

"People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day." ~ A. A. Milne

PLANET PROCTOR ■ OCTOBER 2023

# Remembering Melinda

"Just surviving is a noble cause."  
~ Melinda's favorite, Billy Joel



## The Eskimo Know

*Perhaps they are not stars,  
But rather openings in  
Heaven*

*Where the love of our lost  
ones*

*Pours through and shines  
down upon us,*

*To let us know they are  
happy.*

"Nothing can happen to you that is not positive.  
Even though it looks and feels at the moment  
like a negative crisis, it is not. The crisis throws you back,  
and when you are required to exhibit strength, it comes."

~ Joseph Campbell



## Back from the shadows again

**A**S PLANETEERS WHO FOLLOW ME ON IN your Face Book, you know, I've been blessed with a run of fun work that luckily is not affected by our righteous **SAG-AFTRA** strike action against major studios.

It started with an amazing week recording various roles in an audio adaptation of *Treasure Island*, on location on Whidbey Island, home of the producers, my Firesign partner **David Ossman** and his wife, **Judith Walcutt**, and written and directed by their son, **Orson**, for a six-hour, six-episode radio show coming this Spring to Public Radio, with an original score by **Taj Mahal**, recorded by **Brad Scott** and engineered by **Randy Thom** at **George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch**.

It was a totally rewarding experience, working with many splendid audio actors and featuring **John Goodman** as Billy Bones and **Keith David** as Long John Silver.

*"Peace is the only battle worth fighting."  
~ Albert Camus*

## Children of God

**"O**UR FATHER, WHO DOES ART IN HEAVEN, Harold is His name." prayed one lad. "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

And as a mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3, the boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake, their mother saw the

opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the 4-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led

him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," father replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their 6-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

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### THE PIRATES OF WHIDBEY ISLAND

Shipmates: Me and John Goodman (top),  
Keith David and David Ossman  
and standing by the flag. Aarrgh!



"Just say what you hear Mommy say," her mom answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

And why is it necessary to be quiet in church? "Because people are sleeping."

*"It's better to sit in a bar thinking about God  
than to sit in a church thinking about beer."  
~ African saying*

## Do not stand at my grave

*Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.*

*~ Mary Elizabeth Frye*

*"Don't bother with churches...if you want to  
know about a culture, spend a night in its bar."  
~ Ernest Hemingway*

## Lost in translation

**O**N 20 JULY, 1969, NEIL ARMSTRONG AND BUZZ Aldrin landed on the surface of the moon. In the months leading up to their expedition the Apollo 2 astronauts train in a remote moon-like desert in the western United States. The area is home to several capital and native American communities, and there is a story – or legend – describing an encounter between the astronauts and one of the locals.

One day as they were training the astronauts came across an old Native American. The man asked what they were

doing there. They replied that they were part of a research expedition that would shortly travel to explore the moon.

When the old man heard that, he fell silent for a few moments, and then asked the astronauts if they would do him a favor. "What do you want?" They asked. "Well," said the old man, "The people of my tribe believe that Holy Spirits live on the moon. I was wondering if you could pass an important message to them from my people."

"What's the message?" asked the astronauts. The man said something in his tribal language and then asked the astronauts to repeat it again and again until they had memorized it correctly. "What does it mean?" asked the astronauts. "Oh, I cannot tell you. It's a secret that only our



tribe and the Moon Spirits are allowed to know."

When they return to their base the astronauts searched and searched until they found someone who could speak the tribal language and asked him to translate the secret message. When they repeated what they had memorized, the translator started to laugh uproariously. When he calmed down, the astronauts asked him what it meant.

The man translated the sentence they had carefully memorized.

"Don't believe a single word these people are telling you. They have come to steal your lands."

*"You can live to be 100  
if you give up all the things  
that make you want to live to be 100."  
~ Mark Twain*

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# What is love?

*What is love?*

*Friendship set on fire?*

*A chess game with no rooks – A fiery queen?*

*A frozen king, contemplating moves?*

*Easy to begin—like war—*

*But hard to end?*

*Love rules without rules—Italians say:*

*Amore regge senza legge.*

*Sunlight on nakedness?*

*A comedy! A tragedy?*

*A melodrama?*

*A satire on human foolishness?*

*Neediness, seediness, lust, trust?*

*Two people who combust!*

*Colliding stars?*

*Planets fusing at ferocious heat?*

*Love is all these things.*

*Love stings. Love sings.*

~ **Erica Jong** (for KDB)

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's printed on." ~ **Samuel Goldwyn**

## You're shittin' me

**T**O BE TRULY FLUENT IN ENGLISH, YOU HAVE to know shit from Shinola:

**Dogshit** – Very poor quality

**Bullshit** – Not true

**Horseshit** – Nonsense

**Apeshit** – Rambunctious

**Batshit** – Insane

**Chickenshit** – Cowards

**Ratshit** – Poor quality

**No shit** – Obviously

**Holy shit** – Mind blowing/unbelievable

**Hot shit** – Very good

**Dipshit** – A total dumbass

**Tuff shit** – Take it or leave it

**Jack shit** – Nothing

**The shit** – Perfection

"I've been accused of vulgarity.  
I say that's bullshit." ~ **Mel Brooks**

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"By the time you reach 80 years old, you've learned everything. You only have to remember it."

~ **George Burns**



"The secret of patience is finding something to do in the meantime." ~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

## Spark

*A light shown there beneath the skin.  
Its source you've seen if you would look.  
It was sparked there in the eyes,  
Of course ... that spark is love*

*We all are creatures sparked by love,  
But in whose – how many – eyes we meet  
Do we see that spark's identity  
With love... creation... All that is...?*

*There are some people I've been told,..  
Whose deep connection in the soul  
With all around them shines most clear  
Mirrored in all that they hold dear.*

*That spark is knowing – consciously or not –  
To love life in every form we find and feel it...*

*Those who love never die...*

~ **Ed Landler**



*"The Flapper" (above) – Frank Xavier Leyendeker, 1922*

"The soul is indestructible, and its activity will continue through eternity. It is like the sun, which, to our eyes, seems to set at night; but it has in reality only gone to diffuse its light elsewhere." ~ **Goethe**

## What's up, Doc?

**A**FTER LOOKING FOR TREASURE ON WHIDBEY, I found it in Marin County at the **46th Annual Mill Valley Film Festival**, where director **Jay Schlossberg** (*with me at right*) invited me and **David**

to make a personal appearance, as we are featured in segments of his wonderful new documentary, ***Feast Your Ears!***, a feature-length film about FM radio's revolutionary disruptor: **WHFS 102.3**.

A small commercial station, it became the wildly popular counter-cultural voice of a generation and beyond. From the station's basement birth in 1961, as the

first "stereo" FM station in the Washington, DC market to broadcasting from "high atop the Triangle Towers," the film

takes you on a musical and historical journey through the 1960s, '70s and '80s when "free form" progressive radio was in its heyday in the US, and how **WHFS** carried a frequency of social change on the dial.

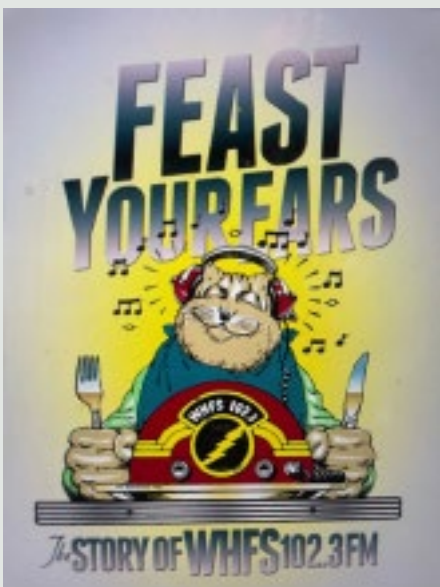
Our jolly director, **Jay Schlossberg**, flew me up, for a personal appearance by **David** and me. Unfortunately, **David** couldn't be there because he tripped over his pet,



**Cat King Cole**, and fell into the bathtub, bruised but unbroken.

They put up with me at the friendly **Acqua Hotel**, along with former DJs **Adele** and **Weasel** (not the sleazy one), and I had a personal chauffeur, **Robert Crockett**, to drive me wherever I desired over the weekend! And thus, the day, after the screening and

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personal appearance at the **Sweetwater Club** next door, featuring the wondrous **Maria Muldaur**, who sent our camels to bed, I took advantage of "Crockett's Rocket" to tour the magic of Marin and was even able to visit my high school buddy, **Sevan "Blackie" Minasian**.

He and his talented wife, **Jutta** (*top right*), were in San Francisco to sell their apartment (where Melinda and I spent many a lost weekend) and retire permanently to their home in Germany. And after that phenomenal reunion,

I was driven to beautiful Tiberon, where our dear friends, **Bill and Lucie Alexander** (*lower right*) reside in a magnificent home overlooking – well – everything!

Dr. Bill was with me and Peter 42 years ago in the Golden Dragon Chinese restaurant massacre. Buy my book, ***Where's my Fortune Cookie?*** for the full, startling story, which will explain why Bill still carries a machine gun slug behind his right knee!

All in all, it was another magical and mystical

adventure, and on my flight back home, I sat next to a lovely lady whose nickname was – you guessed it – "butterfly" – **Melinda** would've loved this trip! Or maybe she did...

"Let us choose for ourselves our path in life,  
and let us try to bestrew that path with flowers."

~ Emile de Chatelet

## Credits

**T**hanks to **Kate Draper**, **Ed Landler**, **Michael Kronk**, **Jim Meskimen**, **Nick Oliva**, **James Marrow**, **Lynne Stewart**, **George Toth**, and **Jamie Alcroft** for being there for me always...

And farewell to **Suzanne Mahoney** aka **Suzanne Somers** and **Rosetta Jacobs** aka **Piper Laurie** -- two talented and sexy stars. Hell, Piper says she lost her virginity to movie actor **Ronald Reagan**! (Don't think about it.)



"War is God's way of teaching Americans about geography." ~ Jon Stuart

"The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the one's who do." ~ Steve Jobs

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