

November Newsletter



November 2006

Issue 3, 2006-2007

November Meeting
Bala Country Club
November 17, 2006
Reservations 856-365-5600
or rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com

Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Ratecard \$65.00 Members
\$85.00 Non-Members

November is the big one...the biggest meeting of the year, the one that gets money for scholarships; and the best opportunity to see the most talented of Philadelphia air personalities in one night in one place. As **Ed Harvey** once said, "I haven't seen so much talent in one place since I got lost in a Hall of Mirrors." The Philadelphia Broadcast Pioneers' Person of the Year - Hall of Fame dinner certainly fits all those categories.

This year we honor **Bill 'Wee Willie' Webber** as our Person of the Year; and also induct to our Hall of Fame: **Bill Baldini, Monica Malpass, Larry Mendte, and Allen Stone**. Those inducted posthumously include: **Mike Douglas, Philo Farnsworth, Bill Hart, Dr. Charles Lee, Jessica Savitch, and Alan Scott**.

These people are known to all of those in broadcasting by their achievements in the industry and are chronicled fully at www.broadcastpioneers.com.

The price for dinner is \$65 for members, and \$85 for non-members. Tables of 10 are \$850. Please call 856-365-5600 for more details. This is a 'don't miss' opportunity to join in honoring our selections for 2006, and to contribute to the scholarship fund.

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Allen Stone Larry Mendte Bill Webber Monica Malpass Bill Baldini

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."

R. Frost

"Most people my age are dead at the present time."

Casey Stengle at age 73

Happenings

Herb Clarke sent some notes on the Halloween themed October meeting which was another big winner for the club. **George Koehler**, predictably, did a masterful job of introducing **Sally Starr** with a host of stories and anecdotes, and Sally wowed the crowd, receiving a standing ovation when she returned to her chair. **Stella** was the first horror segment from

the KYW-TV late night movies and was excellent. She'll be returning to BP as a member. **John Zacherle** and Shock Theatre was a huge hit in the mid 1950's, though the school board asked WCAU to move it from school nights, because kids were sleeping in class the next day. John was later on WABC and WOR-TV. You really should make these meet-

ings for all the fun.

Want to get this on the record right away. After hearing reports of **Captain Noah's** travails with his heart, and doctors and hospitals, we were privileged to hear the scoop from the man himself. The **Captain, aka W. Carter Merbreier**, has a new aortic valve (courtesy of a friendly pig, he says), and a triple bypass. His doctors have

assured his son-in-law, **Ian Cowie**, that with the extra - exotic - plumbing the venerable Noah will be able to find "truffles in the woods." He's back to sounding like the legendary Noah, albeit his laugh is still a little weak, and he will soon be back to join us at Pioneers' luncheons. The Captain will attest, Prayer works.

More Happenings

Golfers rejoice! **Alan Tripp** has just written and produced a combination CD and book titled *In the Hole! Poetic Justice for Golf Fanatics*. Combining prose, rhymes, music and sound effects, the CD recounts the joys and frustrations of the game from the viewpoint of the everyday golfer. Broadcast pioneers **Herb Clarke** and **Jack Whitaker** heading the cast of six old pros. The full manuscript is provided in the book so you can read along or do an alternative performance. *In the Hole!* can be found in golf stores and pro shops.

Member **Eleanor Faragalli**, who worked as **Mike Douglas'** assistant, writes that Mike's former producers have held a tribute to the man at Leonard Goldenson's TV

And more

BP President **Gerry Wilkinson** informs us that the March of Dimes AIR Awards for Broadcast Leadership goes to **Dave Kurtz**, founder of B 101, who recently passed away. He was a member of the Pioneers. The Radio Milestone Awards go to: **Tony Brown**, **Thera Martin Connolley**, **Terry Gross**, members **Frank Hogan** and **Tom Moran**. We previously announced that the Lifetime Achievement Award goes to **Sid Mark**. They were honored on November 1 at the Hilton City Avenue Hotel. AIR is Achievement in Radio.

Jay Meyers, former PD at WFIL, jock at

And.....

A final note from **Mel Klawansky** on the WFIL Reunion. He says there was more talent in one room that the law allows. He says they hope to have another in 5 years. He wishes everyone to stay tuned to www.famous56.com for all the WFIL news, and to check all the photos from the event. A final WFIL-WIP question. Where is **J.J. Moran**? Drop us a line.

Greet new members. **T. Morgan**, radio personality at WMGK FM radio. A popular veteran of broadcasting, he will celebrate 40 years in the business next year. **Michael Vagnoni**, who has been in broad-

Academy of Arts and Sciences. His wife and family flew in for the special tribute in California. A living memorial will be announced as part of the Tiger Woods Foundation. Producer Ernie DiMassi is working on a DVD "Mike Douglas, The Man - The Best of the Mike Douglas Show" to be released by Christmas 2007. Our thanks to Lynn for the information.

If you'd like a taste of the good old days, the pre-Beatle years, with a heavy emphasis on those hits that were hugely popular here in Philly, but didn't make it nationally, **Jim Nettleton** has the place for you. Jim's innovation is to play two of those an hour at www.radiophillystyle.com and the rest of the hour is devoted to the 50's and early

WRCP, WDWL, and SVP at Clear Channel, has a new venture. He is COO of Calvary Media services (logo: outline of a soldier on horseback). Meyers says they target three separate constituencies in this time of flattened growth, declining multiples and groups which may be in technical default (or worse). Those #1 lenders, (both senior and mezzanine), #2 equity partners, and #3 operating partners. Website is CavalryMedia.com and the phone is 860-678-7800

We've missed member **Steve Highsmith** through the many transitions that have

casting since 1982 and is now the Publisher and Editor of Out on the Town News, and host of OOT—The Two Street Show on WVLT Crusin' 92.1 FM. **R.A. Campbell** began in 1959 at WTEL, and now lives in Monterey, Mexico. **Peter Serratore** began in the business in 1974 at WEEZ AM in Chester and is now a Mortgage Loan Officer at Commerce Bank in Mt. Laurel, NJ. **Pearl Polto**, seen widely in various media, is President of Credit Lifeline in Philadelphia. Welcome to all new members. We hope to break bread with you soon at a Pioneers' lunch.

60's. **Charlie Bennett** does 5-9 am, **Kim Martin** 9-noon, **Christy Springfield**, noon-3pm, and Jim covers the 3-7 pm shift. Aficionados of the 50's, 60's and Phily's hits will love it.

Sorry to have missed **Joe Shuman** (legit moniker—**Phil Shuman**) who attended **Ed Harvey's** Cadaver Open. He's upset that his involvement at WCAU was called "The Go Patrol" asserting it was "Traffic Alert", and they were originators of the ETT (estimated travel time) and the Curiosity Crawl. Ed, incidentally, adds to last month's coverage of the event by announcing that **Joe Pellegrino** beat perennial champion, **Chris Wheeler**, by one stroke to win the coveted 'Cadaver Cup.' Ed Says "a really bad time was had by all."

taken place in local television in recent years. It's just because we haven't been looking in all the right places. Steve can be seen on Channel 10 at 11:30 am on Live at Issue, after Meet the Press. His other job, in today's very different market, is on Channel 17, a completely different entity from Channel 10. There he does political commentary and interviews and is Public Affairs Director, serving on local charitable boards and making personal appearances. It makes for a long day sometimes, but also for a very interesting and diverse business existence.

A note from **George Finkel**, once a regular at meetings, and now in South Carolina, says that he and his wife Barbara have started working with EXIT Realty in Myrtle Beach, SC. Any member or friend may contact them at gfinkel@sc.rr.com or call if they have any interest in the property in the Myrtle Beach area.

We need YOU to do the letter. Please keep the e-mails, snail mails and phone calls coming to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, De 19958, phone 302-645-8910, email nanort@comcast.net