



Celebrating 50 Years of Breaking the Glass Ceiling



**Elda Guglielmetti Became Rome Bureau Chief in 1978.
Seen here meeting Pope John Paul II in 1985.**

INSIDE PN

Cover - Breaking the Glass Ceiling	1
Marilyn's Page	2
Peacock Pioneers - Ellen McKeefe on Elda	3
Peacock Pioneers - Elda Guglielmetti Remembered	4-5
Peacock Pioneers - Ann Taylor	6
Peacock Pioneers - Colette Baptiste Mombo	7
Peacock Pioneers - Cheryl Gould	8-9
Peacock Pioneers - Kathy Barbee	10
Peacock Family - Chris Noseworthy's Odyssey	11
Peacock Family - John Gilmartin Retires	12-15

INSIDE PN

We Get Letters & Pictures - Pete DiIorio, Chris Oliver	16
What's Now! - Dateline Podcasts	17
Silent Microphones - Gene Waldstein	18
Silent Microphones - Adrien Barbey	19
Silent Microphones - Edwin Schobe	20
Silent Microphones - Maury Wills	21
Silent Microphones - Pat Donegan	22
Silent Microphones - Norman Blumenthal	23
The Kicker - Dick Ebersol's New Book	24
Peacock North Contact Info	24

Marilyn's Page



It is not usual that Peacock North does a theme-oriented edition, but there is a time and place for everything, and this is the time and place to honor some of the women breaking the glass ceiling in the past 50 years. This theme is about the women in our work force whose presence and performance have changed not only the “face” of broadcasting but the opportunities and basic dynamics of how women are able to approach their career choices.

Everyone appreciates reading history, but how many of us acknowledge that we *make* history, as every generation does. We *are* the history of our time, and we have changed the course of opportunities for young women forever. The success stories of just a handful have now been passed on to two generations of girls. We are watching the seeds planted five decades ago blossom into a society where women expect to be treated on par with men and have plenty of role models who helped create that legally-protected standard. They did this without much fanfare but rather by putting one foot in front of the

other, doing their job, and not giving up. And so, this edition has some stories to tell. I want to thank Ellen McKeefe who got me thinking about this when she asked to do a story about Elda Guglielmetti, Rome Bureau Chief in 1978 (WHAT?!). Her story led me to think about how far we have come as a more egalitarian society, especially for women. There is more to accomplish but this is our history, our progress seen through the eyes of a few. We’ve come a long way, and I thank all who helped make that possible...all my past and present colleagues.



This edition is going to print at Thanksgiving time. Besides hoping all of you had a great holiday, we are also marking the 59th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I would love to get some personal feedback from our members, especially those who were already working in broadcast news at that time. How do you think it affected our country? Our industry? You personally? Please send us your thoughts.



Also, a shout out to Al Roker, who has recently been recovering from illness. I know I speak for all of our 400 members when I say, “Our thoughts are with you. Get well soon!”

Before we go on to the good stuff, I want to announce that the 2023 Spring Luncheon will be held on (DRUM ROLL): SATURDAY, April 22nd. A first. It will again be at Sardi’s which, as of this writing, is not open on Sundays, so we have moved our event to Saturday.

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. Distributed through Digital Commons, this history will be made available to media scholars everywhere.

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

Ellen McKeefe on Elda Guglielmetti

I never met Elda Guglielmetti. She became known to me through Ellen McKeefe's memoir and the wonderful outpourings of those who worked with her. What I do know is that I stand on her shoulders as those of the women who came before me. Here are the stories of Elda and several others who have marked our history and our progress as women in broadcasting. They helped and continue to pave the way. "The slow way is the fast way". - Marilyn Altman

Sometime in 1977, a stunning woman of great presence swept through the fifth-floor newsroom at what was then the RCA Building. Elda Guglielmetti was soon to be named NBC News Rome Bureau Chief, the first woman to manage a bureau for any U.S. network. She had been a key player in the bureau since 1962, working with Irving R. Levine, Douglas Kiker, John Palmer and many other NBC News correspondents and producers.

I watched in awe from the Northeast Bureau where I was then a Field Producer. Everything stopped. All eyes were on Elda as she approached the executive offices. Almost daily I read in the overnight foreign desk notes that "Elda" (no surname needed) was busy. She was arranging an interview with a Vatican official, dispatching a crew to an earthquake or volcanic eruption or acting on a tip about the nefarious Red Brigades. She was the quintessential foreign journalist. NBC News management wisely gave her the title that described the job she had been doing for more than a decade.

A year later, August 1978, Pope Paul VI died. His successor, Pope John Paul I, shockingly died only a month later. In October, Karol Wojtyla, a Polish Cardinal, was then named Pope John Paul II, the first non-Italian leader of the Catholic Church. International news coverage of this series of events was unprecedented. Elda's contacts at the Vatican, always legendary, gave NBC News countless advantages throughout this continuing saga. Unlike his predecessors, JP II soon hit the road and travelled to 129 countries throughout his pontificate. First stop was the Dominican Republic in January 1979, on his way to Mexico and the Bahamas. Of course, Elda was in the small press contingent on the Papal plane. As NBC's producer in Santo Domingo, I got to watch Elda in action for the first time. It was the beginning of a 40-year friendship.

Elda was born in Villalago, Abruzzo, on January 1, 1926. Her family lived in Massachusetts for a few years during her girlhood, the origins of her bilingual dexterity. In the late 1930's Elda returned to Italy and, barely in her teens, used her language skills to translate English language radio into Italian for broadcast. Did that girl in front of a microphone aspire to be a *giornalista*? Elda told Joe Alicastro that in 1945, as U.S. troops were moving north through Italy, liberating cities and villages along the way, the mayor of Villalago (population 800) asked her to greet U.S. troops because she was the only one in the village who spoke English. One U.S. soldier entered the village. He was riding a donkey. Elda greeted him.

In December 1981, U.S. Brigadier General James Dozier was kidnapped by the Red Brigades from his home in Verona, Italy. While on another assignment in West Berlin, I was quickly dispatched to Verona. Elda and I were in constant contact for 40 days. Her police and military contacts in Rome were invaluable. In Verona, 300 miles north of Rome, I established good communications with PIOs from the nearby Vicenza U.S. Army Garrison and NATO HQ in Verona where Dozier was assigned. Elda and I talked on the phone several times daily, comparing information and often advancing the story well before other news organizations. Dozier was rescued unharmed in late January 1982 by Italian Special Forces.

Before returning to the U.S., I traveled to Rome where Elda and I had an emotional reunion. In a tiny *osteria* we toasted our partnership and shared pride in a job well done. I'll not soon forget walking through the chilly winter streets of Rome, laughing, arm in arm.

Elda died on April 28, 2022, in Rome. She was 96. She is buried in the family chapel in Villalago. Her daughter, Leslie, noted, "She is back to her mountains where the long journey of her life began." In addition to Leslie, a political correspondent for Italian television, Elda is survived by two beloved granddaughters, Greta in Los Angeles and Daria in London.

By Ellen McKeefe – Rome Bureau Producer, 1984-86 (NBC News, 1974-1992)

Peacock Pioneers

Elda Guglielmetti - A Sampling of Remembrances



Elda's first day as Rome Bureau Chief, July 1978

Tom Brokaw

Elda was an elegant woman of grace and intelligence. When I was with her I always felt elevated - and a long ways from my South Dakota roots. She embodied sophistication.

Bob Hager - West Berlin/Moscow Correspondent, 1970-73

My first encounter with the ever-elegant Elda came in the early 1970s when I was correspondent in West Berlin and Moscow. She was in charge of organizing a three-day conference in Rome for NBC's European correspondents to meet with Nightly News Executive Producer Wally Westfeldt. Aline Saarinen came from Paris, Ray Scherer from London, Doug Kiker was there, and so on. As word spread of the glittering list of gourmet restaurants and fashionable meeting locations Elda had lined-up, other New York executives decided that, surely, they needed to attend as well. Soon the President of News, Reuven Frank, arrived. Next came Mrs. Frank, and finally, the President of the whole network, Julian Goodman. But Elda, the only real European in our group, was the star. She hovered over every meal and every meeting with Old World charm and grace. And of course, she looked beautiful! As always.

David McCormick - Frankfurt Bureau Chief, London Bureau Chief, 1984-1992

Elda was perhaps the most elegant person I had ever met. She was so kind and well connected in Rome, particularly at the Vatican. She was always so helpful and gracious to us visiting NBC News colleagues who came to Rome to help out. She is one of the people who made working for NBC News in Europe so special. We were a family that worked hard and played hard. Ah, those were the days. We will miss her dearly.

Ellen McKeefe

Former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro was kidnapped by the Red Brigades in March 16, 1978. He was dragged from his car and taken away. His five bodyguards were shot dead. NBC News sent London-based Correspondent John Cochran to Rome where he and Elda teamed up to beat the competition regularly until the brutal end when Moro's body was found in the trunk of a car on May 9. During Moro's captivity his family was vocal in their criticism of the government because they felt not enough was done to find Moro or respond to tips. The family refused to participate in an official memorial service. Moro's body was released to his family privately the following day, May 10, 1978. Somehow Elda got that vital information. She knew that Moro and his family had a country home north of Rome in the small village of Torrita Tiberina. On a hunch that he would be buried there, quickly and privately, Elda dispatched Rome videotape crew Max Matteoli and Stefano Generali. They quickly traveled the 35 miles and arrived in time to see the entire village following Moro's casket to the local cemetery. Their videotape was the only record of this tragic end to a story that had dominated international news for weeks. Both Cochran and Frankfurt Bureau Correspondent Fred Francis wrote to this emotional and exclusive footage. Elda had a long history of making all of us look good. This was one of her finest moments.

Joe Alicastro - Rome Bureau Chief, 1989-1992

Elda was so dear to me. During my time as the Rome Bureau Chief, Elda was my eyes and ears in the Bureau while I was on the road. It turned out that I would be on the road most of the time during those years. I met Elda on my first foreign assignment as a unit manager. It was a profile story on Sophia Loren! How lucky can a guy get! Elda was the Rome Bureau Chief at the time. I was a still in my twenties, but Elda was kind enough to take the time to talk with me. I was very impressed by her position and knowledge. There was a way about her that I can only describe as class. Many years later when I became Rome Bureau Chief, I asked Elda if she would consider coming out of retirement to work part time at the Bureau, to be my eyes and

ears in Rome while I was on the road. In short, to be my *consigliere*. I needed lots of advice and that which I received from Elda was always the best. I know I could not have succeeded in my time in Rome without Elda's friendship, caring and sound counsel. It was a terrific partnership. She remains in my heart.

Karen Curry - Today Show Foreign Producer, London – 1985-1992, London Bureau Chief – 1994-1999

I had never met anyone like Elda before, certainly not in television news! She was elegant, charming, warm, but along with that, she was whip smart and wonderfully tenacious. In 1985, I was in Rome to do a week of live Today Show broadcasts. Elda had already arranged for us to broadcast from the Vatican, but we also thought it would be amazing to do the show live one day from the Colosseum! The Colosseum! Other than midnight mass, I don't know if any secular television program had ever come from there before. But I'm already thinking to myself, hey, we're the Today Show, so I was planning an interview with Valentino with mannequins magically sprinkled around the Colosseum in vintage Valentino outfits, and dancers from the Rome Ballet doing a Tarantella in the ancient ruin. But we hadn't even talked to the mayor's office yet and everyone was sure it would be a non-starter, until Elda led us into City Hall to meet with the mayor's staff, and I knew they didn't stand a chance. How could they? Elda gave a masterclass in how to make the people you are trying to get something from, think it was all their idea. She led them to realize this was the best thing that the city of Rome – and of course the mayor – could do to shine a light on their eternal city, in front of millions of adoring American television viewers. The die was cast, and Elda had worked her magic again.



**Rooftop of Castel Sant'Angelo,
with St. Peter's Dome in Background**

Stan Bernard, Rome Correspondent 1985-88

Elda was the "Principessa", who made me think of Italian royalty with a sensitive knowledge of Vatican City. When Tom Brokaw made a request for an unprecedented, one-on-one interview with Pope John Paul, it had to be handled, with guidance from Elda, personally and formally, by a hand-delivered letter to the Papal apartment. My Vatican credentials could get me just so far, but Elda had the form down: which rear courtyard, which entrance and red velvet gold-trimmed elevator escorted by a Swiss Guard took me to the vaulted mural and tapestry-filled upper corridors. I felt as though a time machine had taken me back centuries. At each turn a Swiss Guard in full ancient costume escorted me closer to the Papal apartments where I turned the letter over to the Pontiff's Polish secretary. Thanks to Elda we didn't miss a beat. Oh, Tom did not get the interview, but I got a first-hand look at a living museum.



Irving R. Levine, Federico Fellini, Elda and unknown man.

*Peacock Pioneers***Ann Taylor**

A look back by Ann Taylor, one of my favorite Peacock North members. Kind, gentle, a pioneering trooper, although she would never characterize herself as such. This is her story. – Marilyn Altman



When I was working at the NBC affiliate in Knoxville, Tennessee I remember, before doing my radio newscast, listening admiringly to NBC's Pauline Frederick reporting from the UN. A true pioneer.

Since I also did TV reporting and anchoring for the station, I periodically sent out tapes and resumes, which were periodically rejected.

When I finally got "my break", it came with a phone call from a man driving through town, who heard me and said to get in touch with a news director who was putting together an all-news staff at a radio station in Washington, D.C. (They were apparently looking for "a woman.") I did call, was interviewed, and was hired.

After several years in Washington, I received another phone call and in 1974 began working in New York for the NBC Radio Network, as an hourly newscaster and reporter. I suspect, although I didn't realize it at the time, I was given the opportunity, at least in part, as a result of legal action taken earlier by some brave women at NBC. In addition to doing hourly newscasts, I was sometimes sent to Washington to help out in reporting breaking stories. I suppose the premise being, that since I had worked in the nation's capital, I would know what I was doing. One of my first assignments was during the Nixon resignation period, and while I was a bit unsure at first, people in the Washington Bureau were very helpful and I made it through.

Other reporting assignments included being at the White House the last night of the Carter presidency - in case the U.S. hostages held by Iran were released, national political conventions including floor reporting, and the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

In addition to newscasting and reporting I worked on *The Women's Program* for the Radio Network, which won an award from American Women in Radio and Television. It was produced by Beryl Pfizer, and was her "brainchild." She is also someone I consider to be a pioneer.

The NBC Radio Network operations were sold in 1987. A couple of years earlier, radio had been moved out of 30 Rock to 1700 Broadway.

I went to NPR in 1989, where I was amazed to see the number of women working there.

But, I'll never forget walking into 30 Rock for the first time - the joy and pride in working there. As I said in a college graduation speech a number of years later, the sale of the NBC Radio division, "nearly broke my heart."

*Peacock Pioneers***Colette Baptiste-Mombo**

I met Colette back in the early 1980's and we quickly became friends, sisters. She is one of the treasures I found at NBC. Her tireless work ethic is only equaled by her high ethical standards and striking elegance. This is her story. - M. A.

My story is not ordinary. I began working at a local NBC television station in 1979, while I was in my junior year majoring in Communications at Montclair State University. It felt like a dream come true, after the documentary I produced on Lupus Erythematosus intrigued David Ochoa, a former NBC News Executive Producer who happened to be a guest speaker at my college. Mr. Ochoa was astounded that a student chose the same storyline as a program he had started to produce for the NBC Health Series. David Ochoa hired me on the spot as an NBC summer intern. I would never have imagined that my fate was sealed by Mr. Ochoa, when he opened a door of opportunity for what turned out to be a wonderful 17-year career at NBC TV in New York. As a young girl, I had always dreamt of a career in television. However, being in the right place at the right time, I learned that fate and coincidence are usually beyond our control. After my summer internship had expired, I was offered a summer position as an Audio Assistant working on the Today Show with Jane Pauley and Bryant Gumbel.

It was a challenging time for women entering a male-dominated industry, especially as an engineer. The Civil Rights era had just ended in the late 60's. It resulted in laws to protect every American's constitutional rights, regardless of color, race, gender or national origin. Although there were very few women working behind the scenes, and certainly a minuscule number of Black women, affirmative action played a very important role in advancing women and minorities into the workplace. Back then, I recall taking note of three role models who were news anchors, Carol Jenkins, Sue Simmons, and Carole Simpson, who was the first African American woman to anchor a major United States network news program.



As I began to work my way up the ladder, I eventually fulfilled my dream to be Technical Director. At the time sexism ran rampant in control rooms. I witnessed offensive language and also unwarranted advances directed towards women which were shocking and painful to experience. As the glass ceiling began to crack during the 1970's-2000's, women slowly moved into roles in every phase of broadcasting, creating role models everywhere. We became technical directors, associate directors, studio directors, producers, executive producers, camera operators, audio mixers, writers, bookers, accountants and financial analysts. We began stepping into corporate slots. We were on the move and finally taking an impressive foothold in key roles at the NBC Network.

After leaving NBC, I was quickly hired as a Technical Manager at Fox News Channel, and later worked for 9 years at ABC TV as a Technical Manager for World News Tonight with the late Peter Jennings. I received an Emmy and a Peabody Award for my role during ABC's 9/11 live coverage. I ended my 30 year broadcast career at ESPN & NBC NEWS 30 in Connecticut.

After concluding a demanding career, I finally got married late in life, and, at age 48, became a mother to twin girls. Being a mother can be extremely rewarding, but it can have unintended consequences for moms who want to pursue a career while raising a family. It has been humbling for me to see those expanding cracks in the glass ceiling and how society has embraced professional women through our sacrifices, hardships, struggles and experiences with racism and sexism. Women have become role models who have paved the way for our own daughters who will not have to contend with the negative behaviors of the past as they enter a wide range of professional domains.

Colette Baptiste-Mombo resides in Connecticut with her family. She works at IBM as a "Site Technical Specialist." She also serves on the Southbury town hall "Community Relations Task Force", and is a member of the leadership team for "Justice Southbury", a social justice community advocacy group.

*Peacock Pioneers***Cheryl Gould**

I met Cheryl in 1982 while working on "NBC News Overnight" with Lloyd Dobbins and Linda Ellerbee. She was already a star Senior Producer of that celebrated show. Before becoming a Senior Manager, Cheryl spent a decade at NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw where she became the broadcast's first female Executive Producer. Here is her look back. - M.A.

If ever I want to feel old (not that I EVER want to do that) all I need do is simply look back at my earliest days in broadcast journalism. When I describe those days, those newsrooms, those assignments to young journalists today, it feels as though it all took place in sepia-tone, and I may as well be talking about my experiences in the War of 1812. The speed and the volume of changes over the last 5 decades are dizzying in retrospect. But in real time, it felt natural to be riding a wave of changes both technological and sociological. After all, so much else about America was undergoing momentous change.

The first newsroom I ever inhabited was at a local radio station in Rochester, NY in early 1975. I was the first and only woman they had ever put on the air. I had to file my radio reports from the field by unscrewing the bottom part of a payphone receiver and attaching alligator clips to the phone's inside metal

pieces while the other end of the cord went into the reel-to-reel recorder.

I was able to make the move from radio to TV because, as the local station manager informed me, "their woman" was moving out west so they needed to fill her slot. Unsurprisingly the rest of the newsroom was white and male. At least the news director felt that something was happening "out there" and the newsroom needed to get with the program. More on this later.

Of course, the newsrooms were different back then in myriad other ways. They were noisy! The cacophony of clackety-clack typewriters and wire machines back then stands in stark contrast to the mausoleum-like hush in today's newsrooms (or bedrooms or basements or wherever the stories are being filed.) And then there was the cigar and cigarette smoke! No one had heard of second-hand smoke back then. The other radical change was the movement away from film to tape. Until tape was introduced, you had to write your script without the benefit of actually first looking at the footage while the film was developed in a marinade of chemical soup.

So many other technological growth spurts changed the nature of what we did. The very fact of being able to go live from almost anywhere began to alter the news itself. Whereas before, there was time to be reflective, put things in historical context, and go through a rigorous editorial process, the new technology began to dictate editorial content: immediacy and being first on the scene started to change audience expectations. The change at first was more pronounced in local news where reporters were expected to be LIVE, even if they were standing in front of a building where nothing was happening at the moment. Even at the network, if a report was done with tape (or later digital means), it became de rigueur to have live tops and tails even if it added nothing to the content.

Perhaps more significant than the technological changes were the demographic changes altering the makeup of the newsroom, changes which in turn led to a broader array of story selection. People of color and women added their own life experiences to the mix and began to break up the reflexive way the news had habitually been assigned.

Whereas before, the news centered around “building beats” (the White House, the State Department, the Capitol, the Pentagon, etc.), now there was more coverage of subjects such as health care, the need for childcare, abortion, veterans affairs, and the actual consequences in people’s lives of what was being decided in those buildings. I remember early on at Nightly suggesting these kinds of stories and at first I was met with quizzical looks from the guys. But that changed. And of course, with more women and people of color appearing on camera, not just behind the scenes, the newscasts began to look more like the country we were covering. Participating in the process of helping to diversify the population of the newsroom proved to be one of the greatest satisfactions of my career, even though there is so much room for improvement.

And then there was the corporate owners’ realization that news divisions didn’t have to be loss leaders as they had mostly been. They became profit centers and big business. All this was happening as the newscasts had to compete with cable and game shows for eyeballs to deliver to the advertisers. With so much competition, the news divisions had to be more “entertaining” to keep up with the audience’s shortened attention span and their hunger for news that was more exciting or “useful” than what was happening in far-off regions of the world.

I had the immense good fortune to be at the network at a time when news coverage and newscasts were considered noble enterprises. I was fortunate to come of age as the country was experiencing huge societal changes that rebounded to my benefit as a woman. I got a seat at the table because I saw no reason NOT to be there. Luckily, there were two men--Tom Brokaw and Bill Wheatley-- who were much more evolved than most and saw no reason to deny me that seat.

I looked upon a career in journalism, as did so many of us, as a noble pursuit, a public service, a way to better inform our citizenry to help them make informed decisions. It was also a time when technology enabled us to be creative storytellers in addition to gathering facts.

I feel extraordinarily fortunate that I rose up the ranks at a time when broadcast news was in its ascendancy. When it felt good to be surrounded by other women and people of color. When my colleagues felt satisfaction from getting the story right and were not just focused on advancing their careers. Every day that I worked at Nightly News I felt I had an awesome responsibility to our audience. Once I ascended (some would argue “descended”) to the front office, I missed the newsroom, but hope I was able to help keep the news division true to its mission for the time I was there.

Good journalism has never been more important.



Since leaving NBC News, Cheryl has remained active in the industry: Board Member, Committee to Protect Journalists; Jury Chair, Columbia duPont Awards; Juror, John Chancellor Awards; Guest speaker and panelist on topics relating to journalism and freedom of the press.

*Peacock Pioneers***Kathy Barbee Marks 55 Years at NBC**

Please join NBCUniversal in celebrating Kathy Barbee, who has been part of our team for an incredible 55 years! In 1967, Kathy joined NBCU as an executive assistant, and has worked on NBC Nightly News since.

She has traveled around the country as an on-location prompter operator and worked closely with iconic NBCU talent like Lester Holt and Tom Brokaw.

Congratulations on an amazing career, Kathy!

--Posted on the NBCEast Facebook Page
October 11, 2022.

“...This Just In!”

Kathy was my extraordinary reliable partner for many years.

When things got crazy I'd say, “Stay with me Kathy!”

And she always did!

She was a Hall of Fame partner!

Kathy, I love you.

Stay with me.

TOM BROKAW.

Peacock Family

All in Good Time: Chris Noseworthy's Odyssey

Our dear friends and colleagues, Mike Noseworthy and his wife, Suzanne, have been working hard for the past 2 ½ years to find a way for their son, Chris, to get back to China where he had lived and worked for several years and had recently gotten engaged. For those who have never been caught up in international events, such as COVID, with countries hammering at each other, it can upend your life, especially with one of the countries being under authoritarian rule. And these stories are, unfortunately, plentiful in the world today. This story, however, has a happy ending. Something we all can use in these times of turmoil. - M.A.



Above, on October 14th, the couple's reunion, and moments earlier, little Etta sees her dad in person for the first time.

In January 2020 Chris came home for a visit. His fiancée, Angela, remained in China. While Chris was in the U.S., China and the U.S. closed down due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. After about six weeks Angela found that she was pregnant with their child. They tried to reunite for more than 2-1/2 years, his visa being rejected time after time. Angela was not allowed to leave China due to her status. They spent hours each day on video chat, Chris reading and singing to their little baby, Etta (Rosetta). I can't tell you how difficult it has been to watch.

Finally, it happened. Chris' visa was approved in September, and on October 14th he was reunited with Angela and met Etta on her second birthday. The couple was then married on November 11th, Veterans Day.

Angela and Chris have done an amazing job at keeping their young family not only together but thriving. Suzanne and I are so proud of Angela and Chris, and we can't wait to hold Etta for our first time.
-- Mike Noseworthy

*At Right is their November 11th wedding photo.
Miraculous!*



Peacock Family

John Gilmartin: The Legend Retires

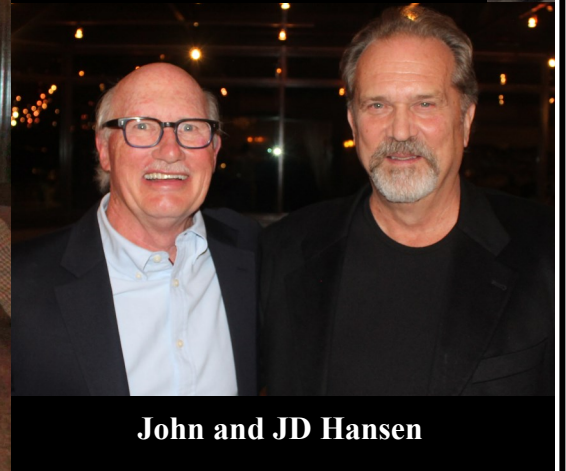
On November 8th, 63 friends and family members gathered at New Jersey's Ramsey Golf & Country Club to surprise John Gilmartin for his retirement after 46 years at NBC Sports. Here are a few of the many photographs taken by Courtney Gilmartin Greenberg and Julia Clegg Sansevere.



Carol Larson, John and Stacey Gilmartin



Jim Bell, Kevin Smollon, Steve Hellmuth



John and JD Hansen

Above L-R - Standing: Doug Zider, JD Hansen, Vinny Costello, John, Jimmy Roberts. Seated: Eric Eisenstein, Kevin Smollon, Carol Larson, Howie Hirsch.

Right: Standing - John, Susan St James Ebersol, John Fider, Stacey Gilmartin, Marilyn Altman. Seated: Dick Ebersol, Jimmy Roberts.





**Standing: Lena Glaser, Charlie Dammeyer, Matt Casey, Alexa Maremaa, Matt Celli, John, Kaare Numme, John Barnes, Steve Greenberg, Ryan Burke, Tom Popple.
Seated: Andrew Gayo, Andrew Lief, Jenna Smoot.**



Julia Sansevere, John, Dick Sansevere, Mary Muzina, Howie Hirsch, Kevin Smollon



John and Ken Fouts



The Gilmartins: Ted, Megan, Stacey, John, Courtney and Alex



**Standing: Mark Bellotti, Patrick McManus, John, Kelly Atkinson, Matt Salvatore,
Brian Reilly, Pete Damilatis.
Seated: John & Tami Ruddy, Susan Dyke, John Ciccone.**



Stacey Gilmartin, Marilyn Altman, Carol Larson, Mary Muzina, Julia Sansevere, Marianne Fischer

Here is a representative sampling of the tributes by John's friends and associates, transcribed from a celebratory video.

Johnny, you are an amazing producer, one of the best I have ever worked with. But more important, and this isn't an overstatement, how many kids like me, wouldn't be in the business today if not for Johnny G? If it was someone else who wasn't as generous, maybe we would have all ended up going to law school or investment banking, something awful like that. Congratulations on an amazing career with such immeasurable impact, and on all the little things you did that meant so much to so many of us. Only good times ahead. - **Aaron Cohen**

Johnny G, Johnny G, my old colleague and pal, its Bob Costas. I look back on all the times we collaborated, so much fun and so much good work that we put together, the NBA Openings during the 90s, the Jordan era, the stuff from the Olympics, the halftime commentaries on Sunday Night Football and often only working under the gun with only moments to spare, you managed to jigsaw things together that enhanced whatever I had written or whatever I had to say. I always try to mention when people ask about some of the shows they remember that pop up on YouTube these days, I always say, "Hey, I played some part in it, but people like John Gilmartin, without them, it wouldn't have risen to the level that it was able to attain". So now, I feel like I'm being a bit too serious. Johnny G, 46 years of fantastic work, one of the very best in the business, and one of the very best people in the business. Congratulations on your retirement, pal. - **Bob Costas**

Hey Johnny, I cannot imagine NBC Sports without John Gilmartin. I do not know how they will survive. I have sold all my Comcast stock. You are an institution. Seriously, I cannot imagine the French Open, Wimbledon, and all the Olympics that we were together without knowing that you were there to support me and everybody else. You are a remarkable person. I cannot wait to hear what the next chapters hold for you. Congratulations. We'll see you down the road. - **Brian Orentlich**

Congratulations on your 46 years of work. They say you're not retiring; you're reloading! Your career really has been tremendous; the Super Bowls, the Olympics, Sportsworld with Lance Sherman, Joe Fiscina, Steve Hellmuth and Jack. But I'm most impressed with what you and Stacey have done with your family. I wish you well. You and Stacey have been my favorite people all through life and I really love you both. - **JD Hansen**

John, it's been my honor to work with you over these last 11 years. Through every event, several Olympics; the joy you take in the teams you build, the way you work with everyone, it was and is my honor. I also want to thank you for all the work you did on all the internal projects we did together. Your ability to make me look articulate, intelligent, and interesting is really appreciated. Congratulations, thanks for all you've done for NBC and enjoy the next phase - **Mark Lazarus**

Buddy, I'm almost speechless when asked to put into perspective everything you've meant to NBC Sports and to me personally. There are two people that were incredibly formative in my television education. The first was someone who meant a lot to us both, Dick Ebersol. Then you, because you really taught me live tv, postproduction, how to turn things around, how to tell stories in long form, short form, I mean the list goes on and on. So, I just wanted to thank you. You are one of those people in my lifetime that I know I will look back and say I was lucky to work with Johnny G. - **Molly Solomon**

Johnny G! This is the end of an era. When I think of you, I think of lots of laughs and clutch performances. The magnitude of the telecasts when they were at their highest and the pressure was ratcheted up in the control room, I could count on you coming through every single time. Pretty damn good batting 1000 in this business. And throw in the creativity that you have in the edit room and the fact that you are a helluva great guy, well we have all been blessed to have you working by our side here at NBC Sports. Johnny G, thank you my friend. - **Tommy Roy**

Hey Johnny G, it's RD. Congratulations. 46 years is a long time – it spans 9 presidential administrations. Wow. And you're not only great at your job, but you are also a great person. I appreciate everything you've done for NBC, for my career, for the careers of so many, as a mentor, as a friend, as an unbelievably great all-around person. Thanks Johnny G and congrats. - **Ricky Diamond**

Hey Johnny G, 46 wonderful years. You started in facility scheduling at 30 Rock, I in manpower scheduling. Then we gravitated to NBC Sports where we traveled the world and laughed our way through the entire process. It was great; we had the most magical years at NBC Sports, including that one year where in one calendar year we did the Super Bowl, the World Series, the Triple Crown, the US Open, the French Open and of course, the Olympics. But my fondest memory is the compassion, the honesty and great integrity you brought to the workplace every single day. Most importantly, the mentoring that you did for all the younger people that came through NBC Sports was truly astounding and I can think of no one who did it better. I tip my cap to you Johnny. - **Mike Meehan**

*For those of us at Peacock North who knew and worked with Johnny G, we wish you a joyous retirement.
See you at the Spring Luncheon!*

We Get Letters and Pictures

Pete DiIorio's Pandemic Upside



Hi Marilyn,

You asked if there has been any upside to this forced limited state of personal interaction.

For my family there has indeed been some upside: My son, PJ, went off to college in New Orleans in 2009. Upon graduation he found a job as an AV technician in New Orleans. He remained in that position right into the heart of the pandemic, but was eventually furloughed. It was not a great paying job and lacked advancement opportunities.

During his furlough PJ realized that he needed to take action and decided to learn coding, and eventually found employment as a coder. He now has a career worth talking about. If it weren't for his isolation he never would have taken those steps.

Now all I need is for him to move somewhere closer to New York so he wouldn't be so far away!

Peter DiIorio

September 14, 2022

Chris and Teri Oliver

October 13, 2022

Hi Marilyn,

We are up here in Croton NY and are fine. I've been following on social media and in touch with some of our Florida friends.

I'm just writing to let you know how touched I am that you reached out to our NBC Family affected by this.

It reminds me that 30 Rock was a special place. We all spent so much time there over decades and under all kinds of circumstances. So many lifelong friendships were established for me. Practically my second family at times LOL.



Teri (who just retired) worked at Time/Warner for 30+years amongst other corporate jobs and is amazed by the camaraderie and friendships. After the last Peacock North luncheon she told me in effect "Other workplaces aren't like this. You all had something special at NBC".

I'm digressing a bit, but wanted to let you know your email served as a pleasant reminder. Should I hear anything from people down there along lines of being jammed up or having big problems because of this I'll let you know.

Take care. All the best to you, John and family. Hope to see you next Spring!!!

Regards,
Chris Oliver

What's Now!

Dateline Expands to Podcasting

The podcast begins with the sound of a car slowing down, and then a straight-talking narrator takes over. “It was dark when the killer shut off the engine,” he says. Over the next three minutes, eerie music kicks in and the host, Josh Mankiewicz, sets the scene: a freezing Colorado night, a woman shot in front of colleagues, a masked killer. “Who was guilty of murder?” Mr. Mankiewicz asks. “Who was not? And who got away with it?” A week after its debut, on Sept. 20, the show, “Internal Affairs,” landed at No. 1 on Apple’s U.S. podcast chart. That was not much of a surprise. Podcasts from Mr. Mankiewicz and his colleagues always seem to make the top of the charts. What is more surprising is where they work: “Dateline,” the long-in-the-tooth and occasionally overlooked television newsmagazine from NBC.

For years, television franchises and established news media institutions have taken turns trying to adapt to of-the-moment formats, whether digital video, newsletters or podcasts. Many times, the results are awkward and abandoned. “Pivot to video” and Facebook Live are bywords for news media experiments best forgotten.

And yet “Dateline” has transformed itself into a podcast powerhouse, churning out several original series a year, all of which have been hits. In addition, twice a week, “Dateline” opens its vault and turns old segments from the television show into podcasts. The archival material is also a success. On any given day, the “Dateline” podcast with the repurposed TV segments is usually among the top five podcasts on Apple’s charts.

“At a time where it is so hard for new television programs to break through, or for new brands to be established, the fact that ours seems to have renewed life is great,” said Liz Cole, the executive producer of “Dateline,” who helps oversee both the TV show and the podcasts. Listeners have downloaded “Dateline” podcast episodes nearly 800 million times since the first one appeared in 2019, NBC News said. Last year, the show beat out online heavyweights like ESPN, Barstool Sports and Crooked Media in Apple’s rankings of free podcast channels.

The “Dateline” podcasts are helping the genre reach a new audience. The median age of viewers of the Friday night edition of “Dateline” is 63, according to Nielsen. On Spotify, the median age of a “Dateline” podcast listener is 41, according to data from Chartable, which was supplied by NBC News.

It has been quite a turn of events for a 30-year-old television show. The show, which premiered in 1992 with Stone Phillips and Jane Pauley as co-anchors, began as a traditional TV newsmagazine — with three to five segments that typically included interviews, features and investigations. In the 1990s, during network television’s newsmagazine craze, “Dateline” could occupy as much as five hours of NBC’s prime-time schedule each week. Over the past 20 years, the show has remained a mainstay of the NBC schedule, filling in gaps whenever called upon in addition to holding its usual Friday night slot. In 2005, “Dateline” began to transform, starting to move more aggressively into true crime. With broadcast viewership steadily falling, murders simply rated better. Soon, four or five segments became one hour-long story, with true crime as the sole focus of the series. By the late 2010s, the “Dateline” producers were considering adding podcasts to the staff’s workload. The competition, they felt, was lacking.

“I got really irritated with all the amateur crime podcasts,” said David Corvo, the senior executive producer of “Dateline.” “I said, Wait a minute, we can do this way better than this.” So Mr. Corvo and Ms. Cole went about trying to persuade the show’s team of correspondents to take on more work.

It has been a learning curve for the staff. Each story for the podcast is told over six one-hour episodes, requiring far different pacing from the hour it gets on television. “Doing these stories via podcast has been more pleasurable than most things I’ve done in my ridiculously long career.”

“Internal Affairs,” the podcast hosted by Mr. Mankiewicz, a longtime reporter for “Dateline,” will consist of six episodes, with an episode released each week until mid-October. Next year, “Dateline” is planning on rolling out another four original series. Indeed, the adaptation to podcasting has gone better than either Ms. Cole or Mr. Corvo could have anticipated.

Excerpted from an article by John Koblin, October 2, 2022, © The New York Times



David Corvo and Liz Cole

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Gene Waldstein



Gene Waldstein, long time Associate Director and Stage Manager for NBC, passed away of acute myelomic leukemia on September 13th, 2022. He was 91.

While earning a bachelor's degree from Boston University's School of Public Relations and Communications, Gene Waldstein was the assistant program director of the college's radio station. His road to a career in broadcasting continued when he was drafted into the Army. He served for two years in Niigata, Japan, as a staff announcer with the Far East Network of the Armed Forces Radio Service.

Shortly before shipping out, on May 11, 1954, he married Deborah Ruth Lewis, his high school sweetheart, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. She later sailed to meet him in Japan, where they lived for the first year of their marriage. The couple moved to New York City in 1956, when Mr. Waldstein was hired as a page at NBC. He worked for the network until his retirement in 1993, having risen to Stage Manager and Director. After four years in Forest Hills, Queens, the couple moved to Verona, N.J.

Eugene Gordon Waldstein was born in Boston on July 5, 1931, to Julius and Rebecca Waldstein. After their mother died of cancer at 41, Mr. Waldstein and his sister Miriam were raised in Boston by their uncle and aunt, Saul and Gertrude Pearlman.

After serving as a page at NBC, he worked as a Production Assistant for the network's local station, WNBC, then as a Stage Manager for "The Shari Lewis Show" and other local programs. After promotion to the national network, he was a Stage Manager on "The Price Is Right," then hosted by Bill Cullen, and "The Jack Paar Show." Many other variety shows, game shows, and news and sports events followed.

During the 1970s he was Stage Manager for the children's series "Go Show," and he directed "Eye Guess," another game show hosted by Cullen. His longest tenure at NBC was as Associate Director for "News 4 New York," which was hosted by Chuck Scarborough and Sue Simmons.

The Waldsteins bought a summer cottage in Amagansett in 1970. Ten years later they moved to East Hampton. They were members and volunteers at Guild Hall, where he enjoyed hanging artwork for the Clothesline Art sale, his family said. They also belonged to the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society and met weekly with a group to clear hiking trails.

In 2003, after Ms. Waldstein retired from teaching math at Verona High School, the couple became full-time residents of East Hampton. For two decades they were active members of the Center for Creative Retirement, a lifelong-learning program based first in Southampton and subsequently in Riverhead.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by their two children, Mark Waldstein of Seattle and Rachel Waldstein Kagy of Arlington, Va. His sisters, Miriam Wesson of New York City and Hope Quallo of Pittsford, N.Y., also survive, as does a grandson, Alex Kagy.

Mr. Waldstein was buried at the Independent Jewish Cemetery of Sag Harbor on September 18. The family has suggested donations to the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society, P.O. Box 2144, Amagansett 11930.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Adrien Barbey**

Adrien Yves Barbey, age 87, of Delray Beach, FL, passed away on September 29, 2022. Born in Switzerland to Yves Barbey and Georgina De Haller Barbey, Adrien graduated from the Business and Hotel Management School in Lausanne. He immigrated to the U.S. in the 1950s and began his career as a restaurateur in New York City.

For many years he owned Hurley's Saloon, a popular landmark Manhattan restaurant. Adrien was a force of nature, living life to the fullest and bringing joy to every room he entered. He was a passionate sailor and loved spending time on his boat, the Sea Mouse, often competing in the "Around Long Island Race" and the "Newport to Bermuda Race." Overwhelmingly generous, Adrien was a constant source of strength and support to family and friends, as well as a supporter of numerous causes, including The Wounded Warrior Project and Operation Smile.



In 1999, Adrien received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, presented to Americans who have made significant contributions to the nation. Adrien's family meant more to him than anything else in the world.

He is survived by Barbara, his beloved wife of 62 years; three of their children: Paul (Susan), Scott (Claudia) and Suzanne Terwilliger (John); eight grandchildren: Alexandra, Emily, Nicholas, Cynthia, Sarah, Matthew, Katie (Lia) and Robert (Alyssa); one great-grandchild, Aubrey; and his sister, Monique. He was predeceased by his daughter Christina and his brother, Bertrand.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Adrien can be made to The Wounded Warrior Project.

No services will take place.

Published by © The New York Times on October 7, 2022.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Wes Schobe**

Willis Edwin Shobe (Wes) went home peacefully to be with his God on August 23, 2022, surrounded by his wife, Diana and his son, Troy.

Willis was born on June 23, 1931, to Virgil and Doris Shobe in Omaha, Nebraska. At age 17, Wes enlisted in the U.S. Navy, being stationed in Arizona. After serving four years active duty, he was honorably discharged receiving the Good Conduct Medal. From there, he started his career in sales and service, but remained faithful to his true love – electronics. He followed his dream and became an Audio Engineer with NBC Network News. His career took him all over the world, meeting presidents, dignitaries, and other heads of state. He loved his career so much so, they had to force him to sit down and enjoy his well-earned retirement.

Willis met and married his soul mate on August 4, 1976, becoming Diana's "Knight in Shining Armor" and Diana becoming his "Lady Di".

He leaves to mourn his passing but cherish his memories, his wife of 46 years, Diana Robertson Shobe, and children Alaiyo (Rodney), Stephen (Jane), Ronald (Holly), Bruce (Tammy), Troy, and Carl (Sade). Wes also leaves one sister-in-law, Elizabeth (Archie), two brothers-in-law, Ronald (Dorri) and Frankie (Linda), 19 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, his confidants and best friends, William Purdy and Carl Schumacher and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Doris Shobe, two brothers, Milton and Edward, two brothers-in-law, Michael and Phillip, and one granddaughter Jamila.

A memorial visitation and a Celebration of Life service were held on September 16, 2022. Military Honors and Inurnment followed at the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Jennings, Louisiana under the direction of King's Funeral Home.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Maury Wills**

Maury Wills, the star Los Angeles Dodger shortstop who revived the art of base-stealing in the 1960s and became one of the most exciting ballplayers of his time, died on September 19th at his home in Sedona, Ariz. He was 89. His death was announced by the Dodgers. Wills was a baseball analyst for NBC-TV's "Game of the Week" during the 1970s.

The chants of "Go, go, go!" resounded from Dodger fans when the slender Wills took a lead off first base. He was soon off and running — stealing second base, and sometimes third moments later, spurring the usually light-hitting Dodgers to scratch out enough runs to come up winners. Wills had spent more than eight seasons in the minors when he joined the Dodgers in early June 1959. But he took over at shortstop and helped bring the team four pennants and three World Series championships.

Wills set a modern major league record when he stole 104 bases in 1962, eclipsing the record of 96 set by Ty Cobb in 1915 and transforming baseball from the power game that had prevailed since Babe Ruth's heyday. He set the stage for Lou Brock of the St. Louis Cardinals, who stole 118 bases in 1974, and Rickey Henderson of the Oakland A's, who set the current record with 130 steals in 1982.

The Seattle Mariners hired Wills in August 1980 as the third Black manager in major league baseball history, following Frank Robinson of the Cleveland Indians and Larry Doby of the Chicago White Sox. But Wills's managerial tenure was brief and unsuccessful. He was later plagued by cocaine addiction.

Maurice Morning Wills was born on Oct. 2, 1932, in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C., one of 13 children of Guy and Mable Wills. His father was a minister who also worked as a machinist at the Washington Navy Yard. His mother worked as an elevator operator. At Cardozo High School in Washington, Wills played football — quarterback on offense, safety on defense and kicker on special teams — and starred in baseball as a pitcher, winning all-city honors in both sports. He was converted to an infielder after joining the Dodgers' organization in 1951.

In his rookie season with the Dodgers, the team won the World Series, defeating the Chicago White Sox, who had their own outstanding base-stealer in Luis Aparicio. Wills stole 50 bases in 1960, his first full season, and went on to win the National League's base-stealing title every year through 1965.

He was named the league's most valuable player in 1962. He played on Dodger World Series championship teams again in 1963 and 1965 and a pennant-winner in 1966, teams powered by the pitching of Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale.

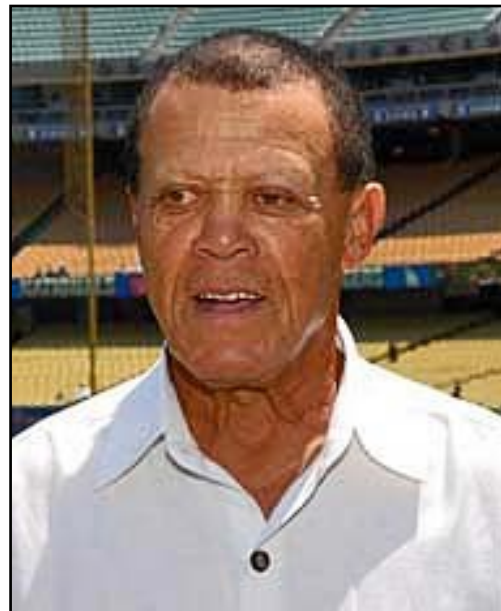
Wills was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates after the 1966 season. He later played for the Montreal Expos and then was traded back to the Dodgers in June 1969, finishing his career with them in 1972.

He stole 586 bases (putting him 20th on the all-time major league career list) and had a career batting average of .281, with 2,134 hits — only 20 of them home runs. He was a five-time All-Star and winner of the Gold Glove award for fielding in 1961 and 1962. He remained on the Hall of Fame ballot for 15 seasons but was never inducted.

Wills had six children, all from his first marriage, to Gertrude (Elliott) Wills, whom he married in high school, according to his memoir. That marriage ended in divorce, as did his second marriage, to Angela George. He is survived by his third wife, Carla; two sons, Barry and Bump; four daughters, Mauricia Wills, Anita Wills, Wendi Wills and Susan Wills-Quam; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. A number of his siblings also survive him. Wills's son Bump was an infielder for the Texas Rangers and Chicago Cubs in the late 1970s and early '80s.

Though his Dodgers were usually winners, Wills didn't need to look at the scoreboard to tell when he had fallen short. "I know when I have had a lousy day just by looking down at my uniform," he told Sports Illustrated in 1965. "If it isn't dirty, I haven't scored two runs, I haven't done my job."

Excerpted from a story by Richard Goldstein, © The New York Times, September 20, 2022. Alex Traub contributed reporting.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Pat Donegan**

Patricia Anne Donegan, 93, died November 9, 2022 in hospice care alongside family at home in her New York City apartment in Tudor City.

Born in New Brunswick, NJ, on November 24, 1928, Pat was the daughter of the late Edmund Ambrose and Gertrude Veraconda (O'Connor) Donegan. After graduating from New Brunswick High School in January of 1946, Pat worked as a telephone operator for New Jersey Bell, then as a civilian at Camp Kilmer, both in New Brunswick.

Pat's long career with NBC began in 1954, when she applied for a secretarial position. She got the job, launching her impressive rise through the ranks at 30 Rockefeller Plaza from the 1950s through the 1990s when she retired as Director of Program Administration for WNBC. She moved to Manhattan from her native New Jersey in 1965.



Pat was an important central figure in her extended family all her life, rarely missing a baptism, wedding, confirmation, birthday, holiday celebration, funeral or other occasions. In New York, she had a vast network of devoted and enduring friendships in her neighborhood, city and throughout the tri-state area. Pat had a sharp wit and sense of humor right through her final days, an encyclopedic memory of family lore and trivia, and loved to laugh.

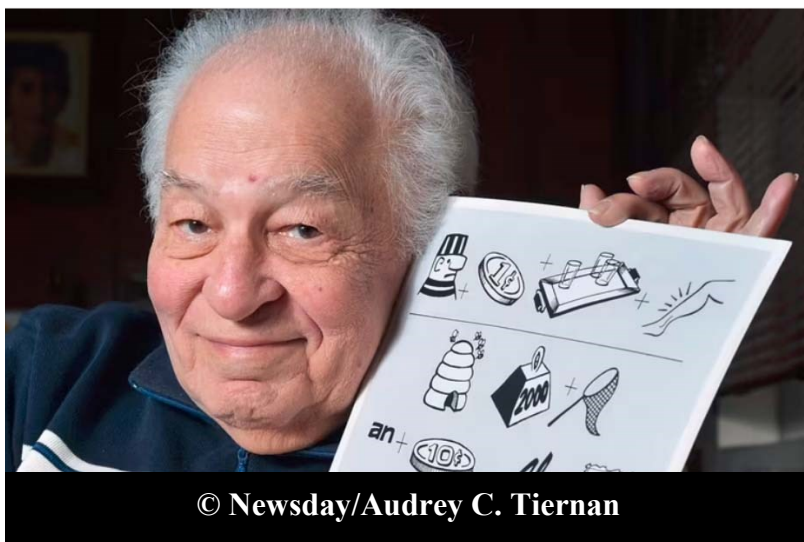
She was predeceased by three sisters, Ruth Meaney, Jean Tarnacki and Jane Loftus, her brother, Ambrose Donegan, brothers-in-law Don Meaney, Walter Tarnacki and Vincent Loftus, sister-in-law Patricia Donegan and nephew, Michael Donegan. Survivors include eight nieces, three nephews and extended family.

A Catholic Mass in celebration of Patricia's life was held on Saturday, November 19 at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Manhattan.. Private burial was at St. Peter's Cemetery in New Brunswick, NJ.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Norman Blumenthal**

Norm Blumenthal loved puzzles. A creative thinker, he adored the memory-testing card game, "Concentration," and found a way to bring its entertainment value to the television screen. The West Hempstead, NY resident served as executive producer throughout the entire run of the 1960s hit TV game show version and was one of the pioneers of the American Movie Classics channel. He died on September 23, 2022, at the age of 97, from multi-organ failure.

Blumenthal was born October 11, 1925, in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. His passion for the arts was realized in high school after he thrived during performances in the auditorium but failed French class. "His teacher looked at him and said that he didn't belong in that school, and he was recommended to The High School of Art and Design in Manhattan. That put him on a path to entertainment," said son Howard Blumenthal, 70, of Pennsylvania.



© Newsday/Audrey C. Tiernan

In 1943, Norm Blumenthal went into the Navy, with a first deployment to the Philippines and then to Japan as a signalman. During his time on the USS Oklahoma City, Blumenthal built scenery and directed shows for his fellow sailors. When the war ended, he enrolled in the Brooklyn Museum Art School, which enabled him to land his first job as a commercial artist for a small agency, eventually working his way up to assistant art director at Esquire magazine.

Blumenthal met his late wife, Sylvia — who died in 1991 — on vacation in the Catskills. The two married in Brooklyn in October 1950 and had three children: Howard, Bob, and Lori. After living for a few years in Woodhaven, Queens, Blumenthal moved his family to West Hempstead in 1965. "He was a very nurturing, sensitive father who enjoyed watching his children grow and having an influence in their well-being," said son, Bob Blumenthal, 66, of Plainview. "He loved storytelling, writing, doing crossword puzzles, traveling, but more than anything, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends."

The beginning of Blumenthal's television career was on "Winky Dink and You," a Saturday morning children's television series produced by Barry and Enright Productions. In 1957, during the era of big-money quiz shows, the idea of bringing "Concentration" to television was floated around Blumenthal's office. It came to fruition when, in 1958, "Concentration" and its famous rebus puzzles, premiered on NBC. "When it first aired, the show was live and in black and white. Then it went to videotape and color, and Dad was around for all of it," said Howard. "The evolution of television was very much a part of his professional life."

Before its nearly 15-year run came to an end, Blumenthal not only created all of more than 9,000 puzzles used on the television show (without repetition), but also every puzzle utilized in all 24 annual editions of the Milton Bradley home game — which became one of the bestselling board games in the brand's history.

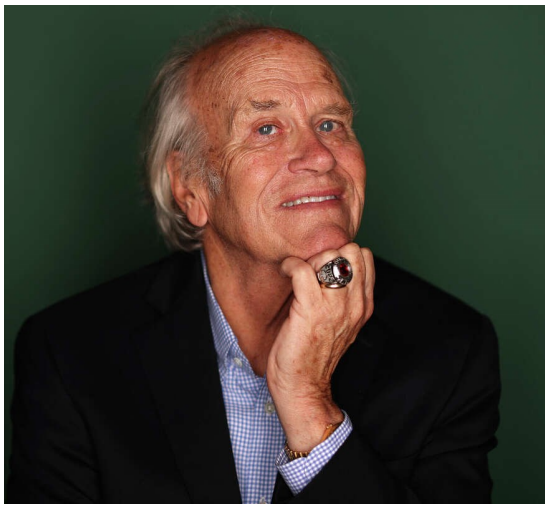
So what came next? "He was asked to produce [the latest incarnation of] a children's television show [which first aired in 1955] that featured celebrities with complete creative freedom," said Bob Blumenthal. The show was "Wonderama," which is still on television after several revitalizations. Blumenthal worked hard to include a large sampling of celebrities with different heritages and backgrounds to serve as role models for children. He met a host of celebrities including Arthur Ashe, Lauren Bacall, Johnny Carson, Michael Jackson, Jimmy Stewart, and Betty White, but his favorites were Muhammad Ali and comedian and pianist Victor Borge. "He was very comfortable around famous people and didn't care about the accolades or awards; he cared about his work, his reputation, and being a part of a change in media, Howard Blumenthal said. "At the end of the day, he was a nice, creative, and respected guy who wanted to make a difference."

In addition to his sons, Blumenthal is survived by a daughter, Lori Blumenthal, 59, of Oregon; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Services and interment were held at Mount Ararat Cemetery in Lindenhurst.

By Jennifer Fauci, Special to © Newsday, November 8, 2022 [Bracketed comments by Joel Spector].

The Kickers

Dick Ebersol's New Book



A memoir is being published by the legendary television executive detailing his pioneering work on Saturday Night Live, Sunday Night Football, the Olympics, the NBA, music videos, late night, and more.

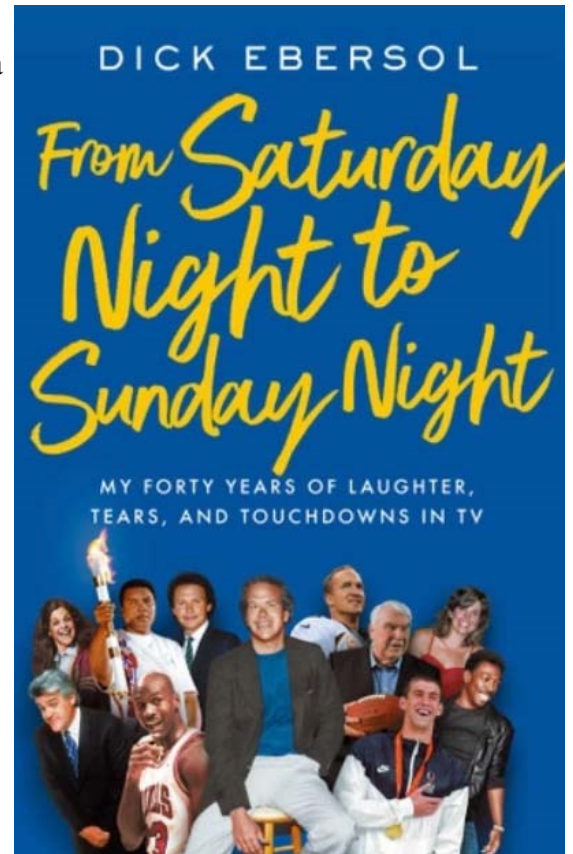
Think of an important moment in live TV over the last half-century. Dick Ebersol was likely involved.

Dropping out of college to join the crew of *ABC's Wide World of Sports*, Ebersol worked the Mexico City Olympics during the famous protest by John Carlos and Tommie Smith as well as the Munich Olympics during the tragic hostage standoff. He went on to co-create *Saturday Night Live* with Lorne Michaels and later produced the show for four seasons, helping launch Eddie Murphy to stardom. After creating *Friday Night Videos* and partner-

ing with Vince McMahon to bring professional wrestling to network TV, he next took over NBC Sports, which helped turn basketball into a global phenomenon and made history as the first broadcaster to host the World Series, the Super Bowl, the NBA Finals, and the Summer Olympics in the same year. It was Ebersol who was responsible for Muhammad Ali lighting the Olympic flame in Atlanta. Then, following a plane crash that took the life of his fourteen-year-old son Teddy and nearly killed him, he determinedly undertook perhaps his greatest career achievement: creating NBC's *Sunday Night Football*, still the #1 primetime show in America. *The Today Show's* headline-making hosting changes, the so-called "Late-Night Wars," O.J. Simpson's Bronco chase—Ebersol had a front-row seat to it all.

From Saturday Night to Sunday Night is filled with entertaining and illuminating stories featuring such boldface names as Billy Crystal, Michael Jordan, Bill Clinton, Jay Leno, Peyton Manning, Michael Phelps and Larry David. (Ebersol even inspired the famous *Seinfeld* episode in which George Costanza pretends he didn't quit his job.) More than that, the book offers an insightful history and analysis of TV's evolution from broadcast to cable and beyond—a must read for casual binge-watchers and small-screen aficionados alike.

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