



VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #134 *“Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media”*

August 2023

Aug. 8 • Aviator’s Restaurant at Executive Airport • Doors open 11 a.m. • Lunch service at 11:30

August Program: News You Can Use

Our August program will focus on the critical issue of protecting yourself from cybercrime. Our Treasurer, **Bill George**, recently attended a presentation by the FBI on this vital topic and was so impressed, he invited them to repeat the program for us. He calls it a classic example of “news you can use.” Here’s how Bill describes it:



We have never had more information at our fingertips than we have today. A few clicks of the mouse and we can find and order almost any product or service from anywhere on earth. With the rise of AI, communications options will increase even more. But along with this information explosion comes increasing exposure to a global army of scammers who are scheming to get your personal information and empty your bank account.

The FBI’s **Gina Swankie** will give us an overview of the challenges law enforcement faces in fighting cybercrime, and also provide information on how individuals can take steps to protect their identity and financial information from the sophisticated criminals who are plotting to obtain it. The thieves are especially adept at targeting seniors. What would you do if you got a phone call from your “grandchild” who says they are in a foreign country and you need to send money to them right away to help get them out of trouble?



Gina Swankie joined the FBI Sacramento Field Office in September 2011, coordinating media relations, social media communication, strategic investigative campaign development, and other public affairs activity. During this time, Gina has navigated missing child cases, several high-profile adult kidnapping matters, and has consulted with law enforcement leadership regarding strategic case communication.

Prior to joining the FBI, Gina was the primary media contact for the Sacramento County Airport System Marketing and Public Relations team from 2002-2011. She is a graduate of California State University and the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Sacramento program.

Schedule permitting, Gina will be joined by FBI Supervisory Special Agent **Jamil (Jimmy)**

**RSVP for the August 8 Meeting:
Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654**

VBL-geek@theguys.org

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

Reservations required by August 1!

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August Program

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Hassani, who leads the squad responsible for Cyber-Enabled Complex Financial and Healthcare Fraud investigations in the Sacramento Field Office.

Hassani joined the FBI in 2004, and in 2011 was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) at FBI Headquarters and served as the FBI Cyber Division's liaison to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where he program-managed Cyber National Security threats.

In 2017, Hassani accepted an assignment in Amman, Jordan as the FBI's Assistant Legal Attaché fostering relationships with Jordan's Federal Law Enforcement entities. He returned to the Sacramento Field Office in 2020, leading a team focused against the cyber-enabled fraud that spiked during the pandemic.

Don't miss this important and entertaining presentation. What you learn here could save you from falling prey to scam artists. As always, RSVPs are required one week in advance. See bottom of the first page for details. The all-you-can-eat buffet menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, Chinese chicken salad, and the usual sides and beverages.

Meet Our New Members

Say hello to our two new members, **Marty Gonzalez** and **Samuel Gonzalez**. No, they are not related!

Marty joined KCRA as a summer intern in 1977, started out in the mailroom and worked his way up to reporter. He went on to a career in the Bay Area, as East Bay Bureau Chief for KGO and weekend morning anchor for KRON. He's won numerous awards, including a national Peabody, shared with the KGO team for coverage of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. His many assignments have taken him around the world, including China, Cuba, and Russia.

In addition to his busy on-air schedule, Marty was a professor in the department of Broadcast and Communications Arts at San Francisco State, and received the Excellence in Teaching award in 2012.

In retirement, he and his wife are having fun traveling around the USA.

Samuel spent 37 years as a news photographer for KCRA, from 1982 to 2019. He went on assignment with Marty to Rome in the late 1980s and met **Pope John Paul II**. He traveled to Panama with **Stan Atkinson** to interview then-dictator **Manuel Noriega**, and covered the 2018 fire in Paradise from LiveCopter 3. He's now active in his church, enjoys landscape painting, and is a member of the Elk Grove Fine Arts Gallery. Samuel calls retirement "the best job I've ever had."

Officers

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President's Message: By the Numbers

by VBL Interim President **Joyce Krieg**



Thirty-times-thirty. That's the magic number when it comes to keeping Valley Broadcast Legends alive and thriving.

We need 30 of you willing to spend \$30 in order for us to keep meeting at Aviator's. Thirty eaters is the minimum they will allow for a group buffet luncheon. If we cannot guarantee that minimum, we cannot have a meeting.

I hate being a "noodge," but in June I had to do just that, sending a last-minute plea when we had only 18 RSVPs a little over a week out. Fortunately, it shook enough of you out of the trees to reach the magic number of 30.

I don't want to have to do that again.

After so many years at our beloved Club Pheasant, change is never easy. And that's exactly what we're dealing with. Aviator's requires a final count a week in advance—August 1, this time around—compared to just 48 hours at "the Pheasant." Committing to anything a week in advance is a challenge for most of us. I get it. But that is our reality.

It should go without saying that we don't want to have to uproot ourselves again and search for a new venue. Your VBL board did just that last year. Trust us, the pickin's aren't just slim, they're anorexic. We are lucky to have found Aviator's!

On a somewhat related topic, your board has heard some concern about recent programs, how there hasn't been enough content related directly to broadcasting. That's a valid point. We thought the topics would still be of interest to our members. Otherwise, we would not have booked them. We're always open to your ideas for future speakers. Just bring them to the attention of any board member, or contact me at pacificgrovejoyce@gmail.com.

All I would ask is, please don't let the program be the sole factor in deciding whether to attend our meetings. Hey, it's a chance to get out of the house, mingle with your colleagues from back in the day, do some calorie-loading at the buffet, and watch the planes take off and land. What's not to like?

Ending on a note of irony. After all my haranguing about coming to the meetings, I am going to be AWOL on August 8 due to a family vacay that's been in the works for at least six months. Anyway, Sacramento is too darn hot in August!

Have a great time, and hopefully I'll see you in October.

The Legends

Membership as of July 25, 2023

John Archer • Julie Archer
 Jay "DJ Jay" Arnold • Stan Atkinson
 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
 Marty Gonzalez • Samuel Gonzalez
 Dennis Grayson • Michael Guiliano
 Kristine Hanson • Bud Harmon
 Fred Harris • Mark Hedlund • 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
 Jeanne Marie • Lizette Martinez- Hopkins
 Dee McCafferty • Michael McCarron
 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 • 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 • Dennis Yoder
 Jan Young • Steve Zraggen



Member Hobbies: Joyce Mitchell

'A Painter Not an Artist'

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

VBL member **Joyce Mitchell** started painting about 20 years ago. She got interested when she was between jobs and signed up for a painting class at Sacramento City College. As soon as she signed up, she found a job, but was able to continue with the class. Joyce says she never really wanted her paintings connected to money, but she found she could sell them. At first, the money went to her non-profit, Capital City AIDS Fund. She was able to sell her entire art show and donate \$15,000 to Capital City AIDS Fund. The hobby was able to help the charity until Joyce was able to secure a major grant for the organization. Now she uses the proceeds from painting sales to buy the paints and canvases she needs. And some of the money goes to her other passion, music. Art sales have paid for three of her guitars.

Joyce loves working with colors and capturing still life. She says she starts with the eyes, which guide how she is going to paint. She works from photographs of dogs, cats, horses, fish and music. Joyce prefers to be called a painter, not an artist, because she is self-taught.



Stock up on Swag!

VBL logo mugs, t-shirts, caps and more:
<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/vbl-boutique>

An Update from Stan

by VBL Member **Stan Atkinson**

I want to let you know that I'm 90 and still going strong! I'm thriving under the care of the glorious Kristen and the exceptional Mercy McMahon Terrace staff. I'm getting up with a walker here and there and loving time spent with family and friends. You may know that I've been a supporter of the Sisters of Mercy's compassionate healthcare mission in Sacramento for decades. I'd like to continue my legacy and repay them for their friendship and for providing quality healthcare, of which I am a beneficiary. I made a short video message last week that I'd love you to see: <https://supportmercyfoundation.org/joinstan> If you're able to donate, I send my sincere thanks.

