



Luncheon Highlight: 130 Years of News Reporting!



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Marilyn's Page

This is always my favorite edition; it's post luncheon and the memories are still vibrant. All of our luncheons and speakers have been extraordinary, but this luncheon seemed to have a bit more buzz. Maybe it was the mix of people or that we pretty much filled up Sardi's main floor and reverted to our pre-pandemic way of doing our luncheon business, but in any case, it did seem to be quite highly spirited.

Jim Bell did a great job as guest speaker and seemed to have fun doing it, as did the audience. As I have mentioned on previous occasions, NBC gave us all the ability to work in an industry offering exciting opportunities and experiences, while developing deep friendships and associations with co-workers. Observing the crowd at Sardi's there were many who just fell into each other's arms and relished the company. Thank you to those who attended and made this luncheon such a success. We look forward to next year.

I want to thank the group that helps pull this together: Joel Spector, Lenny Stucker, Rich Munde, David Heiser, Katherine Powers and of course, my beloved husband, John Fider, who helps keep lists and correspondence up-to-date and puts up with me.

On another note, I want to remedy an omission from my previous commentary page. I was reminiscing about being a Technical Director on Superbowl XXIII in 1989 between the Bengals and the 49ers and forgot to mention that producing that game with Teddy Nathanson was, of course, Larry Cirillo. They usually went together; if you saw one, you saw the other. Apologies to my friend Larry for my oversight.

Correction: in our last edition we mistakenly identified Joy Bauer as Giada De Laurentiis.

Welcome New Members:**Pia Lindstrom**

She began her career in San Francisco at KGO-TV, co-hosting a two-hour morning talk show. She transferred to the News Department as a reporter, covering the tumultuous times of the late 60's in San Francisco. In the 70's, Pia moved to New York and worked as a news correspondent for WCBS-TV for three years. After the birth of her first son, she moved to WNBC-TV where she stayed for 23 years; first, as a reporter then a news anchor, public affairs host, arts editor, and finally as a movie and theatre critic. She received two Emmy Awards and the New York Associated Press Broadcasters Award for news reporting.

Mike Finkel

Mike, son of the beloved producer George Finkel, was a runner/spotter from 1976-1984. From 1984-1994 he was primarily a composer, having written two themes for *Al Maguire's Halftime Hoops*, the 1988 *Orange Bowl* Opening plus numerous bumpers and highlight music cues. He is currently the Artistic Director for the Dallas Jazz Piano Society, giving private lessons, playing in several groups and working on getting back into TV/Film projects

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

And now on 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/>

*What's New!***Shauna Williams to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award**

There are people who make this world a better place by virtue of who they fundamentally are and how they move through life. Shauna Williams is such a person.

Her sense of giving, helping, and leading is just who she is.

She is about to be honored for her volunteer work by receiving the 2023 Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.

I asked her to share her story with us. - M.

On September 30th of this year, I will be receiving a 2023 Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. Premiere Coalition Partners Association will deliver the award at a ceremony in Durham, NC on behalf of the President, Points of Light and AmeriCorps. Specifically, I'll receive a letter from the President, a Presidential Lapel Pin, the Award and the Presidential Gold Medallion. A requirement to receive this award is to contribute more than 4,000 hours of service.

Many will likely remember that I worked at NBC News for 25 years. I started in the Miami Bureau as a correspondent, Shauna Singletary. In 1988, I transferred to the Today Show as a producer/writer, then to Weekend Nightly News as a Broadcast Producer, but also worked Specials and filled in on NN as Domestic Producer. My last assignment was with the New York Bureau. I was a field producer, coordinating producer and on the air for MSNBC doing live reports both in the field and in the Secaucus studio.

After 25 years with NBC, I requested a buyout and left NY in 2007. My husband and children's father, Silhadi Alami, had died in a car accident in 1995. I was blessed to get married again in 2000. But my husband, Yarbrough Williams, lived in North Carolina and I stayed in NY the first seven years of our marriage! In NC, I freelanced for NBC for 13 years. I am now retired, but not sitting and rocking on my porch!

Guided by God, I am grateful for my parents and other relatives who were wonderful role models at home, in church, work, life and the community! What you may not know about me is my service. I started volunteering at age 9. I watched the annual telethons and was moved to help children with cerebral palsy. I knocked on doors collecting money for those young ones. I have continued volunteering wherever I've lived. From scouts to sports to board rooms, I have given my time and talent. I continue mentoring young people, aspiring journalists and others. I am President, Board of Trustees of the Warren County Community Center; Treasurer, Warren County Political Action Council; Assistant to the County Chair, Warren County Democratic Party and Precinct Chair. Always active in my church also, serving in many roles in the United Methodist and Baptist Churches.

My greatest joy in life is being Nana. We have 10 grandchildren, another on the way and one great granddaughter. My children, Jamal and Aisha are married and have four of those grands + one in a few weeks; the others are from Yarbrough's children.





John Fider and Kathy Powers: Badge Meisters

Sardi's Luncheon Photos

By Barbara Lassen

(except [G] George Ann Muller,
[P] Paul Scrabo, [T] Terry Skelton)



Welcome!

Please sign in
to pick up your name tag
and table number.



Jim and Angelique Bell



Mike and Sue Noseworthy



Annette Hassell



Rick and Jeanne Fox



Martin Fletcher



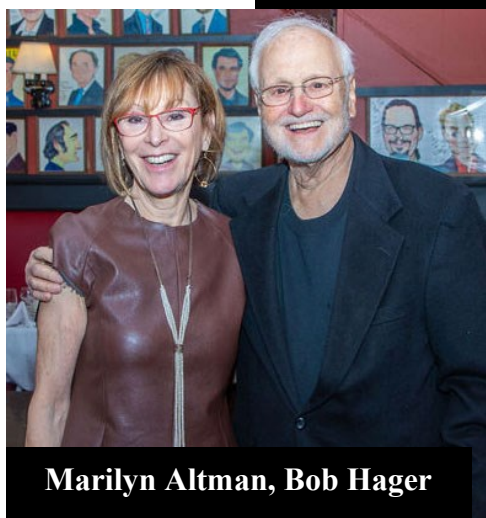
Pat Lang, Rosemarie Barone



Jon Gonzalez, Rick Stern



Steve Singer, Charles Moore, Bob and Laurie Palladino



Marilyn Altman, Bob Hager



Carole Wendt



Teri Lukin and Chris Oliver



Courtney and John Gilmartin



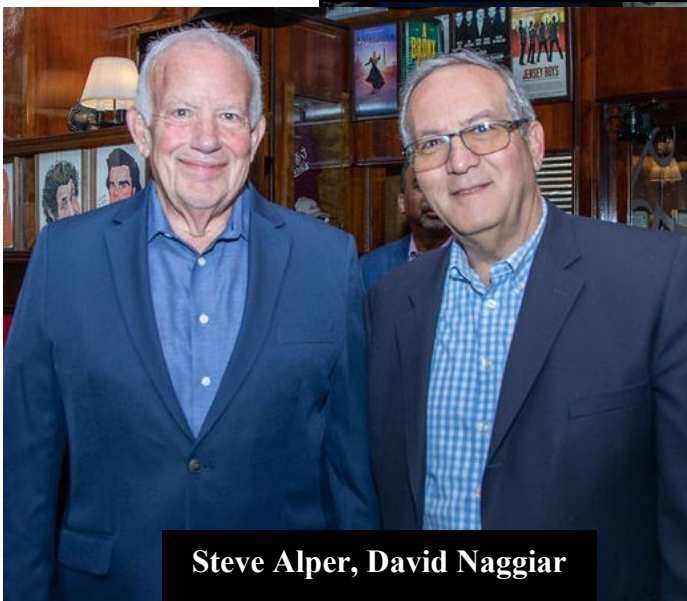
Bill and Janet Vaccaro



The view
from the staircase
(T)



Charlie Mulham and Stacy Brady with Marilyn Altman



Steve Alper, David Naggiar



Ed Cohen, Howie Hirsch (G)



Brian Wickham, Jim Bell, Bill Potts



Lance Sherman



Joel Spector, David Heiser

Ann Taylor

**Sue Noseworthy,
Ronnie Jordan-Blondi**



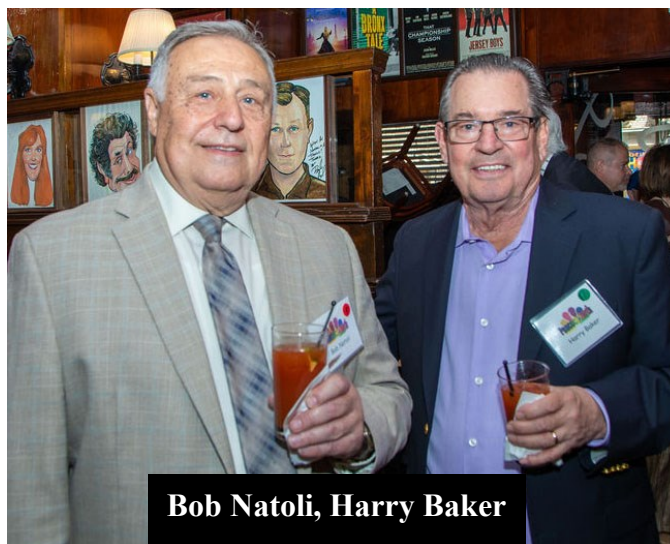
Tom Launer, Nancy Marrin, Steve Lucas, Inara de Leon



Liz and Tom Keenan, Rita Sultana



Allison Davis, Pat Lang



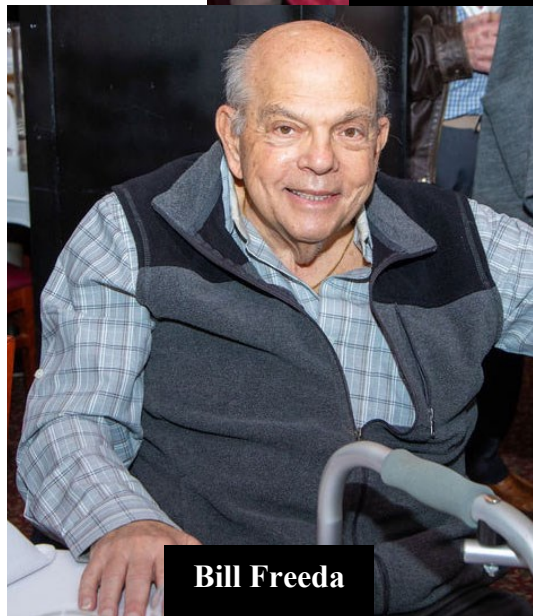
Bob Natoli, Harry Baker



Greg Aull, Bill Vaccaro, Mike Noseworthy



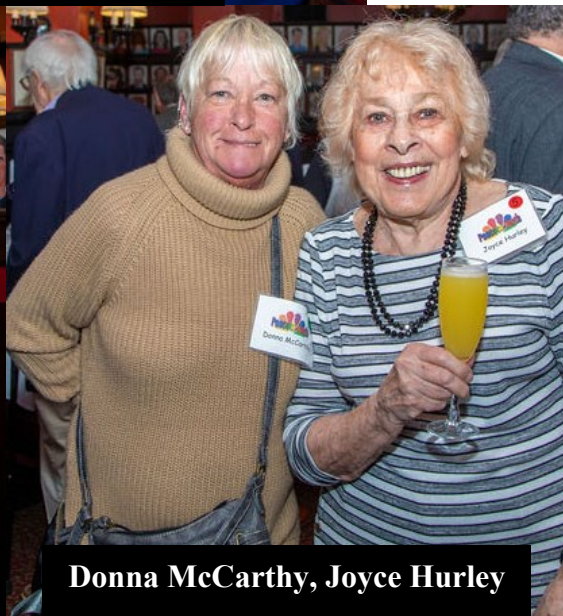
Ginny Seipt, Brian Wickham, Kristin and John LiBretto



Bill Freeda



Paul Deak



Donna McCarthy, Joyce Hurley



Susan Drury, Ronee Hoade



Joel Spector, Ed Gough



Lauren Fairbanks, Susan Kramer



Melanie Rock, Nancy Marrin



Judith and Susann Thomas



George Ann Muller, Peter Sullivan,
Rich Langwell, Tom Launer



Tammy Brainin



Gene Richards, Joel Spector (T)



Paul Scrabo



Rob Kaplan, Bob Costas, John Wendell, Eric Eisenstein



Rhonda Hansome and Joel Spector



Axel Coen, Leckee Brown



Jan Switkes -Thornley



Kathy Fallon and Len Stucker



Maureen Fitzgerald, Joel Spector



Rob Kaplan, Steve Lucas



Ed Cohen, Jim Bell, Howie Hirsch



Ellen McKeefe, Rita Sultana, Larry Thaler



John Marelli



Christine Huneke, Bonnie Optekman, Frank Shanbacher

Time For The Main Event



Rick Stern's Toast



John Gilmartin's Intro





The Schmoozing Continues...
-Photos by Barbara Lassen and George Ann Muller-







Terry Tousey, Kathy Babiak



John Wendell, Carla Engelman



Jennifer Arnold



Charlie Mulham, Stan Bernard, Marilyn Altman, Martin Fletcher, Stacy Brady, Robert Hager



John Fritsche



Lois Borth, Kathie Graham-Griffith



Don Nash



Steve Gonzalez



Hope Thompson, Len Stucker



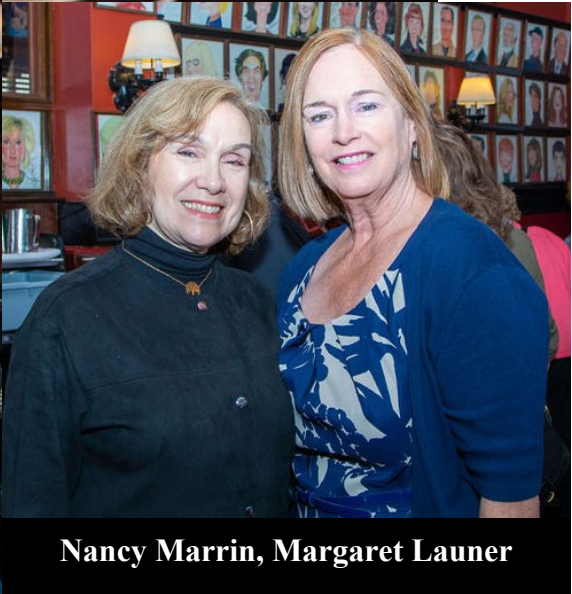
George Smith, John Gonzalez



John Marelli



Allison Davis, David Naggiar, Karen Curry



Nancy Marrin, Margaret Launer



**Lance Sherman and the Gilmartins say
“Let’s keep in touch!”**



Bonnie Optekman and Martin Fletcher



Mark and Melinda Foley say “Thanks for the Memories!” (G)

The Event Staff

Kathy Powers, Kathy Fallon, and Len Stucker, Marilyn Altman and John Fider, Joel Spector



Paul Scrabo and George Ann Muller (G)



Barbara Lassen (G)

What's Now!

NBC News Honors Martin Fletcher's 40-Year Career with Special Christie's Exhibit



In his almost forty years as a correspondent, Martin Fletcher has reported on many impactful events across the globe. NBC News, in conjunction with Christie's Auction House, honored Fletcher with a special exhibit titled *Martin Fletcher, Teachers: The Ones I Can't Forget*, which ran from March 29th through April 7th. The special collaboration, named after Fletcher's latest book, was located at Christie's House at Rockefeller Center and featured 11 unique digital collages of archival freeze-frames and documentation from Fletcher's nearly 40-year career as a renowned NBC News foreign correspondent. The images, created by Fletcher, represent some of his most powerful reports and lessons from the field, including unforgettable people he met along the way.

Fletcher discussed the exhibit with TVNewser: "There are people I met, often on the worst days of their lives, that I never forgot," he said. "In experiencing and coping with their tragedies, they each taught me something, and still I think of them often. So I got the idea of bringing some together, a kind of homage. But I didn't want to use them as stories, as the subjects of news reports. So I worked on the images in order to create something new – journalism meets art. I wanted to evoke an emotion, a reaction, much like viewing a painting. I didn't want to tell people what to think, I wanted the viewer to feel something, especially compassion."

He remarked that going through the archives, "was difficult and fascinating." He added, "It's a real untapped treasure trove. Archive footage is always used for documentaries or movies, but this was looking at it with a completely fresh perspective. Looking for instants, moments that I could work with. I joined NBC News as a cameraman so I've always had a slightly different perspective."

He began his award-winning journalism career in London with the BBC before transitioning to NBC News in 1977, where he spent most of his 35 years with the news organization as their Tel Aviv bureau chief and correspondent. He has reported from nearly every country across the world. Fletcher has received numerous television awards, including five Emmys, a DuPont Award, multiple Overseas Press Club awards, and Edward R. Murrow Awards.

He continues working with NBC News serving as a writing instructor for the network's many correspondents. "It is rewarding, challenging and especially a great way to make friends," said Fletcher. "Such a talented, ambitious bunch. Many are hired because they're great at what they do, but are then asked to do something different. That's where I come in. I've been helping them for about ten years, mostly with my brilliant writing buddy M.L. Flynn. So, an entire generation of TV news reporters has passed through. Also, although I'm writing books now, I love having one foot in the door at NBC News, it's a way of still being part of the team. I love that team!"

Adapted from an article by Mark Mwachiro, © Adweek.com, March 22, 2023

All the proceeds from Martin's book are going to ARTOLUTION, a global non-profit organization which seeks to strengthen communities experiencing crises through collaborative art-making. They are present in numerous refugee camps around the world. More information at www.artolution.org. -M.

*What's Now!***Bryant Gumbel Receives Sports Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award**

On March 28th, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced that it would be honoring veteran journalist Bryant Gumbel for his career spanning more than 50 years.

ABC News reports that Gumbel would receive NATAS' Lifetime Achievement Award during the 44th Annual Sports Emmy Awards ceremony on May 22 at Lincoln Center in New York City. Gumbel is the first Black journalist to receive this Award. "It's very humbling. I've been a fortunate, lucky guy," he said in a statement. "It makes you stop and take stock. You take a look at the guys who I admire a great deal who received this Award, people like Vin Scully, Jim McKay and Howard Cosell. You never want to put yourself in their company, but it's heady stuff."

The veteran journalist began his career as a sports anchor at KNBC in Los Angeles before he moved to NBC Sports in the Fall of 1975. He would go on to land a hosting gig on NBC's "Today" show for 15 years. According to The Hollywood Reporter (THR), he holds the record for the longest-running host of the news program. During his time at CBS, he hosted the primetime show, "Public Eye," and the morning news program, "The Early Show." Since 1995, Gumbel has hosted HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," which airs monthly and has won 36 Sports Emmys. The series celebrated its 300th episode last year.



Gumbel said he's "always been a sports fan, but I've always been less interested in the scores than I was the story elements of sports," he said of "Real Sports," according to ABC News. "I'm overly selfish about it, but I'm enormously proud of it."


NATAS President and CEO Adam Sharp said, "Bryant has a storied career, from his start as a sportscaster in Los Angeles to five decades of celebrated work — every bit cementing him as an icon and trailblazer in sports and entertainment." Sharp also noted that Bryant's work has "brought dramatic and human news and sports stories to life for audiences," making him "a clear front-runner for this distinct honor."

Justine Gubar, head of the Sports Emmys, told THR that singling out Gumbel for this honor also spotlights this particular area of the business. "The selection of Bryant for the lifetime achievement honor is a wholehearted endorsement of sports journalism," she said. "Bryant is a consummate journalist, interviewer and storyteller, and the sports media landscape is indebted to the high standard Bryant continues to set to this day."


During his career, Gumbel has earned four Emmys, three NAACP Awards, a Peabody, the Edward R. Murrow Award, the Frederick D. Patterson Award and the Martin Luther King Award from the Congress of Racial Equality.

Adapted from an article by © TheGrio Staff, March 30, 2023

*What's Now!***NBCU Academy**

NBCU  ACADEMY | Advancing career excellence in journalism, media & tech





WATCH & LEARN EQUITY LAB EVENTS CAREERS 🔍 ☰



Learn new skills. Grow your career.

Explore NBCU Academy →

Watch & Learn → **Equity Lab** → **Events** → **Careers** →

-  Take journalism courses and develop your skills with pro tips from our experts.
-  Keep up with media trends and learn how to cover diverse communities.
-  Build your professional network and career expertise through our events.
-  Get hands-on, collaborative experience and land your next job.

NBCU Academy builds a pipeline from the classroom to the newsroom by providing students from all cultural and economic backgrounds scholarships, access and training for a career in journalism.

Program highlights:

- Partnered with 17 academic universities initially in 2021 – and now we're up to 45 schools in 2023. NBCU Academy's geographic footprint has expanded to include STEM programs—diversifying the student population beyond journalism to include business, engineering, technology and sports programs.
- In March 2023, NBCU Academy hosted its third Next Level Summit, which is accessible for free to journalism students, professionals, internal and external partners, and more.
- Developed an embed program, which is a 24-month assignment, hiring six recent graduates from five NBCU Academy's partner schools to work full-time for NBC News Digital's award-winning diversity verticals (NBCBLK, NBC Latino, NBC Asian America, NBC OUT).

The Embed Program builds on the NBCU Academy mission of providing more equitable access to diverse and marginalized communities that have been historically underrepresented in the media and technology industries. The program also provides professional development and networking opportunities with NBCU talent, leaders and executives.

Information provided by © NBCU Academy

Peacock Family

Frank Field and Ed Gough Hit 100



For more than 50 years, millions of viewers tuned in to watch Dr. Frank Field (who will turn 100 on March 30, 2023), a television pioneer in the New York market, present health/science features and the weather. One of the most recognizable and beloved NYC television personalities, Dr. Field, who earned his doctorate in optometry, presented his reports via the flagship stations of NBC, CBS, and UPN networks, as well as WNYW. He was the first professional meteorologist in the early days of New York television. Dr. Field garnered many Emmy awards, honorary doctorates, and hundreds of other prestigious honors throughout his illustrious career. Having established a long friendship with NBC's Johnny Carson, the "King of Late Night," Dr. Field was a frequent guest on Carson's famed Tonight Show.

He provided his valuable perspectives and recollections as part of NAB's centennial celebration:

"I did not set out to be in the media. I had the good fortune to have fallen into the spotlight while working for Albert Einstein Medical College conducting air pollution

research and simultaneously serving as a forecaster for the National Weather Bureau when WNBC-TV started looking for a meteorologist to do the weekend weather reports. At the time, I was a young veteran with three small children so working at WNBC-TV was an opportunity to help make ends meet. And, since television was in its infancy, the offer was novel and intriguing. Since NBC executives wanted to establish a serious weather report and I was the first meteorologist trained by the Air Force, the adventure began!

Over the decades there have been many moments I have been proud of. As a Health and Science reporter, one of the most important stories I did was to introduce the Heimlich maneuver to the public, which has saved thousands of lives." I was so convinced of its benefits that I made it my personal crusade to see the maneuver become an accepted practice. (In fact, sportscaster Warner Wolf later saved Dr. Field's life by using the Heimlich maneuver.)

© "NAB at 100", April 2023

Ed Gough started his journalistic career at age 24, in 1947, working at the Cape Cod Times in Hyannis, MA. It was owned by the New Bedford Times which owned a 250-watt radio station. He was originally a reporter for the paper but was quickly moved over to the radio station where he did three 15-minute newscasts daily, covering such exciting items as the West Yarmouth Ladies Club news. Ed developed valuable rip 'n' read skills early on. His associate, Ed McNally, drove around the area drumming up advertisers for whom he wrote commercial copy on a yellow pad. He often dashed into the studio handing Gough the handwritten copy while he was on the air. Gough was then hired by the Providence Journal's WPJB and also was heard in Woonsocket, RI.

His New York City debut was at WNBC on June 25th, 1950, the day North Korea invaded South Korea. He worked as a radio and TV reporter for local and network, with stints on *Huntley-Brinkley*, the *Today* show, several Cape Canaveral space shots (for radio), and as a producer for John Wingate's tv news show "which occasionally beat HB in the ratings!"

During a leave of absence in 1976 was hired by Nelson Rockefeller's campaign, traveling 2600 miles by air to visit every state capitol city during Rockefeller's bid to find enough delegates to win the presidential nomination.

Ed mentioned that he was one of the first speakers at the early PN luncheons at Pico Lissimo in Fort Lee, NJ.



Your PN Editor interviewed Ed by phone on May 15th.

Peacock Family

Mike Cimino's HampTiki Charters



Summer in the Hamptons is best enjoyed at the beach or on a boat. HampTiki is the best way to have fun with your friends and family out at sea! You can rent a private boat decorated with a fun tiki theme, bring your own drinks, snacks, and music playlist and create unforgettable memories. The boat will stop by at any of the waterfront restaurants in the area, or head over to a quiet nook, it's all up to you. Dance away on the boat's unique floor plan and take in the stunning sunset or sunrise!

Captain Mike Cimino, the mastermind behind HampTiki, spoke to Hamptons.com about the inspiration behind HampTiki.

Talk to us about HampTiki?

To start from the beginning, boats were a passion of mine since kindergarten when I would write about and draw them in my journals all the time. I ended up following my parents' footsteps and working in Television as a Camera Operator for 22 years and literally just played one on TV for several episodes of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

When Covid hit I quickly watched my calendar go blank as every job I was booked on got canceled. My wife was a pharmacist for CVS and, with the influx of people leaving the city for their summer houses, she was asked to relocate to East Hampton. With my schedule clear, I reached out to Sag Harbor Sailing and asked if they needed anyone to captain their boats and they did. With my passion for sailing this was a great opportunity, and I really enjoyed the mixed clientele from avid sailors looking to strengthen their skills to people wanting to party on a boat all day.

Where did you get the idea for HampTiki?

We took a trip to Lake George and saw these floating Tiki Bars. We did not end up taking a trip as we had three kids with us under 6 years old but thought it was a great idea for a lake. In my search for a boat to own and charter I came across a 28 foot by 10 foot tritoon (three pontoons) made of fiberglass and aluminum. It was very seaworthy and had proven it could handle similar waters on Cape Cod. A good friend advised me to get my Master's license. My wife had my back on this and we decided to give it a go. I trailered the boat from Cape Cod to Hampton Bays via the Orient Point Ferry and we got to work turning this super-safe kids' fishing vessel into a Tiki -Themed cruise boat. We decided to forgo the standard "Bar" and left the layout more open for dancing and lounging. We added a bathroom that some other vessels of this nature seemed to lack. All the furniture can be moved or removed to provide room for anything from late night dance parties to midday kids' parties with piñatas and other games.

We can carry up to 11 passengers, we have a 16 x 10 foot canopy to protect from the elements and as I said, a bathroom on board. We enjoy bringing clients to local restaurants for a quick drink, food, vibes, and or dockside pickup. We also have a few nooks and crannies worthy of a dip or float in our large SunChill raft. We provide all clients with a cooler of ice and bottled water. Gas is also included. Trips are private and can be tailored to anyone's needs for start times and durations. There is a great Bluetooth sound system linked to my Spotify or your own phone.

When is the best time to go on HampTiki?

The best time to go on HampTiki is on your time. Each part of the day has its own amazing vibes from that early bird wake-up on the water, to the golden hour sunsets on the Peconic and Shinnecock bays. We navigate the Shinnecock Canal regularly and choose which side has the best weather for the time slot.

For booking info, visit www.Hamptiki.com

Article by Veronica Chumbi, © Hamptons.com, July 27, 2022



*Peacock Family***Ed McEwan's Fish Tank Charters****ABOUT THE CAPTAIN**

After a long and incredibly rewarding career as an NBC Lighting Director and Audio Engineer, and finally as President of NABET-Local 11, I couldn't wait to retire. After two long days, retirement hit me like a punch in the face (or a painful paper cut for those who can't relate). It was time to move on to a new challenge and so Fish Tank Charters was born.

ABOUT THE BOAT

Fish Tank is a 28ft 2006 Carolina Classic with twin Volvo turbo engines. She is a very comfortable craft in almost all conditions. She is fully equipped with all fishing gear, creature comforts and safety gear. She is a fish catcher and has won or placed in a number of fishing tournaments.

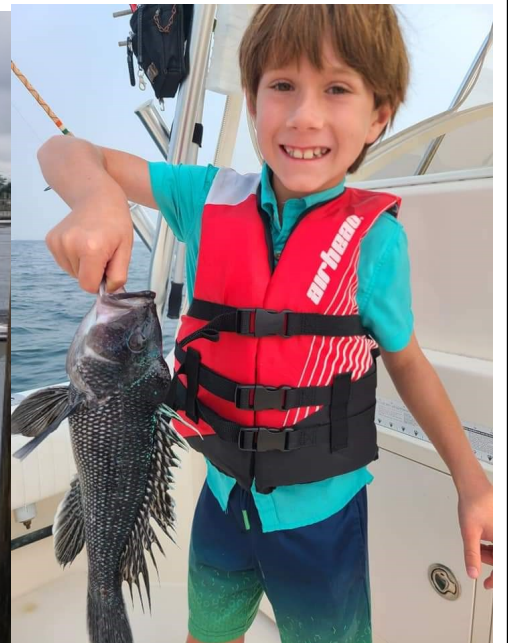
Fish Tank also offers sunset cruises and other events such as birthday trips, bachelor parties, and just about anything else that a day on the water can make special.

ABOUT THE CREW

The Crew is the most important feature of the Fish Tank experience. Unlike most Charter boat Captains I consider my passengers as Crew, not customers, and the Crew's job is, #1 to have fun, and #2 to catch fish. Old Salts and brand new Fishermen all are treated with respect and encouraged to learn and teach each other the great sport of fishing. One of my greatest joys is to have families aboard and see the youngsters' faces when they hook their first fish.

JOIN THE FUN

Come join us for a great day on the water. I can be reached at (732) 239-7013. Nothing would make me happier than to spend a day with my old NBC colleagues or to meet some new friends.



*Gray Matters***GE Pension News
From Bill Freeda**

2022 GE Pension Funding for US Employees Update

By now you should have received the GE Pension Plan Funding notice for the year ending December 31, 2022. This is a government-required notice based on assumptions established by federal law which are less conservative than those reported in the GE Annual Report.

I believe the better valuation of these obligations is the market-based values in the GE Annual Report. With help from a retired GE executive who is knowledgeable in these matters, I am going to try and simplify the information.

Please keep in mind that the year-end 2022 report is based on the funding status of the GE Pension Plan before the spin-off of GE's business into three separate companies. Beginning in 2023, GE's pension obligations have been split into three separate trusts each managed by the spin-off companies – GE HealthCare, GE Vernova, and GE Aerospace. Going forward each company will issue separate reports on the status of its plan and the trust assets it is managing. Here is a summary of the GE Pension Plan information from the GE Annual Report as of the end of 2022, before the split into three separate plans and trusts in January 2023.

At the end of 2022, the GE Pension Trust's assets were \$45.0 billion, and its obligations were \$48.1 billion, a shortfall of \$3.1 billion. The Trust had a negative return on its investments of approximately \$12.6 billion dollars in 2022, reflecting the negative performance of stock and bond markets last year. In 2022, the liabilities of the Trust were reduced by approximately \$17 billion primarily because of an increase in the discount rate used to value obligations. Benefit payments to pensioners were \$3.7 billion in 2022.

Bottom line: GE's Pension Trust was 93.5% funded as of the end of last year, about the same as the 93.7% funded level in the prior year.

I want to emphasize that the issue of under-funding and over-funding at any point in time is based on assumptions regarding investment returns and current interest rates. I believe it is important to focus on the Trust's assets, its return on investments over the years, and the long-term nature of its payouts. As I understand it, the obligations are calculated to establish the present value of payments that will be made over decades into the future, based on life expectancies of more than 282,000 plan participants – including retirees, vested former employees, and current employees. For perspective on the long-term aspect of this, consider that there are some vested active GE employees who today are in their thirties. Their payouts will not start until they retire in their sixties and begin annual payments that will last several decades. So, with obligations and payments that extend for many years to the later part of this century, the funding status of the plan, which has significantly improved in recent years, seems satisfactory, and should not be of great concern for those of us who are now drawing benefits.



GE HealthCare

GE VERNOVA
Our portfolio of energy businesses

GE Aerospace

*Peacock History***Airborne Editing for Nightly News in 1981:
Adapting existing technology to achieve more.**

One of my all-time favorite "pushing technology" experiences... all the way back on January 5th 1981.

This photo is of me editing the "core" of a package on two battery-powered BVU-110 portable decks on a Lear Jet as we returned from San Salvador, flying over Cuba (not around it) to get back to Miami to feed NBC Nightly News.

When I say core, the easiest analogy is everything except the correspondent track, much like when we delivered the 16mm Mag to the film chain and the audio cart to the audio board operator... and yes, I am that old.

On the plane we recorded Phil Bremen's track to a Pearlcororder for me to use as a scratch track to time and edit the shots, and then once we landed at Miami, used the scratch track to cue the pacing for Phil to read his script again without two Lear Jet engines drowning him out, recording directly onto the edited "sequence" using the Audio Dub capability. Re-racked the now complete package, played it, jumped into a waiting helicopter, flew to WCKT (now WSVN) and screamed across the causeway to the bureau where I popped it into the feed rack going straight to 30 Rock, minutes before John Chancellor intro'd it. And Don Browne scores another victory.

Breakthrough: 1st battery-powered videotape news package ever edited, and at altitude.

For the details on this please read my essay on my LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/.../field-editing-anniversary...>

By Joe Torelli on © Eyesofageneration.com Group Facebook, February 20, 2023

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Randy Wands
Remembered by his Niece,
Susan Pace Randall**

On March 16, 2023 my Uncle Randy passed away at the age of 82. He had a larger than life persona. He stood 6 and half feet tall, handsome and had a deep voice which was a mixture of a Texas draw (born in Dallas) and a touch of New York from his many decades living there. He had a fascinating life and traveled the world. He worked for NBC News and NBC Sports in NYC for his entire career. He started out at as a page and worked his way up to an Emmy-winning Director and Producing the Pope's Christmas Mass from Rome for many years.

He met his first wife, Joan, when he was working in England. They married and settled in Westchester County, NY. Years later, after Joan's passing, he reconnected with his college sweetheart, Charlotte; they married and resided in Houston. They enjoyed the outdoors, hunting in South Texas and this was a great opportunity for my family to spend time with him.

After his many years in the broadcasting industry, he was a news junkie and was always dialed into current events and anything news worthy. My uncle was always curious and interested in our lives as well. He was a great hugger and we always enjoyed his stories about the many years he spent at NBC and all the folks he met there.

He will be greatly missed by all who loved him.

Charlotte and Randy.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bill Schechner Remembered by Linda Ellerbee**

Longtime writer, newscaster and reporter Bill Schechner, aged 81, died on Wednesday, March 22, in West Orange, New Jersey. Cause of death was complications of a stroke, following a long illness. His friend and colleague Linda Ellerbee posted these thoughts on Facebook.

Bill Schechner was special.

I knew it from the beginning. Sort of. When Lloyd Dobyns was pulled off NBC News Overnight to go anchor another show, I was scared. Who would replace him? Who COULD replace him? Certainly no one asked me my opinion. Not that I had one. To me, Lloyd was not replaceable.

And then they brought in the new guy. I'd never met him. Never heard of him. And while I was not inclined to embrace him, I was determined to get along with him. There had been so many network-arranged "marriages" that had not worked. All of them, actually. At least before Dobyns and Ellerbee. Mostly, they didn't work because the guy didn't really want a female colleague — certainly not an equal. They'd even made certain that the term "Co-Ancor" was code for "Number Two." Well, I was pissed. I announced to NBC that if they expected me to stay on the show, I would be the senior anchor and in addition, I would have the on-screen title of General Editor, a term made up by Dan Rather when he took over from Cronkite.

I had been "almost" equal to Dobyns. Now, by god, I was going to be equal to the new guy by being senior to the new guy. Except the new guy was a new kind of guy. He was an evolved man. He was fine being "almost equal." Never once did he try to make me feel small. As a woman, one of the first group of us to be allowed into the boys' club of TV news, I saw Bill as a gift. He was, I hoped, the future.

He also saved our show. I could never have carried Overnight alone, and I can think of no one else on the planet who could have stepped in and replaced Dobyns so seamlessly. He wasn't Lloyd. He was Bill. Different. Equally good. But different. He was himself, and that was more than enough.

I loved working with Bill. Like Lloyd, he was a story teller, a world-class writer, a philosopher, a questioning human being, a decent human being, and funny as hell. He made me laugh every damn day (okay, night). Learned from him. Admired him. Cherished him as a friend. Tried to be more like him. Bill was a much nicer person than I was (am).

I can still quote lines he wrote. Remember pieces of wisdom that came so easily to him. Laugh at silly memories. When Overnight was cancelled, about 8 or 10 of us who worked on the show went to Jamaica to lie on a beach, wallow in self-pity, and enjoy the company of one another in our misery. My favorite memory is of Bill with his hair corn-rowed. My hair, also corn-rowed, looked equally absurd. I like to blame the corn-rows on the fact that much of that time is a blur, although I suspect marijuana might have contributed to the blur. That and alcohol. I was (am) and alcoholic. It's been years now since I've had a drink, but back then, well, I was a mess. Bill saw what was going on. He saw the trouble I was in. Hell, everybody did. He never shamed me. He offered his hand to me. He helped me to begin the long journey to find my way out of a very dark place. I will always be grateful to have had Bill Schechner in my life, grateful to have been his partner on the air, and his friend in real life. He was and remains one of my heroes.

And this too I know to be true: I was the luckiest "co-anchor" in television news. I partnered with only three men: Bill Schechner (NBC NEWS OVERNIGHT), Ray Gandolf (OUR WORLD), and Lloyd Dobyns (WEEKEND and NBC NEWS OVERNIGHT).

Three class acts.
Lucky me.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Kenley Jones**

Joe Kenley Jones spent decades finding and reporting stories from across the South and around the world for NBC television before retiring in the early 2000s. He died March 21 in Piedmont Hospital after suffering a hemorrhagic stroke. He was 88.

Jones was born in Greenville, South Carolina, to Joseph Clyde Jones and Mildred S. Jones and exhibited an independent streak early. “My dad was the kind of person who, when he wanted to do something, he made it happen,” said his son, Jason Jones. “He had a fierce determination.” Jones attended Furman University for two years and then transferred to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he graduated with a degree in speech communications.

He joined the U.S. Navy and served as an officer aboard a radar picket ship in the Pacific for three years before returning to Evanston and earning a master’s in journalism.

In 1964, Jones received a fellowship from CBS television to study at Columbia University, where he met Margaret McPherson. They married and moved to Atlanta for Jones’ job as a reporter-cameraman with Channel 2 WSB-TV, then an NBC affiliate. “He grew and blossomed under news director Ray Moore, the station manager, who also mentored Tom Brokaw and John Palmer,” said Margaret Jones. “It was a great opportunity.”

Atlanta newsman John Pruitt joined WSB-TV in 1966 and met Jones, who was the top reporter. Jones was “nonpareil, he knew how to do everything. He was a serious guy and a great hard newsman who could still roam the state for WSB exploring the oddities and stories of rural Georgia,” Pruitt said. When Martin Luther King, Jr., was murdered, “Kenley ended up with the story. He was the go-to guy.” His reporting also helped the station win a Georgia School Bell Award in 1968 for its education coverage.

The NBC network noticed Jones’ work and sent him to Vietnam in 1969 to cover the war. “It was his dream to join the network, and Vietnam was very important to him,” said Margaret Jones. “I remember watching him fly away and wondering if I would see him again.” Lew Allison was the South Vietnam NBC bureau chief when Jones arrived. He said that Jones’ work was “excellent”— Jones reported on the infamous massacre of civilians by U.S. soldiers at a village near My Lai and later rode on a tank with the 1st Infantry Division during the invasion into Cambodia. A telex from a network executive deemed Jones’ coverage the finest combat footage he had ever seen, Allison said. For his reporting in Vietnam, Jones received the Overseas Press Club award. In 1971, Jones became NBC’s roving correspondent in Asia, based in Singapore. His family —Margaret and their two children — joined him.

The next year, the Jones family moved to Georgia, and Kenley opened the first NBC News bureau in Atlanta, “in our garage,” said Jason Jones. “The bureau later moved to Colony Square, but it started as just one guy in his garage in unincorporated DeKalb County.” Jones roamed the South, reporting stories including Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaign, George Wallace’s recovery from an assassination attempt, and the fatal shooting of two students at Southern University in Baton Rouge. He was the first recipient of the Distinguished Broadcaster Award by the South Carolina Broadcasters Association.

Assignments also took Jones to Syria, Argentina, Nicaragua and Israel, among other countries. He also roamed the U.S. on family vacations. He loved music, and Jason Jones marveled at his father’s collection of thousands of vinyl albums, CDs, even reel-to-reel tapes, featuring music, from “old time” country to the Oscar Peterson Trio to classical music.

Jones left NBC in the early 2000s, but he returned occasionally to report a story or work on the weekends. Kenley and Margaret bought a house on Lake Hartwell, where they spent happy hours with their children and grandchildren. Kenley manned the grill and taught the entire family to water ski. Always a newsman, he read three newspapers every day and watched the news every evening.

In addition to his wife and son, Joe Kenley Jones is survived by brother Michael Keith Jones, daughters Stephanie L. Jones and Eleanor J. Remigailo and five grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta April 17. Memorial contributions may be made to The Salvation Army, Miracle Hill Ministries, or Shallowford Presbyterian Church.

Adapted from an article by Rebecca McCarthy, © Atlanta Constitution Journal, March 30, 2023

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Gail Christian**

Gail Christian, who broke barriers as a Black on-air correspondent and rose to national prominence at NBC News and PBS, died on April 12 in Los Angeles. She was 83. The cause was complications from recent intestinal surgery, said her spouse, Lucy DeBardelaben. Ms. Christian overcame a troubled youth, including a prison stint for armed robbery, to carve out a career as a prominent television journalist and news executive in the 1970s and '80s, an era when the industry was dominated by white men. She became a visible presence in American living rooms with her coverage for NBC News of the trial of Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress who was kidnapped in 1974 by the Symbionese Liberation Army, a band of leftist revolutionaries, and who was convicted two years later for participating in a bank robbery with the group.

But for Ms. Christian, it was not enough simply to gain exposure as a rare Black face on the evening news. "I always wanted to be 'the Black reporter,' as in covering Black stories," she said in an interview with The Chicago Tribune in 1986. "I felt that was the reason I was there. I didn't resent it in the least. I felt then, as I feel now, it is very dangerous for a group of people to live in a society where they are not allowed to interpret themselves." She made good on that mission with features like "A Country Called Watts," an hour-long special for NBC News in 1977 that explored the efforts by residents of that Los Angeles neighborhood to come together and reassess the bloody civil disturbance that had occurred in response to police brutality in 1965, and to rebuild burned-out blocks in the face of perceived government indifference and continuing police harassment. "Gail kept pushing to get the faces and voices of Black people on TV news, so that footage of Black men in handcuffs would no longer be the only images of Black people that white viewers could see," Gary Gilson, the former faculty director of a summer program for minority students at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, said in a phone interview. "And her pioneering role as a Black news reporter allowed young Black kids to see, many for the first time, someone admirable on TV who looked like them. It gave them recognition and hope."



After two years at NBC News, Ms. Christian became the news director of the public station KCET in her native Los Angeles, where she created a "60 Minutes"-style investigative series called "28 Tonight" (the station was on Channel 28). Two of that program's segments won Peabody Awards.

Ms. Christian moved to Washington in 1981, starting a nearly decade-long run as the news director for the Public Broadcasting Service. "Ever since I've been in the business, I always wanted to be one of the brass who go off in that little room and decide what will be covered and by whom," she said in a 1976 interview with The Los Angeles Times. "But at NBC, I never saw any women go into that little room. Nor any minorities. I figured this was my chance."

Gail Christian was born Gail Patricia Wells on February 20, 1940, in Los Angeles, one of four children of Edwin Wells, who worked on an assembly line for the Hughes Aircraft Company, and Lucille (Scruggs) Wells, who owned a beauty college in the Leimert Park neighborhood of South Central Los Angeles. Ms. Christian grew up in Venice, Calif., and spent three years studying world history at California State University, Los Angeles, before dropping out to join the Air Force in 1962. She fell in with a rough crowd after she was discharged, and in 1965 she was convicted of armed robbery of a hotel. After she had served her time, she talked her way into an apprentice role at the San Francisco Examiner. In 1970, she took part in an 11-week summer program for minority students in broadcast journalism at Columbia. (Gerald Rivera was a classmate.) Two years later, she was hired by KNBC, the local NBC affiliate. She worked there for six years before being hired by NBC News.

She eventually settled in Palm Springs, Calif. with Ms. DeBardelaben, whom she married in 2016. In 2003, the couple started the annual Palm Springs Women's Jazz Festival. In addition to Ms. DeBardelaben, Ms. Christian is survived by a grandson. Her daughter, Sunday Barrett, died in 2019.

While Ms. Christian kept quiet about her prison time early in her career, she finally decided to divulge it to a sympathetic executive at NBC. "The guy just looked at me," she recalled. "He says, 'I haven't got enough problems. I have to listen to yours? Get outta here.' Never heard another word."

Adapted from an article by Alex Williams, © The New York Times, April 22, 2023

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bob Gould Remembered by his Daughter, Denise Smith**

Robert “Bob” Marshall Gould, 79, of West Hills, CA, passed away on May 5, 2023, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Bob was born on August 1, 1943, to Oren and Dorothy Gould and grew up in Macomb, IL alongside his siblings – Ruth Anne, Kenny, Kay and Chuck. He attended Western Illinois University, where he graduated in 1966.

Shortly after graduation, Bob drove to Los Angeles to pursue a career in television. In his best decision, he soon convinced his college sweetheart Sharon Greuel to join him in L.A. and the couple were married in Toluca Lake, CA in 1967.

Bob worked in the entertainment industry for decades, first at NBC, in a career that saw him work his way from Page to Production Manager to Director of Facilities for NBC’s famed Burbank studios. He then moved to the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, where he was a key contributor to the televised Emmy awards coverage.

Bob’s easygoing nature, natural charm and vibrant personality made him a friend to all, a treasured co-worker and, most importantly, a beloved husband, father and grandfather, the role he enjoyed most. Additionally, he loved cheering for the Chicago Cubs, traveling with Sharon to Hawaii and listening to jazz.

Bob is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sharon; son David; daughter Denise (Smith) and son-in-law Elliott; and grandchildren Ava and Xavier (seen in the photo on this page).

The family will hold a celebration of life ceremony later this summer and will update this listing soon with further details.

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*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Newton Minow**

Newton N. Minow, who as Federal Communications Commission chief in the early 1960s famously proclaimed that network television was a “vast wasteland,” died on May 6th. He was 97. Minow, the recipient of a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016, died Saturday at home, surrounded by loved ones, said his daughter, Nell Minow.

Though Minow remained in the FCC post just two years, he left a permanent stamp on the broadcasting industry through government steps to foster satellite communications, the passage of a law mandating UHF reception on TV sets and his outspoken advocacy for quality in television.

“My faith is in the belief that this country needs and can support many voices of television — and that the more voices we hear, the better, the richer, the freer we shall be,” Minow once said. “After all, the airways belong to the people.” Minow was appointed as FCC chief by President John F. Kennedy in early 1961. He had initially come to know the Kennedys in the 1950s as an aide to Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, the Democrats’ presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956. Minow laid down his famous challenge to TV executives on May 9, 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, urging them to sit down and watch their station for a full day, “without a book, magazine, newspaper, profit-and-loss sheet or rating book to distract you.”

“I can assure you that you will observe a vast wasteland,” he told them. “You will see a procession of game shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, mayhem, violence, sadism, murder, Western bad men, Western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence and cartoons. And, endlessly, commercials — many screaming, cajoling and offending.”

As he spoke, the three networks were just about all most viewers had to choose from. Pay television was barely in the planning stage, PBS and “Sesame Street” were several years away, and HBO and niche channels such as Animal Planet were far in the future. The speech caused a sensation. “Vast wasteland” became a catch phrase. Jimmy Durante opened an NBC special by saying, “Da next hour will be dedicated to upliftin’ da quality of television. ... At least, Newt, we’re tryin’.”

Minow became the first government official to get a George Foster Peabody award for excellence in broadcasting.

Among the new laws during his tenure were the All-Channel Receiver Act of 1962, which required that TV sets pick up UHF as well as VHF broadcasts, which opened up TV channels numbered above 13 for widespread viewing. Congress also passed a bill that provided funds for educational television, and measures to foster communications satellites. In a September 2006 interview on National Public Radio, Minow recalled telling Kennedy that such satellites were “more important than sending a man into space. ... Communications satellites will send ideas into space, and ideas live longer than people.” On July 10, 1962, Minow was one of the officials making statements on the first live trans-Atlantic television program, a demonstration of AT&T’s Telstar satellite.

Children’s programming was a particular interest of Minow, a father of three, who told broadcasters the few good children’s shows were “drowned out in the massive doses of cartoons, violence and more violence. ... Search your consciences and see if you cannot offer more to your young beneficiaries whose future you guide so many hours each and every day.”

Minow resigned in May 1963 to become executive vice president and general counsel for Encyclopedia Britannica Inc. in Chicago. Nell Minow said her father also was instrumental in getting presidential debates televised, starting with Kennedy and Richard N. Nixon, after watching Stevenson struggle to use the new medium during his 1956 presidential run.

In 1965, Minow returned to his law practice in Chicago, and later served as board member at PBS, CBS Inc. and the advertising company Foote Cone & Belding Communications Inc. He was director of the Annenberg Washington Program in Communications Policy Studies of Northwestern University. He also gave Barack Obama a summer job at the law firm, where the future president met his wife, Michelle Robinson. Minow also was one of Obama’s earliest supporters when the then-Illinois senator considered running for president, Nell Minow said.

“In 1961, I worried that my children would not benefit much from television. But in 1991 I worry that my grandchildren will actually be harmed by it,” he said.

Adapted from a report by Tammy Webber, © Associated Press, May 6, 2023
Former Associated Press writer Polly Anderson in New York contributed to this story.



The Kickers

Calling All Connies!



The Sunday New York Times recently brought together a group of young women named Connie, and their mothers, for a wonderful spread in the Mother's Day issue.

All this time, I'd thought the story of my name was special; little did I know it was the story of a generation.

Unlike most people, I was able to pick my own name. I already had one, of course — Xiaokang, my Chinese name, given to me by my maternal grandfather, which referred to the Communist Party's commitment to achieving "a moderately prosperous society." But in 1990, my parents decided to raise me in the United States, and we all had a chance to choose a new identity. They asked for my 3-year-old's opinion: What would I like to be called in this new place? I answered, the story goes, with Connie, after that pretty "ayi," or auntie, we watched on TV.

That ayi was Constance Yu-Hwa Chung, or, as the world knows her, Connie Chung. Ms. Chung had rejoined CBS News a year earlier; she would eventually become the first Asian and second woman to be an anchor of a major weekday news program, appearing nightly alongside Dan Rather to deliver the world's biggest news events to Americans at home, my family included.

Connie Chung was trusted and respected — qualities that my mother herself had enjoyed in China. So when I picked my name, my mom readily acceded. What more could she hope for from her own Connie?

What my family didn't know was that a version of the same scenario was playing out in living rooms and hospitals across the country. Asian American families from the late 1970s through the mid-'90s — mostly Chinese, all new immigrants — had considered the futures of their newborn daughters and, inspired by one of the few familiar faces on their TVs, signed their own wishes, hopes and ambitions onto countless birth certificates in the form of a single name: Connie.

Excerpted from an article by Connie Wang, photograph by Connie Aramaki, © The New York Times, May 14, 2023



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