



**2023 Issue 4**

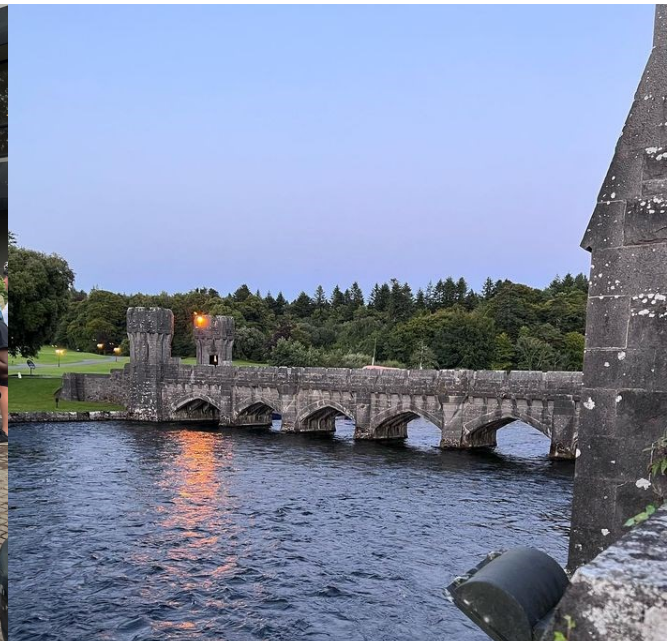
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**8/27/2023 at 3:45pm FINAL REVISED!!**

**To see the pages side-by-side,  
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"Two Page View"**



### Memories of Summer Fun



### Peacock North Members Cycle for Charity and visit an Ancient Irish Castle

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*Marilyn's Page*

Summer is always such a wonderful wake up call. With everything swirling around us -- the horrors of Ukraine, Hawaii burning, heat waves and an upcoming election cycle of democratic strife (understatement) -- Summer gives us the opportunity to revitalize. It points us inward and we look to our own lives and loved ones for enjoyment. And so here is a short recap of what I noticed thanks to some of my NBC pals.



When I was young, I had the precious opportunity to attend a few of Leonard Bernstein's *Young People's Concerts*. They were magical and all male, not that I expected anything different at the time. My generation, our generation, changed that. We should all be proud, both men and women alike. This summer I had the distinct privilege of going to see Katherine Mombo, daughter of my friend and former NBCer Colette Baptiste Mombo, join the violin section of the New York Youth Orchestra on the Carnegie Hall stage! I watched and listened to her twin sister, Grace, attending the University of Pennsylvania's summer writing workshop, read a beautiful letter to her grandmother who passed away several years ago. With joy and pride I watched videos of Sunny and Etta Noseworthy, my friends' young granddaughters, one in California and one in China. I watched the United States' team do this country proud in the Women's World Soccer Tournament. I took a fun Southampton Bay cruise on *HampTiki*, Michael Cimino's charter boat, with every water toy you can imagine. Other friends include Stacy Brady, who is rejoicing in her two sons, Jesse and Jake, starting their careers as an oral surgeon and a lawyer, respectively. So, you tell me, good time? bad time? Or just what side of looking for joy and inspiration are you on?

This edition has a few articles about how people spent their summers doing wonderful things. I will leave that to you to thumb through. The world seems to be going tortuously through its moves, its climate changes, its cycles of peace and threats. Keep your chin up. I am all in for Summer...and have good thoughts about the other seasons as well. BUT summer brings us all out. What a blessing.

Check out this great 2023 summer photo of my friends Brian Prentke & Nancy Smith from our London Bureau, with Joyce Hurley. A huge "Welcome back" to Brian!



Some sad news just in: Ellen McKeefe, an Emmy-nominated television news producer who was one of the early women behind the scenes during a long career at NBC News, died of Cancer on August 7, 2023 in Sarasota, Florida. She was 78. More will be written in the next PN edition.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name on line at:  
<https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/donate/>

**Please keep the people of Hawaii, our crews, and correspondents on the ground,  
 in your thoughts, prayers and charitable giving.**

And now to the good stuff...the rest of the magazine.

The Sacred Heart University Peacock North Archive is now on line and ready for use.  
 It captures all 35 years of our quarterly publication.

Check it out at  
<https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/media-nbcpeacock/>

*Peacock Family*

## Celebrating Mark Traub



On May 20th family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Director's Guild Theater in Midtown Manhattan to remember Mark Traub--his nearly 4-decade career at NBC, a lifetime of friendship, countless miles travelled and meals shared on nearly every continent—and his notable laugh...gone too soon. --Erica Levens



*What's Now!***Chuck Todd Leaving Meet the Press**

NBC's Meet the Press host Chuck Todd will be stepping down later this year. He will be replaced by Kristen Welker, the current co-host of Weekend Today.

Todd announced the news of his departure during the June 4th broadcast.

"While today is not my final show, this will be my final summer here at Meet the Press," he said. "I am really proud of what this team and I have built over the last decade."

The moderator began hosting the show nine years ago and has transformed the program from a single Sunday show to a "distinct and important political franchise" across television, print newsletters, podcasts and film festivals.

Todd added that the key to survival of any media franchise is for leaders not to "overstay their welcome," so he's opting to leave sooner, rather than later. However he is expected to stay on as a chief political analyst.

"I'm still going to help NBC navigate and coach NBC colleagues in this 2024 campaign season and beyond," Todd noted.

Todd also explained his departure as an effort to avoid burnout. "I've let work consume me for nearly 30 years," he said. "And as I've watched too many friends and family let work consume them, I promised my friends and family I wouldn't do that."

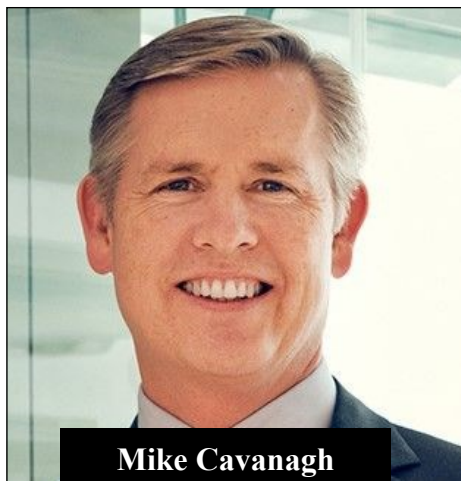
His successor, Welker, joined NBC News in 2010. She's covered the last three presidential elections and moderated the final 2020 debate between former President Donald Trump and current President Joe Biden. She was named co-host of Weekend Today in 2020.

Todd called Welker "the right person" to take over the job and said this is how he "hoped this would end for me, passing the baton to her."

By Claire Franken, ©TV Line.com, June 4, 2023

*What's Now!*

## NBC Executive Shuffle



**Mike Cavanagh**

Mike Cavanagh is beginning to put his stamp on NBCUniversal.

Mr. Cavanagh, who took over the company in April, announced Thursday that he was giving Donna Langley, the company's films chief, sweeping supervision over creative decisions for the company's entertainment content, including films and TV shows for its Peacock streaming service. Mark Lazarus, the chairman of NBCUniversal television and streaming, is also being elevated, given wider purview over the business decisions for some of the company's creative content.

Other executives who will remain on Mr.

Cavanagh's leadership team include Cesar Conde, chairman of NBCUniversal News Group, who will gain oversight of Telemundo and NBC's local stations, and Mark Woodbury, the company's Parks Division chief.

Mr. Cavanagh is essentially winnowing the number of executives who report directly to him, streamlining the company's leadership ranks. He will also continue to work directly with Adam Miller, an executive vice president overseeing operations and technology, communications, human resources and corporate social responsibility; Kim Harris, the company's general counsel; Anand Kini, NBCUniversal's chief financial officer; and Craig Robinson, executive vice president and chief diversity officer.

The promotions were the first major step taken by Mr. Cavanagh since he took over leadership of the company. Its previous chief executive, Jeff Shell, stepped down after an investigation into sexual harassment. In an internal memo, Mr. Cavanagh said the changes would allow NBCUniversal to better compete in a business environment rife with cord cutting — the abandonment of traditional pay TV — and new rivals. "I'm very excited to work with this team to build on our great momentum and drive NBCU forward," he wrote.

Susan Rovner, the chairman of entertainment content for NBCUniversal television and streaming, is leaving the company as part of the reorganization, Mr. Cavanagh wrote. Frances Berwick will be elevated to chairman of NBCUniversal Entertainment, reporting to Mr. Lazarus and Ms. Langley.

Since taking over for Mr. Shell, Mr. Cavanagh has visited the company's offices in Los Angeles, New York and London and gotten to know stars like Jimmy Fallon, the "Tonight Show" host. He has mostly sought to continue on with business as usual, telling people he works with that things will remain unchanged while the company absorbs Mr. Shell's departure.

Mr. Cavanagh has had to deal with unexpected turmoil in his short time in the role, including the surprise departure of the company's ad sales chief, Linda Yaccarino, who left NBCUniversal to become the chief executive of Twitter. Ms. Yaccarino exited just as the company was preparing its annual pitch to advertisers, known as the upfronts, which accounts for a hefty chunk of its revenue for the year.

In promoting Ms. Langley, NBCUniversal is betting on a seasoned creative executive with a string of recent box office successes. Along with Chris Meledandri, the chief executive of the animation studio Illumination, Ms. Langley shepherded hits like "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," which grossed more than \$1 billion, and "Minions: The Rise of Gru," which came out last year and generated more than \$900 million worldwide.

Mr. Lazarus, who oversees NBCUniversal's TV networks and the company's streaming business, has been at the company for more than a decade. During his years at the company, Mr. Lazarus has been responsible for striking deals with the Olympics, the National Football League and the Premier League, and he has been a driving force in the growth of "Sunday Night Football," the company's marquee N.F.L. program.

By Benjamin Mullin and Nicole Sperling, © The New York Times, July 6, 2023



**Donna Langley**

*What's Now!*

**Journalist Evan Gershkovich Detained by Russia.  
Commentary by Martin Fletcher.**

**Forward from Marilyn Altman...**

**Evan Gershkovich has been on my mind since he was detained and imprisoned in Russia some months ago. He is the latest casualty in what affects journalism world-wide, no matter who you work for or what medium you represent. I asked Martin Fletcher, our veteran war correspondent, to give some context to the world in which he and Evan operate.**



One conviction unites all reporters who routinely venture into war zones, or any areas of conflict: It won't happen to me. We know the risks we know the dangers, but we're all convinced that we'll come back safe and sound.

Well, some don't. And those that do, like me, often have scars you cannot see. People often said to me something like: "You must be very brave to keep covering wars, to put your life at risk."

I'm not brave, not at all. What I have is a well-developed sense of what is truly dangerous and what is not. If it's truly dangerous, I'm outta there. It doesn't matter how experienced one is, safety boils down to one single attribute: Luck. Capital letter Luck.

And that can run out in any situation.

Evan Gershkovich knew his beat, Russia, as well as anyone. But last March the Russian authorities decided that they needed a pawn, and Evan, of the Wall Street Journal, was jailed on a charge of espionage. He's still there.

Daniel Pearl, also of the Wall Street Journal, also knew his beat, South Asia, and took a calculated risk. Terrorists cut off his head.

Marie Colvin, who lost her eye to shrapnel in Sri Lanka, lost her life to a bomb blast in Syria.

Luck is finite. So sure, when people ask, "How do you prepare for a dangerous assignment?" there may be a check list: flak jacket, helmet, good communications, trustworthy local fixers and drivers, sometimes a bullet-proof car, travel with experienced and cool colleagues, know the area, try not to travel after dark in disputed areas, don't wear military-style clothes and, these days, you may even have body-guards.

You can prepare and plan for a lot, but one thing you can't plan for is bad luck.

*What's Now!***“Negotiation” by John LiBretto**

As I write this in late July, the Writers Guild of America-East and West (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) are still on strike. While their strikes started about two months apart, they are both negotiating with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), and are struggling with the same issues, mainly base wages, residuals and the coming threat of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Directors Guild of America (DGA) also negotiated with AMPTP (in June, after the start of the WGA strike, but before the SAG-AFTRA strike), and were able to come to an agreement on terms satisfactory to both sides, including base wages, residuals and AI issues.



All the contracts for these unions are usually for three-year terms, with a common or nearly common expiration date (WGA June 1, SAG-AFTRA and DGA July 1). The DGA likes to go first in the negotiating cycle in the hope of setting some base for all the unions to work from, especially with the myriad changes in distribution affecting the film and TV industries. This didn't happen this year; the AMPTP delayed the start of talks with everyone, and the DGA has come under some criticism from the other Guilds that it didn't hold out for enough.

All that being said, my own negotiating experience has been with the DGA and the so-called Staff Network Agreements. These have the same contract length and expiration dates as the agreements with the AMPTP, known by their names, the Basic Agreement for film, and the Free Lance Television and Tape Agreement, or FLTTA, that covers most television outside News and Sports. News and Sports are the main drivers of the Network Staff Agreements with ABC, CBS and NBC (FOX has separate agreements), which are negotiated in New York. Those contracts also cover local news at some of the Owned and Operated stations across the country; they also cover Associate Directors, Stage Managers and, at ABC, Production Assistants. I have been on the negotiating committee for twenty years, and served as Chair for three cycles.

Let me say upfront that the DGA does an incredible job of research on our business, its health and its future. The staff contracts are always negotiated well before the West Coast contracts for a number of reasons. First, while we don't talk directly with the AMPTP, the networks are part of the same companies, and our talks are often a bellwether of what is to come. Secondly, since our group is considerably smaller than the West Coast part of the industry, we have always felt we would get lost in the shuffle if we waited until the main event.

We started our committee meetings last summer and got an early indication of the storm clouds over the industry. While the first round of negotiations started early, in September, we made very little progress over the first fourteen days of talks. These are considered mature contracts that are usually negotiated “around the edges,” mainly on overtime and working conditions issues, with base pay increases usually saved for the last days.

The networks came into these talks with a much more aggressive agenda than usual, which conceivably could have led to massive rewriting of these agreements. Talks were suspended until after Thanksgiving, and there was still no progress after those sessions. We saw this as a warning to the entire industry of what lay ahead. Residuals are not an issue with News and Sports, but alternate forms of network and station distribution is, as is automation. We have had these issues on the table for years. On the automation issue, the DGA has made some progress; alternate distribution, not so much.

We agreed to meet again in February. Again, the first day or so was very frustrating. Yet, on the last two days, real progress was made, and a satisfactory agreement was hammered out by very late the last night. Significantly, some progress was made in staffing programming that airs on streaming services and secondary HD channels. A more realistic pay increase went to those who are on hourly pay scales, and there was minimal give back in other working condition issues.

However, we reported to the DGA offices on the West Coast that the companies appeared prepared to dig in and we thought that the later negotiations might be considerably more difficult than usual. Apparently, that was the case.



*What's Now!*

**Nightly News Celebrates its 75th Anniversary**



Above: John Cameron Swayze, Chet Huntley and David Brinkley, Frank McGee, John Chancellor  
Below: Connie Chung, Roger Mudd, Tom Brokaw, Brian Williams



*What's Now!*

## Bob Dotson's New Book

In *Make It Memorable*, former NBC News correspondent Bob Dotson and New York Times visual investigations producer Drew Jordan present a unique and engaging hands-on approach to the craft of visual storytelling. The third edition offers new insight for the digital age and a step-by-step explanation of how to find and create visual stories under tight deadlines. In addition to new scripts annotated with behind-the-scenes insights and structural comments, the book includes links to online videos of all the story examples.

Here's an excerpt:

### GREAT STORYTELLERS ARE RARER THAN GREAT REPORTERS

There are many books that will teach you the nuts and bolts of new media—how to use the tools, how to write and how to perform. This one reveals something more basic: how to master the timeless techniques of telling better visual stories. They haven't changed since the first reporters saw someone take on a woolly mammoth. Those ancient storytellers scrambled back to their caves, painted pictures on the walls, and said, "Wow, you should have seen the size of that sucker!" Everyone had access to the same information. The best storyteller had a packed cave.



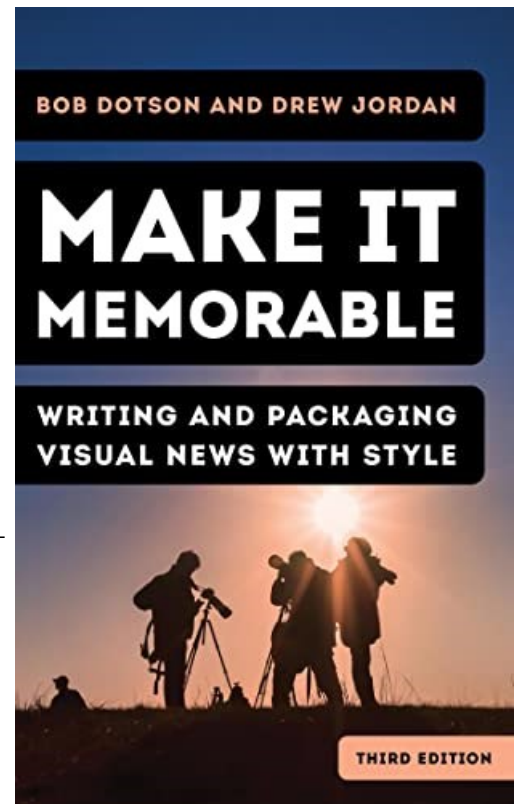
These days, facts and rumors fly so fast it's like trying to read a book with a four-year-old flipping the pages. How can you get people to pay attention? Start every story assuming that nobody cares about anything you're going to say. That forces you to find the universal themes that will interest the greatest number of people. Everybody likes to laugh, but the best comedians can make a four-year-old giggle and an eighty-year-old too. Talent alone won't do that. Curiosity and imagination make you a better storyteller.

It is the storyteller's challenge to reveal more than what happened. Many of the faces we see constantly in the news grab attention with manufactured outrage, realizing that reporters have little time for in-depth reporting. Most are expected to constantly tell what they think they know as soon as it happens. Reporters learn to gather facts. Storytellers weave those facts into a fabric that covers the subject while enticing us to learn more. Look for what others do not. The shortest distance between two people is a good story.

Adapted and reprinted with permission from Rowman & Littlefield publishers.

*Make it Memorable* was released on July 15, 2023

Bob is donating his proceeds from this book to help maintain the American Story archive at Syracuse University. More information at [myamericanstories.com](http://myamericanstories.com).



*What's Now!***My Movie Career...So Far, By Carole Wendt****Carole with Dean Urdahl**

I am a movie actress courtesy of Minnesota State Representative Dean Urdahl. Last fall, he asked me to play a pioneer woman in *UPRISING*, a movie based on his historical novel of the same name about the Indian Outbreak in 1862.

I had ten lines to learn and that scared me. I hadn't memorized lines since... well, Heck was a pup. That's why I did so many Reader's Theater plays at the Litchfield Opera House. No memorizing needed.

With script in hand, I walked around my house reciting the lines over and over and over. Then, it came time to rush to the set -- a park overlooking a lake. My costume did not fit so I wore what I had on -- an ankle length caftan. The extras, playing settlers, were already in place and an actor...playing a preacher... was finishing his speech to the crowd.

And then, it was my turn. I was to angrily lecture the crowd on how to handle Indians who came to their cabins. I told them they had to be

firm, tell them off and make them skedaddle when they got too pushy. Obviously, the lady was a bit off the mark. In fact, the settlers in the scene laughed at her. It was a light moment before the awful events that followed when the uprising broke out.

The director, Christopher Forbes, needed a long shot and a close up. It was just as I imagined it would be. He called for silence, asked the audio man if he had sound, and then leaned in to me and loudly said, "Action." I sprang into action alright. Talk about an adrenaline rush. I blasted out my ten lines as if it were the last thing I'd ever do. Then, I did it again for the close-up. No need to do any retakes. I guessed I got it right. Forbes and Urdahl said I was just fine. I hoped so.

It turned out to be a cliffhanger. My scene was not in a rough cut that the cast and crew saw months later, but I was assured it would be in the final version.



And, hurray, it was. I watched the finished product. There I was, one big close-up. My face spread across the big screen at Litchfield's Hollywood Theater. My hair flying, my arms waving, and I had forgotten that I was missing a front tooth. I had broken it and my dentist had not yet replaced it. I was later assured that it fit the character. And, to think, if the Urdahl/Forbes team's plans succeed, my filmic rant could be seen worldwide. Scary. And thrilling.

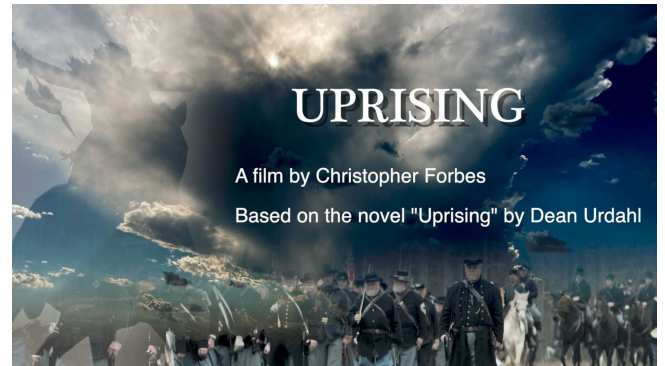
As it turned out, the two public screenings shown in Litchfield were so popular, five more showings had to be scheduled to accommodate the overwhelming crowds that showed up. After all, it was the first such project ever done in my little town, population 6500. Local residents acted in the movie and several scenes were shot in the surrounding area, including at a nearby recreated fort where settlers had taken refuge during the fighting.

Meanwhile, I will be sure to keep my phone lines open when the Hollywood offers roll in.

But whether the calls come in or not, it's okay. Playing my part in *UPRISING* was the most fun I have had in a long, long time.

It is planned that the movie will be released on a streaming platform soon and DVD's are expected to be available at a later date.

There is also a plan to shoot another movie this fall also based on the book *UPRISING*. Of course, I am lobbying for a part. Now that I have all my front teeth again, I may have an even better chance than last time.



*What's Now!***Al Roker is a Grandpa!**

Al Roker is officially a pop-pop! On Tuesday morning July 4<sup>th</sup>, Today show anchors announced that their fellow co-host and weather anchor, 68, is officially a grandfather after daughter Courtney Roker, 36, and her husband Wesley Laga welcomed their first baby. The couple welcomed daughter Sky Clara Laga on Monday, July 3rd.

Roker's Today family shared that the family "couldn't be happier" at the healthy and safe arrival.

Roker shares Courtney with ex-wife Alice Bell, whom he was married to from 1984 to 1994. In addition to Courtney, Roker is also dad to son Nick Roker, 20, and daughter Leila Roker, 24, both of whom he shares with wife Deborah Roberts.

Courtney announced in March that she was pregnant with a reel on Instagram set to Mariah Carey's "Always Be My Baby."

By Angela Andaloro, © People.com, July 4, 2023



*What's Now!*

## Audio Group Leads SNL Emmy Nominations



Outstanding Sound Mixing For a Variety Series or Special  
 Saturday Night Live Co-Hosts: Steve Martin & Martin Short NBC SNL Studios in association  
 with Universal Television and Broadway Video

Bob Palladino, Production Mixer  
 Ezra Matychak, Production Mixer  
 Frank Duca Jr, FOH Production Mixer  
 Caroline Sanchez, FOH Music Mixer  
 Josiah Gluck, Broadcast Music Mixer  
 Jay Vicari, Broadcast Music Mixer  
 Tyler McDiarmid, Playback Mixer  
 Christopher Costello, Monitor Mixer  
 Teng Chen, Supplemental Mixer  
 William Taylor, Supplemental Mixer  
 Geoffrey Countryman, Supplemental Mixer  
 Devin Emke, Post Audio Mixer

Other SNL Emmy nominations include Directing for a Variety Series, Picture editing for Variety programming, Music Direction, Guest Actor and Actress in a Comedy Series, Writing for a Variety Series, Scripted Variety Series, and Production Design for a Variety or Reality Series.

Summer 2023

The Palladinos in Ireland



With the Connemara Ponies

Bob and Laurie Palladino decided that this was the year for a trip to Ireland. In August, the daylight hours there are long and the weather averages at least 50°F. They set out from Dublin to begin their two week trek, following the coast. They spent two nights in each county and definitely got in their 10k steps a day as they climbed, walked on farm land, explored castles and ocean front cities, even hanging upside down to kiss the Blarney Stone!

The trip to the beautiful Aran Islands was a step back in time. They saw homes with stone fences and thatched roofs and



Cliffs of Mohr County Clare

heard many local people still speaking the native Gaelige language. Connemara countryside was filled with fields of the world famous Connemara ponies. Moving along the Wild Atlantic Way they stopped in seaside towns, enjoying the local seafood and a pint of Guinness.

When traveling through Galway, where Laurie's grandmother was from, they decided on a whim to look up the family name Cahill. This led them to the small town Ahascragh, where they met relatives they didn't even know they had, and also got to see the very house that Grandma was born in. They were given multiple invitations to stay with family on their next visit to this beautiful country.



Ashford Castle in Cong, County Mayo



Town of Kinsale



Cahill Family Reunion



Grandma's House in Ahascragh

*Summer 2023*

## William Bartlett Rides for Cancer Research



My boys lost their mother and I lost my wife from brain cancer in 2017. So when I heard about the Empire State Ride, it piqued my interest. The ESR is an annual bike ride across New York State to raise money for the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo. I thought it would be a great way to honor Monica and help fund new cancer treatments, as well as being a fun and challenging experience.

So on July 23, I set out from Staten Island with 300 other cyclists, arriving in Niagara Falls July 29. The ride was 560 miles, 35 hours, 150,000 pedal strokes. I rode through blazing sun and pelting rain, into strong headwinds and up steep hills, along deserted country roads, over muddy canal towpaths, through 70 small towns – and spent 7 nights sleeping in a tent. We weren't all athletes. But we shared a drive forged by personal loss and the desire to make a difference. It was a remarkable, unforgettable experience. I was especially struck by a gentleman named Dan, who I met at a water stop. Retirement age, definitely not an athlete – he had photos of his lost loved ones taped to his top tube so when he felt like quitting he could look down and be reminded of why he was riding.

It was especially meaningful to me to learn that among the many initiatives funded by the ESR is a new immunotherapy drug (SurVaxM) for glioblastoma (the deadly type of cancer that Monica had). The clinical trials are showing promise, and this could be a game-changer for a disease that has no effective treatment. The early research for this was funded by the Empire State Ride, because it is able to use donor contributions to fund a treatment when it is no more than an idea, which is something that the NIH and pharma industry don't do. That's why this kind of fundraising is so important. Without the ESR, what is now SurVaxM could have remained just an intriguing possibility brewing in a researcher's head, not a drug poised to potentially save countless lives. I'm happy to report that this year's ride raised \$2 million.

In 2014, when Monica had her first biopsy, the surgeon came out of the operating room to tell me he was able to identify the type of tumor she had even before the pathology report. He said it was malignant, and it would likely be fatal. My wish is that someday soon, a brain surgeon will be able to deliver a more positive message to a spouse, and I hope that the Empire State Ride will help speed that day. Monica faced her diagnosis with courage and grace from beginning to end, and aside from raising our boys to be young men she would be proud of, I can't think of a better way to honor her than doing this ride.

[Ed. note: The Bartlett boys are Jackson, 20, a junior at Oberlin College, and Nick, 25, an editor at creative agency Black Spot. Monica was an interior design consultant in Montclair, N.J. William joined NBC in 1995 and was for many years the head of Executive Communications. His position was eliminated in 2020.]



William with some fellow riders



The Bartlett family in 2009

*Summer 2023*

**Long Island Lunch Bunch**

16 Lunch Bunchers gathered at Domenico's of Levittown on August 21st for our occasional event.



**Steve Cimino, Jan Kasoff, John Pinto**



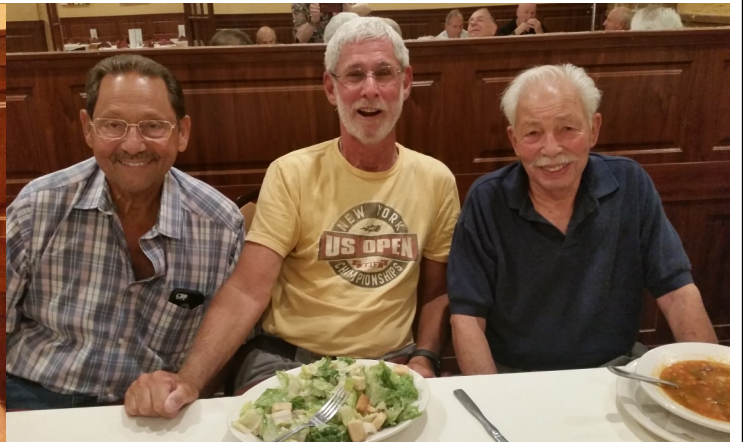
**Doug Szlompek, Greg Catanzarita, Andy Hope, Les Rothenberg**



**Tony Rivera, Donna McCarthy, Bob Natoli, Jeff Wright**



**Joel Spector, Bill Freeda**



**Jay Markowitz, Ed Cohen, Jerry Ryba**



*Peacock Family*

**David Letterman Studio 6A Crew Portrait**



This wonderful photo was taken in 1993 by NBC Staff Photographer Al Levine. Dave is surrounded by “Director Hal” Gurnee and their NABET and IATSE crew members.

Back row, L-R, are Barry Frischer, Steve Skroupka, Peter Basil, Bailey Stortz, Steve Singer, Tom Hyre, Barbara Byrd, Kathy Babiak, Joe Gafa, Carl Henry, Carol Collings, Glenn Arber, Mike McManus, Jerry Foley, Al Maher, Bob Rooney, Mike Mathews, John Rowland.

Middle row, L-R, are Ruth Roberts, Hal Gurnee and Dave.

Front Row, L-R, are Ray Cole, Bruce Leonard, Larry Zinn, Mike Delugg, Reuben Ricardo, Kevin Dronne, Mark Jankeloff, Steve Sirivanta

Thanks to Steve Singer for sharing it with us.

*Peacock History***A Winnebago Edit Suite Tale**

I remember being crammed into the back of a Winnebago while covering the America's Cup challenge in Newport in 1983. Super-producer Tom Keenan looks on while I'm surrounded by equipment - three machines, no controller (I rolled the "B" machine manually), small ShibaSoku switcher, Yamaha audio board, plus assorted monitors, TC readers, and color bar generator. Real submarine duty.

The Record deck controlled the Playback deck, but I had an additional deck here so I could dissolve back and forth. We didn't have anything like a BVE 800 controller so I just manually rolled the second player. It was mostly b-roll of the yachts, so plus or minus a second didn't matter. On another remote I tried making a "Y" cable to control two player decks at once, but not surprisingly, it didn't work!

Between inadequate cooling and two Olympian smokers up front, it's a wonder we survived. Eventually, every cabinet and cupboard, as well as the oven in the stove, were crammed with 20-minute 3/4" tapes. The poor Winnebago was so trashed at the end of a month of Network occupants that (reportedly) it had to be junked. Our courier bravely took it back to the rental place; there was MUCH yelling and many threats of legal action. Don't know how that ever turned out...

I should note that Tom Keenan (in foreground) went on to win more Emmys than I have socks - and I have a LOT of socks! One of the best, and spit-coffee funny besides.

Posted by Mike Chapman on the © Eyesofageneration.com Facebook Group, May 31, 2023

*Peacock History***The Peacock Clock**

For more than two centuries a unique item has been kept in the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. It is the famous Peacock Clock, created in the 1770's by an outstanding British goldsmith, James Cox, who became well known during his lifetime as the inventor of unique automata.

The automaton was ordered by Prince Grigory Potemkin as a gift to Empress Catherine the Great. In 1781 the clock was brought to St Petersburg in pieces and in 1794 a talented Russian mechanic, Ivan Kulibin, known as "The Russian Archimedes", set it in working order. In 1797 the clock was transported from the Tavrida ("Winter") Palace to a pavilion in the smaller Hermitage. Every Wednesday at 8 pm, the automaton is wound up, which causes four different mechanisms to be set in motion, creating bell-like music. Visitors see an owl, a rooster, a peacock, and squirrels sitting on the branches of an oak tree. Suddenly, the owl starts fluttering its eyes, twisting its head, raising its foot, all the while hooting. It is joined by the peacock regally raising its head, after which it opens its majestic golden tail. Slowly turning around, the peacock stands still for a moment, allowing the audience to study the detailed crafting of the golden feathers, before turning back and closing it again.

The spectacle ends with the rooster crowing four times, an action reminiscent of a cuckoo clock. Slowly, the last notes of the music fade away. There are a few precious moments of silence as the audience digests the magical experience; then the chatter re-emerges and the audience disperses in all directions.

The Peacock Clock in the Hermitage is the only automaton by James Cox to come down to us unaltered and in a functioning condition.

This page was adapted from the narration of the You Tube video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilPIVRoUI\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilPIVRoUI_8), and an article by Magdalena Polak, © Hasta Magazine, February 20, 2018.



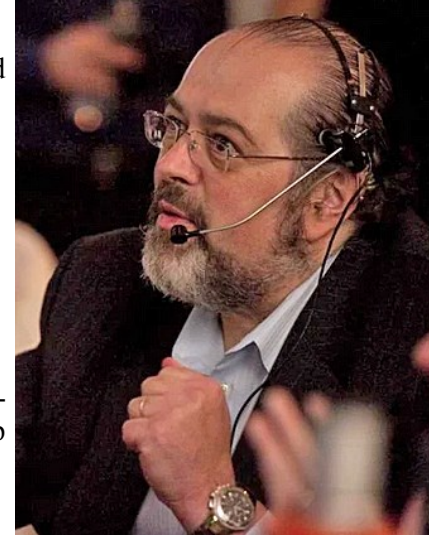
*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**David Bohrman**

David Bohrman, a veteran CNN producer and executive who pioneered the use of the “Magic Wall,” died on June 25th following complications after hip surgery, according to his family. He was 69. Bohrman, a native of Hollywood, California, had a long and storied career in television, starting in local news in Los Angeles. He joined CNN in 1998 and later became the network’s Washington bureau chief and senior vice president.

A CNN spokesperson said in a statement that “David was a CNN institution, a leader and innovator who mentored many through decades in television news.” “His impact at CNN lives on in our programming and his passion for news will be felt in our halls every day.”

Bohrman was the creator of countless news programs, having also spent chapters of his career at ABC News, CBS News, NBC News and serving as president of Current TV. He was known for his innovative approach to producing, which garnered him many awards. In 2004, it was his idea to anchor CNN’s election coverage from the floor of party conventions. Four years later, he implemented the Magic Wall, a touchscreen display featuring up-to-date voting data on election nights, which is now a staple of CNN’s election coverage and commonly used by other broadcasters. “David was one of the most innovative television news producers in history. It was David’s idea that election nights and newscasts could be produced with anchors standing in front of enormous video walls,” said CNN Washington Bureau Chief Sam Feist, who worked closely with Bohrman. “Now newscasts all over the world are produced this way.”



At CNN, besides launching a number of shows like “NewsNight with Aaron Brown” and “The Moneyline News Hour,” Bohrman produced more than a dozen presidential debates for the network from 2003 to 2008 and executive produced many election nights. “David was a risk taker who every day wanted to find a better way to tell or show the story,” said John King, CNN’s chief national correspondent. “His decision to take then just emerging touch-screen technology and integrate [it] into our 2008 election coverage was nothing short of revolutionary. And it wasn’t just cutting edge technology. David turned an old bus into a rolling television studio, bringing our political coverage into every corner of America. He made us better.”

Bohrman also executive produced live coverage from CNN’s New York Bureau on September 11, 2001, and oversaw coverage of many significant events through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the first-ever live coverage of the Battle of Umm Qasr.

At ABC News, Bohrman created “World News Now,” which is still on air more than 30 years after its debut. He was also a senior producer of “Nightline” and part of the original staff of the program.

Bohrman is survived by his wife Catherine, children Amber and Harrison and his beloved granddaughters Sloan and Paige.

By Juliana Liu, © CNN, June 25, 2023

Catherine "Diddy" Bohrman and family wish to thank everyone for their support during this trying time. The kind words and wishes are truly appreciated. Many folks have asked what else they could do. David was very devoted and supportive of his alma mater and making a contribution to The David Bohrman Archive of Innovation in Media and Journalism at Stanford University would be a great way to honor him.

Ways to make a gift:

Online: <https://give.stanford.edu/libraryspecialprojects>

(Write “Bohrman Archive-HAJPW” in the “Any comments or gift instructions?” field)

By Check, made out to Stanford University, and mail to:

Library Development Office  
Green Library  
557 Escondido Mall, Suite 102  
Stanford, CA 94305-6004

(Write “Bohrman Archive-HAJPW” on the memo line)

## Marian Porges Remembers David

It was 1989 and David called me from the 6th floor of 7 West 66th Street, then the headquarters for all of ABC News.

“Hey,” he said to me, “Come upstairs. Want to see something really cool?”

“Sure...what?”

“It’s a machine called Avid and it does non-linear editing,” David told me.

My obvious reply in 1989? “Huh? What are you talking about???”

It was my introduction to not only non-linear editing, but to the brilliance of David Bohrman. Until then, I knew him as a colleague in the ABC Special Events unit as we covered the 1984 and 1988 political years. Since I was so young and didn’t have the stress of one of the “grown-up” positions, my memory of those events consists mainly of the fun, the social aspect and the marvelous experience of being on the road. David was good company....but he seemed so much older to me. Not only because he had such important jobs, but because he was so smart and enthusiastic with ideas. and he exuded confidence.

That confidence and creative brilliance, paired with his editorial prowess, brought the country a variety of new ways to deliver and help audiences absorb the news. The Magic Wall, a variety of news programs and cable channels. He created a bit of everything. He was a visionary at a time we didn’t realize we needed one.

As I have said elsewhere, to know David was to love him...and, on occasion, there were times to love him a little less—in the heat of the battle or because he expected something he didn’t get from someone. And that was because David had high expectations of us all, as he did for himself.

But David also had an almost mischievous chuckle that I hear right now as I’m typing. We all heard that chuckle often. And, here’s something important I have learned about my friend and mentor (who hired me at NBC News in 1995, giving me an opportunity that changed and enriched my life in countless ways). He wasn’t only my mentor. He didn’t teach and encourage and support only me. He didn’t throw only me into challenging situations where I was forced to learn by doing. Over 200 people have replied to a Facebook post in which I shared the news of his death on June 25. More than half left comments, all of them special and wonderful.

The common thread: David was brilliant, creative, nice, competitive, supportive and ahead of his time. And he gave legions their first break into the business. David apparently knew talent when he saw it.

In any conversation David and I had in the years subsequent to his departure from NBC, he always kept me up to date on [his wife] Diddy (he was so proud of her work as an artist) and the kids. And, in more recent years, his beloved granddaughters. He loved being a grandpa. It ALMOST made him stop looking for his next project. I think David felt he had more left to give.

In multiple obituaries, headlines called David “legendary.” David would have loved that. And, in this case, I think you should believe what you read.

So, thank you, David, for what you did for me--and for our business--and for our audience. We are changed forever.

**Marian, former SVP, NBCU News Group is now Consultant, NBCU News Group**

David was a true innovator, rarely burdened by conventional thinking. Early on, he saw the great communication advances that the digital age could bring to network news. He proceeded to be a key figure in improving the way information is presented, particularly on election nights. We in television - and the public at large - owe him our gratitude.

**Bill Wheatley**

So sorry to hear this news. We worked closely many times at NBC during the late 1990’s. May his memory be a blessing.

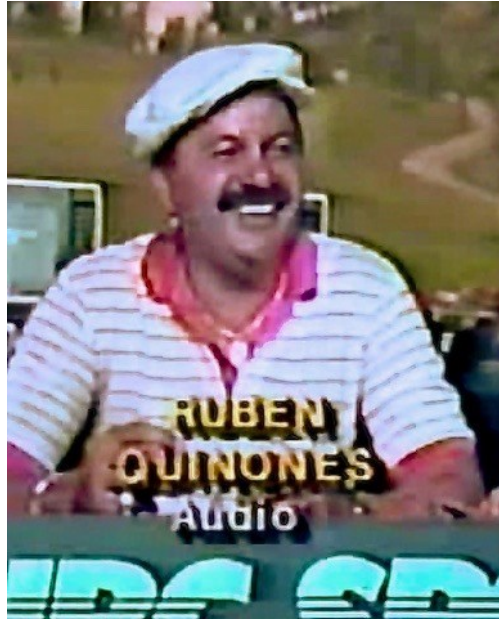
**John LiBretto**

So sorry to hear. I worked with him when he was at NBC Specials unit, on political coverage. RIP

**Mike Schreiber**

*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Ruben Quinones Remembered by Mike Noseworthy**



If you were fortunate enough to know him, just the sound of his name will bring a smile to your face. He was a friend to many and brother to a few. I was blessed to call him “Mi Hermano”. Ruben passed away at 82 years of age in mid-June after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

He definitely left his mark with all who knew him. We could fill many PN newsletters with fond memories and funny stories. He was truly one of a kind. He was a long time Audio Assistant at NBC working in the Studio Field department but, primarily on NBC Sports broadcasts. His career spanned three decades beginning in the 1970’s. It wasn’t an easy road for a young Latino man with a heavy Spanish accent. Ruben’s ability to learn quickly, his great work ethic, capacity to stay calm during an on-air problem, and gift to connect with the talent, truly set him apart.



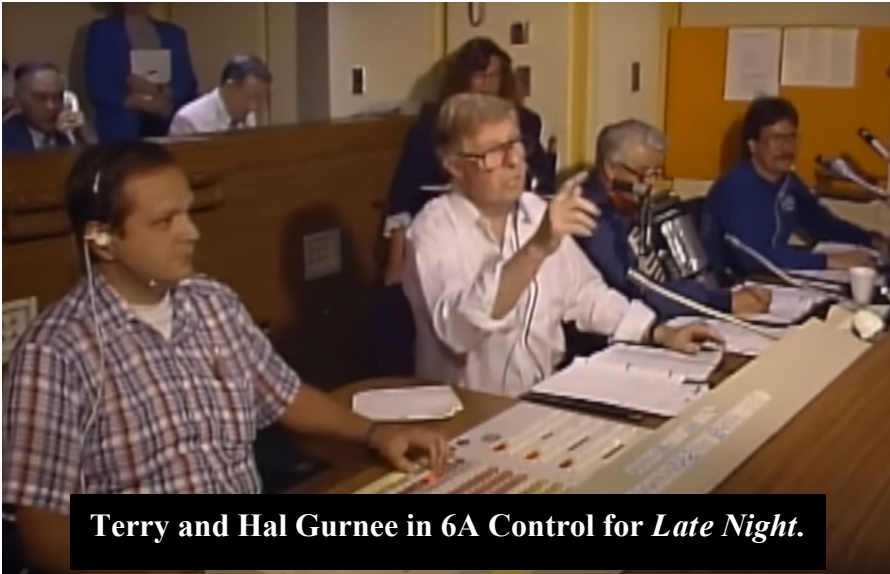
During the 1980’s, the HBO network’s slogan was “Simply the Best”. Therefore, the audio guys Ed McEwan, Larry Worster, and I would always refer to Ruben as “HBO”, because he was. Ruben was lead Audio Assist on just about every major event that NBC Sports covered in the 80’s and 90’s including MLB World Series, Super Bowls, Golf Tour, NHL All Star Games, NBA Finals, and the list goes on. He was also the lead A2 on many major jobs in the News and Entertainment divisions.

After his retirement I would call him every few months. He told me of his Parkinson’s diagnosis about 10 years ago and, as time passed, his speech began to deteriorate. The last few times I called him he would just accept the call but not speak, so I would rattle on for 5 or 10 minutes and always end with “Love You Buddy”, as we all did.

Rest Peacefully, Mi Hermano.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Terry Rohnke**



**Terry and Hal Gurnee in 6A Control for *Late Night*.**

Terry Rohnke, a Technical Director who worked at NBC from 1966 to 1990, passed away in New York on May 22, 2023.

He worked with Directors Hal Gurnee on *Late Night with David Letterman*, Tim Kiley on *The Miss America Pageant*, George Paul on *Tomorrow with Tom Snyder*, Steve Grymes and others on *Christmas in Rockefeller Center*, Dick Schneider on *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*, and Dave Wilson and Paul Miller on *Saturday Night Live*.

He was the winner of at least three Emmy® Awards, and a nominee for three other Emmys.



**Terry, Skip Dresch, Joel Spector at 1984 Tree Lighting**

**Friends remember Terry...**

He loved his work and excelled as a TD. We worked on many important shows together. Always that great sense of humor. Who can forget walking into 8H Control and Terry asking "Where would you like to fly today?" as he ran Flight Simulator on the Preview monitor! One of a kind. "Home of the Brave" indeed.

**Joel Spector**

Very much accomplished but more importantly, a really good guy. He was able to switch local news while also doing a Rubik's Cube at the same time. He also was able to set up a switcher in order to spell NABET on the vectorscope. A really bright guy.

R.I.P Terry.

**Russell Ross**

I worked at NBC and liked him. Just a brilliant guy who had the respect of so many. I am saddened to learn of the circumstances of his later years and passing. My condolences to his friends and family. Rest easy, Terry. You are free.

**Christopher Oliver**



*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Don Snyder**



Donald Snyder passed away on Sunday morning, July 16, at the age of 90.

Don, a Greenwich resident, was born on March 17, 1933, in the Bronx, New York where he grew up. He attended Queens College after which he embarked upon a life-long career as a journalist, beginning as a copy editor at Newsday. Early in his career he worked as a stringer correspondent in Budapest and Vienna for the Mutual Broadcasting System, the New York Times and for the Toronto Star in West Germany.

In the years 1966-67 he was an Advanced International Reporting Fellow at Columbia University, specializing in East European and Soviet studies. From 1970 to 1973 he was based in Berlin as the East European bureau chief for the Mutual Broadcasting System. Throughout his life he maintained an interest in Eastern Europe, writing freelance articles in his retirement. His last article, which was on the future of democracy in Poland, was published in Greenwich Time on Friday, July 14, two days before his death. And on Saturday, the day before his death, he was sending links to the article to his many friends.

From 1975 until his retirement in 2001, he worked for NBC, first as a news producer for the NBC radio network and starting in 1983 as a news producer for the NBC TODAY show. He was called back from retirement for several months in 2003.

In the two decades since his retirement, he has been a freelance contributor to various publications including the NBC website, the Forward, Hearst publications, and the National Catholic Reporter. He has also served as a mentor to aspiring young journalists and was an advisor on starting a school newspaper at the Young Women's Leadership High School in New York City.

Don is survived by his wife, companion, and best friend for nearly forty-four years, Alma Rutgers, and Alma's son and two grandchildren. Also surviving are Don's daughter Lorelei Rain from New Hampshire and his three grandchildren, Ariel Couture, Zephyr Couture, and Logan Couture, all also from New Hampshire, as well as his first wife Marguerite Samoorian.

Don's funeral was on Monday, July 17, at the Chabad of Greenwich synagogue, 38 Field Point Road, Greenwich. Contributions in his memory may be made to Barbara's House (formerly CCI) at 2 St. Roch Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Published by © Greenwich Time on July 19, 2023.

**Friends Remember Don**

I had the honor of being at Don Snyder's funeral today (July 17<sup>th</sup>) in Greenwich. He was remembered as a "No Nonsense" guy ... a talented and gifted journalist ... a great storyteller ... someone who cared about people... a wonderful writer (He even had an Op Ed piece in the Greenwich Time newspaper last Friday, two days before he died), a champion for the underdog, a mentor, an encourager. Don enriched our lives. We will miss him. I miss him already. Don had a life well-lived and well-loved. Thank you, my friend.

**Jim Wilson**

Don enjoyed irony. He was the subject of the second-strangest Workmen's Comp case I had to file as a News Manager at NBC. At one point Don was the morning editor, who replaced the overnight editor, then Fitzgerald Smith. Every night Jerry opened a can of tuna fish with oil at the desk for his dinner. No napkins, no newspapers-as-placemats.....just the blue surface of the desk known as the Big Blue Whale. One morning Don sat down, put his head in his hand resting his elbow on the desk.....and CRACK!!!! Don's elbow slid on the tuna oil, cracking his chin onto the desk. Wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it myself!

**Jim Farley**

On first visit to meet Don at 30 Rock: Don seemed generally excited to finally meet me face to face after having guided my 60 to 75 second scripts through the process of what was then called "news side." Don later that day invited me to go to dinner and that's when I realized he wasn't excited to meet me, rather, he was excited that the company would be taking us to Smith & Wollensky. I never saw a small man eat such a large steak in my life... I felt like it was an episode of the Flintstones. We all endured some crazy moments with Don at the helm... My thoughts are with his family and my gratitude for what he did for my career, and what he did for all of us in our efforts towards journalism excellence.

**Kerry Sanders**

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Rex Lardner remembered by his brother Mike**

It is with a heavy heart that I am sharing the sad news that my brother, Rex Lardner has passed away.

Rex was a loving husband to his wife Carolyn, and a proud father to his sons Christopher and Sean. He was a proud grandfather to Sean and Melissa's three daughters, Ryan, Sienna, and Milly-Grace.

To me – he was the best older brother imaginable. He was always looking out for me and nurtured my passion for sports. His 4-year head start on life enabled him to be the high school announcer at my football games. If I were within five feet of a play, announcer Rex would give me credit for the tackle.

After Rex graduated from Notre Dame, he served in the army. His TV career started when he was a page at NBC. He knew from the first day he walked into NBC that he wanted to be involved in sports television and he took me with him.

Rex was a sports programming savant who was first to put Larry Bird on national television during Bird's senior year at Indiana State. In February of 1979, Bird wasn't "known" to the general sports public, but Rex knew he was a phenom. In 1979 there was only one nationally televised college basketball game per week as there was no ESPN or cable tv sports. He made the decision to put the undefeated Sycamores on NBC against Wichita State and Bird did not disappoint with 49 points and 19 rebounds in the ISU win.

Unfortunately, the game didn't get a decent rating and Don Ohlmeyer (his boss) chastised him saying he could have put on an average Notre Dame game to generate a higher number. A few weeks later, Rex was exonerated when Bird's team remained undefeated and advanced to the historic NCAA Championship Game against Magic Johnson's Michigan State Spartans. NBC enjoyed its highest rating to date prompting Ohlmeyer to pat Rex on the back and ask, "Indiana State — who knew?" Rex Lardner knew.

His singular focus on stats and details made him a programming genius and I am forever grateful he was my big brother. A great guy, a greater brother. My sister Lonnie and I already miss him dearly. Rest in peace Rex you were truly an impact player.



Oh no! If there was anyone I was really close to at NBC Sports, it was Rex Lardner. I kinda followed him from out of NBC Press on up to NBC Sports, as he moved on to CBS...Rex and I exchanged birthday and Christmas greetings, and in that manner always managed to keep up with one another's lives. He was a Domer (Notre Dame), I a Buckeye.

Dammit, Rexie! I will always miss you...

**Chuck Adams**

*Tributes to Silent Microphones*

**Frank Field**



Frank Field, who as a meteorologist brought a groundbreaking credential to his job as a television weather forecaster in New York, and who also had a long career presenting network programs on science and medicine, died in Florida on July 1st. He was 100. His death was announced by WNBC-TV in New York, where Dr. Field began his broadcast career in 1958. Dr. Field, a presence on New York and network television for more than 40 years, was not the city's first popular TV forecaster. But he was different from his predecessors in one significant way. The most notable of those predecessors (who also became his rivals) were Tex Antoine and Carol Reed. Mr. Antoine drew the mustachioed Uncle Wethbee on his weather maps for the NBC and, later, ABC

stations in New York, changing the character's facial expression and weather-related garb depending on the forecast. Ms. Reed signed off her nightly reports on WCBS-TV with a cheery "Have a happy." Both enjoyed long runs on television. But neither had expertise in weather science.

Although he did not have a college degree in meteorology. His doctorate was in optometry, a profession he pursued for a time before embarking on a career in television. Dr. Field had been a weather forecaster in the military, a credential that earned him recognition as a meteorologist by the American Meteorological Society. He was a recipient of the society's Seal of Approval, which recognizes on-air forecasters who provide "sound delivery of weather information to the general public." He drew on his technical knowledge to interpret data from weather satellites launched in the emerging space age, and to explain the details of the illustrated weather systems he displayed on television.

Franklyn Field was born on March 30, 1923, in Queens, a son of immigrants from Ukraine. His father was a factory worker. He was studying geology at Brooklyn College and playing center on the school's football team — the quarterback was Allie Sherman, who would later be the head coach of the New York Giants — when he enlisted in the Army Air Forces in World War II and was commissioned as a lieutenant.

After the military trained him as a meteorology specialist, he flew over German-occupied France to analyze weather patterns that would affect American bombing runs. He later lectured on meteorology at stateside air bases. He joined the staff of the United States Weather Bureau in Manhattan and headed companies that provided weather data to newspapers and private clients. But when his wife, Joan, was expecting their first child, he sought a professional career that would provide greater financial stability. He studied optometric engineering at Columbia University, obtained a doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Optometry and worked briefly as an optometrist in the early 1950s.

In addition to his nightly weather forecasts, Dr. Field analyzed space missions on network telecasts, explaining the weather conditions that astronauts were likely to face when they touched down in the ocean.

Dr. Field left NBC in 1984 and moved to CBS, where he worked for 11 years. He later had stints at two local television stations in New York, WNYW and WWOR. He retired in 2004.

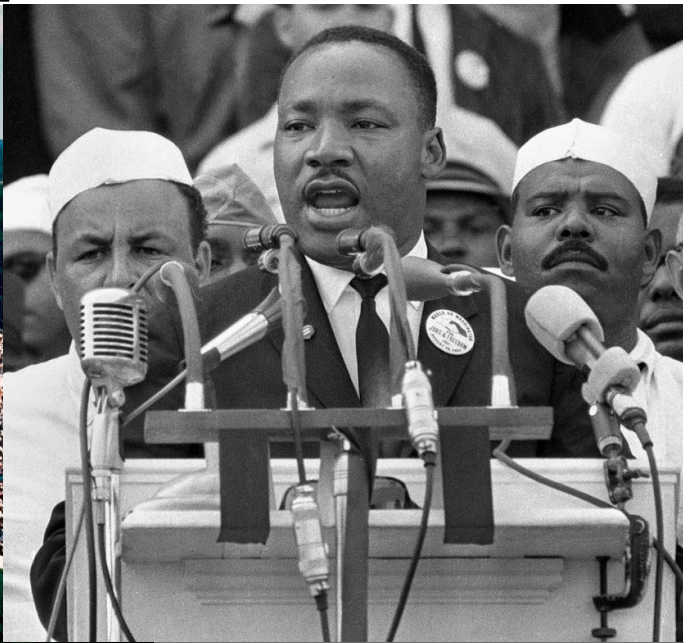
Dr. Field was also as the senior figure of a TV weathercasting family. His son, Storm (born Elliott David Field), began delivering weather reports on WABC in New York in 1976 and went on to have a long career there and on WCBS (where father and son briefly worked together) and WWOR. Dr. Field's daughter Allison Field was also a weather forecaster, on WCBS, in addition to pursuing an acting career.

They survive him, as does another daughter, Pamela Field; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Dr. Field's wife, Joan Kaplan Field, died this year. Dr. Field lived in Boca Raton, Fla.

Adapted from an article by Richard Goldstein, © The New York Times, July 2, 2023 - (Photo by © NBC4)

**NBC Covers the March on Washington August 28, 1963**


**NBC News Correspondents Ray Scherer (Left) and Martin Agronsky (Bottom) covering the historic event attended by 250,000 people. Our cameras and other equipment came from numerous NBC locations.**



**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, principal speaker, closed the event with his now-famous "I Had a Dream" speech.**

**[NBC Reporter photos courtesy of Eyesofageneration.com]**



*The Kickers*

**Archie and the Peacock**



**Poor Archie. Girls used to be happy with a hot rod...now it's color TV. That gives rich, snobby Reggie Mantle the advantage while 'ol Arch fiddles with a 12" DuMont.**



**Your contacts:** Marilyn Altman, Lenny Stucker.  
**Editors:** Joel Spector, David Heiser, Ken Fouts.  
**Membership Coordinators:** John Fider, Kathy Powers  
**Webmaster:** Rich Munde.  
**E-mail:** Peacock.North@gmail.com  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 112, Rowayton, CT 06853