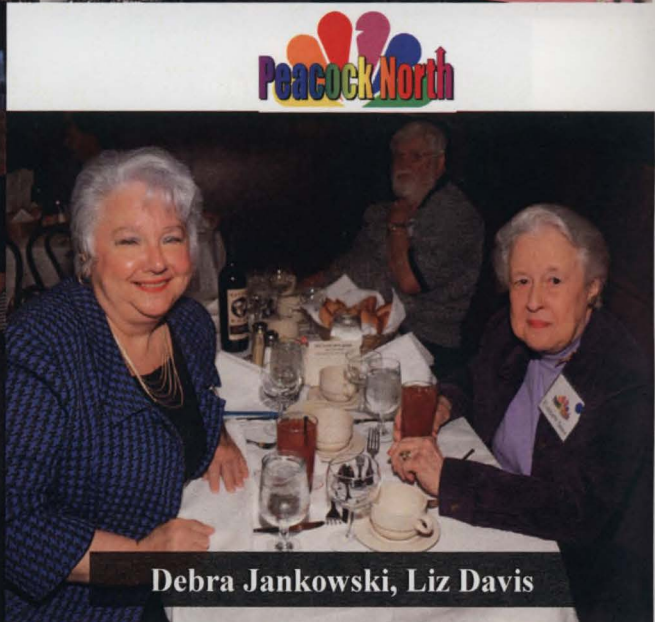
John Gonzalez, Fran Cimino



Nancy Cole, Tony Gannon, Lois Borth



Charlie Chin, Fran and Brian Wickham, Ann Taylor



Debra Jankowski, Liz Davis







Ronee Hoade, Susan Drury, Sunny Carmell



Enid Roth



Lou Fallot, Chris Connal, Luke Fallot



Larry Cirillo  
and  
Sandy Hulst

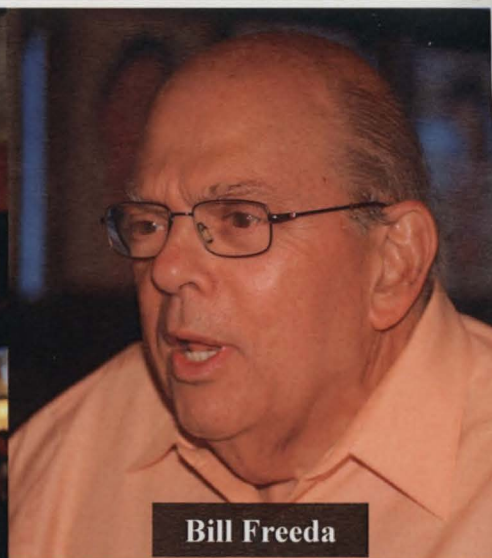


Lucille Weener, Danne Almirall, Joel Spector





DJ Mombo, Marilyn, Collette Baptiste-Mombo



Bill Freeda



Mamye Smith and Bob Hickey

Dick Cline, Jody Squires





Rob Rich

Maria Hinch, Susan Kramer (\*)

Ed Hinch

(\*) Photos by Ed Hunch on this and other pages.



Marilyn Altman, Karl and Kristen Kaessler, Wayne Wright





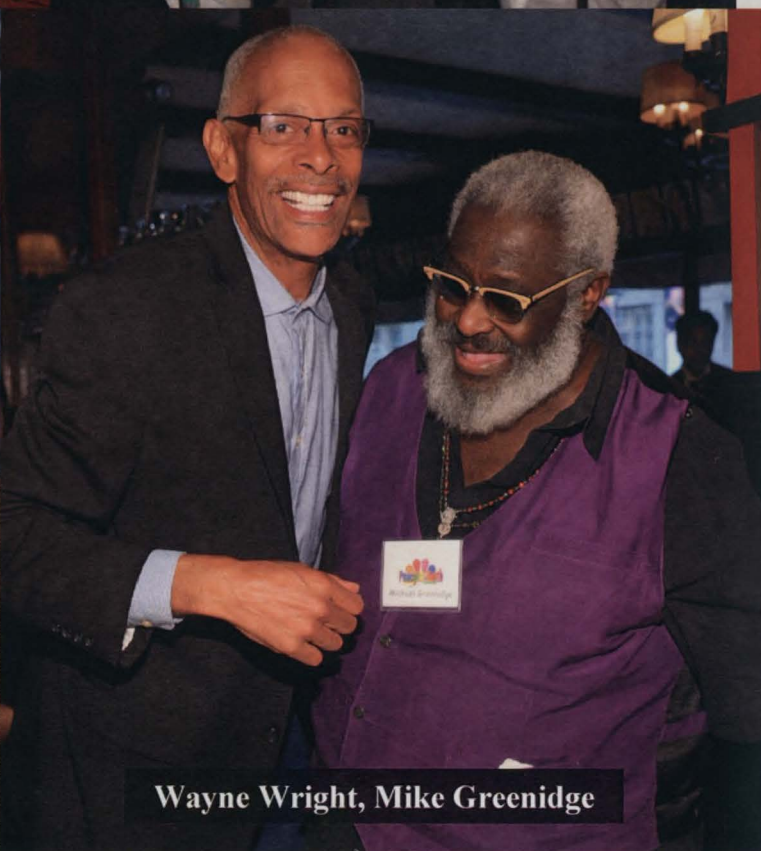
**Gigi Harold,  
Audrey Marshall**



**John Zacherle, Marilyn Altman**



**Sharon Stucker, Bill Vaccaro**



**Wayne Wright, Mike Greenidge**

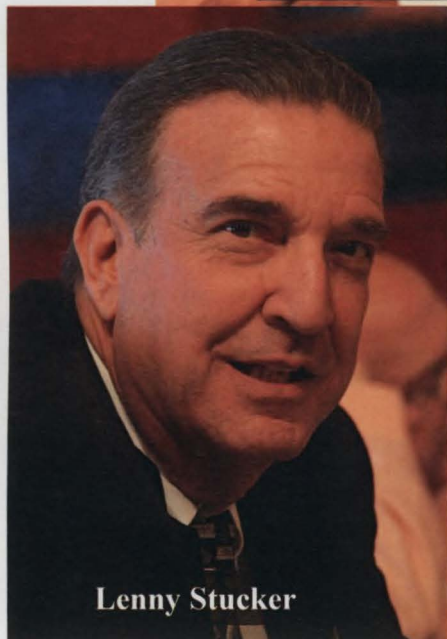




Laura Klein, Barbara Cline, Jodi Squires, Ginny Seipt, Mary Muzina



Bambi T in mid-story with Bill Freeda and Peggy Chane



Lenny Stucker

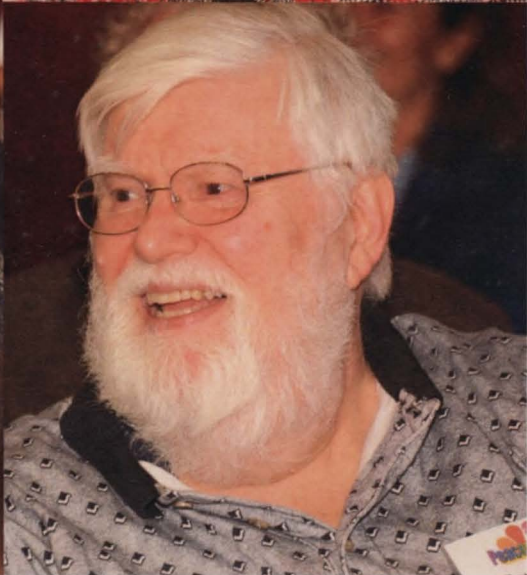
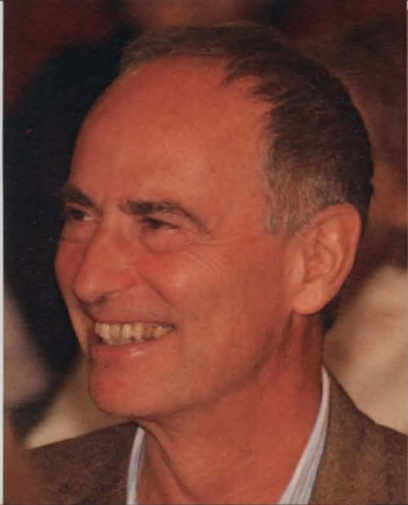


Jim Schaeffer, Dick Cline









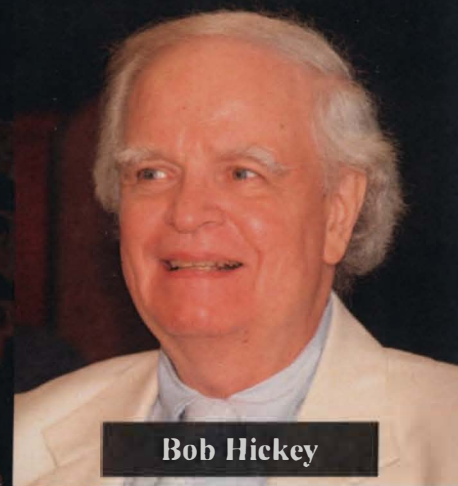




Lenny and Sharon Stucker, Carol Aerenson, Joel Spector, Connie



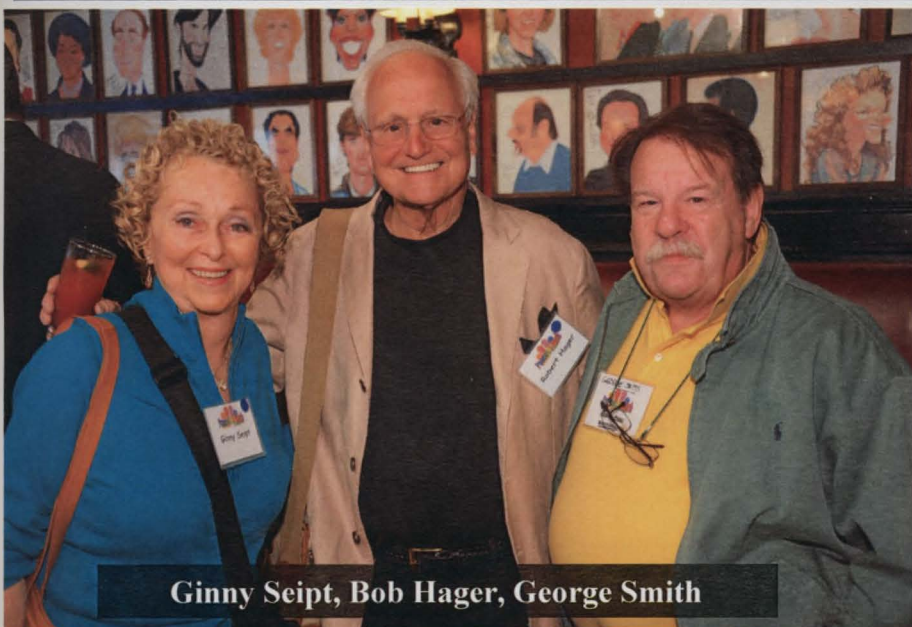
Russ Ross, Collette Baptiste-Mombo, Connie, Carol Ross



Bob Hickey







Ginny Seipt, Bob Hager, George Smith



Stan Bernard, Don Critchfield



Peter and Maureen Stamm, John Gonzalez, Mary Muzina



Loretta Alden, Lois Borth



Cynthia Selchert, Pat Mauger



Angela Vierville, Beryl Pfizer, Suzanne Bothamley





Susan Kramer, Steve Cimino, Bill Vaccaro (\*)



Faye and Jack Katz

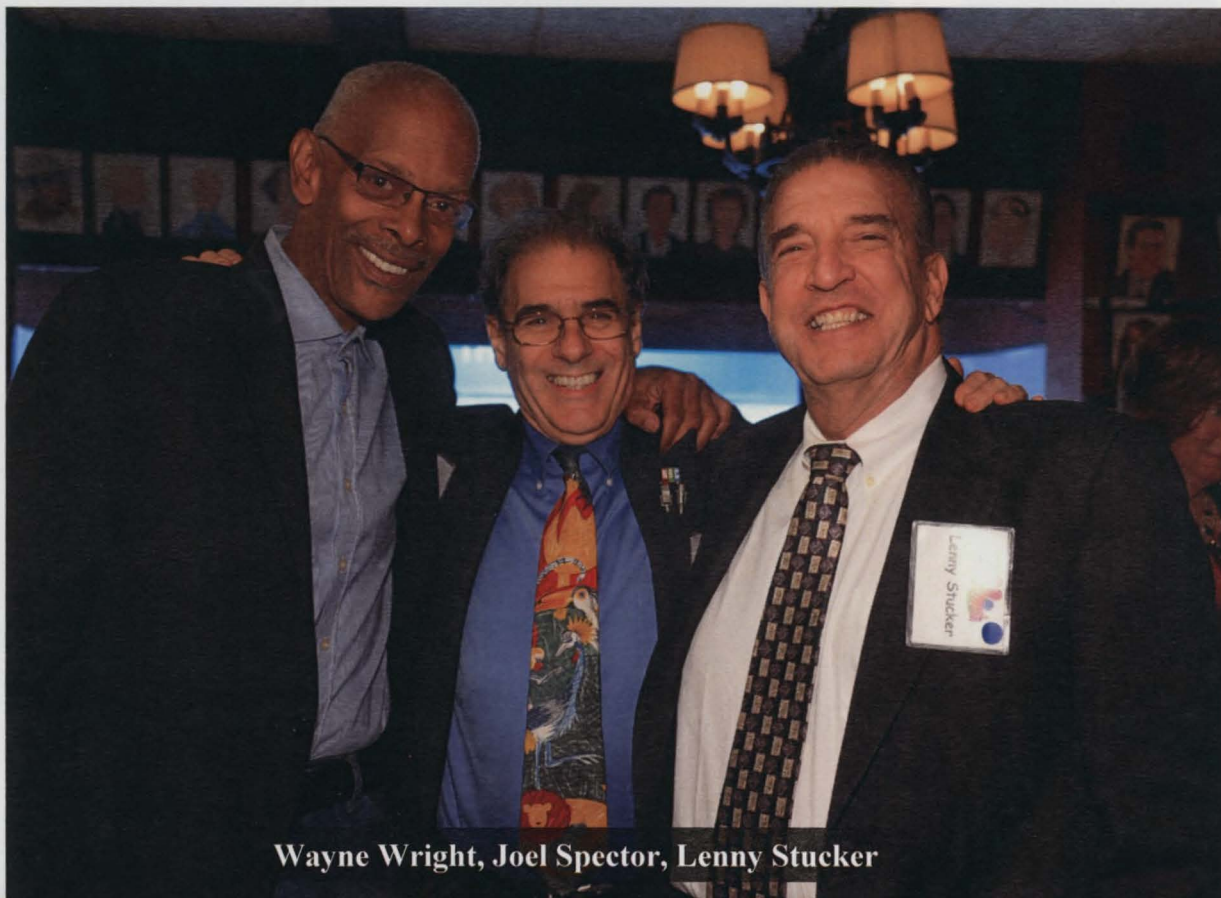


Marilyn, Connie, John



Paul Scrabo  
and George Ann Muller





Wayne Wright, Joel Spector, Lenny Stucker

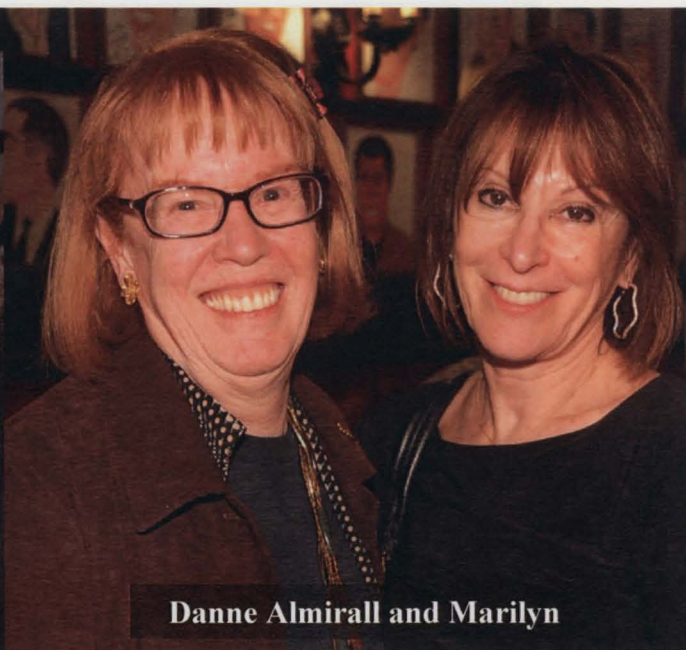


Jim Hartz, Sid Feders, Judy Farinet, Bambi T, Don Critchfield

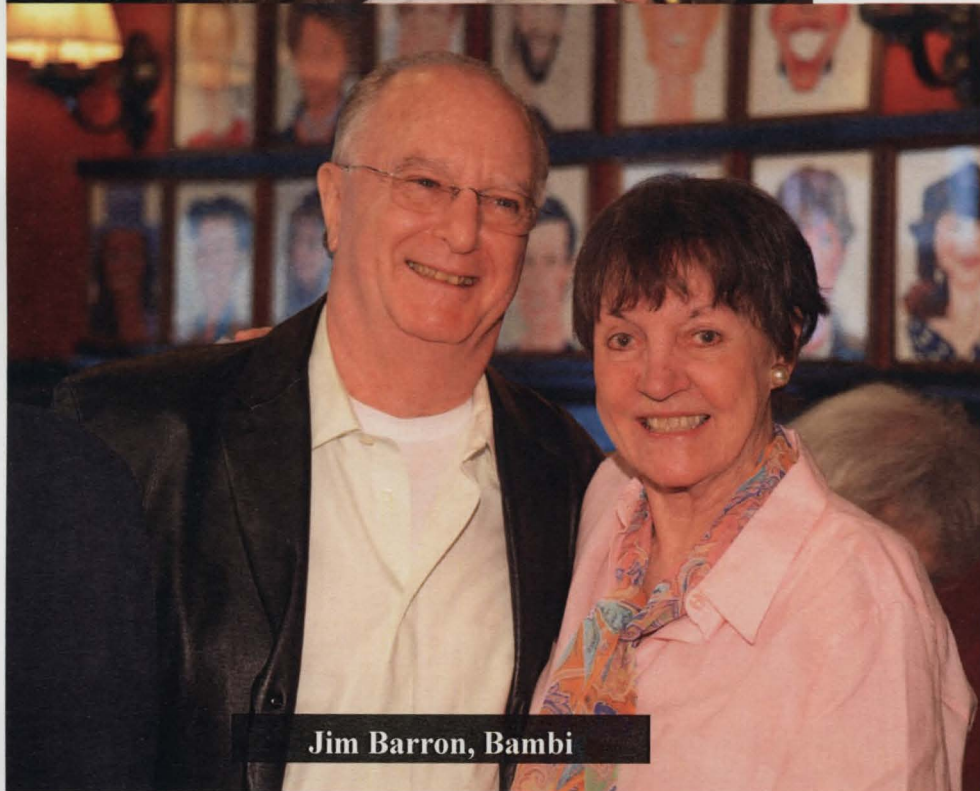




Rhonda Hansome, Connie



Danne Almirall and Marilyn

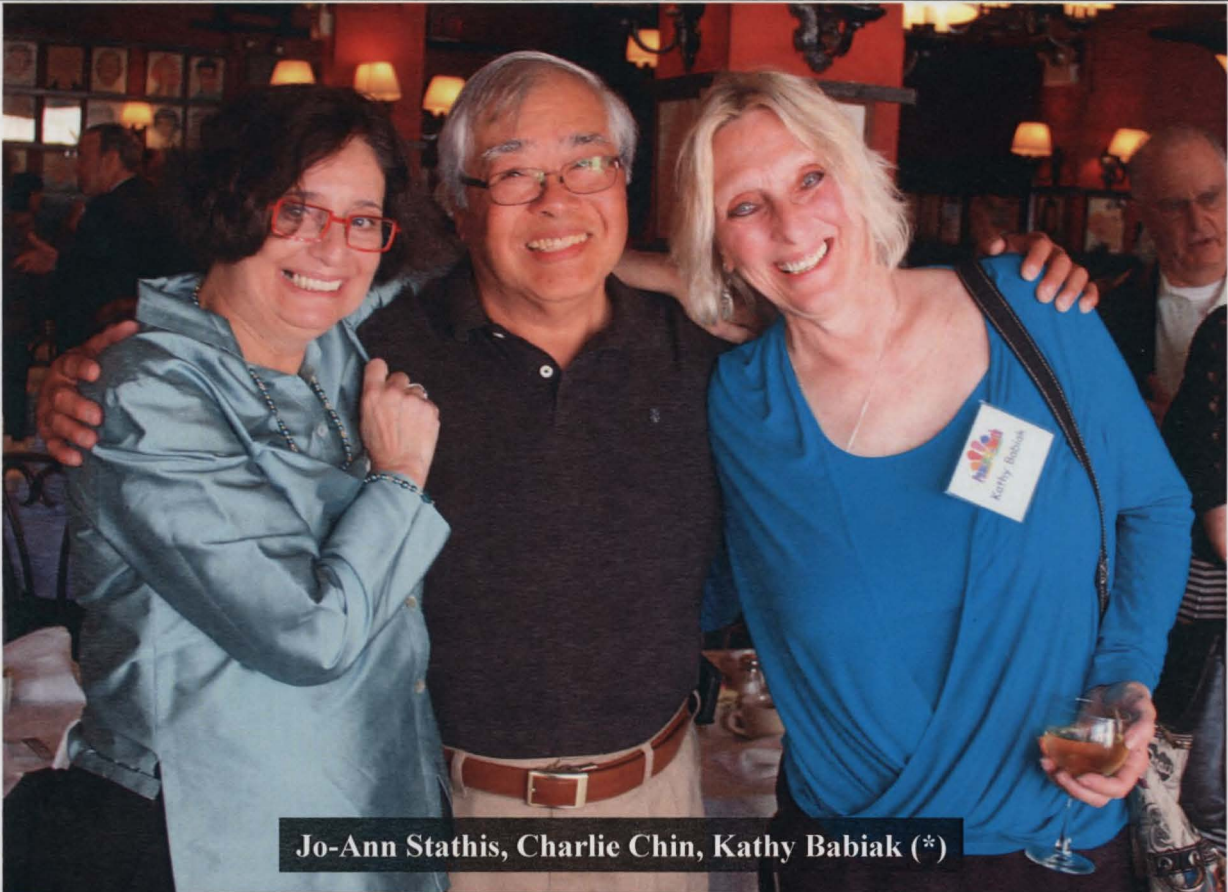


Jim Barron, Bambi



Judy Farinet (\*)





**Jo-Ann Stathis, Charlie Chin, Kathy Babiak (\*)**



**Bob Hager, Bambi, Les Crystal, Martin Fletcher, Ann Taylor  
Connie, Stan Bernard**



*We Get Letters and Pictures*

## A Family Affair: Chas LiBretto's D-Day Remembrance

*I recently called John LiBretto to ask if he had seen NBC's one-hour special on the 70th anniversary of D-Day. I thought it weaved a wonderful story. I knew John's father had been a veteran, buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and that John had served in Vietnam. His answer opened up a sentimental journey for him which he agreed to share with us. Here is a personal piece of the Greatest Generation as seen through one of our favorite sons' family history.*

**—Marilyn Altman.**

*My father, Charles LiBretto (1919-2009) was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in May 2011. I always knew he had been through a lot during the war, starting with North Africa in 1942, then Sicily, Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, Remagen, and finally being shipped home in May, 1945 from Germany. I rarely saw him cry, but he did in 1994 at the cemetery in Colleville, Normandy, over the graves of a couple of friends who did not survive. He never complained about his war experience, and in fact always sprinkled his stories with humor; he regarded it as the biggest adventure of his life*

*I was assigned to the 50th Anniversary of D-Day as part of NBC News' Specials coverage of the event. While I was a director for NBC News at the time, David Bohrman, our Executive Producer, wanted me there as City Producer, overseeing our relationships with the various entities that were responsible for the event (primarily the US Army, the Monuments Commission, the Armed Forces Capitol District, and the White House). When David and I spoke about my father accompanying me as he would be attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in any case, it was David who suggested that I should bring Chas, who was 10 years old at the time. He rightfully felt it would be a memory that would remain with him forever. I will always be grateful for David's convincing me to make it a family affair.*

**—John LiBretto**

Twenty years ago this week (!) my dad and my grandfather and I went to Normandy. It was the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Charles LiBretto (for whom I am named) took me around Utah Beach, Omaha Beach and the surrounding towns, and pointed out tiny bridges over which he and other members of the 9th division had fought. He also took me to a cemetery where crosses stood for members of that division and others. He had friends buried there.

This morning I dug out my journal from that trip. I had written that my grandfather had been disappointed to find a gift shop and hot dog stand standing near the road from Utah Beach. I also wrote that he seemed exhausted by the idea of climbing up Omaha Beach again, so he left it to my dad and me to do ourselves. Granted, he had had open-heart surgery only the year before so no doubt the idea of climbing up a giant sand dune was indeed daunting. I can't help but wonder just what was going through his mind on this visit.

These pictures remind me a lot of that trip. Despite the hotdog stands and gift shops, I think my grandfather was really quite pleased to see life continuing on in a place for which he and his friends had fought and bled and died. Certainly the family running the small restaurant we visited in Barneville-la-Bertran was grateful. There had been a battle over a small bridge at the edge of the town in '44 and the Americans had won. I wasn't allowed to taste the Calvados with which that family toasted my grandfather (I was 10), but it was supposedly strong enough to keep a car running. My grandfather was an American of a certain age during a week in '94 when Normandy was overrun by Americans of his generation and I don't know that the tears in that family's eyes were due to the Calvados or not. I think probably not.

**—Chas LiBretto**



*We Get Letters and Pictures*



Photos above:  
Barneville Memorial, Normandy, 1994  
Left: Charles and Chas  
Right: John and Chas



Photo at Left: Chas at  
another area of the  
Barneville Memorial, Normandy, 1994

Photo at Right:  
Charles LiBretto  
at the River Douve,  
Normandy 1994.

His unit fought for over 8 hours  
for that little bridge.  
The Barneville Memorial  
is dedicated to my Dad's unit,  
which liberated the town  
a few days after D-Day.





*We Get Letters and Pictures*

## 50,000 Tickets, please! - Joel Tator's Collection

[Veteran Tomorrow Show director Joel Tator shares his life-long passion with PN readers.]

I started collecting tickets in 1953. In 1969 TV Guide did an article about my collection and fortunately mentioned that I worked at NBC Burbank. Over the next months I received tickets from people all over the country sending no longer wanted tickets from the 1930s and 40s. Then of course eBay came along and I purchased a few more. Sadly there are only a few shows left with tickets. Some shows just buy audiences and others use a reservation system because they are interested in a young audience demographic. Leno was the last out here. It has been a great hobby and during the last days of big-time radio in the 1950s (and before video tape came along in 1956) there were as many as 50 audience shows a day in Los Angeles. Between ABC, CBS, NBC, Mutual and the local stations you could start in the morning and shows till midnight, one after another.

*Sherlock Holmes* – the oldest ticket I have. 1930 from the Times Square Studio, which is actually the New Amsterdam Roof. It is still there, above the New Amsterdam Theater, but hasn't been used in years.

The roof opened as the Aerial Gardens in 1904, presenting legit shows during the summer months. By 1910, the New Amsterdam was air-conditioned and the Aerial Gardens closed. Florenz Ziegfeld reopened it in 1915, presenting late-night performances until 1921. It became a radio studio in 1930 and, later, a television studio.

It was where Bob Hope did his first TV show for NBC on Easter Sunday 1950. Other networks used the theater through the years. Structural flaws preventing further theatrical use prompted the roof auditorium to be gutted in 1983. Disney spent four years renovating the main theater from 1993-1997 and *The Lion King* made its debut there. It is now home to *Aladdin*.

NBC's first audience shows came from their studios at 711 Fifth Avenue and 55<sup>th</sup> Street which opened in 1926 but I've never seen a ticket from there.

Toscanini and the NBC Symphony radio broadcast in 1945 from Studio 8H. A few years later the concerts were simulcast.

*Admiral Broadway Review*. The program was broadcast live on both NBC and DuMont. It only lasted four months because the sponsor couldn't keep up with the demand for Admiral TV sets. A few months later, in February of 1950, the show morphed into *Your Show of Shows*, also from the International Theater and later from the Center Theater at 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

The second episode of the *Colgate Comedy Hour* and the first with Martin and Lewis.

The first episode of *SNL*. A few months earlier Carlin's agent had called me and said George wanted to go on the *Tomorrow Show* to talk about the fact that he was always high on marijuana when he performs. Like all potential guests I had to run the booking by NBC management so as not to offend Johnny Carson. NBC said that if Carlin did that he would be barred not only from NBC but all networks, and if I wanted that on my conscience, go ahead and book him. I did not want to end Carlin's TV career so he was not booked. Another career saved.

*The Cosby Show*. No explanation necessary.

*NBC's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special*.

As the tickets say: "Doors close promptly."





**NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, Inc.**  
**TIMES SQUARE STUDIO**  
 214 West 42nd St.

**OCT'BR 20 1930** **"Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"**  
 WITH **WILLIAM GILLETTE**  
 ADMIT ONE  
 Monday Eve., at 10:00 P.M. Sharp

**ORCHESTRA**  
 VOID IF SOLD  
 GLOBE TICKET COMPANY

**Mon. Eve. Oct. 20 1930**  
 AT 10:00 P.M. SHARP  
 Old Washington Office Building Co.

**NBC TELEVISION STUDIOS**  
 RADIO CITY • RCA BUILDING • NEW YORK

**SAT. 11 OCT. 1975** **WELCOME TO NBC'S SATURDAY NIGHT WITH GEORGE CARLIN**  
 PERSONS UNDER 18 NOT ADMITTED

**9** **DOORS CLOSE 11:10 PM**

**INTERNATIONAL THEATRE**  
 6 COLUMBUS CIRCLE N. Y. C., N. Y.

**FRI. 18 FEB. 1949** **THE ADMIRAL BROADWAY REVUE**  
 Presented By Admiral Corporation

**Doors Close 7:40 PM**  
 COMPLIMENTARY TICKET—NOT TO BE SOLD

**NBC BROOKLYN COLOR STUDIO**  
 1202 E 14TH ST. (AND AVENUE M) BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

**THURS 7 FEB. 1968** **WELCOME TO THE COSBY SHOW STARRING BILL COSBY**  
 PERSONS UNDER 18 NOT ADMITTED

**II** **DOORS CLOSE 8:30 PM**

**8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR** **I**

THIS IS YOUR PERSONAL CARD OF ADMISSION TO  
**GENERAL MOTORS SYMPHONY OF THE AIR**  
 FEATURING  
**THE NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
**ARTURO TOSCANINI**  
 ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 18, 1945  
 AT THE  
**NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY STUDIOS**  
 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA—RADIO CITY—NEW YORK

*Five to Six P.M. Doors close promptly at Four-Fifty P.M.*  
*Entrance on 49th or 50th Street Between 5th and 6th Avenues*

**NBC TELEVISION**  
 Sunday 17 Sept. 1950

**COLGATE-PALMOLIVE-PEET CO.**  
 invites you to the Telecast of  
**"THE COLGATE COMEDY HOUR"**  
 Starring **DEAN MARTIN and JERRY LEWIS**  
**INTERNATIONAL THEATRE**  
 COLUMBUS CIRCLE, NEW YORK CITY

**ADMIT ONE**  
 Doors open promptly at 7:15 p.m. Doors close promptly at 7:45 p.m.

**NBC 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL**

**Admit One Guest**  
**Sunday, May 5th 2002 8:00pm**  
**30 Rockefeller Center Studio 8H**  
**New York City**

**75 YEARS**

Doors close promptly at 7:00 pm. You must show this ticket at the door.  
 Non-transferable. Photo ID required.

**Section Row Seat**  
**ORCH FF 27**



*What's Now!***NBC Sports Reunion Update from Ken Fouts**

Ten years ago, a large group of people who worked at NBC Sports in the 1960's, 70's and 80's gathered at a resort for a weekend of reminiscing, storytelling and renewing those wonderful relationships that had been developed during such a great era. The reunion was so rewarding and fun that it is happening again. On September 12, 13 and 14th anyone associated with NBC Sports in that time period is invited to join in the fun. It will be held at the Omni Amelia Island Resort near Jacksonville, Florida. This is a beautiful facility that has offered a great discounted room rate for attendees and it can even be expanded up to six nights if you are looking for a wonderful vacation. The hotel is right on the Atlantic Ocean and every room has a breathtaking view.

The reunion will begin on Friday, September 12 with the hospitality suite full of pictures and memorabilia opening up and a casual dinner at your leisure. Saturday will include a golf outing on one of the Omni courses, time for beach lounging or going to the Spa on site. Saturday evening will be the highlight of the weekend with a banquet including a wonderful meal and open bar (not as good a bar as Hurley's of course) and then the fun begins. The program will be emceed by the one and only Jim Simpson and will include short speeches from many of the attendees. There will be videos honoring those that have gone before us, with at least one surprise video from the archives. Of course old pictures from many people's files and recorded messages from some who are not able to attend. The weekend will be capped off with a brunch on Sunday morning for the final goodbyes. It promises to be a special weekend.

So if you are interested at all, the welcome mat is out to all whether you were management, production, sales, engineering, logistics or whatever. To register and to get hotel information email [Kfoutsjr@aol.com](mailto:Kfoutsjr@aol.com) or go on line to the Omni Amelia Island Resort web page and click on NBC Sports Reunion.

NBC Sports Reunion 2014

September 12, 13 and 14

Omni Amelia Island Resort, Jacksonville, Florida

**From the 2004 Reunion**

**Standing:**  
Peter Rolfe, Don Ellis, Ken Fouts, Dick Auerbach, George Finkel, Jim Dullaghan, Dick Cline, Mike Weisman

**Front Row:**  
Barry Black, Ginny Seipt, Larry Cirrillo, Mike Hadley



*What's Now!*

## **Active NBCU Employees Over the Age of 65 May Apply for GE's Post-65 Retirement Benefits During the Open Enrollment Period this Fall.**

**Bill Freeda Reports**

Beginning January 1, 2015, The General Electric Company will no longer be offering post-65 retirement benefits for any employee, retiree or their spouse who is not 65, enrolled in Medicare, and enrolled in their post-65 plans by such date. These plans include a Medicare Supplement Plan, Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan, and Life Insurance.

However, if you are over 65 and still working at NBCU, you may still be eligible for GE's post-65 retirement benefits. To quote GE's legal counsel, "in order to qualify for retiree medical coverage, an employee has to have attained age 65, retired, and enrolled in the plans on or before January 1, 2015. He further states that an employee "will have to retire from GE (by starting his or her pension) and enroll as a qualified participant in the GE retiree health plans, both by 1/1/15."

If you choose to enroll in these plans and your spouse is not yet 65, he or she will be able to enroll in the GE pre-65 medical benefits until they are 65.

**To receive enrollment material from GE, call the GE Pension Inquiry Center at 800-432-3450.**

You will be asked to provide your SSO, or your Social Security number, and then your four-digit identification number. Once connected to a "Plan Specialist," request all the forms necessary to enroll in the post-65 retirement benefit plans.

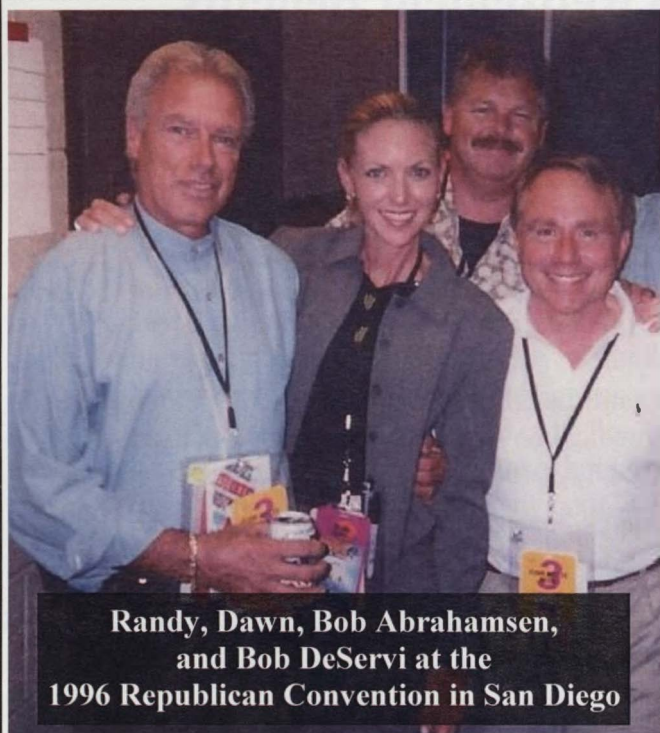
**If you are asked for documentation that an employee has opted out of his or her current coverage, please call the NBCUniversal Benefits Service Center at 877-670-NBCU (6228).  
NBCU has assured me that it will be training service representatives  
so they will be able to assist you in obtaining your "loss of coverage" documentation.**

I suggest you submit these forms as soon as possible, and make copies of the original forms for your files. It is important to understand that based on strong guidance from its outside legal counsel, NBCU will NOT be distributing additional information or providing counseling regarding this process.

I strongly suggest that when you call the GE pension Inquiry Center you take careful notes of the date, time, time you waited to speak to a service representative. Make note of the first and last name of the representative, and where the representative is located. All this will be helpful in the event you need to verify you called within the open enrollment period. As of now we do not have the exact dates of GE's or NBCU's enrollment period, during which time you will be able opt-out of the NBCU medical benefits, and enroll in the GE post-65 retirement benefits,

Finally, let me suggest you ask as many questions as many times as necessary for you to understand your options, and how to accomplish your goals. When it comes to retirement medical benefits, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Randy Birch**

**Randy, Dawn, Bob Abrahamsen,  
and Bob DeServi at the  
1996 Republican Convention in San Diego**

Randy Birch, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation news cameraman, died on June 22nd in Eagle River, WI at age 70.

He learned the business from his father, Bill, who brought him into William H. Birch and Associates. He also worked with Bill's father Harry, another pioneer cameraman. In 1967 Bill helped Randy get his job at NBC, where he worked until a 1988 buyout.

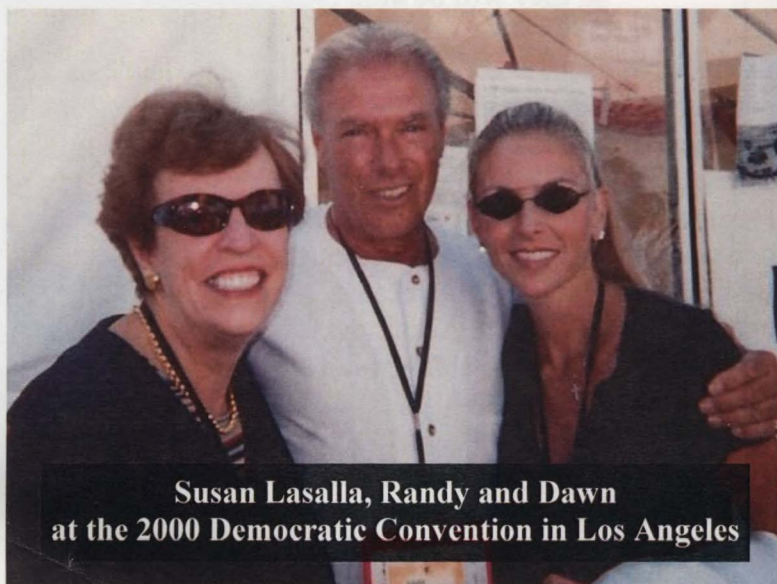
He continued to work freelance for NBC as well as MSNBC until late 2005. In 1997 he had moved to Washington, DC, where he and Max Schindler, Jr, opened their own production company. B/S Productions serviced the Washington, DC needs of *Extra TV* and other celebrity type shows. They also booked all the crews for any work needed at NBC's 400 North Capitol location for *Nightly News*, MSNBC, CNBC, etc.

Randy was also one of Chris Matthews' main camera operators for his road shows, town hall meetings, etc.

He then moved to Eagle River in 2005.

He leaves behind his sister, Wendye Birch-Sykes and two daughters, Dawn and Brittney Birch, and his father's wife, Marjorie Fritz-Birch.

Condolences can be sent to Dawn at  
310 S Twin Oaks Valley Rd #282  
San Marcos, CA. 92078  
(202) 288-8888  
or email [dawn.birch@usa.net](mailto:dawn.birch@usa.net)



**Susan Lasalla, Randy and Dawn  
at the 2000 Democratic Convention in Los Angeles**



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Robert Zweck**

Robert Morton Zweck, 90, of Las Vegas, NV & Monroe, NY, passed away March 29, 2014. He was born in Brooklyn, NY on October 25, 1923 to Harry & Ruth (Morje) Zweck. He was married to Ruth E. Feeney on June 3, 1992, and they moved to Las Vegas. Robert graduated from the Pentagon Intelligence School, and attended Columbia University, Iona College and Ecole Francois. He worked for 44 years at NBC in radio & television operations, where he made the acquaintance with innumerable famous and important people. He was founder & President of the American Society of TV Cameramen. He served in the active & reserve U.S. Army for 32 years, retiring at USMA in West Point with the rank of Colonel. Among his many assignments were counterintelligence duty in Europe during the Cold War, Mobilization Designee for Defense Preparedness, and Reserve Liaison Officer at USMA., West Point. He was invited to membership in Marquis Who's Who in Entertainment. He was appointed to the 26th Congressional District Service Academy Advisory Board. He was a 10 year past President of Reserve Officer Association of U.S. in Rockland County. He had a quick & quirky sense of humor, and was an accomplished public speaker.



Robert is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughter, Nicole (John) Cocuzza; granddaughter, Christina Zweck; five step-children, and 13 step-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Michelline. Funeral service & burial took place at the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY. In Las Vegas, a memorial service was held on April 25, 2014 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Del Webb Boulevard. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Prostate Cancer Foundation, American Lung Association or Wounded Warriors.

**Billy Kidd**

William H. "Billy the Kid" Kidd, age 76, of Ottawa, IL passed away on April 25, 2014 at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa. Memorial services were held on May 10, 2014 at Gladfelter Funeral Home with the Reverend Duane Kaufman officiating.

Billy was born July 7, 1937 in Oglesby, Illinois, the son of Homer and Eva (Barys) Kidd. He married Mary Crews. He later married Barbara Young. He is survived by his children, Karen Kidd of Joliet, Sharon Kidd and Leslie Kidd, both of Carrollton, GA, and Christopher Young of Lombard, IL. He also leaves grandchildren, Adam Demmer and Zach and Carlee Kidd. He was preceded in death by one brother, Richard Kidd; one sister, Betty Dinaso; and his special friend, AnEsther Ludwig.

Billy was a television audio and camera engineer. He worked for NBC Channel 5 in Chicago. During his 30 plus year career at NBC, he was awarded the 1986 Sports Emmy® Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Technical Team and Remote during his coverage of the 1986 World Series. Billy also enjoyed writing poetry and was a member of the Poetry Club.

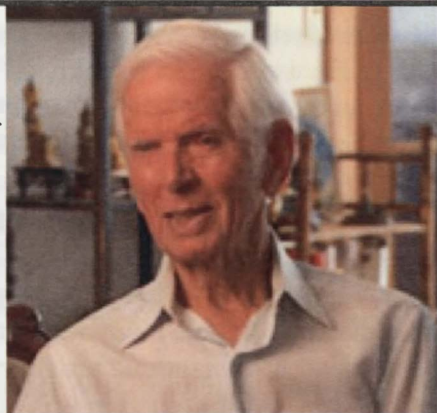


*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**John Rich**

John Hubbard Rich, Jr., veteran NBC News war correspondent and Maine native, died on April 9, five weeks after the death of his wife, Doris Lee, of 60 years. He was 96. Born August 5, 1917, in Cape Elizabeth, he grew up in Portland and attended Deering High School ('35) and Bowdoin College ('39). At Bowdoin, he was editor-in-chief of the school paper, president of his fraternity, and captain of the tennis team.

He started his career as a reporter with the Kennebec Journal in Augusta after college and joined the Portland Press Herald about a year later. He got his start as a war correspondent even before the war began when, as a reporter for the Press Herald, he interviewed the survivors of the destroyer USS Reuben James, the first U.S. warship sunk in World War II, five weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. With the outbreak of the war, he parlayed his college French major into a commission with the U.S. Marine Corps, exchanging French for Japanese, which he learned at the Navy Language School in Boulder, Colorado. As a Second Lieutenant with the Fourth Marine Division, he participated in four battle landings in the Pacific, in the bloody amphibious landings at Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. His bravery earned him the Bronze Star. He remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of Major.



Immediately upon the close of the war in the Pacific, he returned to Japan as a correspondent for the International News Service. He covered the International War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo, interviewed "Tokyo Rose," and was once called upon to serve as impromptu interpreter for wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo and his American lawyer. From Japan, he covered the Chinese civil war, narrowly escaping Shanghai down the Whangpoo River on a U.S. gunboat as it fell to the communists in 1949. Within a week of the North Korean invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, he sailed from Japan to Pusan with the 24<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery and covered the Korean War for the next three years, broadcasting the signing of the armistice at Pan Mun Jom in 1953 for NBC, which he joined six months into the war. In the midst of that arduous war that claimed more than 36,000 American lives, he wrote on Christmas Eve, 1952: "The deadly business goes on.... Across the front, it's a clear cold night.... The light of a half-moon glimmers across the barren frozen hills [and] in damp frontline foxholes, lonesome men [peer] northward, waiting for the enemy."

Although not a professional photographer, he took almost 1,000 photographs of the Korean War in color, a medium not yet used by mainstream war photographers. This unique, color record of the war will this year become part of the permanent collection of the National Museum of Contemporary History in Seoul. In Seoul, on a tennis court, he met his self-described "Seoul mate," Doris Lee, then a secretary with the State Department. They became engaged at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and were married, twice in 10 days, first in a religious ceremony in southern France and then in a civil ceremony in Tangier, Morocco. From France, the family moved to Tokyo where, as NBC's Senior Correspondent in Asia, for more than a decade he covered the war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and saw all four children graduate from high school. In 1971, he and friend and fellow Mainer John Roderick of the Associated Press were the only two American journalist allowed in China with the "Ping Pong Delegation." A year later, he accompanied Nixon's trip to China. Following that historic visit, in 1974, he won the Peabody Award, the Overseas Press Club Award for "Best reporting from Asia in any medium," and an honorary degree from Bowdoin College at the age of 56.



John is survived by his daughter, Barbarine Rich, and her husband, Toshio Okumura; by his son, John H. Rich III, and his wife Joanne Rich, of Falmouth, Maine; by his son, Whitney Rich, and his wife Kumiko Umemoto of Tokyo, Japan; by his son, Nathaniel Rich, and his wife Ming Hsu of Hong Kong, China; by his brother-in-law, Ralph Halstead, and his wife Alice Halstead of Hemet, California; and by grandchildren Dylan, Madeline, Malcolm, Johnny, and Helene.

*In lieu of flowers, a contribution may be made to  
the John Hubbard Rich, Jr. Family Scholarship Fund  
at Bowdoin College.*



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***William Albert McConnell  
Remembered by Noel Engler**

Bill was born in Astoria, Queens on March 2, 1933. He did his undergraduate work at American University, NYU and eventually graduated from Pace. Bill served in the Army for four years. Settling in Miami Beach he was hired by one of the fashionable hotels as a bellboy.

However, show business was in his blood so he returned to New York City for a job with Sinclair Oil. At a suggestion of a friend at Sinclair, Bill applied for a position at NBC and was immediately hired as a page. Attaining one of the top levels, white braid, Bill was able to land a position as On-Air Coordinator in the Advertising and Promotion Department. He eventually moved up to writer-producer of on-air and radio promos, in-show trailers and program openings. Two of his biggest assignments were working on promotions for *The Godfather* and *West Side Story*. He was a member of the Writers Guild of America.

In 1980 Bill left NBC for an on-air promotion job at the fledgling cable company HBO. He retired from HBO in 1997.

At this point Bill's Mom was getting up in years and Bill being a loving and compassionate son he spent the last 14 years of his life devotedly caring for her making sure she had everything she needed in her nursing home situation. He faithfully visited her every day.

Bill was an organizer and instigator. With the help of others, he was chiefly responsible for getting many of the A&P family together for two fabulous dinner reunions in NYC. In the final year of his life Bill fought a courageous battle against a cancer that was ravaging its way through his body.

Early in the morning of March 15th Bill passed away quietly, with his loving cousins Gail Vaccaro and Dominique Plaisant at his bedside.

Affectionately known to everyone as WAM he had a signature sign off when speaking on the phone... WAM never said good-bye, he ended his calls by saying "Woof".

Woof my good friend... Woof.





*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Marvin Einhorn Remembered by his son, Ken**



Marvin at Provincetown  
in 2008

Marvin Einhorn passed away on April 30, 2014. I know he loved his work at NBC and held many extraordinary memories from his 30 years there. In 1955 he began work in Broadcast Operations, keeping the network "on-time." The fine details escape me, but an early story my father told was about cueing a live commercial with a huge cast, featuring Washington crossing the Delaware. Once everything was in motion there was no turning back. My dad talked about how he jumped the cue and gave it 15 seconds too early. Though probably not too funny at the time, the memory stayed with him and was a story told with great humor.

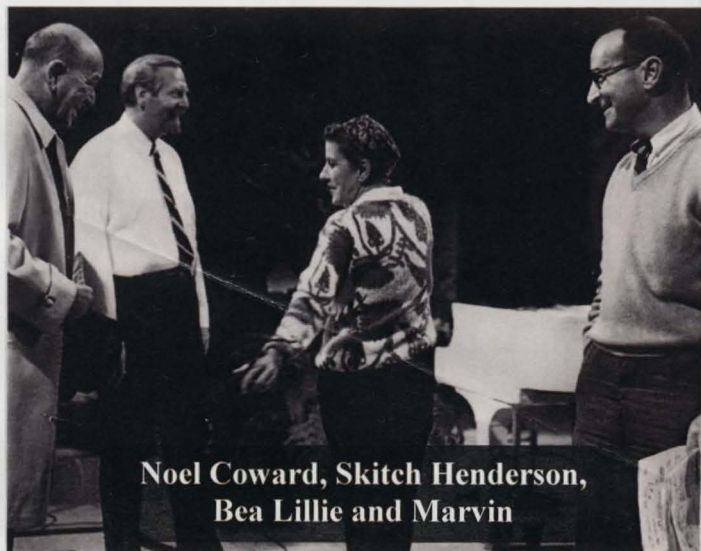
He was also back-up director for *Howdy Doody*...I think he was paid Hostess Cupcakes for that one.

Marvin's first major mark as a director was with *Continental Classroom*—NBC's TV course for college credit. This gave him his start directing public affairs, special events and news programs: *Frontiers of Faith*, *Watch Mr. Wizard*, *Weekend Nightly News* with Jessica Savitch, Frank McGee, and Robert MacNeil and finally as Co-director of the *Today Show* along with Jimmy Gaines. This was very exciting for our entire family—*The Today Show*! Barbara Walters, Hugh Downs, Joe Garagiola, Jack Lescoulie, Frank Blair were all praised (mostly) and talked about in our home. My dad got to "Cue the Pope" (though Al Morgan apparently took credit for that) on the first transatlantic satellite feed—*Early Bird*—in 1968. He worked with JFK, Jim Henson and his Muppets, Doc Watson, Noel Coward, John Lennon, Duke Ellington and countless other stars and newsmakers of his time.

After NBC, Marvin went back to his first love: acting. He starred as Mushnik in the road production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, performed in the movie *A League of Their Own*, extraed in countless Woody Allen Films, modeled, and sang and danced his way through the rest of his life.

Thank you to all of you who knew, worked, and supported my dad through the years—my guess is that he was a pretty mellow and fair person in and out of the control room. Personally, I will always have great memories hanging around the studio with all of you. I followed in my father's footsteps working at that "other network", CBS.

Ed. Note: Condolences may be sent to Ken at [keinhorn@verizon.net](mailto:keinhorn@verizon.net).



Noel Coward, Skitch Henderson,  
Bea Lillie and Marvin



Arnie Rand, Marvin,  
Judy Farinet in 8H Control



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Mike Shugrue**

This is about my good friend and NBC colleague Mike Shugrue. He left our earthly plane yesterday afternoon (4/29/14) bound for his next adventure. If it's anything like the life he just had it will be a full one indeed. He served in the army, worked for Disney Studios as an editor and then traveled the world for NBC News as very talented photojournalist. I am thankful to have worked with Mike and had him as a close friend for nearly 30 years now. Our hangar at Whiteman will never be the same without him there, tinkering on his Model A Fords or building something in the shop. Till we meet up again, Godspeed Mike!

Judy Kerr

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Charles Chin was a Video Editor from 1975 to 2010.

Don Critchfield was a Producer for NBC News Washington.

Les Crystal was at NBC News from 1963 to 1983,  
with positions including President of the News Division  
and Executive Producer of NBC Nightly News.

Cathy Donahue was a News Editor for *Today* from 1978 to 2007.

Jim Hartz was at NBC News from 1964 to 1979,  
with stints as *Today* and *WNBC-TV* anchors.

Ronee Hoade was with *Today* for more than 34 years,  
as Senior Researcher/Booker and Associate Producer of Special Projects.

Sally Hughes has been a Technical Manager in O&TS since 1986.

Charles Moore has been an Audio Engineer in Studio/Field since 1980.

Steve Ulrich was at NBC Sports from 1978 to 2007,  
retiring as Director, Talent & Promotion.

He is now the Executive Director of the Sports Emmy Awards.