



VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #126 *"Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media"*

April 2022

President's Message: With a Little Help From His Friends

by VBL Secretary **Allen Chamberlin**

Hello Legends. President **Jim Drennan's** assisted living center is in lock-down because they have active COVID cases. Alas, on Wednesday (23 March), Jim tested positive for the virus. He shows no obvious symptoms and says he feels fine. Let's hope it stays that way. But the center is not allowing anyone except staff in at this time. You can't visit him for a week at earliest. He has to test negative twice before they'll give him the All Clear.

You can phone him and I'm sure he'd appreciate hearing from you. Call him on his landline and he may pick up: 916/333-2996. And here's a suggestion. Sometimes he just can't move fast enough to get to the phone before it goes to voice mail. If he doesn't answer, hang up and dial again, maybe even twice more. That's what I've started doing and sometimes it works.

I know. You're thinking email. No, I don't think so. I can access his email for him and of late he seldom seems to open and read it. His cellphone and computer skills are impaired.

In Other Medical Matters:

Our beloved treasurer, **Ron Middlekauff**, has been in the hospital and the prognosis is still being developed. Please don't try contacting him, let alone visiting. His family asks he be given healing time, good thoughts and prayers, well

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In-Person in April!

Remember lunch?

We really, really mean it this time. We're back, live and in person at the Club Pheasant for our April 14 meeting.

And remember how Allen used to harangue you to RSVP? *Heeeee's baaaaack!*

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. with a slightly earlier lunch serving time of 11:30 a.m. The program

will be a casual one, more of a mixer than a formal presentation. We know most of you will be eager to visit after two lonely years, and, quite frankly, your board wants to see how this goes before bringing in a heavy-hitter guest speaker. We do plan to offer an encore performance of the video **Joyce Krieg** put together for VBL's 20th anniversary, as many of you were unable to join us for the showing at the December Zoom meeting. This will be a social event first and

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RSVP for the April 14 Meeting:

Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654

VBL-geek@theguys.org

**Menu: 1/2 Steak or Chicken Sandwich
Pasta (Vegetarian or Meat Sauce)
Shrimp Louie Salad**

Cost: \$25

Reservations required by April 12!

April Luncheon: We're Back!

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foremost. For those who can't attend in person (or prefer to *mukbang*), we'll be offering a live broadcast via Zoom, thanks to the technical wizardry of **Bud Kress**. Watch for an email with the Zoom link when the date draws closer.

Speaking of heavy-hitter guest speakers, our plan for the June meeting is to bring in as many local TV General Managers as we can round up. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

Now for the not-so-good news. Prices for group banquet lunches at the Club Pheasant have gone up and are now set at \$25. These

past two years have been devastating for the restaurant industry, and this price increase is not unexpected nor unreasonable. See previous page for the menu. The sandwiches come with a small salad, the pasta and shrimp Louie with garlic bread, and all meals include coffee or iced tea.

Masks and proof of vaccination are not required, but we suggest masking when not eating. It goes without saying—if you're feeling unwell, please stay home.

President's Message

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wishes, and I'd add large lottery winnings if anyone can arrange that.

And there seems to be a plague of falls amongst our membership. New board member **Anita Fein** wrote us: "I fell 8 feet from a ladder in the loft of my studio on Sunday (20 March) afternoon. I have a broken collarbone, 11 broken ribs, and 5 broken vertebrae. I'll be out of commission for a while."

At least **Mary Jane Popp** is back on air at KAHN after her horrendous fall a couple months ago. Her doc told her she wouldn't be able to use her arm for 6 to 8 weeks. Naturally she told him, "I'll give you six." You know her indomitable spirit and effervescent personality wasn't going to be stifled *that* long no matter how severe the injury. "Trying to be careful—not over-do it, which the doctor warns I'm doing. Here's the pic of my arm about two weeks into the break. It then spread from my shoulder to my wrist and then the hand turned black too. It swelled at least twice the size and became a technicolor experience."



Officers

President: Jim Drennan

Vice President: Position Open

Treasurer: Ron Middlekauff

Secretary: Allen Chamberlin

Directors: Walt Shaw, Anita Fein,

Kristine Hanson, Ward Koppel

In Perpetuity Our Founder

Harry Warren

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Krieg

Webmaster: Allen Chamberlin

Audio-Visual: Bud Kress

VALLEY BROADCAST
LEGENDS

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Who's New: Mike and Sandy

VBL welcomes returning members **Mike Luery** and **Sandy Ofsenek Helland**.

Mike began his career in 1984 as a reporter for KCRA's "Call 3" program. He's also been Capital Bureau Chief for NBC Bay Area, an investigative reporter for KOVR, and political reporter at KCRA. Most recently, he was assistant ND for KFBK. He is an inductee in the NATAS Silver Circle. Mike is the author of *Baseball Between Us*, about an epic quest with his son Matt to visit all 30 Major League baseball parks.

Like many women before her, Sandy started her career in broadcasting as a secretary, at KCRA radio and later at the TV station. By the late 1970s, she was an engineering operator and videographer. Later, she joined the Communications Studies Department at CSUS, where her many projects included training interns and helping them to be placed at local TV stations. She continues to do volunteer service with the Carmichael Park District.



VBL has recently been informed of the passing of longtime, loyal member **Don Chandler**, the one-time Assistant Art Director at KCRA-3. Sadly, we have no other details, other than that he was 89 years old, he leaves a widow, Carol, and that a celebration of life will be held April 15 at the Cold Springs Church, 2600 Cold Springs Road, Placerville. Newsletter editor **Joyce Krieg** says, "I will miss the many charming stories about the early days of television—especially the perils of live programming—that he regularly contributed to the newsletter. He attended most of our in-person meetings and was a delight to chat with. Turns out we had a common link. Don's mother, Edna Walker Chandler, was the author of numerous popular children's books. She was a member of the Sacramento chapter of California Writers Club, and I'm a member of the Central Coast chapter. I feel bad that we aren't able to offer a proper tribute."

Our condolences to **Matías Bombal** over the loss of his mother, **Judy Nevis**, on Mrach 12.

The Legends

Membership as of March 30, 2022

John Archer • Julie Archer
 Jay "DJ Jay" Arnold • Stan Atkinson
 Linda Bayley • Vic Biondi
 Bill Bishofberger • Thomas Blazowski
 Matias Bombal • Tom Buck
 Allen Chamberlin • Mark Chiolis
 Chris Cochran • Jim Drennan • Anita Fein
 Curt Foley • Vicki Fox • Gary Gerould
 Dennis Grayson • Cyndy Green
 Michael Guiliano • Kristine Hanson
 Bud Harmon • Fred Harris • Jerry Henry
 Betsy Hite • Rich Ibarra • John Jervis
 Rick Kavooras • Richard Kermickel
 Tip Kindel • Jan "Neely" Klevan
 Kim Kline • Ward Koppel • Bill Kreutzer
 Bud Kress • Joyce Krieg
 Eleanor Kuechler-VanAcker • Bob Lang
 Dick Leeson • Mike Luery • Dee McCafferty
 Michael McCarron • Jeanne Marie
 Lizette Martinez-Hopkins
 Michael Messmer • Dana Michaels
 Ron Middlekauff • Bob Miller
 Alan Milner • Joyce Mitchell
 Keith Moon • Ray Nelson
 George Nyberg • John D. O'Brien
 Alan Oda • Sandy Ofsenek Helland
 Deborah Pacyna • Mary Jane Popp
 Tiffany Powell • Craig Prosser
 Rich Raymond • Bruce Riggs • Jay Rudin
 Beth Ruyak • Bill Schmechel • Walt Shaw
 Dann Shively • Barbara Souza
 Roy Stearns • Barry Stigers • Bob Suffel
 Steve Swatt • Gregory VanAcker
 Gregory Virtue • Tom Wagner
 Frank Wallace • Marla Wells
 Adrian Woodfork • Dennis Yoder
 Jan Young



Meet Our New Board Members

A few changes to announce at VBL World Headquarters. We've accepted the resignation of VP **Mike Guiliano**, with thanks for his service to the club. And, we're delighted to introduce two new members of the board, **Ward Koppel** and **Anita Fein**. Let's let Ward tell us a bit about himself:

I'm a Sacramento native whose first career goal was to be in law enforcement. I was a member of Sacramento Sheriff's Department Explorer Post 517 during high school, along with



another person you might know, **John McGinness**.

But the first semester of my freshman year at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, I discovered radio. My

time at the campus radio station KUOP was followed by an internship with KOVR Capitol Correspondent **John Iander**, then jobs at KWIN-FM Stockton and as a reporter at Capital Radio News Service in Sacramento. Internships at KCRA cemented my transition to broadcasting as a career.

In September 1979 I was hired at KCRA as a Production Assistant on the *Weeknight* magazine show. The job was kind of a catch-all position: some writing, some film and videotape editing, fill-in producing and shooting videotape. A few weeks after I was hired, the whole unit went on location to Hawaii to shoot a week of shows. A few months after that, we all were on a cruise ship in the Caribbean doing a week of shows on cruising.

In October 1980, KCRA started a morning newscast, and I was asked to be the first producer of that show. I stayed in that position until 1989.

In 1989 I left KCRA for KOVR, and was the morning newscast producer there until December 2005.

In December 2005 I moved to KXTV as a producer, and then transitioned to the Assignment Desk. I retired from KXTV in July 2021.

My wife Cindy and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary this coming June. She retired from KCRA in July 2021 after 42 years as a video editor there. We have two children, Adam, who is 35 and works in computer IT for the State. He and his wife Lauren are parents to our two granddaughters, Harper, who is two-and-a-half and Olivia, who was born in February. They live in Porter Ranch. Our daughter Hillary is 31 and is a director at ABC10.

My hobbies include wine tasting in Lodi and cruising the streets in my 1965 Ford Mustang.

Anita Fein has the distinction of being one of Sacramento television's first female news video photographers and as such, has been interviewed for the VBL Oral



History Project at the Center for Sacramento History. She worked at KCRA 10 years, first as an intern and then as a staff news photographer and video editor. Before that, she studied at UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, and UCLA, earning a degree in anthropology. Her anthropology training and news coverage came together to allow her to "document her culture." After leaving KCRA, she found a second career as a fine art photographer.

Anita Fimkress met **Larry Fein** while a student at UCLA in 1962 and they were married a year later. She has two sons, Jordan and Aaron, and three grandchildren, Django, Dilan and Mira. Larry passed away in September of 2020.

As you learned in the President's Message, Anita recently broke several bones in a nasty fall at home. We wish her a speedy recovery!