

VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #142 *“Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media”*

December 2024

Dec. 10 • Aviator’s Restaurant at Executive Airport • Doors open 11 a.m. • Lunch service at 11:30

It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Okay, we may not be caroling out in the snow, but we definitely will be gathering for the annual VBL Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Aviator’s. As of press time, details had yet to be finalized by the VBL Board, but this much we know:

Dues: We will be asking you to renew your membership (in other words, paying your dues) for 2025. How much those dues will be has not yet been decided by the VBL Board as of press time for this newsletter. More than likely, we’ll be sending out an email blast before the meeting so you’ll know how much cash to bring, or what amount to write on the check.

Broadcast Collectables: Like most of us, Mark Chiolis has amassed quite a collection of media mementoes from his career. He



Just a small sample of the many career mementoes that Mark Chiolis plans to bring to our December meeting. He’s offering them gratis to anyone who will take them off his hands. Stocking stuffers, perhaps?

plans to bring his stash to the December meeting

and offer it free for the pickins. We’re talking anchor pins, Sacramento Kings memorabilia, promotional goodies from KRBK and KOVR, Dixieland Jubilee buttons, and a whole lot more. As Mark notes, “I’ve found that if you sort it out properly there are places and people that will take good portions of it. Some of it has some value, but I don’t want to spend years packaging single items on eBay for \$5 each so it’s easier for me just to donate it to others who may package and sell if they don’t want it.”

Beyond that, it’s anyone’s guess as of this writing what to expect on December 10. But if 20-plus years of VBL Holiday Luncheons are any indication, it will be an afternoon filled with fellowship and fun, so don’t miss it and do RSVP.



Heads Up! New Email Address!

RSVP for the December 10 Meeting:
Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654
secretary@valleybroadcastlegends.org
Cost: \$30 payable at the door.
Cash or check only.

Reservations required by Dec. 3!

Our New Email Address: **secretary@valleybroadcastlegends.org**

by VBL Secretary **Allen Chamberlin**



Once upon a back-in-the-day, **Joyce Krieg, Maxine Carlin, Charlie Duncan, and Harry Warren** met over lunch. It was a very good lunch. A productive lunch. And there were leftovers: broadcasters who weren't ready to sign-off alone. The doggy-bags taken home that day included what became our club: Valley Broadcast Legends.

And for 20 odd (and odder) years thereafter we did lunch. Like a bunch of friends in a coffee klatch or book-club. Informal and relaxed. Although, book-club is probably closest, because we booked programs to discuss.

Evidentially, if one read the *original* Grimm's collected folk fairy tales, you'd find they were dark and for adults. Alas, their first edition didn't sell well. So the brothers dumbed the fables down for kids and created a hit (though not as saccharine as the Disney rewrites). VBL's story is similar, if inverted. We started simplistic and fun and have ended up darkened by legal concerns. Our long time president, **Jim Drennan**, left us half of his estate necessitating our incorporating as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. [And you thought Snow White ran into problems. At least as **Carol Burnett** said in *Once Upon a Mattress*, "They were small, but there were seven of them!" And now our eight board dwarves have succeeded in incorporating.

However, with that we lost some innocence and became more adult serious. Now we have to present a sober face (a visage some of our past members might have found challenging once-upon-a-time) to the world and "VBL-geek@" doesn't cut it. So we've gone more boring. From now on our address will be:

Secretary@ValleyBroadcastLegends.org.

We hope this name-change satisfies the IRS, evil jealous queens, Rumpelstiltskin, and other pedants.

Seriously, Legends: Make a note of it. Add it to your email address book. Commit it to your memory bank. Use it for making lunch reservations and other VBL inquiries and correspondence.

secretary@valleybroadcastlegends.org

Officers

President: Bill George

Vice President: Bud Kress

Treasurer: Allen Chamberlin

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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President's Message: Staying Positive in a New Era

by VBL President **Bill George**



We are headed into the final days of 2024. Soon, this new century will be a quarter of a century old. Consider some of the changes that have occurred in that brief period.

If you'd told someone you were going to watch a movie on a streaming platform, they may have assumed you were watching it on a stage.

The iPhone had not been invented. You couldn't Facetime anyone or Uber anywhere.

If you talked about the latest app you had, people would assume you were describing a new before-dinner menu item.

All these changes swept through society and changed the way we live, talk, and think. And the changes in broadcasting have been especially profound. According to Susan J. Douglas, author of the book *Inventing American Broadcasting*, the term broadcasting evolved from its use as the agricultural method of sowing seeds in a field by casting them broadly about. It was later adopted for describing the widespread distribution of information by printed materials or by telegraph. Well, the telegraph has long been scrapped. Can it be long before radio and transmission towers are mere curiosities? Through our oral history project, VBL is positioned to document the history of the transition of broadcasting from the analog to the digital age. We can do the interviews on an iPhone and easily upload them so everyone can access them. If interested, please contact me, and we will schedule an interview.

We are trying to create a program to financially support young people interested in becoming broadcasters. I have had several discussions with educators and students about the future of broadcasting. It's still not evident what the best way to approach this is but the VBL Board is pursuing it and we hope to announce an initiative next year.

By all accounts, the next huge wave of change will be AI, and there is much concern about its impact. Will plagiarism and artificially produced content replace writers and reporters? There is much anxiety about this, as there always is when great change is in the air. One thing that remains the same is the fellowship we enjoy. I wish each of you a happy holiday. And if you have any questions, remember, "There's an app for that." And it's not a new recipe for deviled eggs.

The Legends

Membership as of Nov. 25, 2024

John Archer • Julie Archer
 Jay "DJ Jay" Arnold • Stan Atkinson
 Mark Baggs • Vic Biondi • Bill Bishofberger
 Thomas Blazowski • Matias Bombal
 Tom Buck • Allen Chamberlin
 Mark Chiolis • Tim Church
 Tony Cox • Judi Decker
 Kevin Dougherty • Anita Fein
 Curt Foley • Vicki Fox • Bill George
 Gary Gerould • Marty Gonzalez
 Henry Grambergu • Dennis Grayson
 Cyndy Green • Michael Guiliano
 Kristine Hanson • Bud Harmon
 Lois Hart • Mark Hedlund • Jerry Henry
 Carla Henson • Lizann Hunt • Rich Ibarra
 Tip Kindel • Jan "Neely" Klevan
 Rick Kavooras • Kim Kline
 Erin Kobayashi Komatsubara
 Cindy Koppel • Ward Koppel • Bud Kress
 Bill Kreutzer • Joyce Krieg
 Eleanor Kuechler-VanAcker • Bob Lang
 Dick Leeson • Mike Luery • Jeanne Marie
 Lizette Martinez-Hopkins
 Michael McCarron • Michael Messmer
 Dana Michaels • Mike Montgomery
 Keith Moon • Ray Nelson
 George Nyberg • John D. O'Brien
 Sandy Ofsenek Helland • Deborah Pacyna
 Sue Peppers • Gary Popejoy
 Greg Popejoy • Mary Jane Popp
 Craig Prosser • David Ramos
 Deborah Ramos • Bruce Riggs • Jay Rudin
 Bill Schmechel • Walt Shaw • Dann Shively
 Barbara Souza • Roy Stearns
 Jim Stimson • Steve Swatt
 Gregory VanAcker • Gregory Virtue
 Hilary Vos • Tom Wagner • Dave Walker
 Marla Wells • Dave Williams
 Dennis Yoder • Steve Zraggen



Member Hobbies: Memories of Dad

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

Behind every hobby car owner is a story. I hope you don't mind if I share my story with you. My hobby car is a 1965 Mustang coupe. I think all of us growing up in the 1960s either had family that owned a Mustang, or had neighbors or friends who did.



I remember going to Downtown Ford with my dad in 1966 when I was nine. He was looking at a white Mustang on the showroom floor, and I remember asking him what the "GT" on the fender meant. I did not know at the time that he was terminally ill and getting his affairs in order. He was trying to decide if he should buy my mom a new car. Dad decided her car did not need to be replaced. But that memory has stayed with me. I flirted with Mustang ownership a few times in my adult life.

In 2014, it got serious. I met with the owner of a Mustang restoration business and touched base with him weekly. He would get cars in every week. Some he would keep and restore, but a big part of his business was reselling them untouched, at a big profit, for export to Europe. Classic Mustangs are huge there.

After 13 months he said he had a car I might like, a 1965 Mustang coupe. It apparently sat parked for 25 years in Grass Valley. Someone else had started the restoration, gave up and sold it to him. First time I saw it, there was no interior in it, no windows, no fenders or front end, but the rest of the body was finished. Four weeks later it was complete, and it was in my garage. A 1965 coupe. Someone over the years had painted it white with black stripes, but it has been returned to its original Champagne Beige. 289 V8 engine, vinyl roof, automatic, air conditioning. A few modifications from how it was first built, but close to original.

Its past is largely unknown to me, but it takes me back to my past, and to my dad. Cindy has been accepting of the Mustang, and the thumbs up we get driving it. Other than a few trips to Lodi for wine tasting, we tend to stay close to home. And most Sundays I take it to Cars and Coffee in Carmichael.



Ward's 1965 Mustang undergoing restoration, and the finished product.



Richard “Dick” Garcia: 1930-2024

Former KFBK Program Director **Dick Garcia** passed away quietly at home in Sacramento on October 19.

After graduating from Tulsa University with a degree in broadcast journalism, Dick enlisted in the CIC (counter-intelligence corps) division of the U.S. Army and served from 1953 to 1956 in Germany.

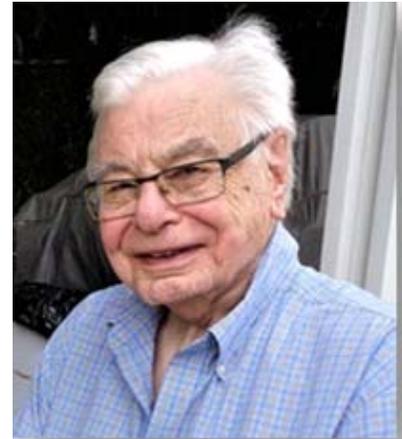
His lengthy career in broadcast journalism took him to San Diego, Washington, Chicago, Cleveland, and San Francisco, as well as Sacramento. For many of those gigs, he used the air name of Dick Roberts due to the racial and ethnic prejudices of the era. It was only when he joined KFBK in the 1970s and Eleanor McClatchy encouraged him to use his given name that he went on the air as Dick Garcia.

VBL’s **Joyce Krieg** recalls, “Garce’ gave me my big break when he was PD at KFBK, hiring me as the station’s first female newscaster

in 1978. He took a chance on a gal with almost zero on-air experience, only a first class ticket, which got me through the door. He quite literally changed my life, for which I will always be grateful.”

After retiring from broadcasting, Dick enjoyed traveling. His favorite destinations included Germany, Alaska, Canada, Italy, the Azore Islands, Morocco, and Ireland.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Virginia, and daughters Julia and Emily. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 11:00am at the Town and Country Lutheran Church, 4049 Marconi Ave.



Tom Curran: 1953-2024

Tom Curran, long-time color commentator for the Sacramento Kings and newscaster at KOVR-13, died peacefully in his home in Weeki Wachee, Florida on October 3.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Tom completed his career in Florida with Tampa Bay’s Fox 13 morning news team after leaving Sacramento. Tom was an avid skier and sports fan, especially hockey, and enjoyed coaching kids hockey.

He is survived by his wife Lucita Curran, daughter Jyllian Curran, five brothers and sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson’s Society.

Jeff Hughson: 1950-2024



Jeff Hughson was a sixteen-year-old student at Sacramento High when he broke into radio, holding down the overnight shift on KXRQ (FM) on weekdays and hosting a blues show on Sunday morning. When he heard the station was being sold, he met with the new owner and became a co-founder and the first Music Director of the new station, now branded with the legendary KZAP call letters. Jeff recalled, "I graduated from high school in June of 1968, and I went to work at the end of July."

Already an avid record collector, his extensive collection of LPs became the basis for KZAP's music library. Over the years, his collection includes the likes of Little Jimmy Reed, Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, John Lee

Hooker, and many more well-known Blues artists. He would later recall how he would go to Tower Records and buy these now-collector's items for only a few dollars.

Jeff is also remembered for his role in creating the Sacramento Blues Society along with **Mick Martin** and **Phil Givant**. At the 1979 Sacramento Blues Festival, Jeff, Mick and Phil took sign-ups from audience members who were interested in forming a Blues Society. The first meeting was held shortly after and Jeff was elected President.

He was the producer of many of the blues shows in Sacramento, including outdoor events in William Land Park and at Tootsie's in Old Sacramento, where admission was only three dollars most times and featured local bands along with big name blues artists like the Robert Cray Band with Curtis Salgado, Charlie Musselwhite and Luther Tucker.

One of Jeff's last projects was to preserve the history of KZAP and other free-form radio stations in the U.S. He was executive producer of an upcoming documentary film, "Free-Form, Baby!"

Sue Ryan: 1954-2024

Sue Ryan was a pioneering female DJ in 1980s and 90s in Sacramento and Fresno. During the years that she hosted morning drive at KHYL, she had a rabid following of fans proud to call themselves her Little Buckaroos. Her madcap humor delighted fans and friends, and her unmistakable voice was a part of many Sacramentan's mornings. As she moved through her career, she infused her particular brand of humor into Radio Tradeo, an on-air forum for trading goods and services, and later, in weather and traffic reports.



Kristine Hanson Joins Silver Circle



Our own **Kristine Hanson** joins the Silver Circle of the Northern California chapter of NATAS. Fellow Legend **Michael McCarron** offers congratulations. *Photo by Jean McCarron.*

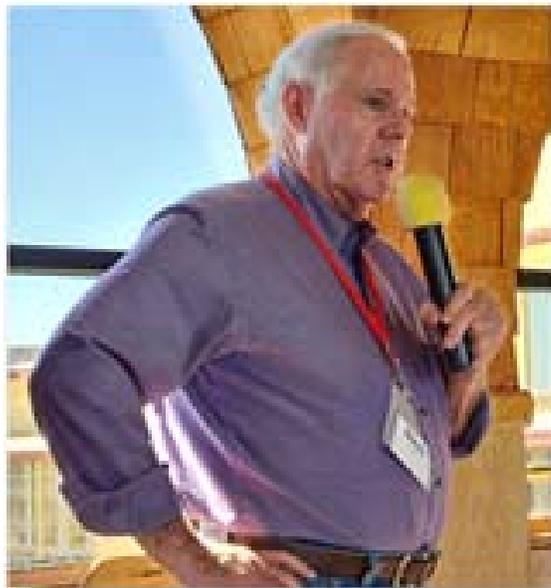
Congratulations to VBL Board Member **Kristine Hanson**! She's among the latest inductees into the Gold and Silver Circle of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The Gold and Silver Circle honors excellence in broadcast journalism to individuals who have made a significant contribution to their local television markets and distinguished themselves within the industry and the community. *Silver Circle* members must have at least 25 years in television news and are elected by current members of the *Silver Circle*. *Gold Circle* members must have at least 50 years in the industry and are chosen by the Chapter Board of Governors.

Kristine has worked as a meteorologist at Sacramento's KCRA, KOVR and KTXL, as well as San Francisco stations KGO, KTVU, and KRON. She's also been a sportscaster/reporter at KCRA.

Other Sacramento broadcasters who joined the *Silver Circle Class of 2024*: **John Breedlove**, photographer, KCRA, and **Mike Lowry**, photographer, KOVR. KCRA

anchor **Edie Lambert** served as Master of Ceremonies at the luncheon on November 23 at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.

Talking Politics at October 10 Meeting



Photos by
Matias Bombal.

Steve Swatt did a great job carrying the program when the other scheduled guests for our political panel had to cancel at the last minute. Meanwhile, President **Bill George** seems to be taking the position a bit too seriously!

Say Hello to Our New Members

VBL is welcoming five new members and two returning members into the family!

Kevin R. Dougherty was the CHP traffic reporter for KCRA, KOVR and KHSL from 1990 to 1997. Prior to that he was a public affairs officer at CHP headquarters, where he coordinated numerous media interviews on safe driving topics during the holiday season. He started his broadcast career doing fill-in radio traffic reports in Southern California while also working as a CHP public affairs officer.

Erin Kobayashi Komatsubara tells us she worked from 1981 to 2024 at “all stations in the market except KTXL (not for any reason).”

David Ramos worked at KMYC, KHSL, KSBW and KCRA. His career highlights include covering the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, and “getting shot at during the L.A. riots.”

Deborah Ramos handled promotions at KGBY, was an engineer at KOVR, worked in sales at KTXL, KMAX and KSTE, and was an account executive for Clear Channel Outdoors for 11 years.

Hilary Vos has been a radio and television broadcast journalist in various roles including reporter, producer, anchor and news director. She spent six years at KOVR and also worked in San Francisco, Salinas, Santa Rosa and Carthage, Texas. In what she calls an “encore career,” she then went on to be a career counselor before retiring.

VBL is also welcoming back two returning members, **Deborah Pacyna** and **Rick Kavooras**.



Join the VBL Facebook Group! Once you're signed in to Facebook, go to the search bar near the top of the page. Type in "Valley Broadcast Legends." That should take you right ro ua!