

A fellowship of Hollywood Media Professionals who elevate and promote media and music through education and mentorship.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Hollywood Media Professionals:

I'd like to extend my heartfelt best wishes to all of you and your families. I hope you are all staying well, wearing your mask when you're out, and taking care of each other.

While no one can predict the timeline of this pandemic, we plan on resuming our events as soon as it is deemed safe for us to hold group activities.

In the meantime, we're using this newsletter to keep in touch. The following pages include updates on what some of our members are doing - working from home, keeping busy, and staying involved.

Take Care,



"Shotgun Tom" Kelly
President
HMP



"Shotgun Tom" Kelly's home studio, where he records his show for SiriusXM 60's on 6, features the 1938 studio door that was once at KNX Columbia Square in Hollywood.

Membership Renewals Delayed

Due to the ongoing health concerns, for the time being your Board of Directors has decided to delay sending out new Membership Renewal notices for the upcoming 2020-21 season.

If you are currently a paid HMP member, your "active" status will continue to be in force.

Next: *Coffee With Ron & Don*

The Hollywood Media Professionals next *Coffee With* event is all "teed up" and ready to go and will feature a conversation with legendary record industry promotion men **RON ALEXENBURG** and **DON GRAHAM**. Between the two of them they've spent over 100 years in the record industry.



DON GRAHAM and
RON ALEXENBURG.

Ron was vice-president of promotion for Columbia Records and was tasked by **CLIVE DAVIS** to take the helm at subsidiary Epic Records. During the next eight years, Alexenburg signed many artists including, **MICHAEL JACKSON**, who was persuaded to leave Motown for Epic. DON was a San Francisco promotion man who helped **RUSS SOLOMON** found Tower Records. Later, he moved to Los Angeles and served as an executive at A & M Records and then Warner Bros. Records.

Both Ron and Don are captivating story-tellers. They will be interviewed by award-winning prom man **DON WHITEMORE**.

The next *Coffee With* is sure to be a most enjoyable experience!



HMP Vice President **MICHAEL BROCKMAN** noticed a familiar face in this photo in the June 2020 edition of Goldmine magazine. The caption in the magazine reads, "The Business of Vinyl, 1970 (L-R): **DON GRAHAM**, **SAL IANNUCCI**, **BOB KRASNOW** and **TOMMY LIPUMA** have a meeting about the first **DAVE MASON** album on Blue Thumb Records." Don is an HMP board member and will be featured in our next *Coffee With* event.

The luncheon celebrating the
75th Anniversary of Game Shows and
This Is Your Life tribute to Art Alisi
that was canceled in March is scheduled to be produced
when we are able to hold large events.

MESSAGES FROM OUR MEMBERS

LOU SIMON

"These are unprecedented times, needless to say. But, y'know what I'm doing to 'pass the time'? Well, work...a lot, for one thing! SiriusXM is as busy as ever...maybe, even more so!

"But I've also been flexing my muscle of gratitude. Each day, I wake up...grateful for my health and that of my family...and I seek a way to make one person feel loved and valued and dignified. I don't have to look far. It comes to you, if you're open to it.

"So I've been using this time for a look within and reaching out. And each day is a gift. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

"Please be smart and safe!"

RON ALEXENBURG

"So here we all are doing things we never ever thought of doing. Yes, I'm lucky enough to still be working in the entertainment world, feeling for the artists everywhere who are without work.



"After 54 wonderful years of marriage, because of the Stay Home desire, I have...

1. Mopped the floors
2. Learned how to cook some dishes for my wife and son that I never did before
3. Washed the cars
4. Went for long walks and met the neighbors
5. Watched much too much TV

"So, I'm ready to go back to the real world and give all of this up. Please Stay Healthy!"

MANNY PACHECO



"I am pleased to say that I am still quite busy working through the pandemic. KNX 1070 News Radio has been in the front lines reporting on how Covid-19 is affecting Southern California. My work as a weekend traffic anchor continues, but my reports are coming from my studio at home in Cypress, CA.

"As an adjunct faculty member for Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut and Fullerton College, my broadcasting classes are also being conducted on Zoom online.

"Due to the free time I have accumulated, I am currently preparing my next two literary works in my *Forgotten Hollywood* book series.

"Let me send out best wishes to those readers of the Hollywood Media Professionals and I pray for continued good health during these trying times."

KATHARINE "KAT" KRAMER

"Since the lockdown in March, I've participated in two online podcasts and been reading, exercising, working on music and film projects, and I've learned how to participate in Zoom for virtual charity events to raise funds for the pandemic.



"Since the quarantine, the indie feature film *Turnover*, in which I co-starred and co-produced, launched on Amazon Prime. We achieved a 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. I also co-star in the dramatic short film *Mother's Day Memories* and we won the Indie Spirit Award at the 2020 Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema. I'm currently cast in a new TV Series and animated feature film, both in pre-production."

MARK CHIOLIS



"Hello fellow HMP'ers, it's been a wacky few months for everyone. The company I work for, Mobile TV Group, went from producing about 400 events/month to 0 within 48 hours. In addition to continuing to stay in contact with current and potential clients and working to develop new workflows, I've also been fortunate to have a few volunteer industry projects that have kept me busy.

"Last month it was an article and panel for a virtual NAB on *Mixing Workflows to Tell Better Stories* and *Cine-Live and the Future of Mixing Workflows to Tell Better Stories* featuring some key industry leaders. Through the HPA, there were opportunities to work with AFI and SOC to produce some classes. Also through HPA, there was a push for additional program content while we're all locked down. This led to a weekly webcast *Learning From Action: A Look Back at BMP's Rapid Response to the Covid-19 Crisis and Getting Hollywood Restarted and the Human Factors Required*.

"While it's a very challenging time for all of us now, I believe in the long run that we're all going to come out of this as a net-positive and am continuing to stay optimistic!"

LOIS TRAVALENA

"My busy days begin late morning, but my day's work can go till early the next morning. You ask if I "work" each day? Well, yes! The late great FRED TRAVALENA kept me busy for almost 40 years, and continues to keep me busy dubbing hundreds of his shows, concerts, TV appearances, and films to DVD. Aside from that, I keep busy on the computer...YouTube, self-projects, and streaming. Here are some of my favorites:



"DEANA MARTIN, daughter of DEAN MARTIN, will sing a song right to me, to you, or to anyone else in the room on YouTube. Her voice makes you happy. On YouTube from Birdland, NY, *The JIM CARUSO Pajama Cast Party*, you can hear talented performers from Broadway, Las Vegas, and L.A. including JOHN DAVIDSON, MELISSA ERRICO, ELIZABETH STANLEY, MICHAEL CAVANAUGH, JULIE HALSTON, and MARY WILSON from The Supremes. I also discovered BILLY GILLMAN who sang on the MICHAEL JACKSON 30th Anniversary Show at the age of 10 and grew up to appear on *The Voice* 2016. So, if you've been bored ... YOU DON'T NEED TO BE.

"Miss everyone, and I can't wait to get back to our luncheons and board meetings. Stay Healthy."

JIM PEWTER

This photo was sent by MARIA McDANIELS, who says, "I'm so lucky to have a dad who interviewed all the Rock 'n Roll greats on his radio show. Here are BUMPS BLACKWELL, LITTLE RICHARD, and my dad JIM PEWTER, at the Hullabaloo Club on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, 1996."



CAROLYN FOX



"I am very conscientiously staying in, but I am still working. All of the staff at Hollywood News Calendar are working from home and working harder than ever. Our clients are very grateful to us for providing interview opportunities and story opportunities for them to cover. They have a lot of air time and print pages to fill. Their public are eager for entertainment news to take their mind off all the horrendous news about the Corona virus. We are all looking for the entertainment industry to be up and running and having too many events to cover.

"My philosophy is to have joy in my life and I try to accentuate the positive even in these times. I watch a very minimum amount of current news and try to only watch funny or pleasant programs on TV. I go to bed with a smile on my face every night after watching an episode of the old English series *Lovejoy*.

"I've discovered that you can grow bean sprouts that will harvest in about 4 to 5 days. I've sent for some mung beans from Burpee's and I will spend my spare time watching them grow. Hey, that's better than waiting for Godot.

"Hope all the Hollywood Media Professionals are well!"

DIANE SCHUUR



Photo by: Tim Courtney

Multi-Grammy Award winning vocalist/pianist **DIANE SCHUUR** has been promoting the release of her CD *Running On Faith* which was officially released on May 8, 2020. Schuur tells a personal story with her first new recording in six years. With the cancellation of live concerts, Ms. Schuur has been doing interviews, podcasts and streaming music performances from her home. She showcases her deep knowledge of the blues and her strength as a pianist on this album. To listen, visit YouTube.com and search for **DIANE SCHUUR RUNNING ON FAITH**.

QUICK BITS

Earlier this year, **ED WILLIAMS** fulfilled his dream to play a truly demanding, serious role when he starred in SAG-AFTRA's radio production of **EDGAR ALLEN POE's Tell-Tale Heart** at the Autry Heritage Center. He says, "In all my years in Hollywood I was 'typecast' playing offbeat comics or ministers. Poe's little gem allowed me to delve into the challenging roles for which I was trained."

NEIL ROSS is "happy to report that I'll be reprising my role as announcer and the voice of the iconic Whammy (with a big assist from the audio department) on Season 2 of the game show *Press Your Luck* starring **ELIZABETH BANKS** which premieres Sunday, May 31 at 9:00pm on ABC."

DEE BAKER says, "I miss seeing everyone and sharing our fun at the luncheons. Hope to see you soon to catch up."

WALDEN HUGHES is hosting and producing live radio on *Yesterday USA* from his home studio. On Friday, May 29th, **BOB MILLS** was the special guest to talk about **BOB HOPE**. Hope would have been 117 on May 29th. On Friday July 3rd, **TOMMY COOK** is the special live guest. Tommy celebrates his 90th birthday on July 5th!!!

BILL A. JONES

Bill sold out his February 15th performance at Feinstein's at Vitello's receiving two standing ovations. Since then, Bill was the 'Voice' of the *40th Annual Razzie Awards*, and performed in, and was one of the online hosts of, *All Together Now LA*, raising over \$110,000 for the Los Angeles Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

Bill's *House of Jones Front Porch Concerts* were performed for his properly distanced neighbors and an audience of around 2,000 in April and May. Facebook.com/Bill.Jones.



Bill in Tux, pajama pants, and bedroom slippers from his *House of Jones Front Porch Concert*.

SHELLY PAPADOPOULOS



"As some may remember, I am president of the Greek Heritage Society and one of the executive producers of our documentary trilogy about the Greeks of Southern California.

"The final chapter, *The New Greek Americans 1960-2018*, premiered in May 2019 at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills. In September 2019, we were an official selection of the New York City Greek Film Festival. In January 2020, we were an official selection of the prestigious Thessaloniki Documentary Festival in Greece which was scheduled for March 5-15 but the film festival was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the months since then, the festival changed its format and became fully internet based. Our documentary screened March 6 and 10. In April 2020, we were an official selection for the London Greek Film Festival which also went online and was available for screening March 21-23.

"During these unprecedented times, some organizations decided to think outside the creativity box. Others have chosen to either delay their festivals or cancel this year. I know it was a difficult decision. Here's hoping the second half of 2020 will bring about better news healthwise and the promise of a vaccine.

"Wishing all members good health!"

BEVERLY JENSEN

Longtime HMP member **BEVERLY JENSEN** has been going thru her photos and came across this one with astronaut **BUZZ ALDRIN**, taken at the PPB luncheon on September 18, 2009, when he was honored. Beverly met Col. Aldrin at a Gerontology Board of Directors event when she served on their board.



How to contact us

323-462-2121

To contact any HMP member: You may leave a voicemail at 323-462-2121, send an email to <info@HMPwebsite.org> or mail a note to HMP, PO Box 8673, Calabasas 91372.

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MILT LARSEN remembers FRED WILLARD

"I would like to talk about a very personal thing - saying goodbye to a very good friend, the great Fred Willard. Fred was a wonderful actor, great performer, and a friend. He was a member of the Variety Arts, the Magic Castle in Hollywood, and the cabaret in Santa Barbara. I had the occasion of being called upon to speak at the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' luncheon honoring Fred a few years ago. I wasn't sure what to do exactly but it did turn out to be pretty funny. One of the great magicians in the world was Willard the Wizard who had a huge Midwest magic tent show. When I was talking about Fred, I simply made up a story about Fred actually starting in magic as a fellow with the stage name of Willard the Wizard. Well, people weren't believing my story until I produced a very large poster of the real Willard the Wizard which I had in my collection. I said this was Fred Willard and he was related to the Wizard! Well you had to be there, but I know Fred enjoyed the laughter at his expense.

"Aloha, Fred! Say hello to Mary, Bill, my mother and Dad!"



MILT LARSEN, honoree FRED WILLARD, ARLENE LARSON and MARY WILLARD at the PPB luncheon on June 19, 2015 (Photo by: Roxanne Schorbach)

ROBERTA KENT, ERNI DiMASSA, BOB LOUDIN, and STEVE GRANT pay tribute to the late ART ALISI



"Art grew up in New York and originally wanted to be an actor. He started in community theater and after several years appeared at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival before coming to Hollywood. Here, he got a job as a bouncer at Gazarri's A-Go-Go on the Sunset Strip where he met producer Merrill Heatter. He made a deal to use his Gazzari's connection to cater meals for the Heater Quigley game shows which were taping at the new CBS Television City. Art then approached Bob Quigley and got a job as a contestant coordinator on *Hollywood Squares* and later became a producer.

"Always the entrepreneur, Art wanted to find a way to get advertisers to give him prizes to award on TV game shows, but had to convince them that it was a cheaper way to promote their products than hiring an ad agency. It worked big time and Art soon partnered with NBC's Dan Fox to form their new company, Promotional Consideration, the same company that still provides prize services today for TV's two longest running game shows, *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy!*"



We welcome our NEW MEMBERS

TONY BLASS began his career as a digital editor in 2002 with **LOU SCHEIMER** Productions. Since then, he's worked at American Radio Network as on-air talent and producer, Bibi Film TV SRL in Rome, Italy as associate producer, chief marketing officer for Corner Office Media Group, and Ozon Films as producer. Currently, he's executive producer at Artist's Digital Lab. Sponsor: **DON WHITEMORE**.

Violinist **DARIUS CAMPO** is one of the most recorded musicians in the world. He's played on over 2,000 major films, including *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, and *Men in Black*, and has recorded over 10,000 songs with performers like **FRANK SINATRA**, **LADY GAGA**, **MICHAEL JACKSON**, and **BARBRA STREISAND**. Last Valentine's Day, he performed his *Romantic Violin Music to Film* in Las Vegas, supporting Paw Partners Unleashed. Sponsor: **RON ALEXENBURG**.

WARREN ECKSTEIN is an internationally known "pet behaviorist," animal trainer, animal rights activist, humorist, and author. Since 1997, he's been a regular on *The Today Show* as contributing pet and animal editor. For the past 34 years, Warren has had his own syndicated radio show, *The Pet Show with Warren Eckstein*, and can be heard locally on KRLA, 870AM. Sponsor **MARK PALLOCK**.

Dr. GERALD FISHKIN is a TV host, psychologist, and book and magazine author. He has written over 200 newspaper and magazine articles on various topics related to human behavior and has appeared on KABC radio with **MICHAEL JACKSON** and **RAY BRIEM**, on TV with Gerald, and on his own show on YouTube. Sponsor: **"SHOTGUN TOM" KELLY**.

Writer and actor **SHELLY HERMAN** began as a page at NBC in 1976. Some of her TV writing credits include *Trivial Pursuit*, *Show Me the Money*, and *Supermarket Sweep*. On radio, she's been host and writer on KLSX, KABC, KTZN, and KMPC. As an actor, Shelly's appeared on TV as Dolly on *Sunnyside*, Judy on *Oobered*, and on *Candid Camera* playing various characters. Sponsor: **MICHAEL BROCKMAN**.

KID KELLY began his radio career at WNOU-FM in Willimantic, CT in 1983. He joined SiriusXM in 2003 and spent 28 years in syndication. While at SiriusXM, he was V.P. of pop programming and handled day to day programming of Hits #1 and Venus Channels. He is forever associated with New York powerhouse "Z100" WHTZ, where he was night talent, assistant program director, and operations manager. Today he's host and producer for BackTrax, USA. Sponsor: **"SHOTGUN TOM" KELLY**.

ALEXANDER POLINSKY is an actor, voice actor, and singer and may be best known as Adam Powell on *Charles in Charge* in 1987. He's done voices in animation, TV series, movies and video games. Titles include *Roughnecks*, *Teen Titans*, *Transformers: Animated*, *Last Avatar* and *Saints and Soldiers*. Sponsor: **KIM BRAGG**.

LESLIE AQUA VIVA has been called "Queen of Contestants" having been the contestant producer/casting director on a wide range of game shows including *Hollywood Squares*, *The Newlywed Game*, *Gambit*, *High Rollers*, *Pyramid*, *Shop 'Til You Drop*, and *Family Feud*. Sponsor: **ART ALISI**.

In the 1960's, **MAUREEN WOLFSON** appeared on the **RED SKELTON** Show and acted in *A Swinging Summer* and the *Thin Man Special*. She also appeared on the *Tonight Show* starring *Johnny Carson* and modeled for Cole Bathing Suits. During the 80's, Maureen sang in New York City cabarets and owned a restaurant where she sang. She's been painting with oils for 54 years. Sponsor: **ROBERTA KENT**.