

# June



# Newsletter

## Broadcast PIONEERS

June Newsletter

Issue 2003-2004

### June Meeting Bala Country Club June 16, 2004

In June a person's fancy turns to thoughts of....Pioneers luncheons. It's amazing how language loses its poetry when it's correct. But seriously, folks, your thoughts should be turning to the third Wednesday, June 16 at Bala Golf Club when the Philadelphia Chapter will be welcoming NJ State Senator Diane Allen. Diane has been in the Senate for six years, but will be remembered by most of the Pioneers for her work at KYW-TV in the 70's and 80's as an anchor and then at WCAU-TV also as anchor.

**Reception                  12:00 p.m.  
Lunch                        12:30 p.m.  
Ratecard                    \$20.00  
Reservations              610-436-4217**

Later, she rather famously won a discrimination lawsuit against WCAU in 1994. A very colorful background, and fascinating current involvement should make a great program. Join us on June 16 at 12 noon at Bala, and there's always a wonderful group of members who are present.

**Remember you must call 610-436-4217 or e-mail morris-sam6@verizon.net to make your reservation. Please help us do the job.**



Diane Allen

### Happenings

You missed a great meeting last month with **Dawn Timmeney**. She thoroughly informed and entertained a large group of members and guests. Dawn is an anchor at NBC10 and is well known to Philadelphia audiences. The guests at the meeting included **Mrs. John Beaty**, whose husband died suddenly early last month at 71 of diabetes related conditions. Member **Bud Galow** brought her and she thanked the club for their friendship with John and has asked that contributions in his memory be made to the Pioneer's Scholarship Fund. John was a regular at our meetings and will be missed by all his

Pioneer friends. **Dave Custis, Nat Wright, Jack Ryan and President Bill Webber** were present at the Abington Friends Meeting House for the Celebration of John's Life.

**Michael Tearson** informs that he will be starting a Bob Dillon Radio Hour on Satellite Radio's Folktown Channel. Michael is producing the show from his home for Sunday morning presentation and is involved in producing other 'fun' projects at his home studio.

**Steve Sacks** had quite a vacation in Florida which he made into a mini reunion of WFIL people. He played golf with

**Pete Kouris** who now lives in Marathon Key in the Florida Keys. Steve says Pete has had an interesting life since leaving Channel 6 as a Director in the 60's and 70's. He produced and directed weather at ABC for Good Morning America, then was one of the principals in setting up the Weather Channel. He now arranges topless fishing expeditions. You'll have to ask Steve about that last one. Way to go, Pete! Another good guy from the same period **Howard Kesselman** now lives in Brighton Beach, FL and the Sacks enjoyed dinner with him. Steve's wife, Peggy, was washing her hands in a washroom in

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"Nobody in football should be treated as a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."

Joe Theismann

Bal Harbour and met **Dave Klahr**'s wife which led to a reunion with the WFIL producer, Pioneer's member, and Florida radio executive that was what might be called 'a serendipitous circumstance.' Florida claims a lot of happy relocating Philadelphia broadcasters.

Newsletter watcher **John Roberts** informs that veterans of the Progressive Rock Group YES paid tribute to the late **Ed Sciaky** while playing a concert at the Wachovia Spectrum. People there described it as genuinely moving.

## More Happenings

Member **Beth Leary Hegedus** is keeping busy with writing chores for the "Chestnut Hill Local", the "Trend Weekly", where she recently did profiles on **Jerry Blavat** and **Don Cannon**, and "Main Line Today" Magazine. Some real Pioneers, including **Captain and Mrs. Noah, Ed Harvey** and **Marg Wieting (Harvey)**, and a sports figure will be featured in the "Today" Magazine, later this year. You'll have to read it to find out who that sports figure is. Beth's son recently broke his clavicle and that is slowing production on a lot of stuff, she says.

Member **Dan Lerner** was with WFIL in

TV sales many years ago and then left to own and operate radio stations, including Y100. After 40 years he sold his station to Radio One, although he still owns the radio towers. He is basically retired, he says, and he and Lyn spend their winters in Palm Beach and summers in Boothbay Harbor, ME. They still call Merion home. He and Lyn will celebrate an important anniversary this year (he won't say which in case Lyn reads it) by chartering a yacht in the Mediterranean in June and taking the whole family for a ride. Even at his advanced age, he says, he continues to captain his own boats in Florida and Maine. What a

life!!

**Jay Lloyd** has no intention of retiring. The Bureau Chief for KYW Newsradio says his wife told him if he woke up and didn't hear himself on the radio he'd think he was dead. Jay will celebrate 52 years in communications in July, the last 35 at KYW. He was a broadcaster in Bermuda, in the beginning, while in the army and continued there after his discharge, then with Radio Netherlands, then some less exotic locations in Philadelphia with WPBS (Philadelphia Bulletin Station), Channel 48 on the ill-fated 10 o'clock news, and then to his long lasting stint at KYW.

## And more

President elect **Frank Hogan** points with pride to the fact that the station he manages, Rowan University's WGLS, has won two awards in the Philadelphia Press Association's Annual Media Awards Competition. The REBEL University Project was a tri-state media campaign for the College Rebel program directed at college students who smoke. It was funded by the Rowan University Center for Addiction Studies. The documentary, "Are you There America, It's Me God?" won third place in the category - enterprise reporting.

**Allen Stone** has retired after a 56 year career as top news broadcaster on the **Phil Sheridan Show** on WFIL, among others,

as writer for the Franklin Mint and Vice President for Devon Direct, a top ten national direct marketing association. This high flying, award winning company has been reduced to near ruin. How could this happen? This is the subject of a book Allen has written titled "The Death of Success," an autobiographical, reportorial exposé of the advertising industry, built around the collapse of Devon Direct. The book will soon be available at a special display at Borders' Bryn Mawr store. In addition to this exposé, he includes vignettes on broadcasting and his buddies **Jack Barry, Ernie Kovacs, Eddie Fisher, and Dick Clark**. A must read for Philadel-

phia Broadcasters.

Website keeper and Pioneers Vice President **Gerry Wilkinson** points with pride to the accomplishments of his daughters - Maya who received a Master's in Criminal Justice from Temple with a perfect 4.0 average in her last semester. She now will be working on her Ph.D. And daughter Zara finished her first year at Pitt and was on the Dean's list for both semesters. She will now study for a year in the UK.

"I wasn't kissing her, I was whispering in her mouth."

Chico Marx

## And.....

Member **Ron Joseph** hosts RJ's Disco USA from Hollywood and San Francisco every weekend beginning on July 16. The show will be heard, and seen, locally at 9 pm on Comcast Cable Channel 8 for Wilmington, DE, and WMPH 91.7 at 9 pm Saturdays, and WMPH.org. Crusin'92.1 WVLT will continue to show coverage for the Philadelphia South Jersey area Fridays at 7 pm.

**Charlie Higgins** tells us that Joanne Gasbarro, widow of member **Vince Gasbarro**, is now in Malawi, Africa. She is staying with a missionary family in Mzuzu who are associated with an organization known as

"Rifiki." Rifiki builds schools for orphan girls. Joanne noted on the road from the airport that roadside you could get a local delicacy - roasted mice on a stick. Bring some home to Charlie, Joanne.

**Michael Spack** loves to reminisce about his 47 years in broadcasting and has wonderful stories of **Max E. Solomon**, and **Walter Annenberg**, from his WFIL and WIOQ days. We all have our favorite Maxie stories, and **Jack Richer** who was manager of WIOQ told him a wonderful Annenberg anecdote. After 30 years he's back at the papers Annenberg used to own...The Inquirer and Daily News, selling

display advertising. Michael loves to get to meetings to see the guys from his days at WIP. They include **Wee Willie, Tom Moran, Nat Wright**, and others. That's the value of the meetings, you never know who you'll see. See you on June 16.

**We are finished writing the newsletter for the summer but please give us an abundant fall by sending items for it to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE (where he summers, winters and falls) or e-mail Paul at [nant@comcast.net](mailto:nant@comcast.net), or phone (302) 645-8910.**