

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

## Dick Cavett Tells Stories of Talk Show Guests to PPB Crowd

PPB Luncheon Re-cap Written by Frank and Margie Barron

From 1968 to 1975, **DICK CAVETT** emerged as TV's talk show host who was renowned for getting extraordinary interviews with the celebrities who fiercely guarded their privacy. Among the guests on ABC's *The Dick Cavett Show* were **KATHARINE HEPBURN**, **FRED ASTAIRE**, **MARLON BRANDO**, **ORSON WELLES**, and **JOHN LENNON** and **YOKO ONO**, who appeared right after the breakup of The Beatles in 1971.



On short notice when **LARRY KING** developed a scheduling conflict, PPB President **CHUCK STREET** led a conversation with **DICK CAVETT** that delighted the more than 300 luncheon guests. (Photo: Don King)

Cavett also proved he wasn't afraid of confronting the controversial political personalities of the era, and was respected for interviewing figures from both sides of the issues. That gave him a significant broadcasting role as the Watergate scandal unfolded and he questioned a parade of "Watergate characters" including **G. GORDON LIDDY**, **JOHN EHRlichman**, members of the Senate Watergate committee, etc. That put him on the infamous "Nixon's

enemies list," he proudly points out. PBS just aired a special *Dick Cavett's Watergate* on the 40th anniversary of President **RICHARD NIXON**'s resignation, featuring fascinating clips from his talk shows.

Cavett talked about all of that and more when PPB feted him. But before he was presented the coveted **ART GILMORE** Career Achievement Award from PPB President **CHUCK STREET**, there was an enlightening chat between Street and Cavett that captivated the audience for almost two hours.



There was a large crowd at the Sportsmen's Lodge to hear Dick Cavett's stories filled with luminaries, history and wit. And afterwards they lined up to get him to sign copies of his latest book *Brief Encounters: Conversations, Magic Moments and Assorted Hijinks*, which had even more stories to be enjoyed.

Cavett, who turned 78 on November 19th, seemed to be more comfortable talking about the many famous talk show guests and friends in his life than discussing anything personal. But he did tell a sweet story about meeting his wife **MARTHA ROGERS**, Ph.D. when he tried to help her rescue two stray dogs. "As we walked around for a couple of hours trying to find the dogs' owners, we just talked and that was a nice way of getting to know each other," he recalled. Martha was at the PPB event and he praised her many accomplishments and his admiration for her as an author.

Talking about Cavett's "midwest sensibility," Chuck Street noted that "like **JOHNNY CARSON**, Dick was born and raised in Nebraska." Cavett acknowledged that there are many, including **DAVID LETTERMAN**, "from the midwest who succeeded in broadcasting because the midwest accent was more comfortable to people."

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### PPB LUNCHEONS WILL BE HELD ON

Friday, January 23, 2015

Friday, March 20, 2015

Friday, May 15, 2015

In high school, Cavett took to performing magic and was good at gymnastics. He went to Yale University where he majored in English and drama. He enjoyed the stage and appeared in numerous stage and radio productions and spent several summers doing Shakespeare Festivals.

When he moved to New York and got a job as a copyboy at *Time* magazine, fate stepped in when he went to a taping of *The Tonight Show* hosted by **JACK PAAR**. Cavett said he heard that "Paar wanted jokes for his monologue, so I wrote some and I had them in an envelope. When I saw Paar in the hallway I handed them to him and I got a job writing jokes for Jack." That led to a regular job as a comedy writer for both Paar and Carson. He even wound up as a guest host on several *Tonight* shows and also established himself as a comedian.

His on-camera work led to hosting a morning program and then *The Dick Cavett Show*, his own acclaimed late-night series. The stories about his outstanding guests are fascinating. He said, "**KATHARINE HEPBURN** came in early to rearrange the furniture, and set up the best camera angles for her. After a brief run-through she said 'let's do it now,' and we did, without an audience." He said **GROUCHO MARX** always had great stories, "and he was just plain funny." He coaxed **FRED ASTAIRE** into a few dance steps that turned into a wildly improvised dance number that showed off the skill and vitality of the dance master at almost 80 years old. The PPB crowd was treated to clips of those TV shows and Cavett loved seeing them again, too. (Clips from Dick's career were produced and edited by PPB Board Member **JHANI KAYE**.)



Honoree **DICK CAVETT** rests his arm on the shoulder of PPB Assistant Treasurer **MICHAEL BROCKMAN**, with Dick's wife **MARTHA ROGERS**, PPB President **CHUCK STREET**, and PPB Board Member **BILL MORAN** socializing before the luncheon. (Photo: Don King)



(Left) LA morning drive KOST radio personality and PPB Board Member **MARK WALLENGREN** takes advantage of his opportunity to capture a selfie with **DICK CAVETT**.

(Right) Two writers and old pals: PPBer **BOB MILLS** and **DICK CAVETT** exchanged books at the luncheon. Bob's book *The Laugh Matters* is a tribute to **BOB HOPE's** gag writers. Mills reminded Dick that he used to hang out with the Hope writers because he loved writing jokes. One day Mills said to Dick, "why don't you just ask Bob for a job and join us." He laughed and said, "I can't. I'm too big a star!"

## Comic Actor Chuck McCann Receives Diamond Circle Award

At each of our luncheons Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters honors one of its members who made a significant contribution to broadcasting.



**CHUCK McCANN** shows his appreciation to Diamond Circle Award presenter, **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT**. (Photo: Don King)

in night clubs and making guest appearances on TV. At 19 he was a semi-regular on *The Steve Allen Show*, and was guest hosting on *The Garry Moore Show*. It wasn't long before he had his own show in New York: *The Chuck McCann Show*, a favorite of children and adults for 14 years.

When **ALAN ARKIN** was searching for an actor to play a deaf mute in his film *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter*, his 11-year-old son **ADAM ARKIN** recommended Chuck. Alan took the suggestion and Chuck delivered a performance worthy of a Golden Circle Award and Motion Picture Daily Award as best supporting actor. Chuck's co-starred in such films as *Silent Movie*, *Play It as It Lays*, Disney's *Herbie Rides Again*, *Foul Play*, and **MEL BROOKS'** *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*. Chuck has long been a favorite guest on talk and variety shows as well as guest starring on series such as *Little House on the Prairie*, *Different Strokes*, *One Day at a Time*, and *The Love Boat*.

Here's another dimension of his talent ... Chuck's written and recorded over a dozen comedy albums, from *The First Family to Everything You Always Wanted To Know About The Godfather But Don't Ask*.

Former PPB President **CHUCK SOUTHCOTT** presented the Diamond Circle Award to long-time PPB member **CHUCK McCANN** at the November 7 luncheon. Here are Mr. Southcott's remarks introducing Mr. McCann:

Chuck McCann was already a show business veteran by the age of 12, having done voices on radio, made records, and developed a puppet act. By 16, he was performing



Long-time PPB members **CHUCK McCANN** and **JIM MacGEORGE**, who amused LA TV audiences for years with their famous **LAUREL** and **HARDY** AMCO windshield wiper commercials, join their old friend **DICK CAVETT**. (Photo: David Keeler)

Chuck has had a long award-winning career in commercials and has won several Clio awards for best actor in those commercials, such as Dr. Pepper, where he played the Hunchback of Notre Dame, and the **LAUREL** and **HARDY** commercials for AMCO windshield wiper blades. Chuck created the **Coco Bird** and **Gramps** in the **Coco Puffs** radio spots and is still doing the commercials to this day.

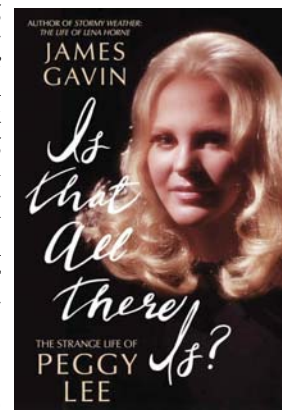
He's also had a stunning career in animation including *Duck Tales the Movie* and *A Very Mickey Christmas* for Disney, and he played **The Thing** in the animated version of *Fantastic Four*. Chuck toured with **TIM CONWAY** in a live show for three years.



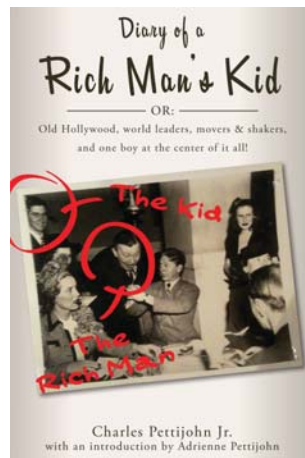
At each PPB Celebrity Luncheon, **RALPH EDWARDS** Productions sponsors a table for aspiring broadcasting students from area colleges and universities. Honoree **DICK CAVETT** met with students from Pasadena City College and Fullerton College at the November 7 luncheon. In spite of many pitfalls ahead, Dick declared that all of them "are going to make it." (Photo: David Keeler)

### Reading Corner

PPB's Treasurer **RIC ROSS** "is reading a great book by **JAMES GAVIN** entitled *Is That All There Is: The Strange Life of PEGGY LEE*. It is very well written and it shows the investigation work that Gavin spent in accumulating all the facts for the book." Ric and **MICHAEL BROCKMAN** are enjoying the lavishly illustrated biography *LIFE Unseen: TONY BENNETT* which has just been released. The hardcover book contains hundreds of never-before-seen photos of Bennett's life, family, and his famous peers.



**MORT GOLDSTEIN** recommends



*Diary of a Rich Man's Kid* by **CHARLES PETTIJOHN, JR.** From a childhood surrounded by the stars of old Hollywood to a career in the golden age of TV and film, Charles saw it all. With an introduction by his daughter **ADRIENNE**, the book tells the real side of many larger-than-life figures including **CAROL BURNETT** and **RED SKELTON**, as well as world leaders like **FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** and **JOHN KENNEDY**. Mort says "it is a most entertaining book, and I'm confident members would enjoy reading it."

Send your news to **BIANCA PINO** P.O. Box 8673 Calabasas, CA 91372, or by e-mail to [Bianca.Pino@ppbwebsite.org](mailto:Bianca.Pino@ppbwebsite.org)

## Kudos

Our own **JIMMY WELDON**, the voice of Webster Webfoot, was honored in October as a patriot and lifelong volunteer at the Armand Arabian Leaders in Public Service Awards Luncheon in Woodland Hills. Hosted by the Encino Chamber of Commerce, the MC was PPBer **WINK MARTINDALE**. Jimmy was a member of Patton's Third Army when it liberated the Buchenwald Concentration Camp and went on to a long career in radio and TV. Today, Jimmy's passion is teaching youth about our nation and its rich history.

Cal State San Bernardino announced the **LARRY HUFFMAN** Academic Achievement Award which will be given to a "student majoring in a field related to advertising." Larry has a long career as an announcer for TV shows, but is best known for sports events. He was the voice of Supercross for 16 years and served as color commentator for ABC, CBS, NBC, and ESPN. Larry was nicknamed "Supermouth" by the L.A. Times for his ability to get crowds excited at sports events and for being clocked at over 300 words per minute on his TV commercials.

**BOB MILLS** has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Comedy Awards. At their recent event, Mills was praised for his contributions as a writer on the **BOB HOPE** specials, the **DEAN MARTIN** roasts, and **STEVE ALLEN's Laugh-Back**.

## In The News

**CHUCK SOUTHCOTT's** standards radio show *This Is Music* just went on the air in Palm Springs on KWXV AM/FM. It can be heard from 6-9PM Monday thru Friday. Chuck is an award-winning programmer and air personality and his shows can be heard around the country.

**JIM OVERMAN** accompanied his wife **LINDA** to England recently for her PhD graduation ceremony. There's now a Dr. Overman.

For the last six years on or about Dec. 7th, **BOB FOX** speaks at his grammar school, Horace Mann in Beverly Hills, about his recollections of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941. Bob talks to the eighth grade class about what it was like then and how students and our country were affected by World War II. As a side note, the teacher in charge of the event has an aunt who many years ago introduced Bob to Valerie, who later became his wife.

**MARY LYON** reports that: "I had quite a summer. It could accurately be described as 'incredible'! Having retired from day-to-day news-works, I now manage my 22 year old son's rock band. Michael put together a band named **ACIDIC** while still in high school and never looked back. This summer, I attended five of their shows and my manager's status allowed me to have all-access credentials so I saw all the big bands, waded through crowds of young rockers, and hung out backstage. Made me feel 15 again, even though I was probably one of the oldest people there!"



**MARY LYON** (center), manager of **ACIDIC**, hangs out with her son lead singer/guitarist **MICHAEL GOSSARD** (second from right) and members of his band.

*Troop Beverly Hills*, the iconic movie based on **AVA FRIES'** life as a Beverly Hills Girl Scout Leader, and Executive Produced by Ava and former PPB honoree **CHUCK FRIES**, began on Netflix in December. The film celebrated its 25th anniversary last May and stars **SHELLEY LONG**.

Still going strong, **ED BLAU** is the lawyer for The Caucus for Producers, Writers & Directors, **JOHNNY MATHIS** and **MILT LARSEN** who created The Magic Castle. For many years, Ed represented **RALPH EDWARDS**, one of the founders of PPB.

PPB member **CHRISTOPHER THOMAS** and his wife **MAGGIE** spent Christmas and New Year's with family in Perth, Scotland. The highlight: attending a Pantomime *The Singing Kettle* with four-year-old Ruby.



**CHERI MacQUEEN** has had a hectic year settling the estates of her mom and her uncle and has spent time in Honolulu and Kansas City to handle their affairs. New PPB member **LOUIS GABRIELE** wrote a moving tribute for his friend KNBC news anchor **JESS MARLOW** for NABET-CWA Local 53 entitled *Remembering Jess*.

Recently, **CART** produced **NORMAN LLOYD's** 100th birthday tribute, with guest stars including **ED ASNER**, **SAMANTHA EGGAR**, **CHARLOTTE RAE**, **JANE WINDSOR**, and **PAUL KEITH**. **PEGGY WEBBER** produced, directed, and adapted, and PPBers **JOHN HARLAN** and **JOANNE WORLEY** added extra laughs for a sell-out house. **CART** was also well represented at the Spermvac convention in November. Peggy directed a show she did 15 years ago for NPR. This time, the cast included PPBers **LEE MERIWETHER**, **TOMMY COOK**, **RICHARD HERD**, and **JOHN HARLAN**.

**BOBB LYNES** and **BARBARA WATKINS** appeared in the *Shadow* re-creation at the Spermvac convention along with **TOMMY COOK**, **RICHARD HERD**, and **GLORIA McMILLAN**. A week later, Bobb and Barbara were on stage at Authors Services in Hollywood for a live adaptation of one of L. Ron Hubbard's pulp stories, *Steeplejack*. Bobb and Barbara continue on KPFK-FM9 with *Don't Touch That Dial* and Bobb hosts and produces *The Old-Time Radio Show* on YesterdayUSA.com.



In December, PPB member **RICK SCARRY** appeared in the annual SAG-AFTRA recreations of classic old radio shows at the **GENE AUTRY** Western Heritage Museum in Griffith Park. This year, the shows featured Christmas episodes of *Gene Autry's Melody Ranch* from 1947 and 1952 and included old time radio sound effects, musicians, singers, and a cast of professional actors.

**BILL A. JONES** has been busy. In October, Jones headlined at Hollywood's Catalina Jazz Club, receiving two standing ovations for his performance in *Frank, Bobby, and Me!* In November, he worked with **LARRY KING** in a commercial to be aired in Korea, and in December, he guested on the Comedy Central TV show, *Workaholics* as Mr. Wynthrop, the irate father of a bride whose wedding is interrupted.

## Upcoming Events

**DICK CAVETT** will play himself in the LA premiere of a play based on the long-running feud between writers **LILLIAN HELLMAN** and **MARY MCCARTHY**. *Hellman v. McCarthy* will run February 6 to 28 at Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills. The production is directed by PPB member **HOWARD STORM**.

All PPBers are invited to see **LARRY VANDERVEEN** appear in his hit one-man play, *Meeting F. SCOTT FITZGERALD* on Sunday, January 25 at 2:00pm at the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. Admission is free.

In December, producer/director **STEVE BINDER** was a featured speaker at *Lights, Camera, Education* at Ventura College. On January 10th, he'll be the guest of honor at a screening of *Elvis Presley's '68 Comeback Special* at the Plaza Theater in Carpinteria. He'll be doing a Q&A to raise money for a new theatrical screen at the historical theater.



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# PPBers Make a Showing at the 19th NBC Employees Reunion Dinner in September



PPB Board Member **DEE STRATTON** is flanked by former President **TOM HATTEN** (right) and Tom's friend and guest, costume designer **PETE MENEFE**.



**SHERMAN WEISS**, "SHOTGUN TOM" **KELLY**, and **DON WHITTE-MORE** promoted membership in PPB to over 400 attendees at the NBC dinner. Shotgun hosted part of the event.



Past PPB President **JOHN HARLAN** and his wife **BEVERLY** hung out with current Vice President **BIANCA PINO**. John and Bianca produced *Name That Tune* together at NBC in the 70's.

## New Members

**JESSE CHAVEZ** has had a 25 year career in TV and movies as a best boy and dolly grip. He's worked on the films *Hope Floats* and *Dante's Peak* and TV shows *Two and a Half Men*, *Mad About You*, *The Love Boat*, and others. Jesse is not retired and is currently working as a real estate agent in Calabasas.

**ANNE FAULKNER** worked in TV for 24 years and spent 34 years as an actor. Anne was a traffic clerk for Crosley Broadcasting at WLWD in Dayton, Ohio, business manager at WXIX-TV in Cincinnati, and was the first woman named V.P. Television Division at Metromedia. Currently she is the traffic programmer at the closed circuit TV station at MPTF. As an actor, she appeared in *I Know My First Name is Steven* and *Until Morning*.

**LOUIS GABRIELE** has had a 45 year career in TV. He worked at NBC in the News Department as a supervising editor and engineer, and at KNBC he edited reports for *The Huntley-Brinkley Report*, *The Today Show*, *Fight Back with David Horowitz*, and many others. He was principal editor of *The Time Being*, hosted by **PAUL MOYER** and **MYRA SCOTT**. For his work, he's been awarded a Golden Mike Award and an Emmy. Louis has been involved with NABET, Local 53, for many years, and is currently a freelance consultant.

**ROBERT W. GUSTAFSON** is a writer, administrator, and a professor at CSUN in the Department of Cinema and Television Arts. He worked in the legal department at Warner Bros. and managed the radio station at George Washington University. As an independent producer at CBS, he develops TV programs and online content.

**RICHARD HERD** has over 60 years in radio and TV as an actor, announcer, and writer. Richard's radio credits include *The General Electric Theater* productions of *Billy Budd* and *Visit to a Small Planet*, and he was a frequent guest on old time radio. He's well-known in the TV science fiction community for the NBC miniseries *V*, and on *Star Trek: Voyager*, *seaQuest DSV*, and *Quantum Leap*. He appeared on *Seinfeld* for which he received a SAG Award for playing Mr. Wilhelm, George's boss.

**KEN JEFFRIES** is a news anchor, reporter, announcer, and producer. He's worked in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and several California radio stations. He announced the SPCA-LA Telethon for KCAL-TV, hosted by **BETTY WHITE**.

Ken anchored and reported for KFWB radio and co-owned KNX. While at KFWB, he was awarded the Golden Mike 10 times. He's covered earthquakes, brushfires, and the O.J. Simpson and Mendez Brothers trials.

**NANCY TRICHE LONDON** - In 1977, Nancy began her career as a page at CBS TV City, then got job on *The Dinah Shore Show*. For many years, she worked at CBS news as an engineer - among the stories she covered were the 1994 Earthquake and the North Hollywood shooting.

**C. JEFFREY PATCH** started in the mail room at Disney Studios in 1966, working his way up to assistant animation director on the films *The Rescuers* and *Robin Hood*. In '81, he worked on *The Fox and the Hound*, *Goodbye May Seem Forever*, and the TV series *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe*. On other TV productions he's been picture editor, supervising editor, and track reader.

**RICKY POWELL** has been an actor and announcer for 45 years. He worked for Witt/Thomas/Harris as a post production supervisor and AD. Since 1990 he's been at NBC Program Preparation and is also a toastmaster, speaker, coach, and consultant in network marketing.

**THELMA VICKROY's** extensive bio includes working for Drew Associates in New York where she produced TV documentaries including *The Indomitable Teddy Roosevelt*, *Being With JFK*, and *784 Days That Changed America: From Watergate to Resignation*. She's currently a Professor at CSUN in the Department of Cinema and Television Arts.

**KEN WILLIAMSON** began his career in Texas working as DJ, music director, transmitter and video engineer, and technical director, and was the announcer on *Hit Parade '70*. In the 70's Ken came to California where he was a recording engineer and videotape editor at NBC-TV. Later, he recorded a music and commentary show for KHJ, KRTH, KZLA, and KLAC. Ken is now retired.

## We Remember With Great Admiration

**CHARLES "REX" NEWCOMBE** was an RAF World War II veteran who had a 37 year career at KABC/KLOS as a director and radio engineer. During his years at ABC, Rex worked with Ken and Bob and on *The Mark and Brian Show*.

If you know of a member who is ill or has passed away, please advise PPB's Membership/Friendship Chair  
**KAY HENLEY**  
by leaving a message at 323-461-2121