

December Newsletter



December 2006

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December Meeting

Bala Golf Club

Decemer 20, 2006

Reservations **856-365-5600** or

Reception **12:00 p.m.**

Lunch **12:30 p.m.**

Ratecard **\$25.00**

rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com

“Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fellowship is sooo delightful” and that is the case for the Philadelphia Broadcast Pioneer’s 2006 Christmas bash and extravaganza. It will take place on the third Wednesday, December 20 at 12 noon reception, and 12:30 luncheon. The rate card is again \$25.

Bob Jawer will show his gifts, beyond his broadcasting abilities, as he plays a holiday song on the piano. **Joe Pellegrino**, redoubtable sports and singing star, will lead the group in ‘White Christmas’ with VP and long-time Channel 6 show host **Dr. Diego Castellanos** accompanying him on the guitar. Did

you know Diego played the guitar? Neither did we! There will be a short BP Trivia Quiz with **Bob Kravitz** as quizmaster (winners get a DVD of classic television shows from the 50’s).

Finally, the main event will be speaker **Jerry Lee**, owner of B101, the largest independently owned radio station in the country. Introducing Jerry Lee will be Les Waas. Jerry was our President during 1978-79, Person of the Year in 1997, and he was inducted into our Hall of Fame the same year.

Don’t forget, we need your reservation so call 865-365-5600 or email rsvp@broadcastpioneers.com.

This will be a program that will attract all the gentry, and we hope that you will be there among them.



Jerry Lee

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Happenings

The Hall of Fame—Person of the Year dinner was the biggest and best and most profitable of any in its long history. **Charlie Gracie** sang, as did **Pretty Perky Peggy King**, she of the fondly remembered George Gobel Show, and **Rev. Don Barnhouse** (Channel 10) gave the invocation in the absence of Capt. Noah (**Rev. W. Carter Merbreier**). Both Barnhouse and Noah are ordained ministers. All the gentry were there to honor those chosen and the posthumous names that were included in the Hall of Fame. A grand night.

It has not been a good month for our members. **Gene McCurdy** and **Ed Bradley** died, as did **Les Waas’** wife, Sylvia. The Gene McCurdy death brought forth more letters and praises than any seen in our small group in many years. Gene was highly regarded universally, and will be missed. **Rich Kellman** recalled fondly that a chance encounter with Gene got him into television. Rich is now in the Buffalo Television Hall of Fame. **Mel Kampmann** (Action News director) calls Gene “the best boss I ever had.” **Gene Vassall**

remembers him fondly in a letter, and how their paths crossed when McCurdy had lost his radio job. Vassall went to **George Koehler** (then Triangle potentate) and helped McCurdy get into Television in the early 70’s. **Joe Pelletier** and **Bill McKibben** weigh in with their thoughts about their good friend. If you go to www.larrykane.com, you’ll find the long time anchorman’s reflections on both Ed Bradley and Gene McCurdy. It has been a month in which we lost a lot.

“As far as I’m concerned, whom is a word that was invented to make everyone sound like a butler.”

Calvin Trillin



More Happenings

A Pioneers' member who is frequently at our meetings may be missing for awhile. **Kal Rudman**, in his mid 70's, has had cancer surgery and appears to be recovering quite nicely. Knowing Kal., he probably won't be missing too long.

Frank X. Feller, a Pioneer's member, President of the club in 1981-82, who hasn't been seen in some time at meetings, has written his autobiography titled "A Letter from Dad." Frank, an old broadcaster and old soldier, tells the tale of his growing up in Jersey City, his life in the army, and in

And More

Another successful Careers in Broadcasting panel was held on Thursday, November 2 at LaSalle. **Keith Russell**, **Linda Munich**, and **Porsha Grant** from WPVI-TV, **John Barthol** from WXPB-FM, **Paul Perrello** from Metro Networks and **Jeff Asch** from KYW-AM gave advice to students at LaSalle's Communications Center. Pioneers' member **Brother Molyneaux** from LaSalle, **Keith Brand** and Chairman of the Board **Frank Hogan** worked to set up the event.

Bill Wright, Sr. writes that he had a delightful luncheon with **Cal Milner** at Book-

And.....

New show to hear from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Saturday is "Travelin' with Wee Willie" on WVLT-92.1. Bill, who is on our board and works a lot for the club, will be doing the show from remote locations around the Delaware Valley, meeting the folks. Obviously, he'll be featuring his knowledge of travel, and where to go. Helping in the effort will be **Ed Harvey** who will do reviews of restaurants, museum shows, and what's going on in-around the city.

broadcasting. It's a great read for people like us who have lived the same experience one way or the other. We hope we see him soon at lunch.

We would be remiss if we did not salute **VP Jerry Klein** and **Anne Klein & Associates** who donate our website. Their company totally pays the cost involved. They also are doing excellent press releases publicizing our programs.

A wonderful note from **Jane Norman**

binders on November 6. Bill hadn't seen Cal in 20 years. With Bill and Cal were **Hi Lit** and **Sam**, **George Baylis** (WIBG), **Charlie Conway** (Cal's record librarian at PEN). A good time was had by all, and Bill will be at the December meeting.

Please welcome new members: **Lowell Howard Fishman** who boasts a 50-year career in broadcasting, currently owner of CRS, Inc. Advertising and a country music show on WSSJ, Camden, Saturdays 12 noon-3 p.m.; **Dennis John Cahill**, who is currently with Mountain West Sports Network; **Steve Tatz** of WVLT, Vineland; and

We received a wonderful Season's Greetings letter from **Stella and Al Alberts**, now in Port Charlotte, Florida. Kids, and multiple grandchildren all doing well. They want all their friends to be in touch, so you could email alharmony@comcast.net. They thank those who have read Al's autobiography "Al's Song" for your comments and your feelings about the book.

(AKA Pixanne of Channel 10 fame) points out that her career is going along very well. She has a new CD "With Love", a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland, recorded with a 47 piece orchestra. Jane is keeping busy doing interviews about the new album which is getting a big play on stations across the country, and members **Jonathon Casey**, **Steve Ross**, and **Corky Warren** have all had her on their shows, as has KMOX, St. Louis. There's Grammy buzz we hear. You Go Girl!

our recent Hall of Fame inductee **Bill Baldini** of Channel 10, along with our Halloween guests **Karen Sciola** of Channel 3's Saturday Night Dead, and **John Zacherle** of Channel 10's Shock Theatre. **Charlie Gracie** has also joined Philadelphia BP with over 53 years as a performer.

"Going to bed with a woman never hurt a ballplayer. It's staying up all night looking for them that does you in."

Casey Stengel



Don't forget we need your comments and activities to do this letter. Contact Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, call 302-645-8910, or email nanort@comcast.net.