

# January Newsletter

Broadcast **PI**NEERS

January 2001

Issue 5

## January Meeting

**Williamson's Restaurant  
January 10, 2000**

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Philadelphia Broadcast Pioneers.

We will usher in the New Year with our annual sports...Super Bowl...celebration at Williamson's Restaurant in the GSB Building on City Line Avenue on Wednesday, January 10. All of your 'old acquaintances not

## Happenings

Speaking of sports, one of the people in attendance at many of our meetings has quite a remarkable background in sports. Former Channel 6 Director **George Finkel** has directed 7 Super Bowls, 7 World Series, 6 NCAA Final Fours, 2 Stanley Cups (The Flyer wins), 6 Orange Bowls, including 2 or 3 National Championship games. WOW! Now he volunteers two days a week feeding animals at a wildlife refuge...potbellied pigs, sheep, goats, raccoons, two deer, and lots of waterfowl, plus a steer and a mule.

forgotten' will be there, and the headliner will be Channel 10's Sports Director Vai Sika-hema. With his background of six years in the job at 10, and his memorable contributions as a Philadelphia Eagle, he will share his insights on the Super Bowl and sports in general with us.

Please note: we are lunching

Six years ago he and Barbara were married at sunset on the shore in Kauai. Since then they have returned every year to Hawaii for their anniversary. Their trips this year have included scuba diving with both Dolphins and Sharks in Grand Bahamas Island, diving and their anniversary during three weeks in Hawaii, football games in Pittsburgh, Miami, and wonderful food in New Orleans (Miami Dolphin preseason football). Their wildest trip was Valentine's Day dinner in Iceland. He says 'that was really a kick.'

**Reception 12:00 noon**  
**Lunch 12:30 p.m.**  
**Ratecard \$16.00**  
**Phone**



Vai Sika-hema

A wonderful card from **Dr. Charles Lee** included this offering titled "End of Romance":

I thought you were bright,  
But when all is said,  
Even umbrellas,  
Are over your head.

In Florida for Christmas, to California in January to see his son. He and Ruth have a great life and will be with the Pioneers again soon.

**Maxie** and **Matilda Solomon** will celebrate 75 years of wedded bliss in February. All Pioneers send their warmest congratulations and felicitations.

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Please don't forget to send items for the newsletter to Paul Norton at 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, e-mail [nanort@aol.com](mailto:nanort@aol.com), call 1-302-645-8910 or fax 1-302-644-9036.

## More Happenings

**Lew Klein** and wife Janet have just returned from England where they attended the marriage of Captain and Mrs. Noah's (**Carter and Pat Merbreier**) granddaughter Abigail Cowie. Abigail's twin, Ashley, was married a year and a half ago and the Klein's got to that one too. Lew currently spends a lot of time following Janet around the state in her job as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Janet was recently named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania by Governor Ridge. Lew is on the Board of Dick Clark's company and he and Janet see Dick frequently. Lew will celebrate 49 years of teaching at Temple next year.

## And More Happenings

**Marilyn Phister** will celebrate 30 years with Capital Cities/Disney in March. She says the shows she produces 'Philly After Midnight' and 'Sunday Live' are doing well. Both shows feature Wally Kennedy. She has just returned from London where she spent her time going to shows. She enjoyed a revival of Harold Pinter's 'The Caretaker' with Michael Gambon, Noel Coward's 'Fallen Angels', an Irish play 'Stones in his Pocket' with Luci Arnez (the jury is out on that one), and a musical 'Witches of Eastwick.' An inveterate traveler she plans three weeks in China in September to include Hong Kong, Beijing, and the Great Wall.

## December Meeting

A good time was had by all at the **Bob Kravitz** extravaganza at the December Pioneers meeting. Bob showed that he has spent a great deal of time and effort putting together a show that everyone could enjoy. A broad spectrum of show tunes was offered with his wonderful accompanist Carla Mariani adding just the right background. Bob played the audience like the veteran he is.

**Dean Tyler** is, sort of, retired. The morning man, station manager, at WPEN is off the air, mostly, but still doing administrative stuff and is at work almost every day. His wife Mary Lou continues in the sales department at the station.

**Bill Bransome** says that he is just back from Florida and spends his time between Bryn Mawr and Spring Lake, NJ.

Member **John Butterworth** and wife Anna Mae have just returned from two weeks in Cancun, Mexico. It was so nice, they'll play it twice, returning to Cancun for four weeks next month. John's Audio Visual Communications celebrates thirty years in the business this

## New Member

New member **Gene Shay** will celebrate forty years since he founded the Philadelphia Folk Festival this summer. To mark the anniversary he is producing a box CD celebrating those forty years with folk musicians who have appeared at the festival including Pete Seeger and Bonnie Raitt. Gene currently has a Sunday 4 to 8 pm folk music show on WXPN. He began in broadcasting while at Temple University learning the business under John Roberts (first real announcer he ever met, he says) and Lew Klein. He began an intern job at WFIL Radio as an actor on the 'Magic of Books' radio show. He recalls pulling records for a show he did while there in the record library with Dick Clark, who at that time

## Scholarships

**John Roberts** points out that the new year will see scholarship applications going out to area schools. According to **Ed Papazian** the club made over \$7,000 with our annual Person of the Year / Hall of Fame dinner, as Bala Golf Club discovered that they could get more people in the room than they ever suspected. That means we covered the cost of the scholarships which last year were \$2,000 to each of three deserving young people. The winners were from three different Philadelphia Colleges.

year having collected many awards. John and Anna Mae will be likely attendees at the January meeting.

Today, Accuweathers' **Elliott Abrams** gives us a long range forecast: 100 percent of the time...he says we can expect a warming trend in March, people will begin to complain about the heat during the summer, and it will cool off in 5 or 6 months. What a guy! He is just back from a weather conference in Palm Springs, Florida where he says he only voted once. Oldest son Michael is an assistant editor at the Virginian Pilot in Norfolk while younger son Randy is a financial analyst for the CSFB Investment Bank.

was doing a local radio 'Bandstand' show while Bob Horne did the TV version. In 1955, fresh out of college, Gene was hired at WWDB (then WHAT-AM) by Charlie O'Donnell who was the program director at WHAT. Charlie, of course, is now announcer for Pat Sajac's Wheel of Fortune TV show. Gene hopes to attend the January meeting with friend Ed Shocky.

"There are several good protections against temptation but the surest is cowardice."

Mark Twain

## And one more

**Frank X. Feller** (Pioneers President 1981-82) has retired in the sense that if you need an announcer he's available. Wife Valerie has a one woman (and him) advertising agency but he mainly keeps the house going.

"I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me."

Fred Allen