

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

You've gotta have "Hart" -- *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart is honored by PPB

PPB Luncheon Re-cap Written by Celebrity Journalist Margie Barron
(Edited for space)

"MARY HART makes you happy. Sure she has grace and eloquence, but also, I just see Mary Hart and I'm happy," gushed KEVIN FRAZIER, current co-host of *Entertainment Tonight* about the beautiful trail-blazing former host of *ET*. At Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' luncheon on September 30th, Mary Hart was honored and Frazier concluded that "Mary makes everyone happy because she's a Unicorn. If there's a rainbow, there's Mary." After hearing wonderful stories about Hart from her friends and colleagues, the PPB crowd at the Sportsmen's Lodge embraced Frazier's "Unicorn Theory."



Current *Entertainment Tonight* co-host KEVIN FRAZIER interviews MARY HART at the PPB luncheon on September 30. The segment aired later that evening. (Photo by: Roxanne Schorbach)

In addition to Frazier, on the dais to pay tribute to Hart were good friend supermodel CINDY CRAWFORD, former *Entertainment Tonight* Executive Producer LINDA BELL BLUE, former *ET* colleague LEEZA GIBBONS (who called Mary her role model and mentor), political consultant and Fox News analyst FRANK LUNTZ, and comedy writer ROBERTA KENT (who helped write Hart's Las Vegas show decades ago).



PPB President ALAN PERRIS presents the ART GILMORE Career Achievement Award to *Entertainment Tonight's* MARY HART. (Photo by: Roxanne Schorbach)

PPB President ALAN PERRIS presided over the event and gave the coveted ART GILMORE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to Hart for her role as a pioneer broadcaster for entertainment newscasts, hosting *ET* for 29 years (from 1982 to 2011). Mary recalled, "When *Entertainment Tonight* first started, the entire universe said that having a show on every night covering entertainment news wasn't going to work because there's not enough of that."

But low and behold, we started something."

Throughout the luncheon Perris presented clips with congratulations from celebrities and coworkers. TONY ORLANDO, Rabbi MARVIN HIER, and comedian TIM ALLEN offered heartfelt messages, but the biggest surprise was VIN SCULLY's warm tribute. Vin (a past PPB honoree) wanted to be there for his friend Mary, but he was in San Francisco wrapping up his final Dodger broadcasts. It seems Hart's love for the LA Dodgers is equal to Scully's, as she took several opportunities to cheer "Go Dodgers."



A surprise video was played at the luncheon with a greeting to MARY HART from VIN SCULLY. Mary and husband BURT SUGARMAN are big Dodgers supporters. (Photo by: Roxanne Schorbach)

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The Diamond Circle Award will be presented to
Co-Executive Producer of *The People's Court*
STU BILLET



On the Dais: Front Row: CINDY CRAWFORD, Honoree MARY HART, LEEZA GIBBONS, LINDA BELL BLUE. Back Row: KEVIN FRAZIER, ROBERTA KENT, FRANK LUNTZ, PPB President ALAN PERRIS. (Photo by: Roxanne Schorbach)

The afternoon was filled with stories about Hart who fondly acknowledged her small town roots and being Miss South Dakota. She said, "That's when I decided I wanted to be on the other side of the microphone asking people about their life experiences. One thing led to another and it's been a wonderful career. I got to do so many things, like perform in Las Vegas." Mary's dedication to Children's Hospital Los Angeles was also expressed, and she is the official spokeswoman for Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Initiative.



Vin Di Bona • John Goldhammer • Alex Trebek

Mary and producer **BURT SUGARMAN** were married in 1989 and they have a son **A.J.** Mary gave an example of how she and her husband are forever joined together. "We were flying with President Ronald Reagan and I asked him to sign his autobiography to 'Mary and Burt.' Later we saw he signed it 'Maryanne Burt.' That's a gem, and that's so right about us, it's always Maryanne Burt."



Honoree **MARY HART**, her husband, producer **BURT SUGARMAN** and supermodel **CINDY CRAWFORD** relax in the greenroom before the luncheon. (Photo by: Roxanne Schorbach)

Burt was on hand and so proud to see his wife honored. The original group of *ET* staffers that Hart affectionately called "the weasels" filled several tables at the luncheon. Among the many fans and friends on hand to see Mary feted were PPB Chairman of the Board **JEANNE DeVIVIER BROWN**, **ALEX TREBEK**, **WINK MARTINDALE**, **JEANNE WOLF**, **VIN Di BONA**, "**SHOTGUN TOM**" Kelly, and **FRITZ COLEMAN** who said, "Mary is one of those people that just can't help making people feel warm. It was fun to see the great turnout of admirers." There was also praise for the tried and true PPB crowd, and Fritz noted, "There was real history in that room ... from all areas of the biz. Really a treat."



A huge number of *Entertainment Tonight* alums attended the luncheon on September 30th, including, from left to right: **VIC BUCCOLA**, **SANDY SMYTH**, **JEANNE WOLF**, **PETE HAMMOND**, **LU MURRAY**, **LINDA FULLER**, **LEEZA GIBBONS**, **ROBBIE HORWITZ**, **DEMAE DE ROCHER**, **BARRY HAWORTH**, **MARCIA LEWIS**, **MARY HART**, **STEVE HIRSEN**, and **JULIE KLABIN**. (Julie Klabin Photo)

DIAMOND CIRCLE HONOREE

At the luncheon, PPB past President **CHUCK STREET** presented the Diamond Circle Award to **BOB MILLS** for making a significant contribution to broadcasting. Although he started out in San Francisco as a lawyer, Mills had a knack for writing funny material. That led him to Hollywood and writing jokes for **DINAH SHORE**, *The DEAN MARTIN Celebrity Roast*, and 17 years with **BOB HOPE**. Mills published a book titled *The Laugh Makers: A Behind-the-Scenes Tribute to Bob Hope's Incredible Gag Writers*. Nowadays he enjoys lecturing on cruise ships, and, with his wife **SHELLY** helping with the production, Mills performs multimedia shows based on his experiences with Bob Hope. Of course Mills couldn't leave the microphone without telling a few of those stories to delight the PPB crowd.



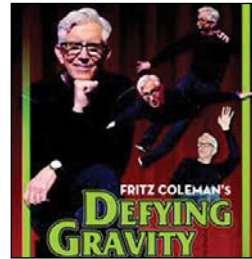
Comedy writer **BOB MILLS** accepts PPB's Diamond Circle Award from past President **CHUCK STREET**.

Margie Barron is a celebrity journalist. A member of the Television Critics Association, she has written for a wide variety of television, entertainment and travel publications for more than 30 years. Among her credits: being featured in the movie *Alligator*, and being half of the husband and wife writing team: Margie & Frank Barron..

IN THE NEWS

DJ and entrepreneur **SPIDER HARRISON** attends most of our luncheons and says, "Amazing, the luncheons are getting greater and greater. The honorees are humble, kind and warm and the great stories of their lives are so real. All the luncheons that I recently attended were empowering. From the guest to the honorees and their guests. I was invited to join PPB years ago and one day I felt that I needed to network with industry friends who are members. I wanted to support and be in the space where legends of the entertainment industry are honored. The support of Mary Hart was breath taking."

PPB member and LA's favorite weatherman **FRITZ COLEMAN** will be appearing in his one-man show *Defying Gravity* at the El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood on Sunday, November 27th at 2:00pm. The show is Fritz's hilarious take on growing up and growing old. Fritz shares his insight into the 50+ generation. Tickets at elportaltheatre.com or 818-508-4200.



Past PPB Diamond Circle honoree **BOB HECKER** just returned from NYC where he attended the opening Off-Broadway of his new musical *Yankee Peddler*. He says, "the opening went well and it looks as though it's going to have an even longer run than my previous musical, *Honestly Abe*, that ran Off-Broadway for almost three years. I'm already working on my next musical and my next novel."



TV and new media host, **LOREN KLING**, just wrapped up season one of his podcast interview series, *Five Things That Changed Your Life*. In each episode, Loren sits down with a guest who shares five stories, events, or experiences that had an impact on their lives. You can listen to episodes on iTunes or at <http://www.fivethingspodcast.com>.

Loren is looking for PPB members with interesting stories to share for season two. If you're interested, contact him at loren@fivethingspodcast.com.

ED WILLIAMS recently played the role of Perry White in a key episode of *Superman* in the SAG-AFTRA radio plays at the Autry Heritage Center in Griffith Park.



Member **BILL A. JONES** will appear on the long running NBC soap, *Days Of Our Lives* the week of November 7th. Bill says, "I had to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement, so I can't say much, other than to watch for me. It was a real kick shooting just down the hall from the **JOHNNY CARSON** *Tonight Show* studio." Bill's singing career continues to flourish. He's headlining *Battle of The Big Bands*, **GLENN MILLER vs TOMMY DORSEY** which continues October 22 & 23 at performing arts centers in San Ramon and San Bruno, CA, and picks up November 12 & 13 in Vacaville and Rohnert Park. For more info go to BattleOfTheBigBands.com.



MC "**SHOTGUN TOM**" Kelly and grand marshal and past PPB President **TOM HATTEN** headlined the 10-4 Parade in Hollywood.

On October 4th, in a salute to law enforcement, PPB VP "**SHOTGUN TOM**" Kelly was the emcee for the 10-4 Day Parade down Hollywood Blvd. The parade features old TV and movie police cars and is put on each year by former Los Angeles City Council member **TOM LaBONGE** and **GARY GOLTZ**. This year, the grand marshal was past PPB President **TOM HATTEN** who rode in **BRODERICK CRAWFORD's** *Highway Patrol* TV car.

Board Member **"DANDY DON" WHITEMORE** and his HomeMade Ice Cream were big hits in September at the LA Times Taste of LA event held at Paramount Studios and at Sunset & Dine in Hollywood. The tasty treat received rave notices from global foodie blogs and publications. Don's ice cream has been the featured dessert at many PPB luncheons.



Executive Chef **BRANDON KIDA** from Hinoki & The Bird restaurant in Century City, **"DANDY DON" WHITEMORE**, and a friend hung out at the Sunset & Dine event in September which featured Don's HomeMade Ice Cream.

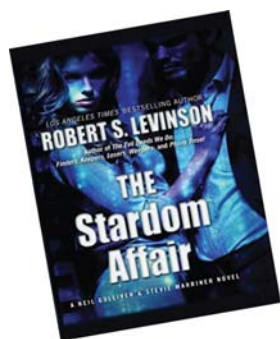
PPB Board Member **MARY BETH GARBER**, Executive Vice President of Marketing Strategy at Katz Media Group, was once again named to the Radio Ink Magazine 100 Most Influential Women in Radio. It's her 17th consecutive year on this prestigious list.



SHERMAN WEISS has invested in the smash hit *Not That Jewish* that played to full houses for 18 months in L.A. and opens Off-Broadway in New York City on October 23. Starring Emmy award winner **MONICA PIPER**, the one-woman show is reminiscent of **JACKIE MASON**, **BILLY CRYSTAL**, etc. Sherman says, "Definitely worth your time when you're in New York."

SPERDVAC (Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy) will hold its Old-Time Radio Convention at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas on January 20th and 21st, 2017. The two-day event is produced by PPBers **JOHN GASSMAN**, **LARRY GASSMAN** and **WALDEN HUGHES** and will feature live radio performances from PPB members **TOMMY COOK**, **STUFFY SINGER** and others. For more info, call 877-251-5771, or go to sperdvac.com.

DON GRAHAM's been busy promoting **DEBORAH SILVER**'s latest album *The Gold Standards*, and its getting play all over the country. The album was produced by Grammy winning producer **STEVE TYRELL** and **JON ALLEN**. **REX REED** in the *New York Observer* said, "When Deborah Silver takes over a mike, she doesn't just visit the stage, she owns it! She's a thrill, a swinging show-biz whirlwind."



ROBERT S. LEVINSON has a story, *Success Story*, in the new Darkhouse Books anthology *We've Been Trumped*, described by the publisher as a collection of "light-hearted, satirical stories envisioning life under President Trump." Another new Levinson short story, *An Elegy for Shelly Kushner*, is included in the *Forty-Four Caliber Funk* anthology. It's an historical crime yarn set years ago in South Central L.A. Two other shorts are pending publication in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, while his thirteenth novel, *The Stardom Affair*, is available at bookstores and on line.

Newly minted Diamond Circle Awardee **BOB MILLS** hosted his multimedia show *Backstage With Bob Hope* at the Motion Picture Hospital and Country Home on October 4. Among PPBers present were **CHUCK STREET**, **LOIS TRAVALENA**, and **CHUCK PANAMA**, now a resident there. Developed for cruise ships, the show includes vintage video clips from **BOB HOPE** specials, accompanied by Mills' stories and anecdotes from his two decades writing for Hope.

This spring, **CHRIS** and **MAGGIE THOMAS** enjoyed the Ice Cream Social for residents, guild volunteers, and staff held on the Motion Picture and Television Fund's Wasserman Campus. Chris says, "As well as a delicious selection of ice creams there was a live band in attendance and an antique car show. Votes by all were taken for the Best Car in Show! A good time was had by everyone. The festivities were to launch the Fund's program of weekly summer concerts featuring live bands (from Country to Jazz) to be held at the Saban Centre." Chris and Maggie have been volunteers at MPTF for many years and say, "We really get a lot out of volunteering. So many good feelings come out of helping other people. It's amazing!"



Proud mom and long-time PPB member **KAREN RACHELS** has handed down her musical talent to her son. Future PPBer **JEBIN BRUNI** scored the TV series *QUEEN SUGAR*, which airs on OWN and was produced by **OPRAH WINFREY**. As a keyboard and guitar player and composer, Jeb has had an extensive career working on movies, including *Picture Perfect* starring **JENNIFER ANISTON**. Musician and past PPB member **UAN RASEY** was Jeb's great uncle.

At Risk Students In North Hollywood

By Jimmy Weldon



October 4, 2016

My little Scion pulled into the same handicap parking spot at 3:30 PM as it did September 3rd, last year. I wish each of you could be with me on my visits to see our "Young Leaders of Tomorrow," but I feel in my heart you are anyway.

Officer Graig Suzuki drove me to the building in the back where meetings are held. His partner, Officer Ann Pena, was all set for the arrival of the "class." I received welcoming smiles from several who were there before ... AND --- wider 'smiles of surprise' when Yacky Doodle said, "I don't have no mama ... Would YOU be my mama?" from those new students.

We always discuss our goals ... and when one young student announced her deep desire was to become a lawyer, I happily replied, "Well, Julesa, you're going to meet my favorite lawyer in American history who was also a poet. This lawyer, Francis Scott Key, wrote the poem that became our National Anthem, "The Star - Spangled Banner." I then gave my version of the entire story that took place in the Baltimore Harbor ... ending with showing a DVD which they took home ... plus other CDs and DVDs.

I always tell my young friends, "Planting a goal in your mind is the most important decision you will ever make ... other than your commitment to God! And don't EVER let anyone talk you out of your dreams because there will never be another person exactly like YOU. You are unique in all the world."

As we were driving back to my little car, Officer Suzuki said, "Many of these young people don't have the Father figure in their home so they are not accustomed to the hugs YOU GIVE THEM, Jimmy." Hey, how blessed can anyone be!! I am the recipient of those blessings a thousand fold!!!

The Center For Youth Patriotism is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. www.thecenterforyouthpatriotism.com 818 761-4767

93-year-old Jimmy Weldon was Hanna Barbera's voice of Yacky Doodle in the Yogi Bear cartoons. Jimmy created the CYP Foundation. He teaches and spreads his love of patriotism to kids all over the country.



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WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

STEPHEN BREIMER began his career in the mail-room at William Morris after earning his B.A. from Stanford University and his J.D. from UCLA Law School. He worked in production on a number of TV movies and feature films. He co-wrote the feature film *Butcher, Baker, Nightmare Maker* and won the Saturn Award from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Films. His legal career is as a partner at Bloom, Hergott, and Diemer in Beverly Hills where he represents film directors, writers, producers, actors, and others in the entertainment business. Stephen's sponsor is PPB Board Member **JOHN GOLDHAMMER**.

RITCH COLBERT's 37-year career in television began in 1979 as research assistant for games shows. Ritch has held senior executive positions at Orion Pictures, Colbert Television Sales, Access Entertainment, and others, where he marketed programs to television stations, cable networks, and international broadcasters. Ritch joined ARTIST direct in 1999. He is the current principal for PPI Releasing, an independent distribution company. **MERI HILLIER** is sponsoring Ritch.

ALAN BRENT CONNELL spent three years in the Art Department at 20th Century Fox and went on to become 2nd assistant director at Universal for shows including *Quincy*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Simon & Simon* and *Voyagers*. He was 1st AD for *Misfits of Science*, *A Year in The Life*, and *The Practice* and was director/associate producer for *Northern Exposure* and *Six Feet Under*. He is currently co-producer for *Animal Kingdom* on TNT. **"SHOTGUN TOM" Kelly** is Alan's sponsor.

ALAN GANSBERG is a writer who sold his first script in 1983, an episode of *Fantasy Island*. His career includes writing for film and TV, producing and directing. Alan's won countless awards for his work on *Little Miss Perfect*, *My Past Is My Own*, and others. His Books include *Little Caesar: A Bio of EDWARD G. ROBINSON*, and *The History of Television*. He is recognized as an historian of TV and film history with more than 2,000 published articles. Currently, he runs a full service production company Alan L. Gansberg Productions, LTD. **JOHN GOLDHAMMER** is Alan's sponsor.

STEVEN OBER began in 1974 as a news department production assistant at KRON-TV in San Francisco. He's held positions as producer, executive producer, and vice president for companies including Universal/MCA, CBS, Buena Vista, and Cap Cities. He is currently president of Plexus Entertainment, a TV production company specializing in infomercials, talk, and game shows. He has been honored with several awards including the Production of the Year from the Electronic Retailing Association. Board member **JOHN GOLDHAMMER** sponsored Steve.

SAM RIDDLE's career includes 20 years in radio and 40 years in TV. His radio career began in Texas while a senior in high school and in 1961, he landed at KRLA and then KFWB. In 1965 "Boss Radio" was born and Sam was on the air at KHJ. That was followed with television and hosting *Boss City*, *9th Street West*, and *Hollywood A Go-Go*. Sam soon got behind the camera and produced TV shows, including *Star Search*, *Supermodels of the World*, and *LOU RAWLS Parade of Stars*. He currently is producing *The New Menudo Show*. PPB Vice President **"SHOTGUN TOM" Kelly** sponsored Sam.

WILL RYAN has spent 40 years in television, radio, film, and stage performance. He's written nearly 100 songs for Disney and several dozen for Jim Henson's Muppets. He received an Emmy nomination as producer of *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss* for Nickelodeon. As a voice actor, Will can be heard on *The Land Before Time*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Thumbelina*, and on the Mickey Mouse short *Get a Horse!*, a 3-D animated cartoon which combines characters from the late 1920s, CGI animation, and archival footage of **WALT DISNEY** as Mickey. Will is probably best known for his voice work in the Christian radio drama *Adventures in Odyssey* and *Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin* and was sponsored by Board Member **MATTHEW WORLEY**.

RANDY THOMAS began her career as a DJ in Detroit in 1973. She worked in Dallas and Miami before moving to Los Angeles where she was heard on KMET the Wave, KTWV. Randy made history as the first woman to announce The Academy Awards, The Emmy Awards, The SAG Awards, and The AFI Awards. She is the seven-time announcer of The Oscars, 14-time Tony announcer, and for the past nine years, she's been the voice of *Entertainment Tonight*. PPB Board Member **RICK SCARRY** sponsored Randy.

WE REMEMBER

BILL CELELLO served as a signalman in the US Navy and was an engineer at the local NBC station in New Haven, CT, before moving to LA and NBC-TV. In the 1960's and 70's, Bill worked in audio and video at ABC-TV.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



This photo is was taken at the PPB luncheon on March 17, 2006. **JOHN HARLAN** (on the right) was president at the time, **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT** (left) hosted the event and would follow John as president. The luncheon featured **JOHNNY VANA's** Big Band Alumni, an 18-piece band that was managed at the time by PPBer **JACK LLOYD**. **PETER MARSHALL** performed and Chuck conducted interviews with **KAY STARR**, **GOGI GRANT** and past PPB President **JACK SMITH**. Ten years later the band still performs every Tuesday from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Las Hadas Restaurant & Cantina, 9048 Balboa Blvd in Northridge.

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