

VALLEY BROADCAST LEGENDS

Issue #130 "Honoring the Past, Sharing the Present, Embracing the Future in Media"

December 2022

Heads Up! New Date, New Place



The bullet points version:

- VBL's annual holiday luncheon will be **Tuesday, Dec. 6**. You read that right, Tuesday.
- We're meeting at a new venue, **Aviator's Restaurant at Executive Airport**.
- It's an all-you-can-eat buffet (prime rib and salmon!) for \$30. Cash or check only.
- RSVPs are required **one week in advance**. In other words, Nov. 29.

Now that you've absorbed the facts, stay with us for the fun version!

K-VBL Broadcasting Line-Up Dec. 6, 2022

by VBL Secretary/Treasurer **Allen Chamberlin**

10:58:15 V.O. New Legends Lunch Location Tease (0:0:15)

10:58:30 Downton Abbey's Upstairs/Downstairs Season 13 Promo (0:0:30)

10:59:00 National Geographic Special: Dirt & Mud (0:0:55)

10:59:55 Station ID: K-VBL Sacramento Valley & Lodi (0:0:05)

11:00:00 Aviator's Restaurant S01E01 (2:30:00)

Join K-VBL as we begin our first season of Aviator's Restaurant lunches at Sacramento Executive Airport (6151 Freeport Blvd. 916/424-1728). You'll enjoy meeting a host of new servers and chefs, plus the return of much-respected cast members from pre-Covid days.

And it's all made possible by an idea **Kim Kline** pitched to our Development Team. Thank you Kim! We're in for seven episodes with renewals sure to follow in 2024 and beyond.

You'll thrill to a constantly changing menu. Think culinary adventure. No more reruns. And no more nagging interruptions soliciting your entrée choice again and again. Although, there will be a brief reminder (or two) to RSVP. Our ratings still depend on an accurate head-count, of course.

Continued on next page

RSVP for the Dec. 6 Meeting:
Allen Chamberlin: 916/456-7654
VBL-geek@theguys.org

Cost: \$30

Reservations required by Nov. 29!

A Brand-New Season at Aviator's Restaurant

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But no one will be counting how many times you rewind and revisit the buffet table.

[pan buffet table] And let's look at that spread! Two main entrées and a vegetable, as well as everyone's favorite: a carb. And like political ads (and pledge drives), the coffee and iced tea never stop flowing.

Did we mention plenty of free parking? Do not be confused by the ambiguously worded parking lot signs. It's free, open parking. More places to choose from than channels on cable. We also think you're going to enjoy each episode's program, starting with our festive December *No Formal Program* featuring Sunrise Elementary School television classroom teacher **Travis Harding** and two guest students, **Joyce Krieg's** Legends club video retrospective, "21 Years Programming Forward Looking in the Rear-view Mirror," and hopefully the traditional **Mary Jane Popp** Holiday Sing-Along. All that in addition to prime rib and baked salmon underwritten by viewers like you and your generous \$30 support. By the way, we're thinking about doing a Chinese New Year feast in February. Every buffet will be different.

Naturally, like any streaming content contract, we're changing our members' agreement mid-stream. **You must now RSVP by the Tuesday a full week before the Tuesday of the luncheon.** That's November 29th this time. And you can't attend unless you buy the full package, no picking and choosing just the channel selections you want. So **it's \$30 to attend**, even if you don't eat at the trough of reality

TV's fine dining. Sorry. Aviator's is giving us a helluva good deal and, unlike Public Broadcasting, it expects to be paid by those tuning in.

Join us December 6th at 11:00 a.m. at Aviator's Restaurant for the VBL lunch experience. Same time/new bat channel and date. Payment by personal check or cash. Sorry, no credit cards.

Officers

President: Sadly Open

Vice President: Bud Kress

Treasurer: Allen Chamberlin

Secretary: Allen Chamberlin

Directors: Walt Shaw, Anita Fein,

Kristine Hanson, Ward Koppel

In Perpetuity Our Founder

Harry Warren

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Krieg

Webmaster: Allen Chamberlin

Audio-Visual: Bud Kress

VALLEY BROADCAST
LEGENDS

P.O. Box 601861

Sacramento, CA 95860-1861

A Comeback for Club Pheasant?

By now, we've all heard the news that our old home, the Club Pheasant, will be closing at the end of December after 75 years in operation by the same family. VBL board member **Ward Koppel** has alerted us to an interesting new development. The West Sacramento city council has decided to purchase the property for \$3.4 million and to give it historic preservation status.

The building dates back to 1912, when it was used as an agronomy testing station by UC Davis. Luisa and George Palamidessi purchased the property in 1935 and opened the restaurant.

The city hasn't said exactly what they plan to do with the Club Pheasant, but a staff report talks about "viable economic and community-serving uses, ideally with a food service component, while also celebrating the property's legacy in West Sacramento."

The Veep Speaks

by VBL Vice-President **Bud Kress**



A few days ago, I had a chance to accompany Allen and check out the new digs at the Executive Airport, our new meeting home, Aviator's, and it's a neat place, completely different from the Club Pheasant. What a beautiful day! You could see the Sierras from the wrap-around windows, and what was really special, we saw Live Copter 3 land right in front of the restaurant. I look at that being a great sign of good things to come. They have a built-in sound system so it's going to make my job a whole lot easier.

I think it has been four years since I joined the VBL board, first as a consultant and then it evolved into the duties of Vice-President. I am enjoying every minute of being a member of this group. I have learned so much from Jim, Ron, Kristine, Mike, and Walt; their stories were extraordinary. Just listening to Walt, I could close my eyes for a second and remember sitting at the kitchen table with my grandmother, listening to him on KRAK, absolutely priceless. With Claire at the table, she had an extraordinary sense of interacting and giving the perfect advice just at the right time. Joyce would occasionally join us for more interesting history of our medium; Allen was always the perfect host and gave us a wonderful place to collaborate and served us delicious lunches.

I look forward to new faces around the tables enjoying new stories and ideas for meetings at Aviator's. We have two openings for directors on the VBL board. Come join us at the table. I guarantee it's going to be a fun ride.

See you at Aviator's on December 6!

It's That Time of Year . . .

Dues for 2023 are now due! Just \$25 per year covers our operating expenses, and keeps the Oral History Project going. If you're coming to our holiday luncheon on December 6, bring \$55 in cash or check, and you'll cover your meal and dues. Or, make out a check for \$25 in the name of Valley Broadcast Legends and mail it to:

P.O. Box 601861
Sacramento, CA 95860-1861



The Legends

Membership as of Nov. 21, 2022

John Archer • Julie Archer
Jay "DJ Jay" Arnold • Stan Atkinson
Linda Bayley • Vic Biondi
Bill Bishofberger • Thomas Blazowski
Matias Bombal • Tom Buck
Allen Chamberlin • Mark Chiolis
Chris Cochran • Anita Fein • Curt Foley
Vicki Fox • Gary Gerould
Dennis Grayson • Cyndy Green
Michael Guiliano • Kristine Hanson
Bud Harmon • Fred Harris • Jerry Henry
Betsy Hite • Rich Ibarra • John Jervis
Rick Kavooras • Richard Kermickel
Tip Kindel • Jan "Neely" Klevan
Kim Kline • Ward Koppel • Bill Kreutzer
Bud Kress • Joyce Krieg
Eleanor Kuechler-VanAcker • Bob Lang
Dick Leeson • Mike Luery • Dee McCafferty
Michael McCarron • Jeanne Marie
Lizette Martinez-Hopkins
Michael Messmer • Dana Michaels
Bob Miller • Alan Milner • Joyce Mitchell
Keith Moon • Ray Nelson
George Nyberg • John D. O'Brien
Alan Oda • Sandy Ofsenek Helland
Deborah Pacyna • Mary Jane Popp
Tiffany Powell • Craig Prosser
Rich Raymond • Bruce Riggs • Jay Rudin
Beth Ruyak • Bill Schmechel • Walt Shaw
Dann Shively • Barbara Souza
Roy Stearns • Barry Stigers • Bob Suffel
Steve Swatt • Gregory VanAcker
Bob Venditti • Gregory Virtue
Tom Wagner • Marla Wells
Dave Williams • Adrian Woodfork
Dennis Yoder • Jan Young



The Next Generation of Broadcasters



The VBL board had originally hoped to have an unboxing ceremony at the holiday luncheon for the latest donation we are making to a school broadcast program, but that was before we understood exactly how large and heavy our gift actually is! At left, **Trevor Harding** accepts delivery of a Proaim camera crane, which will be put to good use at the student television station at Sunrise Elementary in Rancho Cordova. More from Trevor below.

by **Trevor Harding**, SPARTAN TV Media Teacher, Sunrise Elementary School

SPARTAN TV is the student-lead news broadcast at Sunrise Elementary located in Rancho Cordova. The media team is made up of 1st through 6th graders who bring the school news to the entire campus and community. Students learn how to produce a video from scripting, filming and editing, as well as producing a newscast every two weeks. SPARTAN TV was established in 2016 when Sunrise received a small grant from Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium (SECC) and the Elk Grove Unified School District. The studio had one camera, a tripod, and a green piece of butcher paper on the wall. With the grant, the students produced three “tobacco-free” public service videos. Today SPARTAN TV media students produce their newscast that includes PSAs, instructional videos, creative expression, and documentaries. Each year the team enters their videos in the Student Educational Video Awards sponsored by SECC. The studio has won ten SEVAs and eight honorable mentions for their work. They were also featured on ABC NEWS 10. Media students leave Sunrise and go on to their middle and high schools well prepared for working at the campus studios. SPARTAN TV builds school spirit and keeps the school community united. It’s a great day to be a Sunrise Spartan ... “It’s time for SPARTAN TV!”

Tune in to one of our newscasts at <https://youtu.be/CY1puSBOsMc>

*Editor’s Note: Trevor and two of his students will be our special guests at the December 6 holiday luncheon and will share one of their recent news programs. Your VBL board is gratified to be able to continue our support of local schools and their broadcast journalism programs. The loss of the opportunity drawing during the pandemic pretty much dried up the financial resources for this worthwhile project, but thanks to a generous donation by the late **Claire Elliott**, VBL was able to continue this tradition this year.*



Matías Bombal: On the Road with Eva

by VBL Board Member **Ward Koppel**

Mercedes “Eva” Bombal has been part of the Bombal family longer than VBL member **Matías Bombal**. His father purchased the car in Dusseldorf in February 1959. After traveling the roads of Europe, the car was shipped to Chile in 1960, and finally to California in 1969. The black 1959 Mercedes 220S came under Matías’ care in 2009 when his father passed away. The name Eva comes from the first two letters of the license plate the car was assigned when it was registered in California.

It turns heads everywhere it goes in Northern California and on the national stage. Matías and Eva were even featured in the *Wall Street Journal* in 2018. Mercedes only built a little more than 55-thousand 220s models in the three years the model was offered, so it is a rare car. Making it even rarer, Matías’s father ordered it with a Golde sliding steel sun roof and Bosch city and country horns. The interior is graced with leather seats and real walnut on the dashboard.

Keeping Eva on the road requires care and a team of skilled mechanics. There have been some on the road incidents ... one with a palm tree, and another with a curb that required repairs. And the engine was rebuilt in 2017. Modern fuels are hard on the rubber parts of car’s fuel system so that requires a watchful eye for leaks. Mercedes Benz still makes parts for the car despite its age; they just have to come from Germany.

Eva has covered more than 174,000 miles and has been recognized by Mercedes Benz with a High Mileage Award

Mercedes “Eva” even has her own Facebook page chronicling her long life in photos taken over the years. <https://www.facebook.com/MercedesEvaBombal>.

Editor’s Note: This is the latest in a series of articles about Legends and their hobbies. If you’ve got an interesting or unusual hobby, collection, sport, or past-time, share it with your fellow Legends! Contact Ward Koppel, ward_koppel@prodigy.net.

Near right, a very young Matías and his parents with Eva, and at far right, a recent image of Eva at the Club Pheasant, as captured by **Ward Koppel**.



Charles Starzynski: 1952-2022

VBL joins all of Sacramento in expressing shock and sadness over the tragic death of former CapRadio program director and one-time member **Charles Starzynski**. Charlie, as he was known to everyone, was shot to death Oct. 20 in front of the Sacramento Lawn Tennis Club in East Sacramento as he was on his way to a weekly card game with several old friends. The motive was apparently robbery, and a suspect has been arrested.

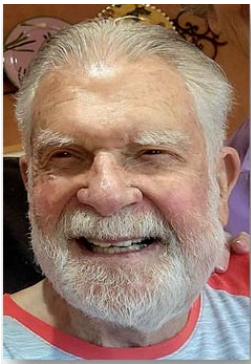
A native of Missoula, Montana, Charlie joined the staff of KXPR in 1979 as a classical music announcer. He did it all at the then-fledgling public radio station—announcer, producer, reporter, fundraiser—and eventually became Program Director, a position he held until he left the station in 1998. In more recent years, he worked with his wife, Karson Elliott, at Elliott's Natural Foods.

"Morning Edition" host **Steve Milne** recalls how Charlie patiently mentored him in his early days as a student intern at the station. He sums up Charlie's career and the impact of the horrific death: "He was public radio in Sacramento. That's why it's such a big loss to a lot of people."



Charles Starzynski in the KXPR offices in 1986.

Milestone Birthdays for Two Local Legends



All the best to **Stan Atkinson**, who celebrated his 90th birthday on November 11. At right, the VBL contingent at the centennial celebration for KFBK Oct. 21. From left: **Kristine Hanson**, **Matías Bombal**, **Joyce Krieg** and **Allen Chamberlin**. Joyce is the only Legend to have actually worked at KFBK, becoming the station's first female news announcer in 1978.



Coming Attraction: VBL Pet Profiles

We know a lot of you Legends dote upon your pets, and we'd like to feature them in an upcoming VBL newsletter. Dogs, cats, chickens, fish, or reptiles, we'd love to see a photo of your pet(s) and bit of information about them. Send your ideas to **Kristine Hanson**, kristinehansonre@gmail.com. Just to get the fur ball rolling, here's your newsletter editor's cat, Dandy. Yes, he actually likes to curl up in the bathroom sink. Cats. Go figure.

