Omaha Press Club Show will return in 2017
Exact date of show still to be determined

Q. Isn’t 2017 a commemorative year for the show?
A. Yes and no. The next show will be the 60th to be performed – but not the 60th annual. The 1963 show was postponed into the next year because of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that November. That’s how the show came to fall in the early part of the calendar year.

Q. November? Were those early shows held at year-end?
A. They were! The first dinner show was held in 1957 at the Birchwood Club in the Minne Lusa neighborhood. That supper club setting was perfect for an evening of zany sketches, song parodies and film spoofs.

Q. Is it true that there won’t be a Press Club Show in 2017?
A. I’ve heard that rumor. It’s not true. We will not be doing a show in April – as has been the case in recent years, but rather we are creating something new and different for later in the year.

Q. Does that mean you’re leaving the Holland Performing Arts Center?
A. The Holland is a terrific facility. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time there, and so have our patrons. We have reached a point, however, where we need to scale back in terms of production expenses, manpower and volunteer time commitments. Doing so will mean more money for scholarships, and that’s the driving factor in rethinking our format for show No. 60 and beyond.

Q. Doesn’t 2017 a commemorative year for the show?
A. Yes and no. The next show will be the 60th to be performed – but not the 60th annual. The 1963 show was postponed into the next year because of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that November. That’s how the show came to fall in the early part of the calendar year.

Q. Where might said show be held?
A. We currently are searching for the perfect venue for the type of show we have in mind.

WOWT will be partner for OPC debates

WOWT 6 News has agreed to be the permanent television partner for debates sponsored by the Omaha Press Club and the League of Women Voters. WOWT 6 News will record each noon-hour debate and play it back on Channel Six at a time to be determined by the station. The moderator will be WOWT 6 News anchor/reporter Brian Mastre.

Debate organizer and OPC committee chair Gary Kerr said this will be a win-win for everybody, especially voters who will now have another opportunity to see candidates for political office side-by-side taking questions in a debate format.

For 16 years, the Press Club and the League of Women Voters have been sponsoring mayoral and congressional debates at the Press Club.
The Omaha Press Club Educational Series examines

**Development of the Omaha Riverfront**

We’ve all been to events on the Omaha riverfront, but it’s not a regular destination. Most days it’s rather bleak down there. How about making it a more frequent destination for festivals, concerts and recreational activities, a place more closely connected to downtown and the Old Market? That’s the dream of a coalition of business, community, government and philanthropic leaders supporting what is being called the Missouri River Commons. And it’s not just the Omaha side of the river that is being discussed, but the Council Bluffs side as well.

The chairman of the steering committee, Donn Seidholz, will be our guest at a noon forum to explain what the Missouri River Commons might involve and plans to make the dream come true.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 19**

Noon to 1 p.m.

$17 per person includes lunch
Serving begins at 11:30 a.m.

Call 402-345-8008 for reservations or email Jeanie at jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com
Reservations must be accompanied by OPC member number or credit card
24-hour cancellation policy—no refund

**NON-PRESS CLUB MEMBERS WELCOME**
Sadlemyer celebrates 40th anniversary with KFAB

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

For 40 years, Gary Sadlemyer has graced the air waves of KFAB-AM (1110).

On Dec. 13, “KFAB Morning News Show,” which is hosted by Sadlemyer, turned into a tribute for the beloved broadcaster. Numerous live interviews were conducted with well-known figures who called in to pass along their respect and appreciation for Sadlemyer. Among those weighing in were five past “Faces on the Barroom Floor” – Herman Cain, Chuck Hagel, Bob Kerrey, Tom Osborne and Larry the Cable Guy (aka Dan Whitney). In addition, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert also were among the notables who called into the show.

Later that evening, a party was held for Sadlemyer at Oak Hills Country Club with a wide variety of business people and friends attending.

Sadlemyer, who serves on the board of directors of the Press Club, was the 115th “Face on the Barroom Floor” when he was honored in 2008. He was inducted into the Omaha Press Club Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame in 2015.

Gary Gray, OPC’s longtime Santa, dies

For 10 years, Gary Gray delighted children with his portrayal as Santa Claus at the annual OPC Santa Brunch. The beard was real and so was his affection for children. Gray died on Dec. 7 at the age of 64.

Gray lived with his wife, Lynda, in Silver City, Iowa. As Mr. and Mrs. Claus, they also appeared at schools, hospitals and nursing homes. Gary Gray said that about 90 percent of what the couple did was for free. He had been portraying Santa for about 38 years. Gray also leaves behind two adult children and grandchildren, who have performed as elves.

OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT

Members not attending the annual meeting on Jan. 12, may vote by returning the proxy ballot below to reach the Omaha Press Club by 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11. See instructions below.

OFFICERS

President
Marcia Cady................. □ For □ Against

Vice President
Claudia Bohn............... □ For □ Against

Treasurer
J.J. Bartlett............... □ For □ Against

Secretary
Open........................................

Immediate Past President
Sean McGuire assumes the position of immediate past president

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Workman............... □ For □ Against

Jeremy Maskel............... □ For □ Against

Officers and Board Members assume office on Feb. 1, 2017

Fax this completed ballot to 402-345-0114 or mail to the Omaha Press Club, 1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102-1561. Absentee ballots MUST be received by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

NOTE: If you plan to attend the annual meeting, do not return this proxy ballot.
Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the selection of inductees for the 2016 Hall of Fame. Nominees may be living or deceased and must have been working journalists who made notable contributions to broadcast, print or new media journalism. They must have shown exceptional leadership, courage or contributions to the news industry. They will have worked in the Omaha area during their career; or they may have had a reasonable career in the area before going elsewhere.

Your Name: ____________________________________________
Phone Number: _________________________________________
I nominate (name):________________________________________
☐ Check here if the journalist is being nominated posthumously.
☐
Tell us why the person should be inducted into the OPC Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame (attach separate sheet if necessary).

Please submit by March 30, to the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame Committee, 1620 Dodge St., 22nd Floor, Omaha, NE 68102.
Or fax to 402-345-0114.
I t has been a year to remember at the Omaha Press Club. Looking back on all that happened we are excited about the progress we have made and grateful to the staff for all they have been able to accomplish in the last year. Thank you for your membership, and we appreciate the contributions you have made.

To recap: We began the year with one of the largest events ever held at the OPC, and several others followed. We honored the next generation of journalists and recognized new Hall of Fame members. Each “Face on the Barroom Floor” event was nearly sold out, and the responses were all positive, setting 2017 up to be even better from an events standpoint.

We also were able to do something that needed to be done by streamlining the 20-plus membership categories down to four. We also have introduced Event-Brite, an online marketing and payment platform that makes events more accessible to nonmembers. This has eased administrative burdens and makes it easier to attract younger members through social media.

Finding that next generation of leaders is important for the future of the club. We will be planning a membership drive for 2017. You will see on the back of each of these newsletters several committees. Please check them out and consider emailing the chairperson asking to attend a meeting. It is a great way to meet members, and we would love to have you join a committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the board in 2016. I will leave you with my five favorites of the year:

- All four Face on the Barroom Floor honorees. I have never seen more bodies in the Press Club. They had to simulcast one of the events to different floors of the OPC because we were beyond capacity.
- The Winemakers Dinners. Seriously folks, this is the most underrated event at the club.
- The sold-out debate for congressional candidates Brad Ashford and Don Bacon. It was standing room only for a great discussion moderated by Gary Kerr.
- The Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame dinner. An awesome group of inductees made for a fun-filled evening that was filled with laughs and wonderful stories.
- The random nights hanging out with the staff; we are blessed with a great group. The OPC is the perfect place to start your night out.

- Sean McGuire, OPC President

A s I am thinking about bringing in the New Year, I reflect back on 2016 and summarize all of the good things the club has to offer.

We held several signature night buffets - St. Patrick’s Day, College Baseball Opening Ceremonies and Fireworks show, July 3rd Fireworks buffet, Home Run Derby, and Father’s Day Grill.

Other special events range from our Face on the Barroom Floor which roasted Tom O’Connor, Trev Alberts, Bill and Ruth Scott, and the Bradfords, Woody and Dana. Scholarship Awards Banquet, which honors the student recipients of our more than 30 scholarships, and our excellence in Journalism Hall of Fame dinner. If you have never been, you should attend as you might get the opportunity to sit next to and socialize with guests that have decades of valuable knowledge and experience in many areas of the profession. They have amazing stories about our great city.

With 2016 ending, I think about a couple of personal losses. Long-time Chef Tom Malloy was a quiet intellectual and a wizard of desserts, especially pate choux. He also made a mean salmon chaud froid, which has become a signature food item of the club and something we include on most of our brunches.

One other loss was Gary Gray, the person who has played Santa during our annual Santa brunch. Gray had been playing the Santa role for the past 10 years at the OPC. We have a story on Gray in this newsletter. Many of the club members have great memories which will not be forgotten.

Lastly, I want to say thanks and give a shout out to all our board of directors, committee chairs, and committee members, who work hard to help make this club successful.

Happy holidays and happy new year!

- Christine Jones Villamonte, B.S. Nutrition, Restaurant Manager/Events Coordinator
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Education
Gary Kerr

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J.J. Bartlett, Claudia Bohn, Marcia Cady

“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Tom O’Connor

Hall of Fame
Todd Murphy, Judy Horan,
Bridget (Weide) Brooks

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Tom O’Connor .......................Proofreader
Don Summerside ....................Copy Editor
Judy Horan .........................Coordinating Editor

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

Sunday, Jan. 1 & Monday, Jan. 2  
Closed for New Year’s Day

Thursday, Jan. 12  
OPC Annual Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 16  
Closed for Martin Luther King Day

Thursday, Jan. 19  
Noon Education Forum  
“Development of the Omaha Riverfront”

Friday, Feb. 3  
Winemakers Dinner  
6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12  
Valentine’s Champagne Brunch,  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14  
Valentine’s Dinner,  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16  
Noon Education Forum  
“Health care in the world of Trump”

Monday, Feb. 20  
Closed for Presidents Day

Thursday, March 16  
Noon Education Forum  
“An actor portrays Peter Sarpy  
150 years ago when Nebraska gained statehood”

Friday, March 17  
St. Patrick’s Day Buffet

Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance?  
A dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All reservations must be cancelled 48 HOURS in advance.