

A Non-Profit Organization of Broadcast and Media Professionals

Donna Mills, star of the Popular CBS Primetime Soap *Knots Landing*, is Honored by PPB in February

Luncheon Photos by Roxanne Schorbach (Schorbach.com)



On the dais (front left to right): Donna's best friend **JOLIE KEYSER**, honoree **DONNA MILLS**, director **DENNIE GORDON**, creator of *Knots Landing* **DAVID JACOBS**. (Standing, left to right): actor **JAMES LEO RYAN**, and co-stars from *Knots Landing* **JOAN VAN ARK** and **MICHELE LEE**.



Because of his busy schedule **RuPAUL CHARLES** wasn't on hand for the group dais photo but greeted honoree **DONNA MILLS** on stage. RuPaul is known as the "Most Famous Drag Queen in the World" and is host of his own show on VH1 which is just starting its 10th year on the air. Donna and RuPaul became friends when she appeared on his show.

PPB Past President **CHUCK STREET**, substituted as host of the luncheon for President **ALAN PERRIS** who is recovering from surgery. Chuck presented **DONNA MILLS** with the **ART GILMORE** Career Achievement Award. Donna thanked PPB and announced that she is so impressed, she is going to become a member!



Three of the stars of *Knots Landing*, one of the longest-running primetime dramas in the United States, hung out in the greenroom before the luncheon. **MICHELE LEE**, **JOAN VAN ARK** and **DONNA MILLS** have remained close friends since the show aired on CBS from 1979 until 1993.

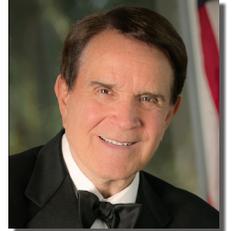
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GEORGE PENNACCHIO, entertainment reporter for ABC7 Eyewitness News, checks the white balance on the camera before shooting an interview with **DONNA MILLS**. His story ran on the 6:00pm news on Channel 7 that evening.



Before lunch and our tribute to honoree **DONNA MILLS**, there was a very special surprise for one of PPB's members. Grammy-winning jazz vocalist **DIANE SCHUUR** attended the luncheon for **FRANKIE VALLI** and told Vice President. "SHOTGUN TOM" **KELLY** that there is only one other singer she'd like to meet someday ... the legendary **JOHNNY MATHIS**. Shotgun got on the phone and arranged for Johnny to meet his fan. It was truly a wonderful and emotional moment for everyone in the ballroom. Trying to get good photos are **FRANK FORTH** and PPB Board Member **JHANI KAYE** on the left and KABC-TV's **GEORGE PENNACCHIO** on the right. Shotgun (with arms crossed) looks on.

PHOTO GALLERY



In the photo on the left, PPB Board Member **LOIS TRAVALENA** shows off a photo she found recently of her late husband, impressionist **FRED TRAVALENA**, and **DONNA MILLS** taken at the 1984 Olympics. On the right, with the help of Donna's friend **JOLIE KEYSER**, Donna graciously autographs the photo.



Surprise guest **JOHNNY MATHIS** and DJ and game show host **WINK MARTINDALE**.



Former L.A. Kings hockey play-by-play announcer **BOB MILLER**, KABC program host **LEON KAPLAN**, PPB Board Member **JHANI KAYE**.



DONNA MILLS, **JAMES LEO RYAN**, **ROBERTA KENT**



DAVID JACOBS, **DONNA MILLS**



DONNA MILLS, **JOHNNY MATHIS**, "SHOTGUN TOM" **KELLY**



TONY CARCIOPOLO, **DONNA MILLS**, **RON SHIPP**



SPIDER HARRISON, **DONNA MILLS**



ROBERTA KENT, **CHUCK STREET**



RuPAUL

IN THE NEWS

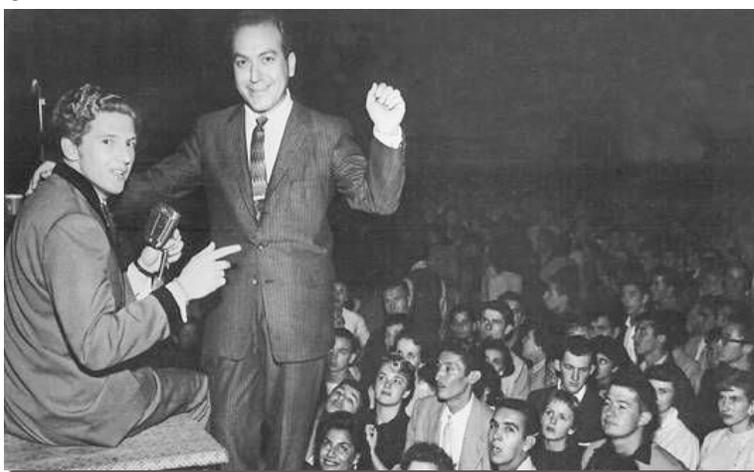
In January, Los Angeles Magazine published a feature article on the Magic Castle and co-founder and PPB member **MILT LARSEN**. The building, high above Hollywood on Franklin Blvd., started as a derelict Gothic mansion in 1963 and now houses a private club where "more than 5,000 magicians from more than 40 countries have earned an exclusive spot and consider the castle their headquarters." Read the story at www.lamag.com/culturefiles/magic-castle.

ROB WORD hosts an interview series called *A Word on Westerns* which tapes at the Autry Museum. On the show, he interviews filmmakers and performers who have contributed to the western genre in film and on TV. Dame **JOAN COLLINS**, our PPB honoree in March, was a past guest - she talked about her (practically unknown) western films and described her early Hollywood experience making *Bravados* with **GREGORY PECK**. The video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/igRF3FsD2TQ>.



Congratulations to Board Member **MATTHEW WORLEY** who was recently elected president of the Southern California chapter of the American Society of Journalists and Authors. Formed in 1948, and comprised of 14 regional chapters, ASJA is the country's largest organization of nationally credentialed nonfiction writers.

The City of El Monte will present **ART LABOE** with a Key to the City and declare March 10th "Art Laboe Day." In 1955, Laboe began hosting *Oldies But Goodies™ Dance and Show* at the El Monte Legion Stadium. Teenagers from all over the Southland flocked to the events every other weekend for three years to see both local artists, including The Penguins and Rosie and the Originals, and rising stars such as **RAY CHARLES**, **JACKIE WILSON**, **SAM COOKE**, **CHUCK BERRY**, **RITCHIE VALENS**, and **JERRY LEE LEWIS** (pictured below with Art). Remembering those days, Laboe said, "it was all about good times! Ever since then, El Monte has held a special place in my heart and I am grateful to be bestowed with these accolades."



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THIS NEWSLETTER IN BEAUTIFUL COLOR ???

Current and past issues are available at PPBwebsite.org/archive.html

IN THE NEWS



A few weeks ago, **KRIS ERIK STEVENS** received a 48-hour notice to fly to Amsterdam to perform the lead role - on-camera plus voice-overs - for a *McDonald's the Movie* production. He says, "it was an excellent experience; it was a major production ... airing now in Europe and the Netherlands."

An article by Diamond Circle recipient **ROBERT L. MILLS** will appear in the April issue of *Reminisce Magazine* recounting his first meeting **BOB HOPE** while a high school student in 1957, 20 years from the day he would join Hope's writing staff. In August, he will attend the formal dedication of the National Comedy Center in Jamestown, NY, where his archived notes, monologues, sketches, parody lyrics, and speeches from two decades on Hope's writing staff will be included in a Bob Hope exhibit.

PPB Board Member **MARY BETH GARBER** is pleased to announce that she's been awarded contracts to do the audio narration of four books from Red Hen Press, to be published mid-year.

It's been decades since **JOHNNY CARSON** or **GARY OWENS** used the phrase "Beautiful Downtown Burbank," but **RANDY WEST** still had it echoing in his mind when looking to bump up from his condo to a new home. Randy's now not only one of Burbank's newest residents but lives just blocks from city hall in the downtown-est zip code, 91501. And he says, "... it IS beautiful!"



Production Designer **RENE LAGLER** won a sculpture contest to design the number for new tallest building in Nashville. He says, "My idea came quite quickly for the 505 Building on the corner of Church and 5th by asking the architects if we could move the sculpture from the wall to the corner so it can be seen from all directions. It read just fine as 505. The metal unit is lit with RGB lighting to customize any color."

Congratulations to **STEVE BINDER!** 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of both the *ELVIS PRESLEY Comeback Special* and his *PETULA CLARK/HARRY BELAFONTE Special*, and the 35th Anniversary of *DIANA ROSS in Central Park* that Steve produced and directed. Steve has a new Elvis book coming out and will be speaking at both Graceland and the Paley Center in New York.

ED WILLIAMS thanks the PPB Board for the Diamond Circle Award he received in May, 2017, and the posting on the website. He says, "... I was both surprised and touched that my modest acting career had inspired such a following of fans both at home and abroad."

GREG LEE is representing singer-songwriter **SHEILA E**, best known as **PRINCE's** protege and musical director. He is developing a campaign to introduce Sheila and Prince's godson **MYCHAEL GABRIEL** to the music world this summer. Greg also represents global high-end vintage watch brand Szanto. He asks, "Any PPB members who represent celebs or personalities with Instagram/Facebook accounts who might be interested in being photographed with one of the brand's new watches, please reach out to me at socialmediastategies@gmail.com."



Last December, **PETER R.J. DEYELL** was honored to lay the U.S. Coast Guard wreath on National Wreath Day at the Los Angeles National Cemetery.



FRANK FORTH is proud that this is his 12th year doing location sound for the Oscar Red Carpet for ABC One, which provides local cut-ins for the BBC, local ABC affiliates, and many foreign networks.

Grant Documentary Short in Sedona Film Festival

A Documentary Short, "Carl's Tree," produced and directed by PPB Member **STEVE GRANT** will be screened at the Sedona Film Festival. For Grant, who says he's most comfortable in a TV studio directing multi-camera live productions, this is a new adventure that happened quite unexpectedly.

Steve's 91-year old father, Carl, had been making the 20-mile drive to his favorite ice cream shop in South Palm Beach, FL for years. As an amateur painter, one of the trees on the patio there caught his eye, and he made a painting which he gave to the staff.

Last Memorial Day, Carl took a spill on one of his trips for ice cream. Even though he wasn't injured seriously, he became very disoriented and unable to remember events, names, and faces.

On a recent visit to Florida, Steve took his dad back to the little ice cream shop that he hadn't recognized several months before. As they sat eating their ice cream, Carl began to tell the story of the tree and his painting - and Steve began recording. It was all there. Those seemingly forgotten details came spilling out, and Steve captured his Dad remembering it all for the first time. Carl wondered if they had kept the painting he gave them. Still shooting, they went inside where the manager took them back to the office and there was Carl's painting hanging over the door. The look on Carl's face was priceless.



On the plane back to LA, Steve put together a rough cut too see if there was a story there. It played beautifully. The Director of the Sedona Film Festival saw the piece on Facebook and invited Steve to submit it for the festival. Steve says, "All I had was my little point-and-shoot camera but I captured a once in a lifetime magical moment."

Steve's film can be viewed at - <https://vimeo.com/241632756>

TAMMY TRUJILLO won an RTNA Gold Mike for Best News Public Affairs Show last month. The piece on the show she hosts, *Community Cares*, was called *Rebuilding the Anaheim White House* and covered the progress of rebuilding the famed Orange County restaurant since a tragic fire destroyed it in 2016. Tammy's second textbook on broadcasting came out in December. *Writing and Reporting News You Can Use* was published by Routledge and follows her first book, *Intern Insider - Getting the Most Out of Your Internship in the Entertainment Field* published in 2016.

LOUIS GABRIEL recently attended and wrote about the CES 2018 Convention where there were about 3,900 vendors scattered all over hotels in Las Vegas showing off their wares. His article ran in the NABET-CWA Local 53 newsletter and the Glendale Moose Lodge Newsletter read by people all over the country and in the UK.

Actress/singer and PPB Board Member **KATHARINE "KAT" KRAMER** presented her mother, award winning actress/producer **KAREN SHARPE-KRAMER**, with an "Icon" Award on Sunday March 4th at the 3rd Annual **ROGER NEAL** Style Hollywood Oscar Black Tie Viewing Dinner Gala and Gifting Suite. Kat co-presented along with Academy Award winning actor **LOUIS GOSSETT, JR.** at the world famous Hollywood Museum.

GREAT READS

Past PPB President **CHUCK STREET** enthusiastically recommends two books. The first is *Unbelievable* by NBC correspondent **KATY TUR**. The Los Angeles native covered the **DONALD TRUMP** campaign for over a year and a half, often working 18 hour days. Chuck says, "Whether you voted for Trump or not, Tur provides a captivating perspective on a political candidate like no other ... a candidate who broke all of the usual campaigning rules and certainly roiled the political establishment. Her writing is rich and often eloquent."

The other book is *In Bed with Broadcasting* by **KEN DAVIS**. Davis became enamored with broadcasting as a teenager while growing up in Altadena. He was a disc jockey and TV news anchor in Flagstaff, AZ and a writer/producer at KCOP-TV, KTLA, KNXT, and eventually CBS News, and PBS. In the book, he writes about dining with **WALTER CRONKITE**, working with the lovable and gracious **STAN CHAMBERS**, and coming face to face with one of the Hillside Stranglers. Chuck says, "Both books are quick reads and very interesting!"



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YOU ARE INVITED ... FREE EVENT

ROB WORD hosts and produces an interview series called *A Word on Westerns* that is taped at the Autry Museum. He interviews filmmakers and performers who have contributed to the western genre in film and on TV. On May 15th, Rob will be paying tribute to **JOHN WAYNE** and PPB honoree, producer **GEORGE SCHLATTER**, will be one of the guests describing how he was able to talk Wayne into wearing a pink bunny suit for a *Laugh-In* Easter broadcast! The event is FREE. On Tuesday, May 15th, doors open at 10:30am for an 11:00am start and will finish by 12:30pm. Autry Museum Wells Fargo Theater, 4700 Western Heritage Way across from the Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park.

**AUTRY
MUSEUM**

There are currently over 200 AWOW episodes available for viewing on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/user/AlgonquinCowboy

Research director and sales manager
EVELYN MEYERS has been appointed by
PPB President **ALAN PERRIS**
to fill an empty seat on the Board of Directors.

WE REMEMBER

CAROLYN CARROLL was a dancer who attended the Hollywood Professional School. At 18, she joined *The Shaw Dancers* and worked as a lead dancer in Reno hotels and other venues, opening for big stars such as **MARLENE DIETRICH**, **RED SKELTON**, and many more. She also took on the role as choreographer for a short time. After marrying PPB Member **EDDIE CARROLL** (the voice of Jimini Cricket), Carolyn focused on being a housewife, a mother, then a tai chi master. She became a psychiatric therapist while acting as a travel agent, manager, and later a light and sound expert for the *Jack Benny Show* as portrayed by Eddie.

ALAN GOTTSCHALK, known as the "Recording Engineer to the Stars," had a long career as a sound editor and president and owner of Electro-Vox recording studios, founded by his father. Alan worked with many of the "A Listers" ... **JACK BENNY**, **BOB HOPE**, **BURNS & ALLEN**, **DINAH SHORE**, **EDDIE CANTOR**, **JERRY LEWIS**, **FRANK SINATRA**, **SAMMY FAIN**, **COLE PORTER**, **HAROLD ARLEN**, **HENRY MANCINI**, **BURT BACHARACH**, and PPB honoree **MICHAEL FEINSTEIN**. The studio closed after being in business for 69 years at the same Hollywood location at Melrose and Gower. Even in retirement, Alan continued to do recordings and consulting. Alan collected a large number of master LPs and historical recordings (going back to the late 20's and 30's), along with recording equipment that has sentimental, historical, and financial value to his family. His son David is looking for an appraiser (and possible buyer/s) who could determine the value of the collection and advise David on making the appropriate decisions. You can contact David at Ca2Ct@att.net.

LYLE KILGORE was news director at 93/KHJ, KDAY, KLAC, and the news anchor at KFWB. He began his career on the staff of several radio stations in the San Bernardino area before entering the Air Force. Stationed at Lackland, TX, he organized the first Air Force carrier wave station. After his stint in the service, he worked the legendary rock stations in the Inland Empire, KFXM and KMEN. As newscaster/reporter for KHJ 20/20 News, Lyle covered the top Los Angeles stories, giving special attention to those that drew national interest like Charles Manson and the Hillside Strangler stories. For a brief time Lyle went into the cookie business. He was a weekend news anchor at KFWB until his retirement.

ROSE MARIE was a dynamo as Baby Rose Marie in the 1920s and 1930s; she was a pistol as comedy

writer Sally Rogers on *The DICK VAN DYKE Show* in the 1960s; and in 2017, she reemerged as a voice in the #MeToo movement. With a nine decade career in show business, Rose Marie was one of the last of a generation of entertainers whose career spanned vaudeville, radio, movies, Broadway, television, and social media. She was a show-business prodigy winning a talent contest at the age of three; as a prize, NBC gave her her own radio show and a seven-year contract. Because of her brassy voice, she was sent on the road for personal appearances to prove she was, indeed, just a child. She made her screen debut in the 1929 short *Baby Rose Marie the Child Wonder*. Her most memorable film role was as a featured attraction belting out *My Bluebird's Singing the Blues* in the 1933 **W.C. FIELDS** comedy *International House*. In the early 1950s Rose Marie appeared on TV variety shows as a singer and dancer and returned to the big screen in 1954, starring opposite **PHIL SILVERS** in *Top Banana*. Following *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, Marie worked consistently, most notably as a regular on the game show *The Hollywood Squares*, and as part of the stage revue *4 Girls 4*, with **ROSEMARY CLOONEY**, **MARGARET WHITING**, and **BARBARA McNAIR**. She was a prolific guest star on popular series such as *The Love Boat*, *Caroline in the City*, and *Murphy Brown*.

CONNIE SAWYER, at 105, was the oldest working actress in Hollywood. The character actress appeared in multiple film and television projects over the years, including roles in *Archie Bunker's Place*, *Will & Grace*, and *When Harry Met Sally*. More recently, she appeared as the mother of **JAMES WOODS'** character in the Showtime series *Ray Donovan*. "I loved working on *Donovan* -- my son was a hit man, and I really got to cuss," she told The Hollywood Reporter in 2015. As a teen, Connie won amateur contests and landed her first professional gig on the radio. From there, she started doing a comedy act, performing on the Vaudeville circuit and in nightclubs. "I learned all about show business," she told People last year. "I played every nightclub across the United States in the '30s, and some of them were real dumps. But that's how I got into the biz." Her big break came in 1957 after an agent for **FRANK SINATRA** caught her performance as a tipsy society lady in the Broadway comedy *A Hole in the Head*. The singer purchased the rights for the play, and Sawyer was the only Broadway cast member hired for the film. That led to roles alongside **JACKIE GLEASON**, **KIRK DOUGLAS**, **MILTON BERLE**, **ROBERT MITCHUM**, **SUSAN HAYWARD** and **DEAN MARTIN**. She never stopped working, and Sawyer said she was perfectly happy not becoming a major star. Last year, her memoir was published - it's titled *I Never Wanted to Be a Star - And I Wasn't*.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

RON ALEXENBURG is being sponsored by Board Member **DON GRAHAM**. Ron began his career in 1965 with Garmisa Distribution in Chicago and spent most of his 57 years in the record business. He's worked at Columbia and Epic and was president of Infinity, Handshake, and National Record Company. Since 1985, Ron has been president of AEG, Inc., Alexenburg Entertainment Group.

JIM HAMPTON has had an expansive career in radio and television program development and was an on air personality in Detroit, Chicago, Tokyo, and China. Jim wrote and produced radio programs for ABC, RKO, and CBS networks, including *The Elton John Story*, *The Bob Seger Story*, *The John Lennon Story*, and hundreds more. He is currently CEO of Greenhouse Marketing Group. PPB Vice President **"SHOTGUN TOM" KELLY** sponsored Jim.

RONALD SHIPP began his career as an actor on *The Young and the Restless* in 1980 and appeared in films *Percy and Thunder*, *Bulletproof*, *Time Bomb*, and in numerous commercials. After a 15 year career with the LAPD, he left to start a security business and pursue his acting career. He appeared in the documentary *OJ Made in America* in which he played himself. Ron was sponsored into PPB by **TONY CARCIOPPOLO**.