

A Non-Profit Fraternal Organization of Radio and Television Broadcasting Professionals

IT WAS A “WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL” MARCH AFTERNOON when one of the largest audiences in recent memory jammed the Empire Room at the Sportsmen’s Lodge to honor **JOHNNY MATHIS**. The humble singer seemed a little overwhelmed by the appreciative crowd and warmhearted remarks from his friends on the dais.



A packed house turned out to honor **JOHNNY MATHIS** on March 31st. (Photo by Don King)

John Royce Mathis was born in Gilmer, Texas and educated at San Francisco State College where he played basketball and excelled in track and field and took voice lessons from a local teacher.

Early in 1956, Johnny was invited to attend trials for the Melbourne Olympics and at the same time asked by Columbia Records to record a jazz album. Luckily, he chose music over a



The Dais: (front row) **GARY OWENS**, Honoree **JOHNNY MATHIS**, **AMY ALCOTT**, PPB Entertainment Chair **JEANNE DeVIVIER BROWN**, (second row) **JAY LANDERS**, Past President **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT**, **BERNIE GARDNER**, **WINK MARTINDALE**, **DENIECE WILLIAMS**, (back row) President **CHUCK STREET**, **BILL RUSSELL**. (Not pictured: **DIONNE WARWICK**) (Photo by David Keeler)

career in sports. Soon after, he was put under the supervision of producer **MITCH MILLER** who steered Johnny into singing soft, romantic ballads. His second album included two songs that were to become among his most popular hits: “Wonderful, Wonderful” and “It’s Not for Me to Say.” This success was followed by “Chances Are” and “Misty,” among many, many others.

PPB President **CHUCK STREET** began the Celebrity Luncheon by introducing a biographical video and Entertainment Chair

**ORDER YOUR LUNCHEON TICKETS NOW!!!**

On **Friday, May 10, 2013**

PPB will honor Pianist and Singer

**MICHAEL FEINSTEIN**

One of the leading interpreters of American Standards including the music of Frank Sinatra and the Gershwins.

The Diamond Circle Award recipient will be

**MILT LARSEN**

Founder of the Magic Castle



**MICHAEL FEINSTEIN**

**JEANNE DeVIVIER BROWN** presented Johnny with a congratulatory letter from music industry executive and record producer **CLIVE DAVIS**. **WINK MARTINDALE** brought along a letter from **MARY WILSON** of The Supremes.



Honoree **JOHNNY MATHIS** is flanked by two of his favorite songbirds, **DIONNE WARWICK** and **DENIECE WILLIAMS**. (Photo by David Keeler)

**DIONNE WARWICK** said that “not many men qualify as ‘pretty’ but Johnny is ‘pretty.’ We all crowded the stage just to look at him. We’re planning a project so you’ll hear us together again soon.” **DENIECE WILLIAMS**, who also recorded with Johnny, talked about his humility.

**BERNIE GARDNER** hired Johnny to sing with his band in high school and had to fire him because he was losing money. Many years later, Johnny asked Bernie to join his band as a pianist but he declined the kind offer from an old friend.

Boston Celtics center **BILL RUSSELL** said that “he felt like a fish out of water. We’ve been friends since 1949 or ’50, but this is the first time in a long time that I’ve been in public without my cap — because today I want to take my hat off to Johnny.”

PPB Past President **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT**, a Johnny Mathis expert, said that “in a group of people Johnny has the ability to make you feel like you’re the only one there. I’ve never met a finer gentleman than Johnny Mathis.” **GARY OWENS** indicated that “there’s no one quite like Johnny Mathis.”

Pro golfer **AMY ALCOTT** said that Johnny probably loves playing golf more than singing and plays five or six times a week. “He’s a melodic golfer. There’s a rhythm to golf that can’t be taught, it’s innate, and Johnny’s got it. He’s my Hall of Famer,” she said.

Record producer **JAY LANDERS** believes that Johnny is “the kind of creative genius who transcends time and will be there long after the others have faded. Johnny’s survived five presidents at Columbia Records.” Jay read a letter from **BARBRA STREISAND** in which she wrote, “There are a number of good singers, a few great singers, then there is Johnny Mathis.”

After a standing ovation, Johnny graciously accepted the **ART GILMORE** Career Achievement Award, saying, “This has been the most embarrassing, humiliating and wonderful afternoon I’ve ever spent. I love everybody in this room. Thank you.”

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LARRY VANDERVEEN** presented the Diamond Circle Award to PPB member **LEE MERIWETHER**. Here are Mr. Vanderveen's remarks introducing Ms. Meriwether:

"Early in her career, our honoree was the very first Women's Editor on the 'Today Show.' After she held that position, those following her became known as 'The Today Girls.' This afternoon she's our 'today girl.' But she's better known as Lee Meriwether.



Two honorees together again: High school classmates **JOHNNY MATHIS** and **LEE MERIWETHER** catch up in the Greenroom. (Photo by Don King)

This celebrated actress began her rise to success when she was named Miss San Francisco, then Miss California, and yes that's right, she went all the way to Miss America. Ever since, Lee has displayed the dignity and grace that have made her so admired.

And she has also displayed the exceptional talent that has made her one of stage, film and television's finest and most enduring stars, receiving both Golden Globe and Emmy Nominations for her outstanding work.

Lee was the Cat Woman in the original *Batman* movie (obviously playing against type). She was **BUDDY EBSEN**'s co-star in the long running 'Barnaby Jones' TV series, and Lily in 'The Munsters Today.' She's played recurring roles in such hit series as 'Dr. Kildare,' 'The FBI,' 'Twelve O'Clock High,' 'Mission Impossible,' 'The New **ANDY GRIFFITH** Show' and — well, if we gave you all of her major credits, we'd have to stay for dinner.

These days Lee is amazing theater audiences everywhere, including me, playing 23 characters in her nationally acclaimed one-woman show, *The Women of Spoon River, Their Voices from the Hill*. And just yesterday she returned from North Carolina where she was filming her latest movie, *The Ultimate Life*, the prequel to *The Ultimate Gift*, in which she also appeared.

But she says her favorite roles are wife of novelist **MARSHALL BORDEN** and mother of two wonderful daughters, **KYLE** and **LESLEY**.

Lee is also very active in numerous charities. She is Honorary Chairman of Ability First, originally founded as The Crippled Children's Society, and she served as National Education Chairman for The American Cancer Society, just two of the many charity and humanitarian causes she finds time to help.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome the newest member of the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' Diamond Circle, Lee Meriwether."



PPB's newest Diamond Circle Member, **LEE MERIWETHER**, and our First Veep, **LARRY VANDERVEEN**.



Welcomed to the **RALPH EDWARDS**' sponsored table at the Johnny Mathis luncheon were students and faculty from Los Angeles Valley College. PPB Board members "**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY** (with hat) and **SCOTT ST. JAMES** (seated right) joined the group. (Photo by David Keeler)

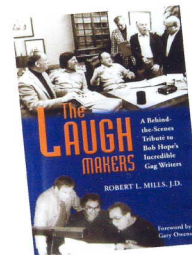
**PPB's WEBMASTER GERRY FRY** WOULD LIKE TO REMIND members that more photos taken at the Celebrity Luncheons can be seen on our website at [www.PPBwebsite.org](http://www.PPBwebsite.org). Follow the instructions you'll find under the heading "Luncheon Pictures Available." Photos of the Diamond Circle Award recipient can be seen by clicking on "Diamond Circle" in the left column.

**ON TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH AT 11:30 A.M.**, we're all invited to be part of the festivities when PPBer "**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY** receives his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The star for the K-EARTH101 FM host will be installed near the Four Ladies of Hollywood gazebo at the corner of Hollywood Blvd. and La Brea and will be placed next to **THE REAL DON STEELE** whom "Shotgun Tom" succeeded 15 years ago. Speakers at the event will be K-EARTH Program Director **JHANI KAYE** and recording artist **STEVIE WONDER**. The edition of the new *Weekly Variety* on April 30th will feature a two-page interview with "Shotgun Tom" and a number of congratulatory messages from his friends.



"**SHOTGUN TOM**" **KELLY** will receive his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on April 30th.

**SAVE-THE-DATE: ON SATURDAY, MAY 19TH**, the Thousand Oaks Library will celebrate the donation of the **FRANK BRESEE** Collection. Frank, of course, is a PPB Past President and a veteran radio actor and historian. From 1967–1995, he hosted the "Golden Days of Radio" on Armed Forces Radio and Television Service highlighting radio up to the 1950s. As of the printing of this newsletter, the time for the event hasn't been announced, but we'll post it on our website at [www.PPBwebsite.org](http://www.PPBwebsite.org).



**LONGTIME PPBER ROBERT L. MILLS** made sure his two decades writing jokes for **BOB HOPE** in the '70s and '80s would prepare him for his autumn years. He hosts a daily topical blog that includes candid backstage photos he took while traveling with Hope as well as excerpts from his book *The Laugh Makers: a Behind-the-Scenes Tribute to Bob Hope's Incredible Gag Writers*. You can read it at [www.BereftOnTheLeft.blogspot.com](http://www.BereftOnTheLeft.blogspot.com). During May, Bob and his wife Shelley will sail aboard the *Celebrity Constellation* to Amsterdam presenting "Bob Hope Backstage" — stories from his book. This is his 15th year Bob's been doing shows for Crystal, Princess and Celebrity.

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**PPB MEMBER AND LUNCHEON HONOREE WINK MARTINDALE** is producing a series of nine monthly radio specials for Sirius XM's "Siriusly Sinatra" channel. The shows feature iconic names from the world of American popular music "in their own words." **NAT KING COLE** was featured during March and upcoming shows will highlight the careers of **ROSEMARY CLOONEY**, **SAMMY DAVIS, Jr.**; **GORDON JENKINS**, **JO STAFFORD & PAUL WESTON**, **FRANK SINATRA**, **ELLA FITZGERALD**, **PERRY COMO** and **PEGGY LEE**.

**FOR THE RECORD —**

★ **RAY BRIEM**'s program aired on "KABC," not "KNBC."

★ In the **CART** item, we should have given credit to "**SEAN MCCLORY**" not "Dean."

**PPBER KAREN SARGENT**, who heads up the Big Bear Community Arts Theater Society, just presented the world-premiere production of *Mark Twain and the Shakespeare Mystery* at the new C.A.T.S. Theater she helped build. Next on the schedule is *OKLAHOMA!* starting June 21. Sarge has produced, directed and choreographed over 50 productions in Big Bear over the past 19 years. "Come Visit" she says! [www.BigBearTheater.org](http://www.BigBearTheater.org).



**FOR THE FIRST TIME, TONY THE TIGER** (voiced since 1999 by PPBer **LEE MARSHALL**) is appearing in an ad for a client other than Kellogg's. Tony (and Lee) can now be seen and heard as part of a national cross-promotion campaign with AARP. Lee announced the first "network broadcast" of professional wrestling on ESPN and weekly shows on TNT and TBS. As a radio performer, Lee says, "I've had the honor of working behind the microphones of legendary and groundbreaking stations such as KRIZ-Phoenix, KCBQ-San Diego, KHJ-Los Angeles, CKLW-Windsor, Ontario/Detroit, WOR FM-New York, and 12 years at KABC and the ABC TalkRadio Network in L.A."



**PPBER DR. GEORGE FISCHBECK**, who began his broadcasting career in Albuquerque, dominated the weather scene at KABC-TV in the '70s and '80s. The former school teacher just published *Dr. George Fischbeck: My Life in Weather*. One review of the book says, "Not only has Fischbeck had a long career as an award-winning journalist and educator, he has also helped raise millions of dollars for a variety of charitable causes. His story is all here, and the best part is what the fewest people know: the heartwarming memories of a family man."

**LOU CARTER KEAY** (professional name **LOU\*LOU**), President of Intertel, the high-I.Q. society, is busy promoting the group's annual gathering. This time, they're going on a five-night cruise to the Yucatan in September. Anyone can take advantage of Intertel's group rates. For information, go to [www.intertel-iq.org/2013-agaflyer.pdf](http://www.intertel-iq.org/2013-agaflyer.pdf) or call 800-357-5952. **LOU\*LOU's** also working with acting coach **C. STEPHEN FOSTER** to promote "Awakening the Actor Within: A Twelve-Week Workbook to Recover and Discover Your Acting Talents."

**ROBERT S. LEVINSON** FOLLOWS "The Beauty with the Million-Dollar Brains," in the May Issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* with another story set during the Golden Age of Hollywood. "In the Land of Make-Believe" is scheduled for the July/August issue of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* and marks the reappearance of detective Chris Blanchard, MGM Studio "fixer" Howard Strickling and others who figured prominently in Bob's 2012 novel *A Rhumba in Waltz Time*. Robert will be signing books at the *Los Angeles Times* Book Festival in April.

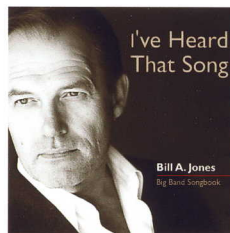


A Los Angeles City Council proclamation saluting **ROBERT S. LEVINSON** upon publication of his 10th novel, *Phony Tinsel*, was presented by Councilman **TOM LaBONGE** during the crime novel's official launch.

**DIAMOND CIRCLE HONOREE ROBERT L. HECKER's** musical, *Honestly Abe*, just passed its first year running Off-Broadway in New York. He's just completed the first draft of a new musical as well as the first draft of his 12th novel. In February, Robert was in Las Vegas for the production of two of his short radio dramas.

**PPBER JOHN CLARK** SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME FIGHTING for the rights of actors and performers. Since 2004, he's been writing a blog on his website [www.JohnClarkProse.com](http://www.JohnClarkProse.com). His most recent post, "33 Years, A Review and a Complaint" begins: "I see that my late ex will be having an Off-Broadway theatre named for her at a June 3rd ceremony in New York. The 45 Bleeker Street Theatre will thereafter be called the **LYNN REDGRAVE** Theatre. I am pleased for her; I plan to be there, and to become re-acquainted with my children and old family members and friends. This has given me occasion to reflect on our life together. Lynn and I, over the course of a little under 33 years, made a change in the landscape for the life of actors, for the better, I do believe."

**TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE** for three summertime **ART LABOE** concerts. Art will appear on June 8th at the Valley View Casino Center in San Diego, on June 22nd at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage, and on July 20th at Buffalo Bill's Star of the Desert Arena in Primm, Nevada. [www.ArtLaboe.com](http://www.ArtLaboe.com).



**IN ADDITION TO HIS CONTINUING WORK** as an actor ("Glee") and radio personality (Dial Global's "Adult Standards"), **BILL A. JONES** is a singer. His new CD, *I've Heard That Song, Big Band Songbook*, was featured in March on the syndicated radio shows "Bill Miller Radio," "Big Band Jump" and "America Swings," hosted by

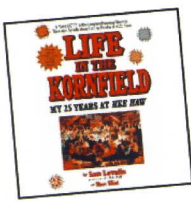
fellow PPB member **HORACE HEIDT, Jr.** The album of vocal favorites from the 1940s is dedicated to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, inspired by the cuts "It's Been a Long, Long Time" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree." [www.BillAJones.com](http://www.BillAJones.com).

**AT A BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD**, Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound (REPS) will present a Salute to the Life and Career of actor **TOMMY COOK** by awarding him their Lifetime Achievement Award. Other PPB members involved in the tribute are **IVAN CURY, JOHN and LARRY GASSMAN, WALDEN HUGHES, MICHAEL KACEY, TIM KNOFLER, and STUFFY SINGER.** [www.repsshowcase.com](http://www.repsshowcase.com).

**PPBER LARRY GASSMAN** WANTS MEMBERS TO KNOW that **TOMMY COOK** will be a guest at the next SPERDVAC membership meeting which will pay tribute to child stars of early radio. In addition to Tommy, speakers will be **GLORIA McMILLAN** who appeared in "The Great Gildersleeve," "Our Miss Brooks" and "Lux Radio Theater" and **CONRAD BINYON** from "One Man's Family." The meeting will take place at noon on Saturday, May 11th at the Mid Valley Library in Mission Hills and is free and open to the public.

**THE MARCH ISSUE OF LIFE AFTER 50** MAGAZINE features a profile of "The Love Boat Lady" **JERALDINE SAUNDERS**. The article tells the story of Jeraldine's life and her numerous activities today. You can read it by going to [www.LifeAfter50.com](http://www.LifeAfter50.com) and searching for "Saunders."

**COLUMNIST TIM POMPEY** OF THE *VENTURA BREEZE* recently published an article titled "How **CHUCK CECIL** Keeps His Groove." Here's the first paragraph of the article about one of PPB's Past Presidents: "Imagine yourself at age 90, still sharp, still enjoying your work, still dancing, still in love. Hard to picture? Not if you're Chuck Cecil, creator of the legendary jazz radio show 'The Swingin' Years.' Cecil, who turned 90 in December, broadcasts all those jazz favorites from the golden era of big band music. His show is heard on KKJZ 88.1 FM."



**PHOTOGRAPHER DON KING** would like to remind members that "...Past PPB President **SAM LOVULLO** has written a book, *Life in the Korrifield*, describing his 25 years as producer of 'Hee Haw.' This is a laugh riot! Anyone in 'the industry' will want to enjoy it!" For the next three months, Sam will donate profits from the sale of his book to PPB.

**VOICE ACTOR J.V. MARTIN** HAS TWO NEW reality series coming up, one on Animal Planet and the other on the Travel Channel. Recently, he recorded narration for a Golf Channel project premiering during the week of the 2013 Masters Golf Tournament in April.

**IN RETIREMENT, GENE PRICE** IS FULFILLING a lifelong dream of being a writer. Now available at [www.WestBowPress.com](http://www.WestBowPress.com), *Lukas' Maiden Voyage* is a children's book based on the Biblical story of the little donkey that Jesus rode on His entry into Jerusalem for the Passover. It is a fable full of twists and turns and has received positive reviews from adults and children alike.



**TED RAY** HAS BEEN ACCUMULATING MEMORABILIA for many years. His collection includes old magazines such as *Look* (1959-1972), *Life* (1962-1984) and *TV Guide* (1954-2001), and tickets to television shows including "Burns and Allen," "The **DANNY THOMAS** Show," "The **BOB CUMMINGS** Show," "Truth or Consequences" with **BOB BARKER** at the old NBC Studios at Sunset and Vine, "The **JACK BENNY** Program" at Television City, "The **STEVE ALLEN** Show" at NBC Burbank and "You Bet Your Life" with **GROUCHO MARX**. Ted's collection also includes 78 RPM acetate recordings dating back to the '20s and '30s. He may be most proud of Oscar and Emmy baseball caps and a very rare *green* ABC Sports cap.

**BOARD MEMBER JOHN NEWTON** HAS JOINED insurance broker Supple, Merrill & Driscoll, Inc. The company handles PPB's policies and can provide all types of insurance, including long term care, auto and home.

**THAT VOICE YOU HEAR** behind the new "Dancing with the Stars" TV promo is 94.7 The Wave's afternoon host, **DEBORAH HOWELL**. She says, "Dance on, fellow broadcasters! Let's see your tango." In addition to her work on the radio, Deborah voices commercials, medical and technical narrations, and audio books. She's the owner/operator of Topanga Studios in Malibu and is active in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, having climbed Grand Canyon and run in the Tinker Bell Half Marathon. Mission: to tell cancer to Take A Hike!



PPBers **DEE BAKER**, **CHRIS THOMAS** and **ED STAUSS** have been hard at work lending their expertise to making "Blue Angels," a mini-documentary about the Motion Picture and Television Fund Volunteer Guild. Interested in volunteering at MPTF? There are many opportunities available at [www.MPTF.com](http://www.MPTF.com).



**GOING BACK IN TIME:** **JIM JORDAN** (L), who was one of the historic icons of radio as Fibber McGee, joins PPB Archivist **MARTY HALPERIN** to view part of the vast collection of memorabilia which includes many of Jordan's famed shows. Jim was PPB's second Chairman of the Board. The date this photo was taken is unknown.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR KAY HENLEY** WOULD LIKE members to know that **GINI (MRS. VANCE) COLVIG** is recovering from a fall in which she broke her hip. She is recuperating at Studio City Rehabilitation Center, 11429 Ventura Blvd., #8A, Studio City, CA 91604. Cards would be appreciated. Because of Gini's hearing, she's unable to talk on the phone.



Membership Chairman **KAY HENLEY** announces:  
**NEW MEMBERS**

**ROBERT DAVID HALL** — Best known for his role as coroner Dr. Albert Robbins, M.D. on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," Robert is also a musician and his voice can be heard on commercials and cartoons. For more than four years, he was the daytime announcer and music director of KNX-FM. He's appeared in films such as "Starship Troopers" and "The Negotiator" and made guest appearances on numerous TV programs including "The West Wing," "Touched by an Angel" and "LA Law."

**MARK PALLOCK** — Mark is a veteran of 45 years as a radio engineer and 11 years in TV at KCET. He now owns Marandee Broadcast Engineering.

**WE REMEMBER WITH GREAT ADMIRATION**

**STAN GREEN** — CBS TV City AD. Stan and his wife, Marion, have been living in Cathlamet, WA where they settled after his retirement.

**GARY LYCAN** — A current PPB Board member. For more than three decades, Gary chronicled the changing landscape of Southern California radio in his weekly column in the Sunday Show section of the *Orange County Register*. It was a "must-read" for radio people and fans of radio.

Badges featuring our PPB logo and your name can be purchased at each Celebrity Luncheon or by sending your name, address and phone number to



**PPB, P.O. Box 8673, Calabasas, CA 91372.**

Please include your check for \$10.00 and make sure to let us know how you'd like your name to appear on your badge. Also, let us know if you'd like a clip or a pin on the back.

We're updating our list of e-mail addresses and would like to make sure that we have your correct information. If you haven't received an e-mail from PPB lately, please send a note to

**Webmaster@PPBwebsite.org.**

We promise not to bother members with unnecessary notes, but e-mail is a great way to get in touch with you quickly when needed.

**WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU**

If you have comments about anything related to PPB's Celebrity Luncheons, please let us know. How was the food, the service? What do you think about the luncheons? Is there anything we can do to improve the experience. Please send comments to:

**Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters, P.O. Box 8673, Calabasas, CA 91372**

If you know of a member who is ill or has passed away, please advise Membership/Friendship Chairman **KAY HENLEY** through our website at [www.PPBwebsite.org](http://www.PPBwebsite.org) or by leaving a message at **323-461-2121**.

We're always looking for items of interest about our members for this Newsletter. Please send your news and that of your PPB friends to:

**BIANCA PINO, P.O. Box 8673, Calabasas, CA 91372.**

**FAX-323-851-4570 - bianca.pino@PPBwebsite.org**



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