Omaha business legend will be honored on Nov. 18

All-star cast of roasters slated for Mike Yanney ‘Face’ event

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

Laughter will be plentiful when Omaha business legend Mike Yanney is honored on Nov. 18 as the next “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

A star-studded group of roasters will make sure that everyone has a good time. The roast will be emceed by Mike Kelly, retired columnist for the Omaha World-Herald who is writing a book on Yanney. Kelly was honored as the 107th “Face on the Barroom Floor” in 2006 and has served as a roaster/emcee for several other “Face” events.

Other roasters will include:
• John P. Nelson, chairman, SilverStone Group, an Omaha insurance brokerage, and one of the city’s quickest wits.
• Lisa Yanney Roskens and Bill Roskens will do a combined roast. Lisa is chairman and CEO, Burlington Capital, and daughter of Mike and Gail Yanney. Her husband, Bill, is managing director, First Care Companies, a collection of small businesses focused on the health and wellness of aging seniors and their families. Bill Roskens’ father, Ronald Roskens, was “Face” No. 126 in 2010.
• W. David Scott, founder, president and CEO of Tetrax, a real estate and investment firm, will deliver his roast via video. Scott is the son of Walter Scott, the Omaha business icon who passed away on Sept. 25 at the age of 90. Walter and Suzanne Scott were “Face” No. 95 in 2004. A native of Kearney, Nebraska, Yanney received his undergraduate degree in 1955.

‘Legends, Lore and Laughter’ on Nov. 13

Don’t miss the fun when OPC celebrates 50 years of high life

The stories from the 22nd floor are too many to count -- and to most, would sound too good to be true. In 50 years, the Omaha Press Club restaurant has welcomed our area’s best – and most colorful - news reporters, news makers and communicators. It’s only fitting that an evening celebrating the club’s legacy be titled, “Legends, Lore and Laughter.”

On Saturday, Nov. 13, members and guests will gather to mark five decades atop the FNB Building. Following a 5:30 p.m. open house and hot hors d’oeuvres reception, radio personality and longtime OPC member Gary Sadlemeyer will emcee a program beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The program will include tributes to our club’s founders and charter members, a look back at the club’s days prior to sitting atop the FNB Building and other legendary tales. Among those honored will be Michael Fryer, the Omaha Press Club’s longest serving staff member (40 years!).

A brandy toast will conclude the evening, with a complimentary OPC snifter to take home, recalling your favorite memories on the 22nd floor.

Make your reservation by calling 402-345-8008.
Jeff Koterba; continued from Page 1

our team and can’t wait for the fun to begin.”
Koterba’s first “Face” caricature will be unveiled on Nov. 18 when one of Omaha’s most revered business leaders, Mike Yanney, will be honored as the 166th “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

“This is a dream come true for me,” Koterba said. “There is no place like the Omaha Press Club, and there’s no doubt that the ‘Faces’ hanging on the wall contribute to the incredible charm and ambiance of the club.”

Since the “Face” events began back in 1971, only three artists have been involved. Jim Horan drew 160 of the “Faces” before retiring two years ago. He was followed by Wayne Sealy, who has done the past three “Faces,” Tom Kerr did the remaining two “Face” caricatures – those of Gerald Ford and Horan himself.

“I want to extend a huge thank-you to Wayne Sealy,” Humphries said. “It’s never easy to succeed a legend, and that’s exactly what Jim Horan was. Wayne did an awesome job of carrying the baton forward and keeping the fun in the event. We can’t thank him enough for stepping up to the plate. He’s been terrific.”

Like Horan, Koterba is a previous “Face on the Barroom Floor.” He was honored in 2010 as “Face” No. 125. An Omaha native, Koterba grew up in South Omaha and graduated from Omaha South High School in 1979. He attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he majored in journalism and drew cartoons for The Gateway student newspaper.

For 31 years, Koterba’s cartoons were a mainstay on the editorial pages of the Omaha World-Herald. Since leaving the World-Herald, Koterba has taken his cartoons to Patreon, a platform that is utilized by more than 200,000 creators to allow them to earn a monthly income and showcase their talents by providing subscribers with a variety of rewards and perks.

To subscribe to Koterba’s cartoons on Patreon, you can go to https://www.patreon.com/jeffreykoterba.

Koterba’s original drawings have flown on the space shuttle Discovery and have been exhibited in Paris and elsewhere in France. His memoir, “Inklings,” was called “a powerful and moving portrait of an artist” by Entertainment Weekly.

A two-time TEDx speaker, Koterba often speaks on how Tourette’s syndrome is connected to his creative process. He’s also a two-time finalist for a Heartland Emmy Award.

In addition to his art skills, Koterba is a musician. He writes music, sings, and plays guitar and mandolin in his swing band, Prairie Cats. He has performed at South by Southwest (SXSW) as well as the World Trade Center in New York City.

A painter and sculptor, Koterba is an artist in residence at the PACE Center (Pottawattamie, Arts, Cultural & Entertainment). Some of his recent works at the center were inspired by his having been struck by lightning.

Koterba also is an occasional fill-in host for Otis Twelve (Doug Wesselmann) on classical radio station KVNO-FM (90.7).

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A self-proclaimed “Francophile,” Koterba frequently travels to France. He hosts Café et Conversation, a weekly French practice group, and is membership chair for Alliance Française Omaha, a group of people who enjoy speaking French, learning French, and celebrating French culture.


Mike Yanney; continued from Page 1

from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He currently serves as chairman emeritus of Burlington Capital, a firm that manages nearly 70,000 apartment houses around the country.

Yanney and his wife of over 60 years, Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., have left an indelible mark on the Omaha community.

They have spearheaded countless community projects over the years including Campaign for Nebraska, a massive fundraising effort on behalf of the University of Nebraska, and have been driving forces on just about every major construction project at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine in the past two decades.

Other organizations that have benefited from the Yanneys include the Omaha Zoological Society, Knights of Akserben, United Arts Omaha, Museum of Nebraska Art, Nebraska Heart Association, Junior Achievement of Omaha, Film Streams, Omaha Performing Arts Society Foundation, and Heritage Services.

In addition, Yanney established a mentorship program, Partnership 4 Kids, which has helped thousands of children from disadvantaged families.

Yanney’s countless awards include the Horatio Alger Award and serving as the 118th king of Akserben.

Gifford leaders Marie Hélène André and Dr. Adrian S. Petrescu identify as citizens of the world and fighters for lifelong learning for all. They led their Gifford Park neighbors to convince the Omaha Board of Education that Yates could provide learning, resources and unique community to Gifford and Omaha. Their proposal for “Yates Illuminated” is now being adopted.

Omaha School Board member Kimara Snipes believes grassroots activism is how to advance not just neighborhoods, but prosperity for all. The Omaha native stands with dozens of those civic and community groups speaking up and speaking out in South and North Omaha.

Indeed, this Nov. 18 Forum is a chance to hear what’s really going on in Omaha at the people-level, beyond what’s in the headlines. The implications are huge for how vibrant, smart and welcoming Omaha will be.

The Noon Forum lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program and Q&A from noon to 1 p.m. promptly. Contact 402-345-8008 for reservations or opcchristine@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcome, especially non-OPC members.

Community activism; continued from Page 1

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FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR – MIKE YANNEY

WHEN: THURSDAY, NOV. 18 – OPEN BAR RECEPTION, 5:30 P.M., DINNER, 6:30 P.M., ROAST, 8 P.M.
COST: $65 FOR OPC MEMBERS; $75 FOR NON-MEMBERS
RSVP: CALL THE OPC AT 402-345-8008. MEMBERS CAN CHARGE TO THEIR OPC ACCOUNT. NON-MEMBERS NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.
Happy Fall!

The Omaha Press Club Foundation held its 2021 scholarship banquet on Sunday, Sept. 19, at the Press Club. More than 80 students, parents, faculty and supporters gathered for brunch to honor the 15 scholarship recipients and two professional honorees.

Dr. Chris Allen from the University of Nebraska at Omaha emceed the program. It was wonderful to gather in person for our annual scholarship banquet for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Special thank-you’s to scholarship committee chair Henry Cordes and events committee chair Bridget (Weide) Brooks for making this event a success!

If you would like to make a contribution to the OPCF scholarship fund, please visit www.opcfscholarships.org.

Scholarship Recipients

Panko-Roberts: Ana Bellinghausen - University of Nebraska at Omaha; John Oberst - Creighton University; Alyssa Johnson - University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
2021 Career Achievement Award - Media Relations Professional: Tom O’Connor - NU Medical Center retiree. 2021 Journalism Educator Award: Hugh Reilly – UNO School of Communication retiree.

The OPC remembers:

David Catalan, a former executive director of the Omaha Press Club, died Oct. 5 at the age of 80. Born in San Diego, California, and raised in Arizona, he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany and France.

Catalan joined Union Pacific in Salt Lake City, and U.P. transferred him to California, where he studied at Pepperdine University for his MBA. He was transferred to Omaha in 1980. After retirement from U.P. in 2002, Catalan chose to remain in Omaha, working at Metro Community College and city government before becoming executive director of the OPC.

A celebration of David’s life will be held at a later date.

Vernetta Cecile Luthi, died Aug. 28 at the age of 77. A native of Plainview, Nebraska, she was united in marriage to Hans R. Luthi in Omaha in 1978 and assisted Hans with management of the Omaha Press Club for many years. She also went on to manage the Lakeshore Country Club in Council Bluffs.

Luthi is survived by her husband, sister Sandra Jones (Kent), brother Stephen Casselman (Jamie), and stepchildren Hans N. Luthi (Laura), Karen Hardeman (Jeff), as well as grandchildren, family and friends.

Her funeral service was held Sept. 4.
Education is urged to combat sex trafficking

By Angella Arndt
Communications Committee

Christon MacTaggart, Freedom from Violence project director of the Women’s Fund of Omaha, spoke about sex trafficking and trauma in our community at the October Noon Forum.

The Women’s Fund is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to address gender-based inequities in the community. The fund leads the community in researching issues that impact women and girls and works with survivors and collaborators to create solutions.

MacTaggart provides leadership and partnership through public policy work, coordination of local response teams, and oversight of approximately $1 million dollars in funding for the direct services community. She has worked in the area of gender-based violence and trauma response for over 20 years. She has provided consultation or testimony on criminal, civil and immigration cases as an expert witness and has presented statewide and nationally on various topics related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking.

At the Noon Forum, MacTaggart reported that sex trafficking is multi-directional and intersectional. Gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual violence and sex trafficking intersect and are impacted by factors such as individual vulnerabilities, poverty, cultural practices and racism. Sex trafficking in immigrant communities is often accomplished by word of mouth instead of online, and the statistics for this population are under-reported.

In Nebraska, 11% of those being sold for sex online are advertised under the age of 21. “The most effective way to combat trafficking is educating our young people,” MacTaggart asserted. “Students in Nebraska need effective health education. Real sexual education is sexual violence education. We need to catch it before it becomes trafficking.”

MacTaggart stressed that “words really matter. How we talk about gender-based violence shapes the way our community understands, responds and hopefully prevents these issues.”

KIOS-FM (91.5) airs OPC Noon Forums on the fourth Saturday of the month at 6 a.m.

CHRISTON MACTAGGART. PHOTO BY ROGER HUMPHRIES.

The Omaha Press Club
50th Anniversary Dinner
Nov. 13, 2021 • $50
5:30 p.m. Open House Hors d’oeuvres
6:30 p.m. Anniversary Program

Hors d’oeuvres Menu
Crab Rangoons
Honey-Garlic Glazed Meatballs
Seafood Cheese Dip with Croustade
Assorted Finger Sandwiches
Almond-Bacon Cheese Crostini
Assorted Bacon Wraps
Reuben Bites
Thunder Burger Sliders
Bruschetta
Continental Cheese Display
Antipasto

* * *

Complimentary Brandy Toast and 50th Anniversary Brandy Snifter

Winemakers Dinner
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021 • 6 p.m.
Members $65 • Non-Members $75

Appetizer
Tomato Bisque with Grape Tomato & Saffron Wine
Amuse
Chicken Pinot Noir with Wild Mushrooms Wine
Salad
Thunderbird Caesar Parmesan Crust Wine
Sorbet
Pumpkin Sorbet Wine
Entrée
Roasted Tenderloin Caramelized Vidalia Demi-Glaze Gnocchi with Bacon Wine
Dessert
Poached Pear Caramel Crème Fraiche Wine

Face on the Ballroom Floor
Honoring Mike Yanney
Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021
5:30 p.m. Reception Open Bar
6:30 p.m. Dinner
Members $65 • Non-Members $75

Hors d’oeuvres
Assorted Canapes

Salad
OPC Thunderbird Salad

Choice of Entrée
OPC Signature Filet with Maître D Butter
or
Fresh Alaskan King Salmon Lemon Beurre Blanc

Dessert
Apple Crisp with Almond Creme

PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Press Club community, your club is still operating after and during some very tough times. You may have noticed that this newsletter message comes from Christine one month and me the next. That is because in addition to time devoted to management responsibilities and communicating with you, we are spending a good deal of time “multitasking.”

Since the COVID pandemic arrived, we have had no stability in kitchen staffing. In order to guarantee a high level of food quality, Christine and I have continued to work in the kitchen. As long as the staffing problem continues, we will devote time to supporting the kitchen.

While we are in search of permanent culinary staff, we will have limited hours. Currently we are open Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Thursday “Prime Rib Nights” are scheduled. We open on weekends and evenings for special pre-requested menus of parties of 10 or more. We have had many regularly scheduled Press Club functions, and all have been well attended.

Please schedule your own visit to the club; we need your business. Watch for our annual and new events and be sure to make a reservation. Every event we do for the club is a perk of membership that would normally have a higher price.

Being employed at the club for so many years, we have developed many friendships. Some of these friendships are very personal and meaningful to our family. Saying goodbye to Omaha Press Club friends means saying goodbye to personal friends.

James Martin Davis, who died in August, was a longtime friend who called me on my cell phone regularly and made me feel important. I have some very good memories of him. His “Face on the Barroom Floor” event was one of the highest attended in club history. He had his favorite table at the club and was a very big supporter.

I also recently learned that Vernetta Luthi, a former OPC manager, passed away this summer. Vernetta was well liked by the staff of the Press Club during her time here, and I also had some fond memories of her.

Meanwhile as the holiday season approaches, please check out the events that will be happening at the club; we have plenty going on. We need and appreciate your support.

To contact me best during this time: email opcdirector@gmail.com

Thank you and see you at the club.

Steve L Villamonte Sr. CEC, BS
Executive Director
Omaha Press Club

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Santa Brunch
Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021
Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults $27 • Children 3-10 $15

Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army

For Reservations, Call 402-345-8008

Buffet
Steamship Round of Beef
Baked Ham with Maple Whiskey Sauce
Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia with Lemon Butter
Garlic Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
Seasonal Vegetables
Build-Your-Own Omelet a la Carte
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar
Salad Display, including Thunderbird Salad
Salmon Chaud Froid & Fresh Fruit
Fresh-Baked Pastries, Torte & Cheesecakes
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Deep Dish Apple Strudel with
Brandied French Vanilla Ice Cream
Spiked French Vanilla Eggnog

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Schedule your holiday party now at the OPC!

It’s not too soon – or too late – to be making your holiday plans. The Omaha Press Club is the perfect party setting for your group large or small. To discuss your event and make a reservation, give Christine a call at 402-345-8008 or email her at opcchristine@gmail.com

And don’t forget our signature events in December: the Santa Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 19, and the New Year’s Eve dinner on Friday, Dec. 31. See the menus and details on this page.

New Year’s Eve Buffet
Friday, Dec. 31, 2021
6 p.m., $65
Tax & Gratuity Not included

Hors d’oeuvres
Continental Cheese & Fruit Display

Salad, Soup
OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad
with Sauté Toppings
Peruvian Clam Chowder

Entrées
Prime Rib of Beef
au Jus & Chantilly

Chicken Marsala
Sautéed in a Sweet Marsala Wine
with Mushrooms & Bordelaise

Blackened Tilapia
Topped with a Black Bean & Corn Salsa
and Lemon Buerre Blanc
Dauphine Potatoes
& Asparagus Citron

Dessert Choices
Cherries Jubilee, Brownie a la Mode,
Blackstone Cheesecake

Live Music
2021 - 2022 Officers

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President
Roger Humphries Photography

Hunter Samuels
President-elect
Ronald McDonald House

Dale Ervin
Treasurer
First National Bank

Bridget (Weide) Brooks
Secretary
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Omaha World-Herald

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Bridget (Weide) Brooks
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Legislative Fiscal Office
Mike McKnight
WOWT
Dr. Robert Meyers
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Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks • Angella Arndt
Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi

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

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.

Committee Chairs

Communications
Gary Willis
Education
Dr. Robert Meyers
Executive Committee
Roger Humphries, Tom Shatel, Bridget (Weide) Brooks and Dale Ervin
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Roger Humphries
Hall of Fame
Woody Bradford
Marketing / Membership
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Hours of Operation

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

OMAHA PRESS CLUB STAFF

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Tom O’Connor ...............Proofreader
Don Summerside .............Copy Editor

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