

VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #139 *“Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media”*

June 2024

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

Tina Macuha, Radio Promotions and More

We’ve got quite a meeting in store for the June 11 VBL luncheon!



Our special guests will include **Tina Macuha**, part of Channel 31’s “Good Day Sacramento” team since 1995. Tina announced her “semi-retirement” back in February, but is still anchoring the news on the weekends. A native Sacramentan, Tina began her broadcast career in radio (FM-10^{9.7}) so she should fit right in with our stellar guest roster.

We’ll meet a team of radio promotions professionals led by **Lizann Hunt**, who had a 35-year career at Brown Broadcasting and Entercom. The major stations she promoted were K108 and The Eagle. Her radio career began in 1980, when she was hired to be the escort for the K108 station mascot, the Mellow Beaver. More recently, she served a

Community Partnerships Director for KOVR and “Good Day Sacramento.” Now fully retired, Lizann spends her time on the pickleball courts, and is eager to introduce the sport to her media friends.



Joining Lizann will be **John Nelson**, the Director for Marketing and Activation for iHeartMedia Sacramento. John grew up in Belmont on the San Francisco peninsula and in 1989 enrolled in UC Davis, where he joined the volunteer staff of KDVS. He became part of the team at KRXQ and produced major promotional events and campaigns for 93/98 Rock. Today, he does promotions for KFBK, 93.7 The River, KISS 107.9, KHYL, 92.5 The Breeze, Talk 650, and 107.1 The Bull.



Also on the line-up is **Karen Rufer**, Director of Special Events for Bonneville International-Sacramento (Mix 96, Now 100.5, New Country 105.1, KNCI, and Sactown Sports). Karen is a graduate of CSUS, where she majored in business and marketing.



But wait – there’s more!

Jay Rudin is planning to share a short **Rush Limbaugh** video from when he was hosting a TV show originating in New York.

This promises to be an extra-special meeting. A shout-out to VBL Board Member **Kristine Hanson** for putting it together!

RSVP for the June 11 Meeting:
Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654

VBL-geek@theguys.org

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

Reservations required by June 4!

Member Hobbies: He's with the Band

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

Big Time Wrestling isn't the only form of entertainment to come out of the studios of KTXL Channel 40. On Air, a classic rock band, has its roots in those studios. It started as "The TV 40 Studio Orchestra." Valley Broadcast Legend **Bob Lang** was there when it started back in 1985. Bob says, "We figured if NBC could have a studio orchestra, so could we." They played at events like company parties, just for kicks. Bob says, "As we progressed and began to get more performances, we needed a name change. So, we met in the studio to kick things around and someone saw the On Air sign. That's how we got our name." He is the only current member of the band with a background in broadcasting.



The TV 40 Studio Orchestra in the early days. That's **Bob Lang** on rhythm guitar at right.

"We took on other musicians who had experience in college and other bands ... today we have 13 members including a six-piece horn section and two female lead singers along with me," Bob tells us. Spring and summer park concerts are the mainstay of their performance schedule, and they do a gratis performance every year at Thanksgiving for the Sacramento Food Bank and the Run to Feed the Hungry. Bob adds, "Several years ago, we opened for the latest incarnation of Creedence Clearwater Revival at a county fair."

As a band that focuses on classic rock, the musicians love it when the audience sings along. Bob says, "We especially like to lead audience participation tunes like 'Hey Baby' where the crowd sings along."

If you want to keep up with where On Air is performing, their schedule is on their website, onairband.com. Videos of their performances are on the website too.



Here's what On Air looks like today.

Officers

Interim President: Joyce Krieg

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

VALLEY BROADCAST
LEGENDS

P.O. Box 601861

Sacramento, CA 95860-1861

President's Message: Yep, She's Still Here

by VBL Interim President **Joyce Krieg**



Most dictionaries define “interim” as “in the meantime” or “in the time between,” but they don’t specify exactly how long that time should be. When I agreed to be Interim President of VBL, I sure as heck never expected it to last an entire year.

Indeed, twelve months have gone by since I took what I thought would be a short-term gig. VBL needed to incorporate as a nonprofit in order to accept **Jim Drennan’s** generous gift of half his estate. In order to start the legal process, we needed someone willing to put their name on the dotted line as president. With no one willing to take it on at the time, I said I’d do it out of loyalty to the memory of Jim and to his estate executor, **Allen Chamberlin**.

I figured it would take a few months, max. Hah! Little did I know how long these legal/government processes actually take.

The good news is, we’re almost finished and you should be rid of me soon. We’ve received a letter from the IRS notifying us that our application has been accepted and as of August 30, VBL will officially be a public charity. According to our attorney, all that’s left to do is for the California Franchise Tax Board to issue a reciprocal exemption, and to get set up with the California Registry of Charitable Trusts. Whew!

On our application, we listed grants to schools with broadcast-related programs as our main mission, plus preserving the history of radio and television in the Sacramento area. Your VBL board is already looking at the latter, reviving the Oral History Project which has been on hiatus since the Covid lockdown. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, a huge shout-out to **Bill George**, who has been waiting patiently for all this to be settled so he can become president. As he recently good-naturedly put it, he’s had to wait even longer than King Charles to finally ascend to the throne. Trust me, Bill, I cannot wait to let you have all this “fun” and go back to doing what I do best—this newsletter. Thank you for being such a good sport!

Dick Cable: Good Thoughts Needed

Many of you have already seen the message posted by **Dick Cable’s** brother **Jonathan** on Facebook a few days back: “It looks like my dear brother won’t be with us much longer ... please keep Dick in your thoughts and hearts. No other information was available as of press time for this newsletter. We shall keep you updated via email.

The Legends

Membership as of May 28, 2024

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
 Tony Cox • Judi Decker • Anita Fein
 Curt Foley • Vicki Fox • Bill George
 Gary Gerould • Marty Gonzalez
 Dennis Grayson • Michael Guiliano
 Kristine Hanson • Bud Harmon
 Lois Hart • Mark Hedlund • Jerry Henry
 Rich Ibarra • Tip Kindel
 Jan “Neely” Klevan • Kim Kline
 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 • Bob Miller
 Mike Montgomery • Keith Moon
 Ray Nelson • George Nyberg
 John D. O’Brien • Sandy Ofsenek Helland
 Sue Peppers • Mary Jane Popp
 Craig Prosser • Bruce Riggs • Jay Rudin
 Bill Schmechel • Walt Shaw • Dann Shively
 Barbara Souza • Roy Stearns
 Jim Stimson • Steve Swatt
 Gregory VanAcker • Gregory Virtue
 Tom Wagner • Dave Walker
 Marla Wells • Dave Williams
 Dennis Yoder • Steve Zraggen



Putting Her Life Back Together

by VBL member **Mary Jane Popp**

It's been a long time since I have updated on what I have been up to. It's a long story, but I will condense it. My husband, Rick, passed away in December 2023 after a long battle with stage four lung cancer. I took a leave of absence from FM-104.5 and AM 950-KAHI to look after Rick till the time came to say goodbye. I needed some time to get my act together ... and still am putting my life together after my love passed. But little by little, I am doing the best that I can.

I missed you all and wanted to let you know I am back at FM-104.5 and AM-950 KAHI, but on an abbreviated schedule. I wanted to do a show that honored Rick, and also wanted to give you a show that would lean to presenting hope with great information on life from how to live longer, better, and happier with an open mind to everything from health to what astrology and near death experiences and more can tell us. It's called POPPTALK: In Search of Truth and airs Saturday 5:00 to-7:00 a.m. and Sunday 9:00 to-11:00 p.m. so there will not be an interruption with sports programming, etc. But you can get the show 24/7 if you go to www.kahi.com, click on "Listen" and then audio on demand, and both hours of the show will come up. You can listen or download one or both hours.

I will be back with you as life settles down some. I never knew there was so much paperwork in life, but slowly but surely, it is coming together. I will be with you daily from now on with Facebook with updates on show topics and my crazy world now that life has changed for me. My smile is back and I am thrilled to be back with all of you!

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Welcome Dave, Lois and Tony!

It's always when a guest speaker has such a good time at our meeting, they decide to take out a membership. That's exactly what happened at our April meeting, not just once, but three times.

Please welcome **Dave Walker**, **Lois Hart** and **Tony Cox** to our family of Sacramento area radio-TV folk. We all know Dave and Lois, right? Local TV news fixtures since the 1970s, and with the career distinction being the very first anchors when CNN signed on the air in 1980. Their career has lasted an amazing 50-plus years and is still going strong.



Our own **Mary Jane Popp** made her first public appearance May 9 at the Sacramento Host Breakfast. From left: **Jerry Henry**, owner and GM of KAHI; **Paul Scholl**, owner of Messenger Publishing that carries Mary Jane's column; and **Mike Herron**, member of the board at KAHI.



Preserving Our Broadcast Heritage

by VBL Secretary **Allen Chamberlin**



One of the many photos from **Jim Drennan's** private collection, now in the Center for Sacramento History. The KCRA newsroom, circa 1983, from left: **Sandra Gin, Alice Scott, D'Anne Ousley** and **Jim**. The woman in the red blouse in the back is **Terri Utley**, Miss USA 1982, who did an internship at Channel 3 when her reign ended.

Piontek to explain how one can conserve collections. If you have docs, pix, tapes, stuff that seemed important enough at the time to keep, it probably is and should be preserved. Offer it to the archive. He can be reached via NPiontek@cityofsacramento.org. And if you haven't surfed their website, I urge you to do so.

They will soon be adding Jim's press pass to the 1985 Geneva Summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev; his 1972 California Associated Press Television Radio Association *CAPTRA News* cover feature, and **Terri Utley's** (Miss USA 1982) Channel 3 internship photograph where Jim's more interested in the news editing underway than he is in her. Go figure.

Chris King: 1964-2024

Chris King, an award-winning filmmaker and member of the creative services team at KCRA-3, was killed in a solo vehicle crash the evening of May 6 on I-5 in Woodland.

Chris was a senior promotions producer for Channels 3 and 58 for nearly two decades. He worked on commercial promotions and marketing initiatives related to news, local programming, the KCRA website and other station initiatives.

He started his television career in 1999 at Sony Pictures Entertainment, where he worked as a puzzle writer and research coordinator for *Wheel of Fortune*. He came to Sacramento in October of 2004, working as a promotional producer for Fox 40 before moving to KCRA three years later.

"Chris brought a smile and a laugh and a lot of heart and friendship to every project he worked on," KCRA news anchor Edie Lambert said. "He was a talented, creative member of our team."



I've got an attic. You may have an attic. For sure Sacramento's got an attic and it's called **The Center for Sacramento History**. And what's in there? Well, in my case (but soon to be the city and county's) our own **Jim Drennan's** legacy. As his estate executor, I reached-out to them offering his autobiography of collected publications, KXTV and KCRA news directing documents, photographs, and everything else that should preserve his memory. Of course they wisely said, "Yes, please."

You don't have to be a **Harry Sweet** or **Jim Drennan** to have historic materials worthy of preserving. Often as broadcasters we are focused on the immediate and momentary. But your files, recordings, images, notes covering stories can be of great benefit to future researchers and our local archive wants them.

In August 2022 we hosted local archivist **Nicholas**

What a Great Time We Had!

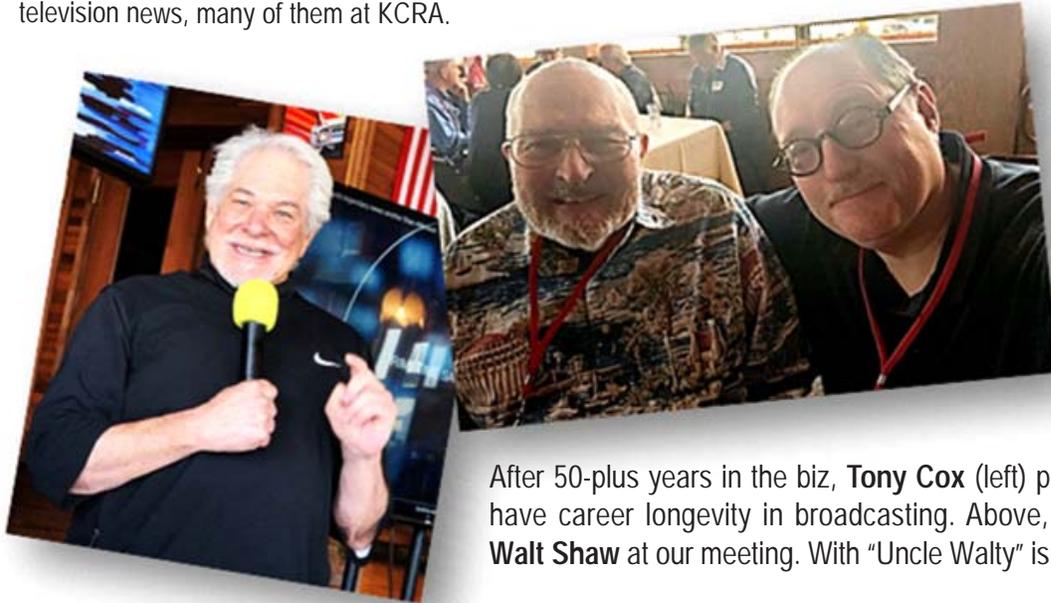
Aviator's Restaurant April 9, 2024



Dave Walker and Lois Hart kept us well entertained with memories of their decades-long careers in television news, many of them at KCRA.



VBL Board Member Kristine Hanson presents a thank-you gift to Lois Hart while Tony Cox waits his turn for the much-coveted VBL coffee mug,



After 50-plus years in the biz, Tony Cox (left) proved it's possible to have career longevity in broadcasting. Above, it was great to see Walt Shaw at our meeting. With "Uncle Walty" is Matias Bombal,



The gang's all here! Someone must have declared April 9 to be Blue Shirt Day.

Photos by Matias Bombal.