

A Non-Profit Organization of Broadcast and Media Professionals

## A Look Back at Three 2018 PPB Luncheons -- Deserving Honorees, Interesting Stories, Moving Moments, Lots of Laughs

Luncheon Photos by Roxanne Schorbach (Schorbach.com)

### Dame Joan Collins - March 16



On the dais (front, left to right): actress and model **ALANA STEWART**, singer and songwriter **CAROLE BAYER SAGER**, honoree **JOAN COLLINS**, TV producer **GEORGE SCHLATTER**, actress and singer **DIAHANN CARROLL**. (Standing, left to right): public relations consultant **JEFFREY LANE**, producer, husband **PERCY GIBSON**.

### Rich Little - April 20



On the dais (front, left to right): actress and dancer **RUTA LEE**, honoree **RICH LITTLE**, actress **LONI ANDERSON**, PPB President **ALAN PERRIS**. (Standing, left to right): singer, actor, game show host **PETER MARSHALL**, talent producer **KAREN CADLE**, comic and former PPB honoree **TOM DREESEN**, comic **HARRY BASIL**.

### Loni Anderson - June 1



On the dais (front, left to right): producer **KATE EDELMAN JOHNSON**, honoree **LONI ANDERSON**, Loni's daughter **DEIDRA HOFFMAN**. (Standing, left to right): PPB President **ALAN PERRIS**, singer **LORNA LUFT**, comedy writer and actor **BRUCE VILANCH**, actress **DEIDRE HALL**.

## Radio Personality "Shotgun Tom" Kelly to be PPB's Next President

In May, "SHOTGUN TOM" KELLY was voted unanimously by the board of directors to be PPB's next president. Tom has been entertaining southern California radio and TV audiences for over 45 years. He's worked at such renowned radio stations as KGB-AM (in its Boss Radio days) and gained national acclaim at the legendary KCBQ. In 1997, after a nationwide talent search, "Shotgun Tom" was chosen by CBS radio's K-EARTH 101 Los Angeles to fill the coveted afternoon drive slot after the death of The Real **DON STEELE**. "Shotgun Tom" is also heard around the country doing voice work and commercials, and can currently be heard on SiriusXM's "60s on 6" in the afternoon.



In 2000, Tom won Radio and Records "Oldies Air Personality of the Year." Previously, he was honored at B-100 radio (KFMB-FM) with the Billboard Magazine Air Personality of the Year Award for Major Markets, and in the 70s he received two Emmys for hosting the children's TV game show *Words-a-Poppin'*.

In 2013, "Shotgun Tom" received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, located at the corner of Hollywood Blvd. and La Brea Ave.

Tom will take over the helm of PPB on August 1st. We thank outgoing President **ALAN PERRIS** for his three years of dedicated service to our organization.



A huge crowd jammed the Empire Ballroom at Sportsmen's Lodge when PPB honored impressionist and voice actor **RICH LITTLE**.



Table 9 at the **LONI ANDERSON** luncheon was filled with PPB members. First row: **KATHARINE "KAT" KRAMER**, **ADRIANA PETRATOS**, **MIKE SAKELLARIDES**. Back row: **HARRISON HELD**, **JULIA PARKER**, **TAMMY SCHER**, **CARSON SCHREIBER**. Kat, Mike and Carson serve on PPB's Board of Directors.

PHOTO GALLERY



In the photo on the left, comic **BRUCE VILANCH** prepares for his surprise appearance as **EDNA TURNBLAD**, reprising his role as the lead on Broadway in *Hairspray*. In the photo on the right, "Edna" gets a laugh from honoree **LONI ANDERSON**. Taking the photo in front of the stage is longtime PPB member **DON KING**.

In-coming PPB President "**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY** snaps a photo of honoree **DAME JOAN COLLINS** and **KEN PHILLIPS**.

Producer **GEORGE SCHLATTER** chats with actress and singer **DIAHANN CARROLL** before the **JOAN COLLINS** luncheon.



**LOIS TRAVELANA** met **RICH LITTLE** in the late 1960's when her husband, impressionist **FRED TRAVELANA**, appeared in the Catskills. Later, Rich recommended Fred to **SHIRLEY MacLAINE** as her opening act. On the right is "**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY**.



Three deserving PPB luncheon honorees: **TOM DREESEN**, **LONI ANDERSON**, and **RICH LITTLE**.



**KEN LUCEK**, **LOU SIMON**, **RANDY WEST**, **WINK MARTINDALE**, **STEVE RESNICK**.



**RENE LAGLER**, former PPB honoree **REGIS PHILBIN**, **GLORIA LORING**.



**SPIDER HARRISON**, **RON ALEXENBURG**, **DON GRAHAM**.



Comic **HARRY BASIL** delighted the crowd.

PPB's Diamond Circle Award Presented to Jeff Wald

PPB past President **CHUCK STREET** presented the organization's Diamond Circle Award to **JEFF WALD** on March 16.

Jeff worked as a TV news director, executive producer, news consultant, and educator and is best known as news director of KTLA, Channel 5. He was born and raised in L.A. and started at KTTV as a messenger and production assistant. He moved to KTLA with **GEORGE PUTNAM** and produced *Talkback*, and then went to KNXT, Channel 2, as assignment editor. One day, he learned that the LAPD had a house surrounded with members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, the kidnapers of newspaper heiress **PATTY HEARST**, inside. He positioned a crew across the street and viewers watched the LIVE gun battle between the SLA and the LAPD. After KNXT, Jeff worked for **FRANK MAGID** as a news consultant and two years later, in 1981 returned to L.A. as news director of KTLA at the age of 29.



He was then recruited by KCOP-TV to compete directly with KTLA and expand their news operation. He then started his own TV news consulting firm. Jeff returned to KTLA in 1997 and served as news director for 10 more years.

Jeff's won 13 Emmys, 23 Golden Mike Awards, and was named Journalist of the Year by the Greater L.A. Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Currently, he is VP of marketing for Lights! Action! Company - a motion picture lighting firm with his wife, **GABRIELLE** and his father-in-law, **HANK WEISS**, a PPB member for over 30-years.



**BILL HARRIS** (R) holds a photo taken over 30 years ago when he interviewed **JOAN COLLINS** for Showtime. On the left is Bill's friend **RICK BRECO**.



Honoree **RICH LITTLE** with **RUTA LEE** and **ALEX TREBEK**.



**BEVERLY HARLAN** is delighted to see **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT** as **BILL HARRIS**, **ROBIN GRAHAM** and **DON GRAHAM** look on.



**BRIAN PANELLA**, **DIAHANN CARROLL**, honoree **DAME JOAN COLLINS**, **CAROLE BAYER SAGER**, **ALANA STEWART**, **JEFFREY LANE**.

New PPB member **JULIA PARKER** is busy. 2018 started off in Tel Aviv shooting a TV series before coming back and taking the short featurette *Passage* (producer/actor) to the Idyllwild Film Festival. The film walked away with 16 nominations and four wins. Last month, she shot the time travel feature film *Another Time*, which had its world premiere at the Newport Beach Film Festival. In July, Julia will be shooting the fantasy thriller film *In the Mind's Eye*, and in August, she'll appear in *Turnover* with fellow PPB member, **KAT KRAMER**.



Actor **JULIA PARKER** recently completed shooting the feature *IRL* with **ERIC ROBERTS**.

If you'd like to hear some great music, go to **ROGER CARROLL's** Best Sounds In Town at [rogercarrollbestsoundsintown.com](http://rogercarrollbestsoundsintown.com) featuring Roger along with **GENE PRICE, ROLAND BYNUM, WINK MARTINDALE, JIM PEWTER, CHRIS NOEL, ROBERT W. MORGAN, and FRANK BRESEE**, Great Radio Fun!



Retired disc jockey, sportscaster and newscaster **ED ARNOLD** is now a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Alumni Hall of Fame. In May, the longtime PPB member was inducted in front of some 2,000 national volunteers and staff at their annual convention in San Diego. Ed was a Boys Club member in the late 40's and has been a local volunteer and board member for 50 years. For many of those years he has chaired the Huntington Beach/Fountain Valley Boys and Girls Clubs annual auction and gala, which has raised several million dollars to serve over 11,000 kids in the community.

Diamond Circler and avid photographer **BOB MILLS** and wife **SHELLEY** are off to the British Isles aboard the Royal Princess in August retracing the final voyage of the Titanic, with photo stops in Dublin (built there), Liverpool (christened there), and Cobh, Ireland (final port). Other sites include Glasgow, Belfast, and Paris. To follow their voyage online, check in at: [SchmucksFranceUKIreland.Blogspot.com](http://SchmucksFranceUKIreland.Blogspot.com). See Bob's invitation to PPB members on the back page of this newsletter.

You may have seen **BILL A. JONES** in a recent commercial for Comcast Xfinity as an announcer who gets attacked by a Zombie. Bill is again mceeing and singing in the tour of *Battle of The Big Bands: Glenn Miller vs Tommy Dorsey* thru mid-November at performing arts centers in California, Washington State, Arizona, and Vancouver Canada. SoCal stops include Irvine on June 30, and Thousand Oaks on October 21st. For more info go to [www.BattleOfTheBigBands.com](http://www.BattleOfTheBigBands.com).



On April 8th, soundman **FRANK FORTH** was presented with the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award by the San Diego Film Consortium. The 5th Annual San Diego Film Awards celebrated San Diego's film community and presented awards to filmmakers, actors, and crew members in over 27 categories. Frank follows in the footsteps of fellow Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, the late **ROBERT D. GARDNER**, producer/director **STU SEGALL**, and PPB's own "**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY**.

Board Member **MARY BETH GARBER** has been appointed by Governor **JERRY BROWN** to serve on the CA Private Security Disciplinary Review Committee-South. The Committee reviews decisions made by the Department of Consumer Affairs on cases involving private security guards, patrols, and service companies.

Funny Lady **ROBERTA KENT** has entertained audiences around the globe. She toured with **BARRY MANILOW** for 12 years, opened for **REBA McENTIRE**, and was **JULIO IGLESIAS'** opening act at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. A staple of The Comedy Store on Sunset Blvd., she's appeared on talk shows, in commercials and feature films, and was a contributing writer for TV's *Hollywood Squares* and numerous other game shows. For those of you who have always wanted to do stand-up, Roberta is now offering her skills to up-and-coming comics with group workshops or private mentoring. For more info, check out [www.RobertaKent.com](http://www.RobertaKent.com).



This summer, Board Member **KATHARINE "KAT" KRAMER** will play the role of "Fran" in the feature film *Turnover*, which she's also a co-producing. It's a "Foodie" family oriented indie dramedy co-starring **LAINIE KAZAN, PAUL GUILFOYLE, BEVERLY TODD, JAMIE BREWER**, and her mother, Golden Globe winning actress **KAREN SHARPE**. The script is co-written and directed by **LINDA PALMER** and shines a spotlight on the themes of diversity and inclusion.

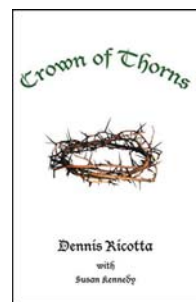
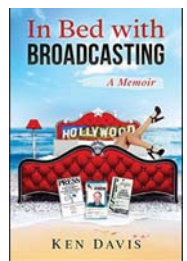


**Spiders and Snakes**  
(In Your Soup)  
**Spider Harrison**

While still in radio, legendary personality **SPIDER HARRISON** was recruited into the record industry and became the West Coast marketing-promotion director for Sugar Hill Records, the first independent rap label in the world and the first to get a major distribution deal (with MCA/Universal). In 2007, Sugar Hill's Grand Master Flash and The Furious Five were the first rap group to be inducted into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. The late **JOE ROBINSON** gave Spider the encouragement and inspiration to start his own label: Spido Records, Ltd. In 2015 Spider was inducted into the prestigious Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

Our thanks to publicist and celebrity reporter **MARGIE BARRON** for her articles about our luncheons that appear in The Toluca Times and Canyon Crier newspaper. Founded in 1937, it is one of the oldest newspapers in the San Fernando Valley.

It's been a busy time for **KEN DAVIS** and his best-selling memoir, *In Bed with Broadcasting*. In addition to selling his book at our June 1st luncheon, he's been making the rounds of TV morning shows including one with Sam Rubin on KTLA, which you can see on YouTube. Ken's book takes the reader behind-the-scenes of our industry and features fascinating adventures with everyone from **WALTER CRONKITE** to **PHIL SPECTOR** to **MAE WEST**. A special offer is available at [KenDavisWriter.com](http://KenDavisWriter.com) or you can purchase it on Amazon.



After 47 years in the motion picture industry, **DENNIS RICOTTA** has found that he has a knack for writing. His novel, *Crown of Thorns*, has just been published. It's the story of a Roman soldier ordered to perform a duty that will change his life forever. The book is available on Amazon.

**MICHAEL GOETZ** and **MARTHA MOODY ROURKE** are working on a documentary film about TV pioneer **JACK ROURKE**, a past PPB president. They're looking for PPB members who have photographs, videos, radio recordings, or films of Jack as well as any good stories to share about him. Please contact Michael at 310-819-7955 or [Mgoetz7@sbc-global.net](mailto:Mgoetz7@sbc-global.net).

If you don't receive Board Member **JIMMY WELDON's** e-mails about his work for the Center for Youth Patriotism, you're invited to send him a note at [jimmyweldon.com](mailto:jimmyweldon.com) and he'll be glad to add you to his list. The 94-year old voice of Yakky Doodle the Little Duck travels to schools to talk to young people about America. He tells great stories and gets applause and hugs in return.



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**YOU'RE INVITED TO THESE SPECIAL EVENTS**



**For Strength,  
Independence & Life**

On Sunday, August 12th from 11:00am to 2:00pm, incoming PPB President **"SHOTGUN TOM" KELLY** will host "View to a Cure Together with MDA" to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The afternoon's festivities will include live and silent auctions, elegant food tasting, an unforgettable program, and incredible entertainment featuring 3-D Theatricals' performance of *Mamma Mia!* The event will take place at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Redondo Beach. Tickets for this worthy cause are tax-deductible and are \$100.00 for adults, \$25.00 for children. For tickets or information, contact Valerie Loduem by email at [Vloduem@mdausa.org](mailto:Vloduem@mdausa.org) or call her at 310-390-6802.



While they last, use code LAUGH for \$15 off tickets to PPB member **GREGG OPPENHEIMER's** new play, *I Love Lucy: A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Sitcom*, premiering July 12 at UCLA's James Bridges Theatre. Five performances only, July 12-15, recorded for later public radio broadcast. **SARAH DREW** from *Grey's Anatomy* stars as Lucy and **OSCAR NUÑEZ** from *The Office* as Desi. Gregg's dad, lifetime PPB member **JESS OPPENHEIMER**, created the beloved sitcom in 1951. <https://bit.ly/2uqo61r>.

**ART LABOE** has two concerts scheduled with performances from some of the most requested artists on his radio show. He returns to the Coachella Valley on June 30th to host his 7th Annual *Summer Love Jam* at The Show at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage. On September 8th, Art will be hosting his 16th Annual *Art Laboe Show LIVE* concert at Glen Helen Amphitheater in San Bernardino.



Singer **DENIECE WILLIAMS** with **ART LABOE**. (Photo: JoMo for Art Laboe)

You can Art on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and hear his nightly syndicated radio show in the L.A. area on Old School 104.7 weeknights, 93.5 KDAY on Sundays.

Art is a disc jockey, songwriter, record producer, and radio station owner, and is generally credited with coining the term "Oldies But Goodies."

**AN INVITATION FROM  
BOB MILLS**

CALLING ALL PPBers!

I'm really excited to be the featured guest on "Coffee with ... **BOB MILLS**."



You're all invited to join me and club archivist **MATTHEW WORLEY** as I recall my close to two decades on the road with **BOB HOPE** -- stories, jokes, anecdotes, celeb gossip (we booked 'em all back then!), plus a few selected video clips from the 85 Hope specials I co-wrote.

Saturday July 14 at CBS TV Center, 4024 Radford Ave., Studio City 10:00 am to noon. Cover is \$15. All the Danish you can wash down with the Starbucks.

Seating is limited, so order before July 12! Send your check for \$15.00 to PPB, PO Box 8673, Calabasas, CA 91372.

This is the show I put together for the cruise ships so think of it this way: I'm saving you about \$9,985! What's not to like?



**The 21st Annual Silver Spur Awards  
September 21st, 2018**

Dedicated to a unique American tradition - the Western film - Reel Cowboys' 2018 event will feature a gourmet dinner, a silent auction, and a program featuring Master of Ceremonies **MARGUERITE HAPPY** and honorees **PATRICK WAYNE, R.L. TOLBERT, DAWN WELLS, JOHNNY CRAWFORD** and **ROBERT CARRADINE**. The evening will feature tributes to the 60th anniversaries of both *Wanted Dead or Alive* and *The Rifleman*. Reel Cowboys is a 502(c)3 so donations are tax-deductible - tickets start at \$175.00. For information, visit [www.ReelCowboys.org](http://www.ReelCowboys.org) or call new PPB member **ROBERT LANTHIER** at 818-395-5020.



This summer, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, **ELVIS PRESLEY's** legendary *68 Comeback Special*, directed by PPB member **STEVE BINDER**, will hit the big screen. The two-day event will take place on August 16, with an encore screening on August 20. Each screening will include the showing of the TV special, an exclusive look at the making of the special and a walk through of the NBC sound stage with insights from Binder and others influenced by Presley, his music, and this iconic event. Tickets can be purchased starting on Friday, June 15 at [www.FathomEvents.com](http://www.FathomEvents.com) and at theater box offices.