



VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #131 "Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media"

February 2023

We'll C-U in C-U-B-A on Feb. 14

Two local broadcast veterans will be giving us a peek inside the mysterious island nation of Cuba at the February 14 VBL luncheon gathering. Yes, that is a Tuesday and we will be meeting at our new venue, Aviator's restaurant inside Sacramento Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. with buffet service beginning at 11:30. This time, our hosts are planning a Chinese feast in honor of Lunar New Year, all-you-can-eat for just \$30.



Former KCRA staffers, reporter **Kevin Riggs** and photographer/editor **Anita Fein**, have both traveled to Cuba, took plenty of pictures and came back with stories they'll be sharing with us.

Kevin and his wife spent five days in Cuba this past November. He says, "I'll be discussing what motivated me to travel to Cuba, why it's easier to do than many think, what I saw there (good and bad), and why there is such dissatisfaction with the Communist regime."

An Emmy-award-winning reporter, Kevin has been recognized among California's top political journalists during a career that spanned four decades. He has long served as a broadcast political analyst and recently co-authored *The Insider's Guide to Media Training: 99 Tips to Survive Your Interview In The Digital Age*. (Amazon Publishing)



From 1994-2011, Kevin worked for KCRA, serving as a general assignment reporter, anchor and the lead for politics and the state capitol. He was named to the Cal Poly Journalism Department Hall of Fame in 2018. He has been recognized with numerous awards for broadcast excellence, including being part of the KCRA team that was awarded the 2011 Edward R. Murrow Award by the Radio Television Digital News Association for breaking news coverage of the Roseville Galleria fire. He was also awarded a Northern California Emmy for coverage of the Galleria fire.

Kevin recently retired as Senior Vice President for Randle Communications in Sacramento and continues to consult on media and communications projects.

Anita and her husband Larry traveled to Cuba in 2019 with a group from

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RSVP for the Feb. 14 Meeting:

Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654

VBL-geek@theguys.org

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

Reservations required by Feb. 7!

We'll C-U in C-U-B-A on February 14

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SFJazz, an organization of jazz lovers and supporters in San Francisco. She says, "The International Cuban Jazz Festival was happening and we attended wonderful concerts every night, and had day trips to music schools, dance academies, jazz clubs and art museums."

A highlight of the trip for Anita, "in addition to the good food and excellent programs," was an afternoon spent with photographer Roberto Salas in his Havana studio. His iconic photos of Castro and Che during the revolution have been published worldwide.

A true broadcast pioneer, Anita paved the way for women in local television news when she became a photographer and editor at KCRA in 1978, a position she held for ten years. Since leaving TV news, she has devoted her talents to fine art photography, making the transition from developing and printing in her home darkroom to digital image capture and Photoshop editing. She has exhibited her work in numerous solo and group shows since the 1970s, and has made many video and slide presentations. She maintains memberships in the National Press Photographers Association and Viewpoint Photographic Art Center here in Sacramento.

The New Normal: Dues are Due

by VBL Secretary/Treasurer **Allen Chamberlin**

It's stopped raining. The Covid lockdown is unlocked. Our club members are lunching together again. The world is slowly returning to normal. And to prove how normal life's becoming, club dues are back and due: \$20 membership plus \$5 surcharge for our Sacramento History Center Oral History Project. And if you act now, we'll throw in free shipping and handling!

[Professional actress who plays a pensioner on television]:
"What's my price?"

\$25, which includes six electronic newsletters per year, email notifications, and the club's basic operating expenses.

"Does any of my money go to line the pockets of politicians?"

Nope. In fact, we're having trouble finding anyone who wants to be our club president. FYI: no classified documents were found in our past president's house. Isn't that refreshing?

If you've not already paid your dues for 2023, please bring cash or a check for \$55 to the Feb. 14 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!

Officers

President: Still Open

Vice President: Bud Kress

Treasurer: Allen Chamberlin

Secretary: Allen Chamberlin

Directors: Walt Shaw, Anita Fein,

Kristine Hanson, Ward Koppel

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Harry Warren

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Webmaster: Allen Chamberlin

Audio-Visual: Bud Kress

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The Veep Speaks

by VBL Vice-President **Bud Kress**



I hope everyone had a great Christmas and hope the New Year is a healthy one for everyone.

Major kudos to our very own **Kristine Hanson** for a wonderful job reporting the storm coverage; all the local stations stepped up to the plate and really showed what great work our Sacramento market TV stations do in a crisis.

I would like to address a concern a member made about our new location for our meetings at Aviators, mainly the lack of space to mingle. At our last meeting, we had 40 members and we were packed in there. It was a tad tight, but remember, this was the first meeting there. I am sure management has had that problem before and a possible reconfiguration of the room will make it better. Also as the weather gets better, there is the outside patio that can be used. I am personally dealing with the brightness issue and those big windows that are making using a projector difficult. There is a solution in the works and will be unveiled at the upcoming meeting.

Friends, here is the bottom line: We have looked at many locations, but the elephant in the room is food cost. A deal like we had at the Club Pheasant just doesn't exist anymore. We are very lucky to get a great lunch at 30 bucks a head. Recently I was at an event at the Mandarins Bingo Center. It's big, and we only used a portion for our group of 70 people. We were also cramped in there. The food was just as good as what we have at Aviator's, but the cost was 45 dollars a plate.

So we ask you to give the new place a chance to continue to be our new home. The management is very encouraging and accommodating to our needs.

See you there!

Blatant Commercial Message: Home for Sale

Jim Drennan's home at 16 Walshford Place in North Natomas is now listed for sale by our friend **Kristine Hanson**. Do NOT believe the Zillow listing. That company incorrectly posts the asking price as \$600,003. It's not. It's only \$600,002.95 and she will entertain bids of an even \$600k from VBL members.

Seriously, this is a beautiful 2-bedroom, 2-bath home in move-in condition. It's located in Heritage Park, a lovely 55-plus gated community, complete with clubhouse, gym, pools and tennis courts. See Kristine if you know of a senior who might be interested.

The Legends

Membership as of Jan. 29, 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
 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 • 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
 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 • Steve Swatt
 Gregory VanAcker • Bob Venditti
 Gregory Virtue • Tom Wagner
 Marla Wells • Dave Williams
 Adrian Woodfork • Dennis Yoder
 Jan Young



VBL Hobbies: Spinning with Lizette

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

VBL member **Lizette Martinez-Hopkins** says her interests have her “spinning yarn or spinning to music.” She and husband Don got interested in ballroom dancing over 36 years ago, when they watched their wedding video and discovered “we were not naturally gifted.” They signed up for lessons and were hooked. That expanded to Lizette teaching at Folsom Lake College where she was the professor of ballroom dancing for eight years as well as teaching private lessons. A typical class at Folsom Lake had 150 students. Don is her favorite partner and they also enjoy combining live local music with ballroom dancing.

And spinning in another direction, Lizette has long loved heritage crafts: sewing, knitting, crochet, spinning yarn, weaving, bobbin lace and tatting. She even spins her own yarn, and keeps two Angora bunnies and silk worms as “suppliers.” If you have a mulberry tree, she and her worms would love to hear from you as they are a great source of worm food. Lizette comes by it naturally. Her grandmother was a pattern maker for Beverly Hills designer Don Loper, whose work was seen in many Hollywood movies. Lizette designed a line of ballroom dancing shoes and a few costumes and convinced the California State Fair to add a handspun yarn category in their annual competitions.

You can buy Lizette’s handspun yarns, locally sourced fiber, merino wool and alpaca, along with spinning wheels and other equipment at www.spinGlitz.com.

Editor’s note: If you’ve got an interesting or unusual hobby, collection, sport, or past-time, share it with your fellow Legends! Contact Ward Koppel, ward_koppel@prodigy.net

At top left, Lizette demonstrates the art of spinning yarn, and below, some examples of her finished products.



VBL Pet Profiles

Our resident meteorologist, **Kristine Hanson**, has been more than a bit busy this past month, understandably so. But never fear, the VBL Pet Profiles feature is still in the works. We would love to feature your beloved pet in a future issue of the VBL newsletter. Send a photo and some fun information about your pet to kristinehanson@gmail.com.



Robert “Bob” Suffel: 1943-2022



Friends and colleagues of VBL member **Robert “Bob” Suffel** gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Sacramento for a celebration of life this past Saturday, Jan. 28.

Bob was a graduate of UCLA who worked as a news producer for KXTV from 1968 to 1969, and then as a state government reporter for McClatchy’s Sacramento TV and radio stations, KOVR and KFBK, from 1969 to 1971. His awards included a regional Emmy for spot news reporting, and the California Broadcasters Association for local programming. He then went on to a career as a correspondent for NBC radio news, covering Amsterdam, Beirut and London.

Returning to Sacramento, Bob invested in real estate and worked as a recording engineer. In 1994, he put a low-power TV station, KBTB, on the air. However, the FCC determined that Bob’s channel was needed for full-power digital expansion and could not identify an alternative channel for KBTB. After several frustrating years and thousands of dollars in engineering and legal fees, KBTB went dark in 2000.

In his later years, Bob was active in the Sierra chapter of the American Theater Organ Society and played a key role in the production of Westminster Presbyterian’s “Music at Noon” program.

Chris Davis: 1954-2022

Former KZAP News Director and one-time VBL member **Chris Davis** died in November while on a Caribbean cruise with his wife, Kathy. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento.

Chris was a graduate of UC Riverside who began his career at Reno rock station KOZZ. He was ND at Sacramento’s legendary alternative rock station KZAP in the 1980s. During that time, he was president of the Sacramento chapter of Radio-TV News Directors Association and of the Sacramento Valley Broadcasters Association.

After leaving broadcast news, Chris went to work for the California Energy Commission, where he was manager of the power plant licensing office.



Barry Fyffe: 1936-2022

Sacramento radio personality and former VBL member **Barry Fyffe** succumbed to a massive stroke in November in his home in Lubbock, Texas. Barry was a disc jockey at Sacramento's Top 40 powerhouse KROY in the 1970s and then made the transition to talk radio host at KFBK. He was a proud Air Force veteran and a deacon at the First Christian Church in Plainview, Texas. In his retirement years, he enjoyed golfing, horses, and country/western music.

Barry's friends from his Sacramento radio days held a celebration of life on Jan. 15 at the Campus Commons clubhouse.



Barry is survived by Carol, his wife of 42 years, daughters Leslie, Kelly and Amanda, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Four members of KROY's DJ team from back in the day when 1240-AM ruled the Sacramento Top 40 airwaves. From left: **Barry Fyffe**, Terry Nelson, Joey Mitchell and Tony Cox.

First Meeting at Our New Home Aviator's Restaurant December 6, 2022



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