



VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #132 *“Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media”*

April 2023

April 11 • Aviator’s Restaurant at Executive Airport • Doors open 11 a.m. • Lunch service at 11:30

Last of the Hometown Radio Stations

Most of us seasoned broadcasters can remember the days of the hometown radio station, those friendly voices offering everything from high school football play-by-play to the SPCA “pet of the day.” Those mom-and-pop stations vanished in the corporate consolidation frenzy in the 1990s, with only a few managing to hang on.

KAHI in Auburn, the “Voice of the Foothills,” is one of the few remaining stations in the Sacramento market not controlled or operated by a media group or a big corporation. Small stations are all but squeezed out of the markets these days, but somehow KAH I is still around. Our program this month will feature **Jerry Henry**, General Manager of KAH I, and a longtime VBL member.



After nearly 28 years at KAH I, Jerry has recently announced his intention to retire but he tells us he’s “finding it hard to untangle myself from local radio without destroying local radio.” At our April meeting Jerry will tell us about the history of his ‘independent’ radio station, which first signed on the air in 1957, and lead us in a discussion of the difficulties, as well as the advantages, of operating a small radio station in a big market.



Jerry Henry started his radio career in high school at KWHS the student station at Washington High School in Broderick, under the instruction of the late **Lloyd Shaffer**, another longtime VBL member. After high school, Jerry enlisted in the Air Force and spent five years as a ground radio communications equipment repairman. After his discharge he completed his degree in Electronics Technology, and a second degree in

Business Administration, at CSU Sacramento. He had an unrelated 22-year career with the County of Sacramento, but his heart remained in radio. He started part-time as an evening board operator at KAH I in Auburn in 1995. Within 10 years he had worked his way up to General Manager while still employed full-time for the county. Jerry retired from the county several years ago and is now on a path to retire from radio.

KAHI’s connection to VBL is strong, as Legend **Mary Jane Popp** hosts the noon news, and the “Popoff” talk show in the evenings. Legend **Matias Bombal** is a regular guest on Mary Jane’s program on Friday evenings with reviews of the latest movies.

RSVP for the April 11 Meeting:

Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654

VBL-geek@theguys.org

Cost: \$30 payable at the door. Cash or check only!

Menu: Surf 'n' Turf (shrimp scampi, steak, scalloped potatoes)

Reservations required by April 4!

Meet Our New Members

VBL welcomes four new members who have joined VBL in recent months, plus one returnee.

Steve Zraggen spent 34 years at KCRA as a director. His honors include the Edward R. Murrow award for breaking news (the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake) and an Emmy for breaking news (the Luis Bracamontes pursuit and capture). Before joining KCRA, he worked at KTXL.

Cindy Koppel was a news editor at KCRA until her retirement this past July. She and husband Ward Koppel, now a VBL board member, met in 1979, when both were working at Channel 3.

Jim Stimson retired in December after 47 years at KCRA. He started his career as an intern in 1974 and retired as Assistant News Director. In his 47-year career, he covered innumerable presidential visits, gubernatorial debates, natural disasters and sporting events. He's been honored with Emmys and Edward R. Murrow awards.

Tim Church has a career in sports broadcasting. He covered Bay Area teams, most notably the 49ers, for KFBK and KGNR. One of his career highlights was interviewing 49ers star Joe Montana. He did an internship at KCRA under the late Creighton Sanders. Tim was the PR director for the Sacramento Spirits pro soccer team in the 1970s and is also a local actor, appearing in several indie films.

Mike Montgomery has re-joined VBL. Mike had a long career with CapRadio and is now a consultant for the Congress of California Seniors.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Just a gentle reminder to please pay your dues for 2023 if you've not done so already. Annual memberships in VBL are only \$25, which includes \$5 earmarked for the Oral History Project.

If we don't receive payment from you by the end of April, we will have no choice but to remove your name from the list of Legends. This will be the last newsletter you receive.

Please bring cash or a check for \$55 to the April 11 meeting to cover your meal and the dues.

Or, make out a check for \$25 in the name of Valley Broadcast Legends and mail it to:

P.O. Box 601861

Sacramento, CA 95860-1861

For those who've already paid for 2023, your board sincerely thanks you!

And Speaking of Money...

We're planning to bring back the 50/50 raffle at the April 11 meeting, so you might want to bring some extra cash with you, hint-hint. Every penny raised with the raffle goes toward the grant we award to a school each year. The raffle has been on hiatus since the pandemic shut us down, so your support is much needed and appreciated.

Officers

President: Still Open

Vice President: Bud Kress

Treasurer: Bill George

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

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We Have a Treasurer!

Now, Where's Our President?

by VBL Secretary/Treasurer **Allen Chamberlin**

Before our next club luncheon, I'll be taking Bill George down to the club treasury under the VBL mansion, introducing him to Rochester and the various guards and night watch officers, along to the 3-key sealed steel gate, past the combination lock vault door, down the long corridor guarded by police dogs, bulldogs, and Doberman Pinschers, to the secret room guarded by the old man who never comes out of the catacomb's eternal night into the light of day. And there, I will show Bill our club funds stuffed in the mattress under Jack Benny's bed.



Yes, we finally have a new treasurer: **Bill George**, documentary star of screen and print, railroad and local historian. He's a great addition to our Board of (mis)Directors. And trust me, if you sat through one of our board meetings, you'd agree we never miss an opportunity to direct the conversation away from the business at hand.

Now we just need a president. Do you have what it takes?

Are you breathing? Have a heartbeat?

Can you pound your shoe on the desk for attention?

Are you not a crook, or can you at least claim not to be?

Do you know the difference between gaffer's tape and duct/duck?

Can you tell 2" from 1" from 3/4" tapes and a network feed? Then why were you in radio?

Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Comcast Party? (We're looking for a no here.)

If you can answer yes to any of these specs (except the last one), we would welcome you to apply for the office of Commander in Chief of Club Management.

Don't be put off by the title. VBL's president is mostly a figurehead. The bulk of the work is done by our newsletter editor, treasurer (surprise, Bill!), and secretary. The president gets to M.C. the luncheons, try to conduct board meetings (good luck!), and host guest speakers. Your name would appear atop our publication's list of officers and you'd get to write a monthly column or two for our journal, i.e. mandatorily "get to."

When's the last time you heard, "How soon can you start?" We're ready to ask you that question *now!* Please volunteer. The compensation is amazing, if intangible.

The Legends

Membership as of April 30, 2023

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
 Tim Church • Chris Cochran • Anita Fein
 Curt Foley Vicki Fox • Bill George
 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
 Cindy Koppel • 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
 Bob Miller • Alan Milner • Joyce Mitchell
 Mike Montgomery • 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
 Jim Stimson • Steve Swatt
 Gregory VanAcker • Bob Venditti
 Gregory Virtue • Tom Wagner
 Marla Wells • Dave Williams
 Adrian Woodfork • Dennis Yoder
 Jan Young • Steve Zraggen



VBL Hobbies: Meet ‘The Iris Guy’

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

According to Greek mythology, Iris is the name of the Goddess of Rainbows. Valley Broadcast Legend **John Archer** has taken to cultivating irises in his free time. John’s interest in flowers started in 1987 when he started growing roses from clippings from the rose garden in McKinley Park. Many Sacramento residents also have roses in their yards that came from McKinley Park rose garden clippings.



In 1988, John and his wife, fellow Valley Broadcast Legend **Julie Archer**, bought their current house and his mother-in-law gave them six irises, and from there his garden grew. He says, “I always wanted to join the bonsai, rose and iris groups in Sacramento. But I couldn’t go to weeknight meetings due to my shift.” When John retired last year, he was

finally able to join the Sacramento Iris Society and the American Iris Society.

This is John’s hobby, but Julie does tag along, and is a member of the Sacramento Iris Society because John says, “Dues are \$10 for a single or \$12 for a couple, so she was included.” No such deal for couples for the American Iris Society, so only John is a member. “I’m the iris guy,” he adds. This is a hobby; John doesn’t sell irises, but he has given a few away. And the Archers enjoy visiting other people’s iris gardens from Sacramento to Salem, Oregon.



Stan Atkinson Update

VBL member and “lifetime legend” **Stan Atkinson** has moved permanently into assisted living at Mercy McMahan Terrace. He welcomes visitors, but arrangements need to be made in advance. Call the office at (916) 733-6512. Cards are also a lovely gesture. The mailing address is Mercy McMahan Terrace, 3865 J Street, Sacramento, California 95816. This information comes to the VBL newsroom from former VBL member **Sue Peppers** via the KCRA alumni page on Facebook.

Pet Profiles

This feature is still in the works! Who knew weather would be a major story, and for so long? Our resident meteorologist, **Kristine Hanson**, has never worked so hard in her life! She’s still planning to feature our members’ beloved pets in future issues of the VBL newsletter. Send a photo and some fun information about your pet to kristinehanson@gmail.com.



Errol Robert Singleton: 1939-2023



Errol Robert Singleton worked as an announcer and public affairs director at KGMS in the days when the AM 1380 station offered a MOR (middle of the road) music format. Legend Tom Buck recalls Robert being part of the station team from around 1969 to 1985/86, and that he used simply “Robert Singleton” as his air name. He then left to take a job with the UC Davis Cooperative Extension Consumer/Agriculture Broadcast Services. He retired from that position in 2003.

He is survived by his wife Melvina, son Brian, daughter Tamara, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Services were held in early February at the South Sacramento Christian Center, with interment at Sacramento Valley

National Cemetery in Dixon.

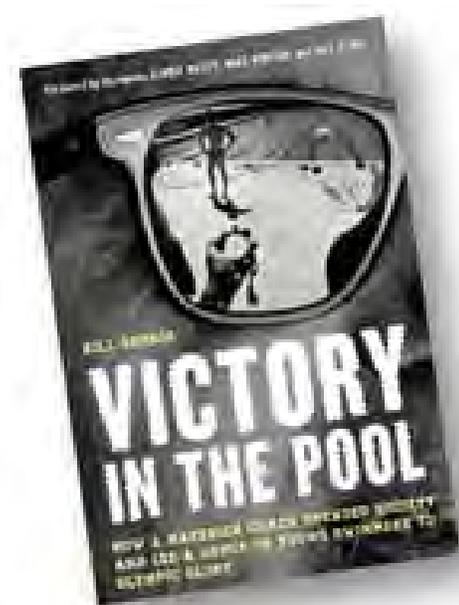
Kate Moore: 1961-2023

Kate Moore, a mainstay of Sacramento’s LGBTQ community and alum of KCRA, KOVR and KXTV, lost a battle with pancreatic cancer on Jan. 26.

Kate worked as a broadcast designer at KOVR from 1995 to 2000. Then, after a year at KPIX in San Francisco, she decided she missed Sacramento too much and returned, taking a job at News10. In 2004, she hopped over to KCRA, where she was the Design Director for three years. Finally in 2007, she joined the team at Uptown Studios, which describes itself as “a full service visual communications firm.” Kate was also very active in the LGBTQ community and was one of the founders of Sacramento’s *Outword* magazine.



She is survived by her wife, Tina Reynolds.



COMING ATTRACTION!

Our June 13 Meeting
Bill George, presenting his new book
Victory in the Pool
The Olympians at the Arden Hills Swim Club
and Coach Sherm Chavoor
Save the Date!

Fun, Fellowship and Food in February

Aviator's Restaurant February 14, 2023



Kevin Riggs and our own Anita Fein shared stories and photographs from visits they made to the mysterious island of Cuba, Kevin on a vacation trip in November, Anita with a group from SFJazz in 2019.



From left: Treasurer Bill George, VP Bud Kress, Jerry Henry and Board Member Kristine Hanson.



Our Lunar New Year feast was yummy and plentiful, and thanks to a brilliant idea from **Cindy Koppel** on rearranging the tables, the seating seemed more spacious and there was more room for mingling.



New member **Steve Zraggen** (left) visits with **John** and **Julie Archer** and **Cindy Koppel**.

Photos by **Matías Bombal**. Many more photos from the February luncheon are on the VBL Facebook group page.