

# September Newsletter

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2002-2003

## September Meeting

**Bala Golf Club  
September 18, 2002**

Where did the summer go? It was hot, and dry, but wonderful, and it's over and back to business for the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia.

Have we got a great way to get back to business. We've invited the good folks from Channel 3 to grace us with their presence, and **Pat Ciarrocchi**,



**Pat Ciarrocchi**

**Reception 12:00 noon**  
**Lunch 12:30 pm**  
**Ratecard \$18 Members / \$20 Non-members**  
**Phone 610-436-4217**

anchor, **Ukee Washington**, anchor, and **Susan Schiller**, news director, will kick off the 2002-2003 season of Pioneers.

The date is September 18, the third Wednesday, as usual.

You've gotta be there to enjoy the program, the lunch and the



**Ukee Washington**

fellowship of your broadcasting buddies. It's at Bala Golf Club again this year - 12 noon reception, 12:30 lunch.

**PLEASE, PUHLEEZE, don't forget to call reservations 610-436-4217.**



**Susan Schiller**

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## ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

**There will be a board meeting at 10:30 am at Bala Golf Club prior to the luncheon on September 18. Board members please plan to attend.**

## June Meeting

A great time was had by all at the June meeting of the Pioneers. One of the biggest turnouts of the year was there for speaker **John Carlton** who talked about his long career in broadcasting. John began as an actor in radio and TV and worked with Ray Walston at one point. Veterans in the business from WPEN and WFIL were there to give John a warm reception, as was **Gene Crane** who filmed a segment for his 8 am Sunday morning TV show on Channel 10.

## Hall of Fame / Person of the Year

The Hall of Fame dinner committee has selected the honorees for this year's dinner in November. **Larry Kane** has been chosen as our Person of the Year for his many years as the only person to serve as principal anchor on ABC, CBS, NBC, 6, 10 and 3. The Hall of Fame inductees are: **Diego Castellanos** of Puerto Rican Panorama fame on Channel 6, **Edie Huggins**, long time stellar reporter on Channel 10, **Dean Tyler**, disc jockey at WIBG

and Program Director at WIP, WPEN and WMGK, **Jerry Blavat**, the Geator with the Heater, of Geator Gold Radio and who goes all the way back to the original Bandstand with Bob Horne.

Elected to our Hall of Fame, posthumously, are **Bill Bransome** of KYW and AFTRA, and **Ed Papazian** who died in office as President of the Broadcast Pioneers.

**If your name isn't in the newsletter it's probably because you haven't sent information on your activities to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958. Email Paul at nanort@aol.com, or phone 1-302-645-8910. We need you to keep it going.**

**"Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco."**

**Will Rogers**

## Passages

The last line of the last item indicates what a terrible summer it has been for Pioneers. We lost our President, **Ed Papazian**, on Thursday, June 27. He was buried on Monday, July 1. New President **Bill Weber** graciously agreed to fill the terrific void that was left by his loss, and Bill sent out at the time a letter to all members which included an obituary. Thirty-five members and eight past Presidents of Pioneers attended the funeral.

We also lost **Bill Bransome**, who for many years did news and sports on KYW Newsradio, and became a legend in Philadelphia broadcasting. He was President of AFTRA and national board member. Bill was 84

## New Members and Happenings

The diligence of Membership Chair **Dorie Lenz** has continued the gusher of new members. **Kathy Taras Earley** who was commercial spokesperson for RCA on the 11 o'clock news with Gunnar Back on WFIL, among many other acting and TV hosting assignments. **Joseph P. Earley**, Mr. Rivits, on Channel 3, an actor, writer, producer has joined our group. **Bob Cirillo**, who is a stage manager at KYW-TV Channel 3 we hope will soon join us at meetings, and **Johnny Lerro**, President of M-C Produce Co, Inc. **Matt McGuigan** formerly of WIBF Jenkintown, PA and **Frank Stone** of Please Touch Museum are new members, as is disc jockey legend **Hy Lit** who celebrates 50 years in broadcasting

## More Happenings

Congratulations to Pioneers website designer **Gerry Wilkinson** on the award by Time Magazine's website for Honorable Mention in the category of Best Info Website. It was in an article by Richard Corliss entitled: "The First Annual That Old Feeling Awards." It was also selected as the "Site of the Week" (July 26, 2002) by the Special Libraries Association.

**Austin Culmer**, 76 visited his Aunt Lena recently. She is 101 and lives in Nassau, the Bahamas. Austin came here some years ago and married a South Carolina

and died of cardiac arrest on June 24. His pacemaker failed and was replaced the day before his death. A veteran of WWII and the 45th Infantry Division, he was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Bill received the 1970 Sportscaster of the Year Award of the UP Hall of Fame, and the AFTRA George Heller Award.

**Dick Paisley**, a Pioneers member, who worked at WFIL, and was GM at WRCV died on August 16 at 83. He had been ill for some time. Dick was with Jan Savitt's Top Hatters band when he was quite young and in WWII—he was in the US Navy. Dick said his hero was Roger Clipp. Last year Dick was the recipient of the Life

this year. **Dave Shayer** is a new member and worked at the WFIL stations and WDVR. **Ralph Gaudio** of the G Boys who appeared many times on Captain Noah's Magical Ark is now a member.

In her note renewing his membership, Sherry Parker, **Paul Parker's** wife, says he had a massive stroke in April and was taken to Jefferson Hospital after a tracheotomy and losing his ability to speak. He was "The Question Mike" on WFIL, and then spent thirty years with WINS in New York, from which he retired. He is continuing his convalescence.

**Tom Monaghan** is hosting, once again, a WFIL Family Reunion on December 6 at

girl. Longevity is in his family as his parents were in their 90's when they died.

We have reports that member **George Koehler**, former GM of the WFIL stations, will be moving to Ohio to be near his children and grandchildren as soon as he crosses all the T's and dot's the I's. He will be missed by all his friends in the Pioneers.

**Kal Rudman** received the Semper Fidelis Award from the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation on July 29 at an event at Oak Terrace Country Club in Am-

Achievement Award of the PAB.

**Helene Sperka**, widow of Hank Sperka, who lived in Stuart, FL died at age 70 of cancer. She will be remembered as Chairperson of the Board of the Philadelphia Advertising Club 1979-1981. (Thanks to her friends **Leila Brenner** and **Vicky Benedict Farber** for information on Helene.)

And our many Temple University Communications School members note with sadness the passing of **Delwyn Dusenbury**, 83, who taught TV and radio acting, and production.

**"When the chips are down the buffalo is empty."**  
Anon

the Manayunk Brewery and Restaurant in Manayunk on December 6, 2002. Everyone ever associated with WFIL is invited to this gala celebration from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. Call Tom for more information at 215-487-6500

A great fan of Captain Noah (AKA **Carter Merbreier**) has constructed a replica of the original "ARK" built by scenic designer Nat Elkitz of WFIL-TV in 1969. Maria L. Billbrough, 29, made the model complete with its signature sail, binnacle, puppet stage and working Dutch-doors and "magic" window curtains. It was displayed for the first time at the June meeting of the Pioneers at Bala where Maria joined Captain and Mrs. Noah.

bler. Kal sponsors scholarships for police men and women at Camden County College and at the Philadelphia Community College. He also provides funds for scholarships for firemen and women at Holy Family College

**Alan Jay** is a first time Grandpa, thanks to daughter Ellen and son-in-law Adam. Alan and his wife Judy welcomed the 8 lb. 11 oz Seth Reuben July 26. At that size Alan hopes he grows up to be an NFL or NBA millionaire, which would allow Alan to stop working...at age 95, he says.