

April Newsletter

Broadcast **PI**NEERS

April 2000

Issue 8

April Meeting

**Bala Country Club
April 11, 2000**

April showers are coming our way...and they're bringing Larry Kane to the Pioneers' meeting on the 11th. Yep. Larry Kane, the veteran anchorman of all three of the network VHF channels in Philadelphia, will be with us to talk about his new book, due out in the fall, and to talk about his many experiences in Philadelphia and perhaps before. He was, after all, with the Beatles on their first tour of the U.S. many years ago. It promises to be an S.R.O. meeting—so get your reservations in early.

Reception 12:00 Noon
Lunch 12:30 pm
Ratecard: \$16.00
Phone: 215-563-1310

The date is Tuesday, April 11 at the Bala Golf Club. To reserve please call 215-563-1310.

BOARD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Board meeting prior to the April luncheon which will convene at 10:30 a.m. All Board members please try to attend.



**LARRY KANE - APRIL 11
AT THE BALA GOLF CLUB!**

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The Geator

The Geator did not disappoint with his talk to the club in March. Jerry Blavat is always fun. He regaled the large crowd with his wealth of anecdotes about Philadelphia characters, broadcasting then and now, and a look at what he thinks the future will bring.

Shelly Gross

He was introduced by Pioneers Chairman Shelly Gross using a cane for this occasion. Shelly broke his fibula in a slip on the ice. He is beginning to check and see if he is pursued by a black cloud. In recent months he has had 2 open heart operations, a hole in the heart, endocarditis, and prostate cancer.

You can't keep a good man

down however, and he has recently returned from a Tony Bennett testimonial dinner in California, and went to New York as a Tony Awards voter to see three shows. While there he also saw his writing agent (who is also Robert Ludlum's agent) about his new novel.

To relax he and Mrs. Gross are planning a trip to the National Forest.

'The chief cause of problems is solutions.'

Eric Severeid

Happenings

Shelly wasn't the only one hobbling on a bad foot at the March meeting. **Lydia DeGuio** and **Angie Kearney** were having their problems with broken feet.

Lydia, incidentally, informs that her Old Academy Players will have a benefit art show and auction Friday, March 31, at the Philadelphia University (Downes Auditorium) in East Falls,. Tickets and/or further information can be obtained by calling Old Academy Players at 215-843-1109.

Captain Noah (W. Carter Merbreier) looking svelte at the March meeting having lost 56 pounds during his recent trip to Marco Island, FL. He and **Pat Mer-**

breier (Mrs. Noah) were joined on vacation by daughter Pam, Pam's husband, and the Noah grandchildren, Abigail and Ashley.

Marge and Ed Harvey are off to Lake Tahoe, and as Ed says, they'll go from Tahoe, to Yahoo, as Marj's son Rob works for Yahoo.com in Santa Clara, CA. Ed attend the 16th annual alumni dinner of WCAU employees in Ft. Lauderdale, FL recently. Among the 35 in attendance were Bill McCadden, former WCAU sales manager, and Jack Downey, former P.D. Downey, incidentally, is now doing infomercials for his gourmet line of food products.

Loretta Bove Crowell spends such leisure time as she has attending Broadway shows. Recently she and a friend purchased tickets (\$20) for a round-trip bus ride to New York from Society Hill. They were dropped at TicketMaster in Times Square and got their tickets for "Forbidden Broadway" an off-Broadway show (but not very far off) in which parodies of on-Broadway shows are done and which they enjoyed very much. After the show and dinner, they got back on the bus at the Marriott for the trip home. Loretta also gets to the Wilma Theatre in Philadelphia.

More Happenings

Ed Papazian and his wife have just returned from a fantastically successful trip to England. They were part of a group organized by the University of Pennsylvania General Studies College and led by a professor who gave lectures on the shows they saw in London. Among the shows were 'Maggie Smith', 'Summertime', and 'The Real Thing' with the background and history of the shows given by the leader. Ed says the shows were wonderful, the food was fantastic, and the Papazian's enjoyed Tea at the Savoy. They also went to observe a trial in progress at the Department of Justice (Ed says it looked like a Charles

Laughton movie), and had a tour of Cambridge that they really enjoyed.

We note with pride that the picture of member **Bob Kravitz** is now on the wall at the Palm Restaurant at the Bellevue. It is located on the famous caricature wall at the table where Bob and wife Sue usually sit...near the last window on Broad Street. Bob noted with sadness the recent loss of a Broadcast helicopter and crew in Florida, and knows something about crashing in one. You'll recall Bob was in the Channel 6 chopper when it went down, but no-one was seriously

hurt in that crash. He doesn't think he could do it full time anymore.

We note with sadness the passing of member **Martin Peltzman**. Martin was 74 when he died in February. His long broadcasting career included employment at Fox Network, WTAF-TV, Taft Broadcasting, WIBF-TV and various local TV and radio stations as a sales executive. He is survived by wife Doris, two sons, two brothers, and seven grandchildren, and will be missed by his fellow Broadcast Pioneers.

Pioneer Happenings

Ed Papazian is forming a committee for the Person of the Year and Hall of Fame selection and dinner. Call Ed if you'd like to serve. They will begin work on May 1.

Efforts are continuing to get sponsors for

the Billy Penn Awards. There will be details as we go along and that meeting will be held in March, 2001.

The Pioneers' website should be up and running by the time you get this letter. You will get the details at the meeting.

All members extend congratulations to the internet mavens responsible for this...Gerry Wilkinson and Jerry Klein.

You should be receiving with this letter a new member application form. Please give it, or mail it, to a friend. The more the merrier at our Pioneers' luncheons.

New Members

New member **Alan Jay**, who has labored in the Vineyards at WIP, WPEN, WWDB, and WCAU, can now be seen in a Tylenol commercial. He says you can't miss him. While the announcer is doing a voice-over on a scene on Chestnut Street, Alan is the one walking by in a dark suit, with a bald spot and a brief case. The commercial has been on 20/20 and ABC 6:30 News. (You knew you'd seen him somewhere.) Alan

calls the AFTRA number C-A-S-T-I-N-G daily to get tips on who is looking for extras, etc. The Tylenol spot was for the Katchy Wickline Talent Agency.

ESPN Radio 1680.

Please welcome also, another new member, **Roger A. Hendler**, President of Tower Communications in Princeton, N.J. Roger was with the Mike Douglas Show in 1965, and most recently, in 1999-2000, with

'A candidate should always renounce his words carefully.'

Found In a student report on politics by Mike Wilson

Headlines

Please don't forget to send your items to newsletter editor, Paul Norton. Send mail to 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958. Phone 302-645-8910, fax to 302-644-9036, or you can e-mail Paul at nanort@aol.com.



**HAPPY
HOLIDAY**