

Planet Hope

PLANET PROCTOR • FEBRUARY 14, 2021

"The world is changed not by the self-regarding, but by men and women prepared to make fools of themselves." ~ P.D. James



We celebrate the power of love this month, but our hearts have also been broken by the many deaths of friends and peers in the entertainment industry, even though most of them reached their 90s. But the greatest loss of all, is the dearth of accountability for the high crimes and misdemeanors of the Trump administration by his cowardly enablers in the Republican party.

But with the Biden regime now in power, we must hope for better times and clearer minds to steer the foundering ship of state. God help us.

"When things look dark, hold your head up high, so it can't rain up your nose." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

Lights, Camera, Zoom!

Melinda, David and I are featured "on screen" in a recreation of the Old Time Radio classic **The Lives of Harry Lime**, starring **Ed French** as Orson Welles, for the new "Online Radio Theatre" series, produced, created and directed by **Gregg Oppenheimer**. It premieres on Saturday, February 21, but you can watch [the trailer here](#).

And I also appear as a Brown Derby waiter on the Youtube showings of "Burns and Allen" with **Brad Zinn, Alison Arngrim, Rich Little** as Jack Benny, **Ivan Cury, Michael C. Gwynne**, and a musical break by **Diana Canova**.

And Melinda just added some characters to the **Pups of Liberty** animations, intended to teach kids about heroes of the American Revolution, like Abitail Spaniel and Debruff Sampson. Woof.



David Ossman, Phil Proctor and 'Third Man' Ed French in the trailer for 'The Lives of Harry Lime'

"Lately I leave my shoulder uncovered, in case I run into a vaccine." ~ Nancy Parker

Jews in the news

Non-Planeteer and master mixer Jeff Roth writes:

TRUMP LOST THE PRESIDENCY AND by doing so, he has allowed a Jewish Senate Majority Leader (**Schumer**) to replace Moscow Mitch, A Jewish White House Chief of Staff (**Klain**), a Jewish Attorney General (**Garland**), a Jewish Secretary of State (**Blinken**) and Deputy Secretary of State (**Sherman**), a Jewish Director of Homeland Security (**Mayorkas**), a Jewish Federal Reserve Chairwoman (**Yellen**), a Jewish COVID Coordinator (**Zients**), a Jewish CDC Director (**Walensky**), and by now, you likely know all about **Kamala "Mamala" Harris's** husband, Jewish dad and first Second Gentleman – **Doug "Dougie" Emhoff**.

And I would be remiss to overlook **President Joe Biden's** Jewish relatives — of which there are so many that his nickname is "the Mensch." In fact, all three of his kids married into Jewish families — which means Biden is the grandfather of some pretty adorable kids. *Mazel Tov!*

"The first duty of a revolutionary is to get away with it." ~ Abbie Hoffman

What's up?

THIS TWO-LETTER WORD in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v]. That word is UP.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.



almost one quarter of the page and can add UP to about 30 definitions. It's easy to understand UP,

meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?



At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is



it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.



To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP.

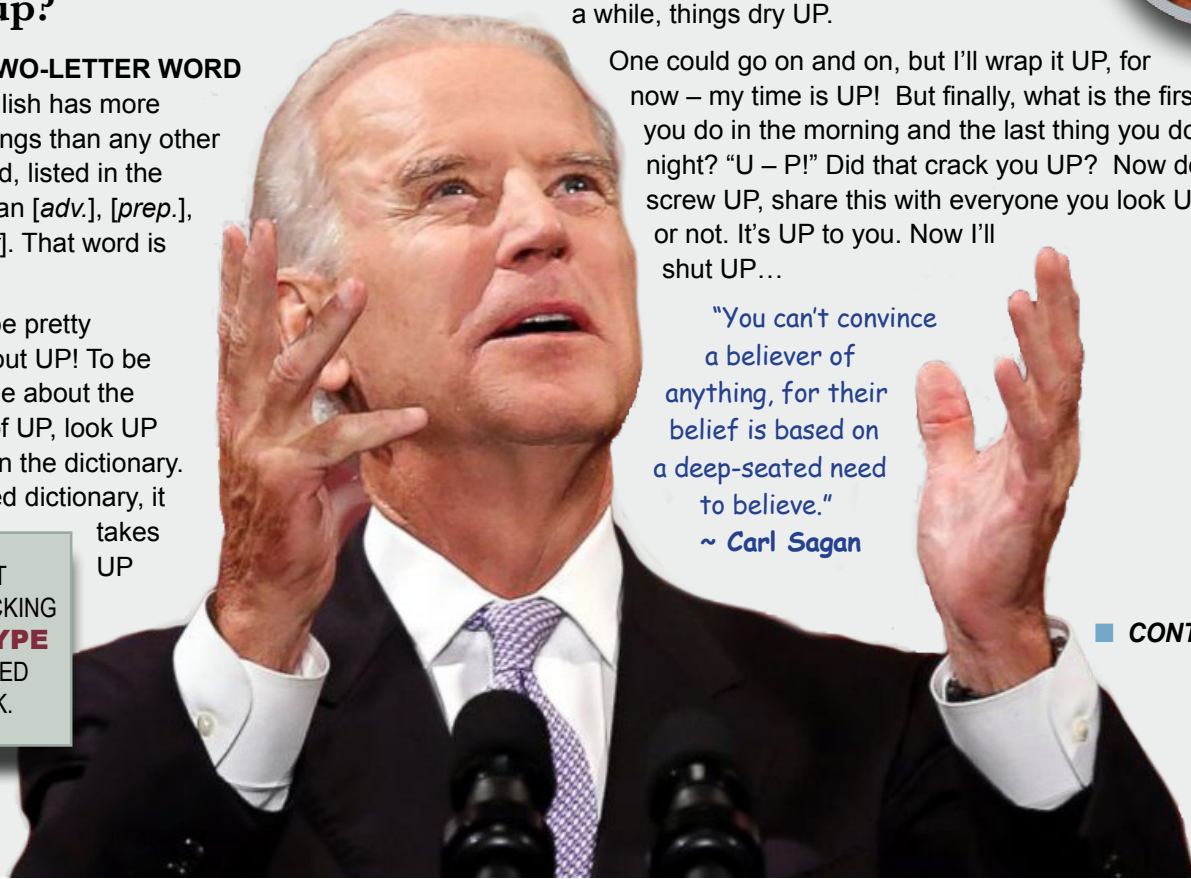


One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now — my time is UP! But finally, what is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night? "U — P!" Did that crack you UP? Now don't screw UP, share this with everyone you look UP . . . or not. It's UP to you. Now I'll shut UP...

"You can't convince a believer of anything, for their belief is based on a deep-seated need to believe."
~ Carl Sagan

THE CHOSEN

Biden throws up a winning cast of experts and diplomats for his team: clockwise from bottom left: Blinken, Klain, Garland, Yellen, Mayorkas and Sherman



■ CONTINUED

Buon appetito

A LONG TIME AGO, A WEALTHY MAN WAS HAVING an affair with an Italian woman. One night, during one of their rendezvous, she confided in him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to have the child. If she stayed in Italy, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18.

She agreed, though she wondered how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discrete, he told her to mail him a postcard, and write "Spaghetti" on the back. He would then arrange for child support.

One day, about nine months later, he came home to his confused wife. "Honey," she said, "you received a very strange postcard today."

"Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later," he said. The wife handed the card over and watched as her husband read the card... then promptly turned white and fainted. Alarmed, she picked up the card on the floor and read aloud: "Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti. Two with meatballs, one without."

"One who makes himself a worm cannot complain afterwards if people step on him." ~ Immanuel Kant

Feel the burn

DURING ONE OF WINSTON CHURCHILL'S visits to America during World War II, when he was staying at the White House, he and **Harry Hopkins** were walking into the Presidential mansion when they passed some British Royal Marines who had been added to the guard detachment during the visit.

Hopkins cracked: "Who let those fellows in here? The last time they came they burned the place down!" Churchill thought it was a "prime good hit," and roared with laughter...

"Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind."
~ Seneca

And the wall came tumblin' down

*The man behind
the wall of sound
has died behind
the wall of the compound.
Phil Spector/Full Spectre
to know, know, know him
was one thing...
but to love, love, love him?
quite another, teddy bear.
And we followed him
from childhood...
till now...
what a long and winding
and twisted road,
such a dark soul –
(have another drink
while I reload)
such a glorious sound
such a dark soul
the yin & yang
of rock'n'roll.
talk about separating
the art from the artist!
be my little baby?
maybe karma isn't instant...*

– Danny Mann

"Though the last birds are gone, you can't get the stink out of the chicken house."
~ Ex Georgia State Senator **Michael J. Moore**

Long live the King

THE KING OF DUMB QUESTIONS IS OFF THE AIR after 87 years, and in a revealing eulogy, his longtime acquaintance, **Elliot Mintz**, writes about his friendship with a man loved by millions over the decades.

When we first met, Elliot, like the **Firesign Theatre**, was appearing on KPFK on the late

WINNIE IN THE HOUSE

In 1942, left, Winston Churchill and Roosevelt emissary Harry Hopkins. his daughter, Diana, and FDR's Scotch terrier at the White House.

■ CONTINUED



FIRST STAR I SEE TONIGHT
 Bobby Darin, left, was Larry King's first celebrity guest in Miami in 1957.

In a remarkable career spanning seven decades, she broke ground for Black actors by refusing to take parts

age of 21 – the youngest talk show host in the U.S.

“**Larry King** was a broadcasting icon who began his career in 1957 doing radio interviews from a restaurant in Miami called *Pumpernick’s*, where he would interview anyone who might appear. His first interview was with one of the waiters, but a few days later, singer **Bobby Darin** showed up and became Larry’s first ‘celebrity interview.’

“His style was low key, non-confrontational, warm and accessible. He asked the questions most folks would ask and never allowed his personal opinions to get in the way... Once, he was asked ‘what is the most important question you should ask a guest on the air?’ His response was ‘Why?’ That has always been one of my ‘zen media’ teachings. The first answer is usually the prepared response, but if the follow up is ‘Why?’ you go beyond the obvious, and if you are lucky enough, you’ll get the answer that is usually unexpected and truly revealing...”

“In person, he was pretty much the same as he appeared on television, only funnier and a bit more sentimental. He told the best stories but always in a respectful manner. The art of the interview grows out of a genuine curiosity, and when it comes to the short list of those who truly understood and practiced the profession of broadcast interviews, Larry was one of the best. I will miss him ... and so will broadcasting.”

“People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full are missing the point. The glass is refillable.” ~ **Phil’s Phunny Phacts**

So long, Cecily

A FINAL CURTAIN CALL AT 96, TO CECILY TYSON, the multiple Emmy and honorary Oscar Award-winner, who at 88 became the oldest person to win a Tony in the 2013 Broadway revival of Horton Foote’s *The Trip to Bountiful*.

At 93, Tyson won an honorary Oscar, and was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 2018 and into the Television Hall of Fame in 2020. She also won a career achievement Peabody Award in 2020, and in November 2018, a month before she turned 94, Ms. Tyson received an honorary Oscar from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

night shows “Looking In” and “Looking Out,” at the

that demeaned them, insisting that African Americans, even if poor or downtrodden, should be portrayed with dignity. And by publicly urging her colleagues to do the same, she often went without work for her principles.

In an emotional acceptance speech, Ms. Tyson paid tribute to her mother, who had opposed her career as an entertainer.

“Mom, I know you didn’t want me to do this,” she said, “but I did, and here it is. I don’t know that I would cherish a better gift than this.” She was the gift.

“I long for eternity because there I shall meet my unwritten poems and my unpainted pictures.”
 ~ **Kahlil Gibran** “Sand and Foam”

A Pearl of a guy

A ND THE HITS KEEP COMING! THE LONGER it takes to edit this orbit, the more obits arrive, so, sadly, here’s another one of a very personal nature as **Ed Pearl**, a Boyle Heights native who founded the landmark folk and blues hot spot **The Ash Grove** in the 1960s, just booked out from complications of COVID-19 and pneumonia.

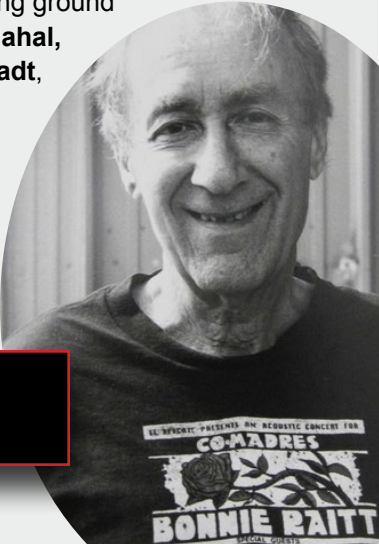
The club, once known as “the West Coast university of folk music” and which is now the longtime home of **The Improv** on Melrose, became a training ground for artists such as **Ry Cooder**, **Taj Mahal**, **Jackson Browne** and **Linda Ronstadt**, as well as venues for **Jim Croce**, **Johnny Cash**, the **Byrds**, and **The Credibility Gap** from 1958 until 1973, when a fire closed it for good.

How appropriate, I always thought, that the ASH-Grove was reduced to same on numerous **CONTINUED**

ED PEARL
 May 4, 1932 - February 7, 2021



CECILY TYSON
 December 19, 1924 - January 28, 2021



times because of his unabashed commitment to progressive politics, including his founding of the **Peace & Freedom Party** in 1967 as the Vietnam War deepened. His brother, **Bernie**, survives him.

"We look at the world once, in childhood/The rest is memory."
~ Poet/Yalie Louise Gluck

Helpsters

Mitch Levine, Philip Brandes, Roger Stephens, Peter Bowman, Jamie Alcroft, Gil Wolin, Lance Rucker, Joan Allemand, Hannah Baldwin, Rich Procter, Bill Kanengiser and the *LA Guitar Quartet*.

And since there continue to be just too many deaths (though not all COVID-related), let us here honor restaurateur

PLANETCLICK

Hipsters

FIRESIGN
BELL
BANANAS
MUZIKA
BOMBSHELL
ROULETTE
CAPITOL
ED
V-DAY
DANCE
LIES
WINTER

Joe Allen, TV's comic genius **Allan Burns**, Hustler **Larry Flynn**, groundbreaking athlete **Hank Aaron**, the "Supreme" **Mary Wilson** and on the one-year anniversary of his death, the legendary **Kobe Bryant**, who reminded us, "There is no substitute for hustle."

"I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I've missed my exit."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

And attention, Planteers!

BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY deaths happening, please expect an unprecedented PLANET OBIT coming soon, before more leave us! Included will be **Christopher Plummer**, **Hal Holbrook** and **Chick Corea** – so far.

"The surest sign of intelligent life in the universe is that they haven't attempted to contact us" ~ **Bill Watterson**

NEXT ON 'PHIL AND TED'

Alison Arnglim, Harold Bronson

Actress, Comedian, Author, Survivor and Hero, **Alison Arnglim** has lived a remarkable life, and it's not over yet! Famous for her villainous role as "Nellie Oleson" in the hit TV series, 'Little House on the Prairie,' Alison continues to make waves. Her memoir, *Confessions of A Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated*, is a *New York Times* bestseller.

Alison shares jaw-dropping stories about growing up as a Hollywood kid, beginning as a resident of the famed Chateau Marmont at the tender age of 4 and accidentally taking a massive hit of LSD at age 8. Later, her day job was TV's first child villain on America's most wholesome show, while spending her underage nights

in LA punk rock clubs. And through it all, she kept a terrifying, childhood secret about being sexually molested for years. Since adulthood, she's crusaded for AIDS victims and child rights, changing laws and saving lives. And she's funny as hell! **LISTEN HERE!**



"Reason obeys itself, and ignorance submits to whatever is dictated to it." ~ **Thomas Paine**

And previously, we interviewed **Harold Bronson**, author of *My British Invasion* "The Inside Story on the Yardbirds, the Dave Clark Five, Manfred Mann, Herman's Hermits, The Hollies, The Troggs, The Manfred Mann, Herman's Hermits, The Hollies, The Troggs, The Kinks, The Zombies, and More" And with his longtime partner, **Richard Foos**, he collaborated with us to record a slew of Firesign product including the Grammy-nominated first comedy CD, *The Three Faces of AI*, not to mention our final trilogy: *Give Me Immortality or Give Me Death*, *Boom Dot Bust* and *The Bride of Firesign*. But I'm not supposed to mention that.



IT'S HERE

"I grew up with Bob Hope, Steve Jobs and Johnny Cash; now there's no job, no cash and no hope. Please don't let anything happen to Kevin Bacon." ~ **Anonymous**

"We're fighting three pandemics; coronavirus, stupidity and politicians." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

Visit the new **FIRESITE** and the old **BOOMERS**

HOME • FORTUNE COOKIE • RIGHT WING UNCLE • MERCH

To add someone to the Planet Proctor mailing list, **CLICK HERE.**

PLANET PROCTOR © Phil Proctor 2021 • layout and production Cristofer Gross / **Theatertimes.org**