

# May Newsletter



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Issue 2005-9

**May Meeting  
Bala Country Club  
May 18, 2005  
Reservations 610-436-4217 or**

**Reception 11:45 a.m.  
Lunch 12:15 p.m.  
Ratecard \$20.00  
morrissam6@aol.com**

May flowers have arrived in abundance and for our May meeting we are to be graced with a flower of the television world in the person of Channel 6 star anchor and reporter, **Monica Malpass**. Monica has achieved a lot in a very short time. She has covered every election since 1988. She reported on the plane crash of the late **John Kennedy, Jr.** She has interviewed **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, VP candidate **Joe Lieberman**, UPI White House Correspondent

**Helen Thomas**, and the Philly mob's **Joey Merlino**, and much, much more.

You won't want to miss this one to get insights on contemporary news coverage in Philadelphia. We will meet, as usual, on the third Wednesday, May 18 at Bala Golf Club at 11:45 reception, and 12:15 for lunch. Again, as we must have a count for Bala to set up and order lunch, **PLEASE call 610-436-4217 or e-mail morrissam6@verizon.net.**



Monica Malpass

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"The trick is growing up without growing old."

Casey Stengel

## Happenings

Great meeting last month where we awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to students from area colleges for studies in communications. One thousand of this went to a student from Rowan University who received the **John "Johann Sebastian" Beaty Memorial Scholarship**. John's wife asked for contributions in his name and this is the thousand that resulted. Thanks so much to Mrs. Beaty. We all miss John at the meetings.

**Dorie Lenz**, Chair of the nominating committee, has announced the officers for the 2005-2006 year. And again, **Frank J. Hogan**, President, Vice Presidents **Gerry Wilkin-**

**son, Barry Reisman** and **Diego Castellanos**, **Shirley Morris** continues as Secretary, and **Pat Delsi**, Treasurer. Three year terms on the Board: **Dave Abramson**, **David J. Custis**, **Lydia DeGuio**, **Edward B. Harvey**, **Cissie Hurst**, **Alan R. Tripp**, **Marie Pantarelli** and **Mike Brooks**. Present three year directors move to two and so on.

We hasten to correct an error in the last newsletter. **Irv Homer** (he's not Evil any more) is on WBCB, 1490 from 1 to 3 in the afternoon Monday through Friday, and on their website WBCB1490.com. Thanks to **Irv, Merrill Reese** and **Wendy Coons** for straightening me out.

For those of you who wonder whatever happened to??? **Al Metzger** has filled us in on **Mort Crim** who was, with **Vince Leonard**, anchor on the great KYW News of the 70's. Al likes to winter in Florida and it turns out that Mort now has a place on Amelia Island. He called Al, who is near Boca Raton, and Mort and Rene flew into Boca in his twin engine plane for lunch with the Meltzers. Al says that Mort is busy in retirement. Flying the plane, riding his boat and keeping busy otherwise running his Media Communications Company in Detroit. Mort is doing four columns on audio a week and is writing a book and doing columns for print. He and Al

get together periodically and have gone to Vegas to golf and renew old times with **Vince Leonard** and **Bill Kuster**, the weatherman on the team. Al, of course, was the sports guy. Mort has a daughter who is pursuing an acting career in New York, and a son who produces movies in LA. Al's daughter has just finished her degree at Colgate and is working as a law clerk while investigating other opportunities. When Al returned home he was delighted to receive a letter informing him of his selection for the National Football Hall of Fame, Philadelphia Chapter for 2005 and will be awarded the attendant gold medal on May 11.

## More Happenings

Many of you may also have noticed that **Jim Gearhart**, who arrived at WFIL on the same day as **Al Meltzer** in the 60's, is still doing great things on 101 FM in New Jersey, and is simulcast on cable. His show can be heard in Philadelphia, and his commentaries on New Jersey government are not to be missed.

Pioneers President, **Frank Hogan**, has been notified that the Rowan University Station, WGLS, with Frank as Manager, has been awarded 1st place in the 2004 NJ Associated Press statewide competition in Best College Production. The winning entry was for "Making the Team the Hard Way" by **Tom Ortuso** and **Bob Badders**. There have been other awards for the show.

## And More

Sad to note that member **Norm Leebron** died April 8 after many years in Philadelphia broadcasting. Most recently he has been an Adjunct Professor at Temple's School of Communications. All Pioneers extend their sympathies to the family.

Another member, **Mel Golub**, had a recent heart attack at his home near Washington, but timely open heart surgery has him well on the way toward being 'back at it' soon. He sometimes travels by train to join us for lunch and it will be good to see him.

The 4th annual college symposium was held Saturday, April 9 at Channel 6. Rowan School of Communications and the

## And.....

A wonderful story on **Captain Noah** in the March "Philadelphia Magazine" and a great picture of the wiley old bird at his home in Gladwyne. We found out the Captain (**W. Carter Merbreier**) is a hardback Republican who voted for Bush. He is a Johnny Walker Black man, he is 78. He was also Commissioner Frank Rizzo's police chaplain. His great friend and companion and organist was **Larry Ferrari**, and he loved to play tricks on him like inserting on the crawl of the birthdays on the screen during the Ferrari show "I Hamma Phart of Cinnamonson." He's quite a guy and a regular at

**Jane Norman**, AKA Pixanne, and husband **Frank Beazley**, have quite a vacation annually in Palm Springs for five months of the year. While there, Jane does her much acclaimed Cabaret Show "Broadway Magic Moments and Beyond" at Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert throughout the months of April and May. It is the same show that sold out at the Prince Music Theatre last year. Jane and Frank will be returning to their Philadelphia digs in late May. Jane's Pixanne was on Channel 10 for many years, and was nationally syndicated.

It may seem like we're in an **Al Meltzer** rut today, but we must mention **Dave Klahr**,

Broadcast Pioneers sponsored it. For a quick overview go to [www.broadcast-pioneers.com](http://www.broadcast-pioneers.com) and click on slide show (under symposium). Additional audio and video highlights can also be found on the site. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Please note: Anyone who wishes to join our Pioneers group can get an application by checking our website. It's on the first page. One who did and is now a member is **Steve Bessler**. Steve still lives in Philadelphia and now is with the IRS in processing controls. He worked in 1972 at WBUX news, then was a WBCB DJ for 16 years. He was a DJ at Bucks County Community

meetings.

Welcome new members: **B. Douglas Hibbs**, who began in broadcasting in 1934 (not a typo) and is now a Senior Account Executive at WVLT. 71 years in the business, we think he qualifies as a Pioneer. **Richard A. Heist**, owner of Richard A. Heist Clocks in Collegeville, began his career in 1953 in Pottstown, and worked in Trenton and Lansdale until he got into clocks in about 1975. **Scott Bomboy** is managing editor at NBC 10 after beginning his career in 1984. He lives in Perkasio. Finally, **Tommy McCarthy** is an air per-

who was Meltzer's producer in the 60's at WFIL, has announced that after 40 years in broadcasting he is retiring from the business. A kid who danced on Dick Clark, became Program Director for WFIL-FM, and has been called the "father of soft rock" from his time there. After Boston and New York, he became regional manager for Metro Networks based in Florida. In retirement, Dave and Joyce have moved to the space coast where they will golf and sailboat and visit the five grandkids. They will summer at Ocean City, NJ and he will dabble in real estate. Contact Dave at [dklahr@earthlink.net](mailto:dklahr@earthlink.net).

College, and also worked part time at WRCP and WSNI. He has been the tax man for 10 years.

**Frank Stone** has been named Account Manager for Temple Public Radio, WRTI, 90.1. Frank joins Temple with long experience in the business. You should check out the classical sounds (6 am to 6 pm) or pure jazz (6 pm to 6 am) on the station.

"While he was not dumber than an Ox, he was not any smarter, either."

James Thurber

sonality and music director at WOGL. He has worked all over the area in radio and QVC-TV. We hope to see you all soon for lunch at the Bala.

**Thanks to all who have sent items for the newsletter to Paul Norton, 205 Ocean View Blvd., Lewes, DE 19958, or called 302-645-8910, or e-mailed [nanort@comcast.net](mailto:nanort@comcast.net). We can't do it without you.**