

A Non-Profit Fraternal Organization of Radio and Television Broadcast Professionals

PPB Honoree REGIS PHILBIN Still Going Strong

PPB Luncheon Re-cap Written by Celebrity Journalist Margie Barron
Luncheon Photos by Roxanne Schorbach, Schorbach.com

The combination of **REGIS PHILBIN** being an entertaining storyteller and a TV icon made the last luncheon for the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters a great way to wrap up 2016. Philbin was honored with the **ART GILMORE** Career Achievement Award in November thanks to his celebrated status among the broadcasters. His career spans over half a century, and the lovable host of talk shows and game shows has earned a Guinness World Record for the most hours on U.S. television. To date, at 85, he's had close to 17,000 hours in front of the camera. And, oh the stories he can tell.

The PPB crowd heard some anecdotes from Philbin, and some tales from his colleagues and friends. The dais had top producers and industry executives such as **JOHN SEVERINO**, the former president of ABC-TV, who revealed he originally hired Regis to do movie reviews on the news, but then got him hosting *A.M. Los Angeles*. **STEVE OBER** who produced *Live! with Regis and Kathie Lee* expressed his affection for Regis and all the fun times they had together.



JOY PHILBIN joined her husband, honoree **REGIS PHILBIN**, to record a piece for later playback on KABC-TV, Channel 7. Regis and Joy have enjoyed appearing together over the years singing familiar songs for enthusiastic audiences.

That was echoed by producer **RICK ROSNER**, best known for creating the cop show *CHiPs*. Producer/director **LARRY EINHORN** noted that the Guinness Record means Regis has been in front of the camera an average of one hour a day throughout his career. **TOM BATTISTA** said he flew in just to attend the luncheon. "I was Regis' best man when he married Joy in 1970, so I didn't want to miss this," he told everyone at Sportsmen's Lodge.



Past PPB President **FRANK BRESE** and his wife **BOBBIE** were among those in the greenroom before the Regis luncheon.

SARAH PURCELL, who co-hosted *A.M. Los Angeles*, said, "Good Lord, it was in 1974 when I had the great good fortune to work with Regis. I was the recipient of his kindness and generosity of spirit. He helped me get the job at *A.M. L.A.* after I turned it down. He talked some sense into me and I'm grateful for that. He's always worked with his fellow performers, giving them a boost and working on their success."

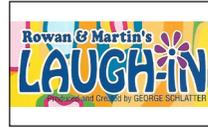


REGIS PHILBIN greets pal **JO ANNE WORLEY** as **SARAH PURCELL**, **STEVE OBER**, **LOIS TRAVALENA**, and **TOM BATTISTA** look on.

Unable to attend in person, there were taped messages from Philbin's former co-hosts **KELLY RIPA** and **KATHIE LEE GIFFORD** congratulating him and making fun of him at the same time. And just when you thought he couldn't take any more abuse, a tape from **DON RICKLES** was shown. "You've got a great face for radio," Rickles told Regis with mock malice.

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**GEORGE
SCHLATTER**



Friday, February 10, 2017

The Diamond Circle Award will be presented to TV Associate Producer, Production Exec., Choreographer **DEE BAKER**



On the Dais: Front Row: (L-R) **TOM BATTISTA**, Honoree **REGIS PHILBIN**, **SARAH PURCELL** and PPB President **ALAN PERRIS**. Back Row: **LARRY EINHORN**, **RICK ROSNER**, **STEVE OBER** and **JOHN SEVERINO**.

There were also clips from Philbin's career, and seeing Regis as the announcer and sidekick on *The Joey Bishop Show* filled the room with nostalgia.

There was an ovation when PPB President **ALAN PERRIS** presented the honor to Regis. Then Philbin gave thanks and said, "It's great to see so many people I've known throughout my career. It all began for me when I went to Notre Dame. I was told to join the Navy outfit there, and at the end of my second year in school, war broke out in Korea and so I went in the Navy for two years. My ship came back to San Diego in 1955, and on my last day in service I was packing my bags and an old Marine Major asked me, 'What are you going to do with the rest of your life?' I thought I could do TV, but I wasn't sure. And this guy looked at me and said, 'Don't you know you can do anything you want in this life. You've only got to want it bad enough. Now, do you want it?' I stepped back, clicked my heels, gave him a salute, and said, 'Yes, sir, I want it.'

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A huge crowd attended the November PPB luncheon honoring television icon **REGIS PHILBIN**.

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So, he ordered me to 'get in the car, go up to Hollywood, and make it happen.' And I did. I drove up and saw a guy at channel 13 and he asked me if I really wanted a job. I said 'yes,' and he handed me a broom. That's true."



Honoree **REGIS PHILBIN** enjoys a joke from one of his friends. Former president of ABC-TV **JOHN SEVERINO** looks amused.

And that's how TV icon Regis Philbin got into showbiz.

Also a highlight of the PPB gathering, past President **CHUCK STREET** presented the organization's Diamond Circle Award to **STU BILLETT**, who he called "a regular guy who has accomplished extraordinary things."

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Billett went to NYU (on the G.I. Bill) and developed an interest in writing for television. His big break was getting an internship on *The \$64,000 Question*, which led to a career developing and producing innovative top game shows, including ABC's *Split Second* from Hatos-Hall Productions.



STU BILLETT, executive producer of *The People's Court*, shows off his new Diamond Circle award with a good friend, PPB's V.P. **BIANCA PINO**.

After teaming up with **RALPH EDWARDS**, Stu produced the revival of *Truth or Consequences* and a number of other programs, including *Family Medical Center*, *Superior Court*, and *Love Stories*. Stu's been Executive Producer of *The People's Court* for the last 33 years. TPC was the first popular court show featuring small claims cases and it's still going strong.

Stu Billett is a great success story, and he still gives thanks to the G.I. Bill for making it happen.

PPB thanks celebrity journalist Margie Barron for her write-up of our luncheon. A member of the Television Critics Association, she's written for a wide variety of TV, entertainment and travel publications for more than 30 years.

Table 35

By Spider Harrison



SPIDER HARRISON enjoyed spending time with **GERALD SMITH** and his daughter at the Regis luncheon.

Over 350 PPB members and guests created a warm and professional atmosphere at the **REGIS PHILBIN** luncheon. But, it was Table 35 that was dripping with class.

I attended most of the luncheons in 2016 and the guests at each table were great. But Table 35 at the last luncheon was the icing on the cake. We shared stories and memories, many of which came from **GERALD K. SMITH**, an agent and TV consultant who brought along his daughter, a TV executive. Also at the table was **JENNIFER HORN**, VP of CRN Digital Talk Radio, who brought her dad - he had the class to walk around the table and introduce himself to everyone.

Currently, I'm on the air in Nashville on WHPY-FM, "Hippie Radio 94.5." It was a special moment when **KATHY LEE GIFFORD** did her video for Regis and said, "Regis, I'm unable to be at your luncheon today because I'm in Nashville." I received a small acknowledgment at Table 35 when Nashville was mentioned. That was a high point for me, along with meeting Regis when he first walked into the lobby with his wife. He stood for a moment looked at my PPB badge, and took a selfie.

It was special listening to Regis talk about his career and the guest testimonies from his friends were fantastic. I love these PPB luncheons. Thank you.

Penske Media Corporation announced the promotion of PPB Board Member **STACEY FARISH** to Chief Revenue Officer and General Manager of Deadline, TVLine, and GoldDerby. Stacey will be responsible for revenue and business operations at three of the leading entertainment brands at PMC. Farish previously worked in sales leadership roles at ABC, ClearChannel, and Tribune.

ED and **NANCY WILLIAMS** celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on a California Coastal Cruise. Ed, now 90, and Nancy, 87, still jitterbug weekly to **JOHNNY VANA** and the Big Band Alumni, a swing band once honored by PPB. Ed also still serves on the SAG-AFTRA Radio Plays Committee.



MIKE STARK operates a radio studio on the L.A. Harbor waterfront at Ports 'O Call Village in San Pedro. Currently they are building a podcast network of diverse and unique programs including *Radio Waves*, featuring Mike and fellow PPB member **RICHARD WAGONER**. *Radio Waves* covers the latest news in the radio world, specifically the L.A. market. Guests on the show have included PPB Board Member "SHOTGUN" **TOM KELLY**. Other guests have been **DR. DEMENTO**, **ACE YOUNG**, **JEFF GONZER**, **MO KELLY**, **ELLIOT MINTZ**, **CYNTHIA FOX**, **DAVE HULL** and many more - all sharing their "career spanning" stories in the radio trenches of L.A. More info can be found at laradiostudio.com or by e-mailing mike@laradiostudio.com.

Past PPB Board Member **BOB FOX** was honored in November as a Lifesaver at AdRelief's 35th Annual Fundraiser. Bob was a founding member of the organization and was the group's fifth president. AdRelief of Greater Los Angeles is a volunteer organization made up of advertising and promotion people brought together to help their colleagues in times of life crisis.

JOHN NEWTON (AKA: **JOHNNY ST. THOMAS**) has joined HOT923TheBeat! internet radio on the weekends, Saturday from 3-6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. John says, "I play slo jam, current hits, and old school, with a few dusty's too, I'll dust those ones off. I just want to be sustainable."

DON GRAHAM is busy promoting **DEANA MARTIN**'s latest album. On *Swing Street*, Deana pays tribute to three men who helped guide and encourage her career: uncles **SAMMY DAVIS, JR.**, **FRANK SINATRA** and, her dad, **DEAN MARTIN**.



ROBERT S. LEVINSON made his first appearance in Mystery Weekly Magazine (and featured on the cover of the December issue, no less) with *The Body in the Backyard*. Copies are available on digital newsstands or the MW web site, mystery-weekly.com/subscribe.asp. A paperback edition is available on Amazon. Meanwhile, Bob's story, *With Eyes Like That*, appeared in the December issue of Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine.

In December, Sirius XM broadcast the premiere of a new version of **NORMAN CORWIN**'s *We Hold These Truths*. Produced by California Artists Radio Theatre (CART), the program was heard on the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and the 75th anniversary of Corwin's first production which was broadcast one week after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Past PPB President **JOHN HARLAN** is the announcer and the project was produced and directed by Diamond Circle Honoree **PEGGY WEBBER**. Copies can be purchased at CARTRadio.com.

Board Member **MATTHEW WORLEY** is currently working to digitize the original **LES TREMAYNE**/PPB audio history interviews, and is interested in learning as much as possible about the recording sessions. Matthew would like to encourage anyone who was interviewed by Les Tremayne, or who knew Mr. Tremayne personally, to contact him at matthew@matthewworley.org.

TED ZIEGENBUSCH was recently honored as one of the all-time distinguished alumni of San Bernardino Valley College, during the celebration of their 90th anniversary. Ted was interning at K/men Radio 1290 in San Bernardino when he began attending the college, majoring in TV-radio production and programming. While at SBVC, in addition to his daily radio shows, Ted was an on-camera sportscaster for KVCR-TV's 6:00 p.m. newscast and appeared in numerous comedies and dramas on the college stage. Ted joined KOST 103.5 in 1982 and is still there today, doing week-ends and vacation fill-in.

WALDEN HUGHES announced that on Saturday, March 11, the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy (SPERDVAC) will celebrate the 70th birthday of the radio broadcast of the classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. The SPERDVAC production will feature PPB members **TOMMY COOK, JIMMY WELDON, STUFFY SINGER, RICHARD HERD, BARBARA WATKINS** and **BOBB LYNES**. The show starts at 2:00 p.m. and will take place at Long Beach Veterans Hospital, 5901 East 7th Street, Building 126. The event is FREE.



Newly minted Golden Circle awardee **ROBERT L. MILLS** and his wife **SHELLEY** toured Mexico in November aboard the Star Princess, visiting Cabo San Lucas, La Paz, Loretto, and Puerto Vallarta where they dined at Papi's (at left). It was a rare pleasure trip for them, having visited those ports many times for his cruise lectures. Bob's article, *Why Bob*

Hope Linked His Name to Popular Sponsors, appeared in the November issue of Radiogram Magazine, and he was interviewed for a PBS *American Masters* documentary on Hope scheduled to air in 2017.

PPBer **BILL A. JONES** has been cast in the recurring role of newsman "Marv Wolfman" on the new NBC series *Powerless*, debuting February 2nd at 8:30 p.m.

PPB Board Member **DANDY DON WHITEMORE** was a supporter and participant at the Pier Del Sol/Special Olympics Fundraiser in Santa Monica in October. Pier del Sol is the largest fund-raising event for Special Olympics in Southern California, featuring some of the most celebrated chefs and restaurants in the greater L.A. area. The cookbook for the event is available at sosc.org/pier-del-sol/cookbookinfo and features Don's recipes.



DON WHITEMORE got to spend time with **MARIA SHRIVER** at the Special Olympics Fundraiser. Maria's mother, **EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER**, founded the organization in 1968.



Photo: Robert Freeman

PPB vice president and Emmy award winner, radio personality "**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY**, is getting into TV! In an article in the Los Angeles Daily News in December, PPBer **RICHARD WAGONER** announced that Shotgun and former KRTH programmer **JHANI KAYE** are working on a television pilot called *Shotgun Tom Kelly's Neighborhoods*. Richard wrote that the show "... takes viewers on video tours of areas around Southern California - using modern production technology, including drones - not done as entertainingly since the great **RALPH STORY** highlighted Los Angeles decades ago." The sizzle reel can be found on YouTube.com. Along with commercials, voice-overs, and announcing, Tom's keeping busy.

Long time PPBer **ED ARNOLD** will be inducted into the Southern California Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame during the annual SCSB Awards luncheon on January 30. Ed was an L.A. sportscaster at KABC-TV and KTLA-TV for 30 years until moving to KOCE-TV as co-anchor of the PBS station's nightly news magazine *Real Orange* in 2000. During his TV sportscasting days, he reported on morning radio with broadcast legends **JIM LANGE, ROBERT W. MORGAN**, and **CHARLIE TUNA**. Ed started his career in Texarkana, Arkansas at the age of 14 where he was one of the first rock and roll disc jockeys. He retired in 2014 after 60 years in broadcasting, but still serves on the boards of several non-profits and as a volunteer master of ceremonies for 30-40 charity events a year.



This historic photo shows **STU NAHAN** (then with KNBC Channel 4), PPB member **ED ARNOLD** (KABC Channel 7), **JIM HILL** (KCBS Channel 2), and then California Angels slugger **REGGIE JACKSON** working hard before an Angels game in the early 80's.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

BARBARA ALPERT spent 14 years in radio as producer and announcer for **CHUCK ALPERT** on *the Law* which aired on KIEV, 870 a.m. Barbara is currently a sales associate at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Calabasas. **WINK MARTINDALE** is her sponsor.

JAMES BENTLEY spent 20 years in radio and 45 in television. He's an actor, stand-up comedian, voice-over actor, done stunts, magic, and is an impersonator of Ol' Blue Eyes, **FRANK SINATRA**. His TV credits include *The West Wing, Friends, ER, Growing Pains*, and *Knots Landing*. His film career includes *Aviator, Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, and *Inheritance*. PPB Board Member **LOIS TRAVALENA** sponsored James.

NEIL GORDON spent 30 years in television and is currently a production executive with *Better TV*. The producer/writer/director started his career by inserting copies of **PAT PAULSEN**'s editorials into self-addressed stamped envelopes. He quickly moved on to **DICK VAN DYKE** Productions, Together Again Productions, and MGM Television. TV productions include *America's Funniest Home Videos, Mike & Mattie, Solid Gold*, and over 300 rock music videos. He's worked extensively in the longform and shortform commercial and infomercial fields. Included in his list of products are: *Miracle Blade knives, Ultimate Chopper, Walkfit, Ionic Pro Dramatic Differences, Bun and Thigh Roller, Ab Rocker, Ultimate Crunch, Super Crunch Plus, Starland*, and *Disneyworld*. Neil is sponsored by PPB Board Member **JOHN GOLDHAMMER**.

DONALD JACOB spent 45 years in television and is now enjoying retirement. He started his career in New Orleans at WVVE-TV in 1964. In 1977 he moved to Los Angeles and worked at KTTV-TV as a lighting director, stage manager, and associate director. In 1979, Donald joined CBS as stage manager and worked on a variety of shows including sitcoms, soap operas, sports, news, and variety shows. He retired from CBS in 2004. **BOB LA HENDRO** is sponsoring Donald.



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NEW MEMBERS (continued from Page 3)

ELLEN KATZMAN began as a news writer at KGIL in 1971. Between 1975 and 1980, she worked at KGOE in Thousand Oaks with PPB Board Member **JOHN NEWTON**, who is her sponsor. Ellen was a talent coordinator from 1992 until 2000 and returned to radio in 2011 as host at KRLA. She is currently a real estate broker with Keller Williams.

IRMGARD KRAUS started in 1956 at CBS Television City as a secretary in the publicity department and worked at 20th Century Studios in the TV department for 20 years. When the Olympics came to L.A. in 1984, she took a year off. After the Olympics, she worked at Embassy TV, Turner Entertainment, and Universal Studios. She currently volunteers at MPTF. **ANN ARDIGO** is her sponsor.

RENE LAGLER is a five-time Emmy Award winning production designer of more than 2,500 television shows and major events. These include the *Academy Awards*, the *Grammy Awards*, the *Country Music Awards*, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 1984 Olympics, the main newsroom studio for CNN in Atlanta, and several Democratic National Conventions. He's designed TV specials for **BARBRA STREISAND**, **FRANK SINATRA**, **TONY ORLANDO**, and **NEIL DIAMOND**, to name a few. Rene will receive the Art Directors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award on February 11th. **JOHN GOLDHAMMER** sponsored Rene.

GREG LEE started in 1979 as tour manager for **LEO SAYER** while also serving as a promotion director at KZEL-FM and music director at KBDF in Oregon. In 1980, Greg moved to KKSJ as assistant program director and music director. The following year, he did local promotions for Warner Bros. Records and in 1985, was promoted to national promotions director. He is currently president of imagination.squarespace.com, a social media marketing and promotion agency. Greg was sponsored into PPB by "DANDY" **DON WHITTEMORE**.

GIL LEYVAS spent 22 years working in television. He was an ABC News camera operator in Las Vegas before moving to Los Angeles and joining KCAL, and KCBS as helicopter camera operator and photo-journalist. Gil currently holds the same position with KNBC and Angel City Air. He's won three Emmys and a Golden Mike Award. Past PPB President **COMMANDER CHUCK STREET** is his sponsor.

LAWRENCE MAROTTA began delivering news in 1971 at WFOV in New York. He moved to ABC radio in 1975, which was followed by a 10 year stint at ABC corporate. In 1987, he joined American Forces Network and has worked as production manager, operations manager, program manager, and television director. He is still involved with AFN. **ROBERT MATHESON** is sponsoring Lawrence.

HERMAN RUSH started in 1951 as a salesman and TV program director. During his 65 year career he's been an agent, CEO at Columbia Pictures, and was the executive producer of *The Montel Williams Show* for seven years. In 2000, Herman served as Chairman of the Board and CEO of Infotainment International, Inc. He currently serves as head of television for SMS Text Media, Inc. and has been a partner in Rush Cooperman Associates, LLC since 1998. His sponsor is PPB Treasurer **RIC ROSS**.

NANCY COLE SILVERMAN started in 1978 as sales manager for the Simi Valley Enterprise, a local weekly newspaper. From 1982 to 1996, she sold radio time for KNX, KFVB and KABC, then became general sales manager for XTRA Sports and KXTA-AM. Nancy has been general manager at KMPC-AM, an instructor at UCLA Extension, and is now a full-time author. In the last ten years, Nancy's written numerous short stories and novelettes. Her new series, the *Carol Childs Mysteries*, takes place inside a busy Los Angeles radio station. PPB Board Member **MARY BETH GARBER** is her sponsor.

RANDY WEST just re-joined PPB. His career spans 34 years in radio and 26 in television. He is currently an announcer, voice-over actor, and actor. His credits include *Big Brother 18*, *Deal or No Deal*, *The Big Spin*, and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, and commercials for McDonald's, Coca-Cola, and Mitsubishi. He is also a certified hypnotist and was sponsored by PPB board member **MATTHEW WORLEY**.

WE REMEMBER

Between 1970 and 2014, **MIKE CALLAGHAN** served as chief engineer at KPPC, KWST, and KIIS-FM. He taught electronics and broadcasting at Pasadena City College.



SAM LOVULLO was PPB's president for three years, 2009 to 2011. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and graduated from UCLA with a degree in accounting and finance. His first industry job was at CBS-TV as an accountant

and he went on to become manager of business affairs for CBS-TV, West Coast. In 1969, after a short stint as associate producer of the *Jonathan Winters Show*, Sam and associates **FRANK PEPIATT** and **JOHN AYLESWORTH** brought *Hee Haw* to the CBS network. The variety show, hosted by **BUCK OWENS** and **ROY CLARK**, featured country music and corn pone humor and became known for its scantily clad "Hee Haw Honeys." The series eventually went into syndication and became the number one syndicated TV show in the nation. Sam produced all 25 first-run seasons, which has aired continuously for the last 47 years. He also produced specials for **JOHN WAYNE**, **HERB ALPERT**, and *The Harlem Globetrotters*, among others. Sam has received dozens of awards and was active in many charitable organizations. He authored a book entitled *My Life in the Kornfield: My 25 Years at Hee Haw*.

ELWIN REEDER began his career at 16 by managing theaters. Later, he worked for CBS radio and TV on popular programs including those starring **JACK BENNY**, **RED SKELTON** and **BOB CROSBY**, and live television dramas *Climax* and *Playhouse 90*.

FRED WESTBROOK (or **WOSTBROCK**) was a talent agent who represented classic game show hosts including **GENE RAYBURN**, **TOM KENNEDY** and **WINK MARTINDALE**. Known often as "Mr. Game Show," Fred was an author, working with **DAVID SCHWARTZ** and **STEVE RYAN** in compiling *The Encyclopedia of TV Game Shows* and *The Ultimate TV Game Show Book*. In addition to his passion for game shows, Fred was an agent for stars like **PHYLLIS DILLER** and **ADAM WEST**.