## WHO'S WHAT/ WHAT'S WHERE



PRESIDENT CHUCK SOUTHCOTT took up a little business at the March 21 luncheon before the program honoring ED ASNER. A five-minute tape on the progress of the Thousand Oaks Library, which will include a separate building to house PPB's radio archives was shown. A fact sheet on the museum was also at everyone's seat. SOUTHCOTT introduced the dais and CHARLES CAPPLEMAN who introduced the college guests and professors at the RALPH EDWARDS table along with JANET WALDO and daughter Lucy.

Board Chairman and Entertainment Chair JEANNE DEVIVIER BROWN read missives from Gavin MacLeod and Mark Rydell who wanted to attend but couldn't.

PAST PRESIDENT GIL STRATTON presented the Diamond Circle Award saying: "Today's Honoree does a great job for PPB, he gets our message out to the rest of the world. A veteran reporter, who flew 45 combat missions in the South Pacific, a UCLA Diehard, who never left the Westside of town. For 30 years he was a successful member of the Publicity Department at 20th Century Fox...and now he's our Publicity Director carrying the PPB message to the world. It's an honor and pleasure to present the Diamond Circle Award to an old pal, CHUCK PANAMA."

PANAMA graciously accepts. He later said that when he told his wife he was getting the Diamond Circle Award, she asked if he was getting a real diamond, to which CHUCK responded, "I gave you one 54 years ago. Do you expect one every half century?"

AN EIGHT-MINUTE DVD ON ASNER'S CAREER was shown. ASNER, well remembered for his role as Lou Grant on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," as well as the show "Lou Grant," has won numerous awards including seven Emmys and four Golden Globes. He was Screen Actors Guild President for two seasons; appeared in "Roots" and "Rich Man, Poor Man." He was inducted into the TV Academy Hall of Fame in 1996. ASNER has more than 200 TV credits. He has books on tape and has lent his voice to popular cartoon shows. On the dais to sing his praises were BETTY WHITE, KENT McCORD, Peter Jason,

Yale Summers, Daryl Anderson, NORMAN CORWIN, Valerie Harper, Mary Tyler Moore and our own HAL KANTER. CHUCK SOUTHCOTT presented ASNER with The ART GILMORE Career Achievement Award. ASNER accepted with thanks to all.

PPBER AND NOTED SINGER PATTI PAGE HAD A vigorous schedule in April with concerts in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Prescott, Arizona...eleven concerts in all. Too bad the dates were before the newsletter...but I guess members couldn't get to Nova Scotia anyway. PATTI is a very busy lady.

THE BIG BAND ACADEMY OF AMERICA will present its 2008 Big Band Reunion on Sunday, June 1 at 12:00 noon at the Sportsmen's Lodge. The event honors STAN FREBERG, PETER MARSHALL, The Modernaires and Paula Kelly, Jr. Pat Longo will be conducting the Blue Ribbon Band. For ticket information, call (818) 301-2378 or e-mail bigbandacademy@yahoo.com.

ESTHER MCVEY WRITES THAT SHE is very busy doing radio shows for retirement homes and also attending national gatherings of fans, one in Cincinnati, two in Seattle and SPERDVAC in June in Los Angeles.

ROBERT L. HECKER WRITES THAT HE was unable to attend the EPIC convention in Portland, Oregon, but that his book *Murder by Proxy* won the 2008 EPPIE Award in the Action/Adventure category. HECKER says he guesses that means he will have to write another. His two-character play, *Borderline*, is due to open at the Stage Theatre in Fullerton next month and his one-act play, *Mrs. Invisible*, will open in May in Los Angeles.

PPBER MILT LARSEN AND HIS WIFE, ARLENE, have been really busy. The Magic Castle celebrated its 45th anniversary; his "Hear it Again — For the First Time" radio show is now in its third year on CRN Digital Talk Radio. That show, featuring old 78s from MILT's vast collection, started on Bob

Newhart's Santa Barbara station. The big news is that MILT and Arlene are producing a full-scale comedy musical, *Pazzazz*, at the New Granada Performing Arts Center in Santa Barbara. The musical is a turn-of-the-century period piece with words and music by MILT and his longtime collaborator Oscar-winner Richard Sherman (Mary Poppins). The premiere will be June 10–22. For information, www.pazzazzthemusical.com. As a side note: MILT and Arlene met when he was a writer on RALPH EDWARDS' "Truth or Consequences" with Bob Barker and Arlene was the wardrobe mistress. Arlene is now designing and creating 150 costumes for *Pazzazz*.

GOOD NEWS. THERE'S A BOOK ABOUT PEGGY GILBERT and her All Girl Band. The book is published by the Scarecrow Press and written by musicologist Jeannie Gayle Pool. The title, amazingly enough, is *Peggy Gilbert and Her All Girl Band* and the cover has a picture of **PEGGY**. The foreword is by Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner. **LEONARD** MALTIN and Larry Gelbart gave it great reviews. **PEGGY** was an enthusiastic PPBer.

MEMBER BILL A. JONES HAS BEEN BUSY of late, acting on camera in a commercial for Dodge Chrysler; lending his voice to an episode of the Disney animated series "Handy Manny"; emceeing the 28th annual Razzie Awards and singing The Great American Songbook with the 17-piece Alumni Big Band (same Band that performed at PPB a year or so ago). He also continues his Radio show every weekend for Dial Global's Adult Standards format via satellite to over 150 radio stations.

MARILYN KING WAS IN Sun City, Arizona recently for a singing engagement. She was joined by Tony Martin, Connie Stevens, GOGI GRANT and backed by a big orchestra in a venue the held 7000 people.

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Membership Chairman
KAY HENLEY
announces

New Members

LESLIE AQUAVIVA
PAUL BROWNSTEIN
JEFF DAVIS
ALBERT FISHER
CRAIG ROBERTS
DAVID SCHWARTZ

We will remember with admiration

RAY ANGONA SEAMAN JACOBS JEAN MILES HARRY NELSON KEN NELSON

Please send your news and that of your PPB friends to:

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NOTE
THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS
June 1, 2008