A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION
Donations sought for Horan scholarship

By Howard K. Marcus
OPC Foundation President

T hrough the years, the OPC Foundation has presented scholarships named after some of the greats in local, regional and national news and feature reporting.

This year, we would like to -- with your help -- add to that list by creating a scholarship named after another of those luminaries -- Judy Horan.

Though Judy’s work as a writer, Omaha Press Club board member and committee leader ended with her death earlier this year, her memory and legacy linger on.

The scholarship -- which requires a $35,000 endowment -- would be awarded on a rotating basis to students at schools the foundation supports -- the University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Creighton University. Since 1957, OPC scholarships have helped more than 400 students in journalism, advertising, marketing and public relations achieve their academic goals. Many of those students have gone on to enjoy long, successful careers.

The fundraising campaign is in full swing. Many of you have already received a letter asking for a donation toward the $35,000 goal.

This year, for the first time, our campaign has honorary chairmen. Dr. Lee G. Simmons, chairman of the Omaha Zoo Foundation, and his wife, Marie, have graciously agreed to serve in that role.

The couple was not a random choice. Lee and Marie Simmons have been friends and neighbors with Judy and her husband, artist Jim Horan, since both families came to Omaha in the mid-1960s. We are tremendously grateful.

Continue on Page 2

Board membership on meeting agenda

E lection of officers and some changes in the Omaha Press Club bylaws are on the agenda of the annual meeting Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m.

The proposed changes to the bylaws, regarding board makeup, were recommended and approved at the October board meeting. Formal adoption is scheduled for a vote at the January 2018 board meeting. These are the proposed changes:

1. The president and president-elect, who shall be from any member category other than student; secretary, elected from any member category; and treasurer, elected from any member category; and the immediate past president. These five officers will comprise the executive committee.

2. Two Active Communicator members who are employed by print or online newspapers or news services.

3. Two Active Communicator members who are employed by broadcast or cable stations, or broadcast networks.

4. Up to six other Active members from any local, non-student category.

Here is the 2018 slate for officers and board members:

- President – D.C. “Woody” Bradford
- Vice President – Jeremy Maskel
- Secretary – Bridget Weide Brooks
- Past President – Marcia Cady
- Treasurer – J.J. Bartlett

New board members: Jocelyn Houston, Gary Willis, Roger Humphries.

Seeking re-election to the board:

A proxy ballot is on Page 3 for those who wish to vote but are unable to be at the club. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres will be served at the meeting.

OPC the place to be on New Year’s Eve

S ee the Old Year out and the New Year in while enjoying great food and music – and the best view in town.

It’s the Omaha Press Club’s annual New Year’s Eve Buffet. Prime rib is the buffet star, with chicken marsala, blackened tilapia and lots of other goodies (See the menu on Page 4). For your added enjoyment, there will be live music by the Soldiers of Soul.

The popular event always draws a big crowd, so make those reservations now at 402-345-8008.
Cornell-Randby roast is a family affair

By Don Summerside
Communications Committee

“We Are Family.”

The disco hit by Sister Sledge and the rallying cry for the 1979 World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates could have been the theme song at the Press Club on Nov. 17 when Julie and Bill Randby were installed as the newest “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

Family was foremost during the roast – the TV family of KETV’s longtime husband-wife duo and the children of Julie and Bill.

Emcee for the event was KETV anchor Rob McCartney, like Cornell and Randby a 25-year NewsWatch 7 veteran. So Rob knew the honorees well enough to warn the audience that the roast “might run a little long – but no longer than one of Julie’s stories or one of Bill’s weather forecasts when the producer gives him extra time.”

Also on the roasting roster were KETV colleagues Rose Ann Shannon, news director; Vonn Jones, assistant news director; and Melissa Fry, anchor – as well as Paul Tranisi, former creative services director at KETV. Present from the Cornell-Randby household were son Will, 16, a student at Creighton Prep, and daughter Maddie, 14, a student at Marian High School (Maddie’s twin, Jojo, was away on a swim retreat).

Some of the roast highlights:

“Julie and Bill are Omaha’s celebrity couple,” Shannon said, “so I think we need to give them a catchy nickname like Brangelina and Bennifer. So henceforth these two will be known as JuBillee.”

Jones: “I can’t believe we’re this far into the roast and Bill hasn’t interrupted the program. Isn’t there a cloud we need to know about?”

And more Jones: “It was great to see (former anchor) Brandi Petersen here tonight – at least until Julie forced her out. Just kidding!”

Fry on the Randby weather “Sleeve-o-Meter”: “Bill alerts us all to the danger by the length of his shirt sleeves. If he rolls them all the way up, we know it will be a disaster. Now if only his wife (a fitness buff) could find a dress that has sleeves!”

Tranisi: “I always felt sorry for Bill and Julie because they received wardrobe coaching from Rose Ann (Shannon. Her garish personal apparel and shoe collection is an embarrassment to Elton John!”

After more fun that included a “Growing up Randby” video narrated by the children (“You know dinner’s ready when the smoke alarm goes off”), the 155th “Face on the Barroom Floor” was unveiled.

Artist Jim Horan portrayed Randby with a can of paint in front of his weather map, ready to “paint it red, baby.” Julie is at her TV desk, sorting out all kinds of news – good and bad-- before deciding to display the “best news.” Meanwhile, the Randby children are acting as cheer leaders, with their sweaters spelling out “KETV.”

The Cornell-Randby roasters were cheerleaders, too. McCartney spoke for those at KETV when he said: “We are family.” And Tranisi described the relationship of Julie and Bill with the community, saying: “They love Omaha, and Omaha loves them.”

Libraries still drawing crowds

Emily Getzschman, marketing and media manager for the Omaha Public Library, updated Press Club members on the library’s strategic plan. It involves building and updating a number of libraries around the Omaha metro area. Getzschman spoke at the November Education Forum and said despite popular belief, people are still using the library in large numbers, and many of the buildings have simply become too small to accommodate everyone.

Emily Getzschman, Marketing and Media Manager for the Omaha Public Library, updated Press Club members on the library's strategic plan. The plan involves building and updating a number of libraries around the Omaha metro area. Getzschman spoke at the November Education Forum and said despite popular belief, people are still using the library in large numbers, and many of the buildings have simply become too small to accommodate everyone.

For their support and for Jim Horan’s endorsement of our effort.

Though our mailing includes a self-addressed envelope for your contribution, there’s an even faster way to make your gift. Just go to our new website, opcfscholarships.org, and click on the “Donate” button to contribute using a credit or debit card. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Didn’t get a letter? Don’t want to go online? No problem. Just make your check payable to “OPC Foundation” and mail it to: OPC Foundation, P.O. Box 4842, Omaha NE 68104-0842.
Name: Susan Eustice

Age: N/A (I’m not old; I’ve just been young for a long time)

Place of employment: The Salvation Army, Western Division

Title: Divisional director of public relations & communications

Number of years as OPC member: 15 years +

Current role with OPC: Co-chair, Communications Committee

Favorite book: “Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter,” Simone de Beauvoir

Favorite movie: “Being There,” based on the novel by Jerzy Kosinski

Favorite memory of your career: Having Judy Horan as a mentor

Brush with fame: Meeting Bono at a wedding and Alexander Payne at the OPC all in one year!

About your family: My husband is a criminal defense attorney by day and rock musician by night; all three of our children are notably artistic and work in communications and PR!

Favorite food: Fresh summer sweet corn and vine-ripened tomatoes

Best advice you ever received: Travel abroad

Hobbies: Swimming, boating, music and gardening

Favorite dish at OPC: Thai glazed salmon on a Thunderbird Salad

Favorite memory at OPC: The first Hall of Fame at Joslyn Castle (temporary home for the OPC), when Omaha was under a tornado warning just as our honoree, Warren Buffett, was arriving. Rob McCartney kept a close eye on the storm as we prepared to go down to the bowling alley for cover. Thankfully, it wasn’t too bad, but the thrill was memorable!

Why should people visit/become a member of OPC: Professional and leadership development, relationship-building opportunities with members of the media along with great customer service, delicious cuisine and the best view in town.

Favorite vacation spot: Lake Okoboji

Favorite social media app: What’s App

OPC MEMBER PROXY BALLOT

Members not attending the annual meeting on Jan. 11, may vote by returning the proxy ballot below to reach the Omaha Press Club by 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 10. See instructions below.

OFFICERS

President
D.C. “Woody” Bradford ☐For ☐Against

Vice President
Jeremy Maskel ☐For ☐Against

Treasurer
J.J. Bartlett ☐For ☐Against

Secretary
Bridget Brooks ☐For ☐Against

Immediate Past President
Marcia Cady

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jocelyn Houston ☐For ☐Against
Gary Willis ☐For ☐Against
Roger Humphries ☐For ☐Against
Allen Beermann ☐For ☐Against
Tom Shatel ☐For ☐Against

Officers and Board Members assume office on Feb. 1, 2018

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. 10.

NOTE: If you plan to attend the annual meeting, do not return this proxy ballot.
A night for OPC memories

Memories (both comical and poignant) of past OPC administrations were shared Nov. 16 at the annual Past Presidents Dinner. The evening included toasts and salutes to the late Judy Horan, longtime OPC leader and volunteer, and the late Eleanor McHale, 31-year pianist for Press Club Shows. Seated, from left, are current President Marcia Cady and past presidents Anne Walsh, Ann Pedersen, Chris Christen and Bridget Weide Brooks. Past presidents standing, from left, are Todd Murphy, Jim Fogarty, Tom O’Connor, Barry Combs, Steve Jordan, Chris Allen and Sean McGuire.

OPC remembers Eleanor McHale

The woman at the keyboards of Omaha Press Club Shows for more than 30 years has died. Eleanor McHale, who had Parkinson’s disease, was 87.

Chris Christen, the show’s longtime executive producer, told the Omaha World-Herald’s Michael Kelly: “I have never worked with a pianist who could play by ear as beautifully, passionately or skillfully as Eleanor. She had the patience of a saint, playing songs over and over during rehearsal, allowing our amateur casts to shine on stage.”

McHale operated a wedding-planning business and also was a longtime organist at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church.

McHale, who died Nov. 14, was preceded in death by her husband Patrick. She is survived by sons Michael, John and Gregory, and daughters Mary and Jean. Daughter Mary was the costumer for many Press Club Shows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Santa Brunch</th>
<th>New Year’s Eve</th>
<th>Quarterly Winemaker’s Dinner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 10</td>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 9, 2018, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$50 per person (all inclusive)</td>
<td>$50 per person (all inclusive)</td>
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<td>Price: Adults $24 • Children $12</td>
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<td>Hors d’oeuvres</td>
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<td>Continental Cheese &amp; Fruit Display</td>
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<td>Wisconsin Cheese Curds</td>
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<td>Buffet</td>
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<td>Steamship Round of Beef</td>
<td>Peruvian Clam Chowder</td>
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<td>Baked Ham with Maple Whiskey Sauce</td>
<td>Prime Rib of Beef au Jus &amp; Chantilly</td>
<td>Buffalo Ranch</td>
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<td>Chicken Crêpes Supreme</td>
<td>Chicken Marsala Sautéed in a Sweet</td>
<td>Wine</td>
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<td>Baked Tilapia with Lemon Butter</td>
<td>Marsala Wine</td>
<td>Appetizer</td>
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<td>Garlic Whipped Potatoes &amp; Gravy</td>
<td>with Mushrooms and Bordelaise</td>
<td>Lobster Bisque with Pernod</td>
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<td>Seasonal Vegetables</td>
<td>Blackened Tilapia Topped with</td>
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<td>Build-Your-Own Omelet à la Carte</td>
<td>Black Bean &amp; Corn Salsa</td>
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<td>Multi-Topping Pancake Bar</td>
<td>and Lemon Buerre Blanc</td>
<td>Salad</td>
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<td>Salad Display, including Thunderbird Salad</td>
<td>Dauphine Potatoes &amp; Asparagus</td>
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<td>Salmon Chaud-Froid &amp; Fresh Fruit, Fresh-Baked Pastries, Tortes &amp; Cheesecakes</td>
<td>Citron</td>
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<td>Desserts</td>
<td>Dessert Choices</td>
<td>Entrée</td>
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<td>Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries</td>
<td>Cherries Jubilee, Brownie à la Mode,</td>
<td>Surf &amp; Turf</td>
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<td>Deep Dish Apple Strudel with Brandied</td>
<td>Blackstone Cheesecake</td>
<td>Loaded Twice-Baked Potato</td>
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<td>French Vanilla Ice Cream</td>
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<td>Spiked French Vanilla Eggnog</td>
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<td>All children 10 and under receive a special holiday gift</td>
<td>Dessert</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Live Music by Soldiers of Soul</td>
<td>Wine</td>
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PHOTO 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS
“Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine.”

This famous quote from the movie “Casablanca” sticks in my mind as I write this column. I just watched the 75-year-old movie over the weekend. What makes a movie like that resonate after all this time?

Is it the location, Casablanca – Morocco’s port city and former French colony? The Moorish architecture is an attraction for sure.

Was it the atmosphere at Rick’s? A constant flow of refugees desperate to reach the United States and willing to do almost anything to get there.

For me, the movie is all about the characters who come and go. Most of them know first-hand in their real lives the need to flee the Nazis.

In some ways it makes me think of the Omaha Press Club -- OK, maybe not as colorful or famous. Just think of the people and stories that have passed through the club and the relationships that started or ended here.

Isn’t it always about the people? The club hasn’t endured this long, watching others of its kind fade away, without something special happening here. Just ask some of our younger members, who see membership as an accomplishment in their careers. The club to them is a place for networking, professional development, opportunities for leadership experience, meeting new friends and having fun.

And what’s wrong with having fun! The “Face on the Barroom Floor” events are hilarious, especially when the kids are the best roasters of their parents. The Hall of Fame dinner is so respected. I’ve received several thank-you notes from recipients of the awards describing how humbled they were to be honored for their work by the Omaha Press Club.

And there were longtime members who celebrated a landmark anniversary and wrote that they didn’t think of having their celebration anywhere else because they knew everything would be handled so well.

This place means something to people. I hope it means something to you. If you haven’t been up for a drink, appetizer or dinner in a while, think about placing a reservation.

To reword a “Casablanca” quote, “I think this is a beautiful relationship.”

-Marcia Cady, OPC President

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It’s the holiday season, and December is always our busiest month of the year. For many restaurants, the month of December is like Black Friday, which is considered the day that many retailers move into the black for the calendar year bottom line.

This year has been a good one for OPC, with some better than average months. We are looking to end the year in the black and to have paid down most of our debt from our Agnew Room renovation a few years back.

About our upcoming events: We have the Shatel Lunch Series on Dec. 5, which should be very exciting with all the news coming from NU football headquarters. We will be serving Tom Shatel’s favorite comfort food: Steve’s fried chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy, with chocolate chip cookies for dessert.

The annual Santa Brunch on Dec. 10 is a great family gathering and highly recommended.

Finally, we wind up the year in fine fashion with the annual New Year’s Eve Prime Rib Fireworks Buffet, with live music from Soldiers of Soul. This is the best value for a night out at $50 per person.

And don’t forget the annual meeting on Jan. 11, 2018. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Make your reservations now and come enjoy one or all of the holiday events

* * *

Parking reminder: Our voucher for evening parking is only available for the Central City Garage across 17th Street directly west of the Press Club. This is a big improvement for our members who use our validated parking pass.

* * *

Looking back over the past year, my thoughts turn to Judy Horan, our longtime club member and major volunteer who died earlier this year. Anyone who knows the club knows that’s how the club survives, through the many contributions of our volunteers.

The Villamontes would like to send season’s greetings to our board and committee members and thank the volunteers for all the hard work they do for OPC.

Happy Holidays,

-Steve Villamonte CEC, BS

OPC Executive Director
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President-Elect
Houghton Bradford Whitted PC, LLO.

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Bridget (Weide) Brooks
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Image Building Communications

Sean McGuire
Past President
E.D. Bellis Healthcare Consultants

Committee Chairs

Communications
Susan Eustice, Gary Kerr

Education

Executive Committee
Marcia Cady, D.C. “Woody” Bradford,
Bridget (Weide) Brooks & Sean McGuire

“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Tom O’Connor

Hall of Fame
Todd Murphy

Marketing / Membership
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Vice President

Wendy Townley
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Treasurer

Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Secretary

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Don Summerside ...................Copy Editor
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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.

WE’re ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM

Sunday, Dec. 31
New Year’s Eve Buffet 6 p.m.
Music by Soldiers of Soul

2018
Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 1-2
Closed for holiday

Thursday, Jan. 11
Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Complimentary hors d’oeuvres

Friday, Feb. 9
Winemaker’s Dinner
Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Valentine’s Day Dinner
Reservations start at 5:30 p.m.

Hours of Operation

LUNCH
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BAR
Tuesday - Saturday
4:30 p.m. to close

DINNER
Thursday - Saturday
5:30 p.m. to close

Submissions for the January issue are due on or before December 20.