

**THE PRESS CLUB - Serving the Philadelphia Suburbs**

[www.ThePressClubPA.org](http://www.ThePressClubPA.org)

December 2010

## December 15 Luncheon Guest Speaker: Jim Melwert KYW NewsRadio 1060



KYW Newsradio reporter, Jim Melwert made his return to KYW Newsradio as a reporter in May, 2007. He started out as a desk assistant in the newsroom in 2001, when he graduated from Temple University with a degree

in journalism.

After a brief stint with a radio station in Sunbury, PA, in 2003, Jim moved to Harrisburg to become sports director at the *Radio Pennsylvania Network*. While at *Radio Pennsylvania*, Jim provided live updates for KYW Newsradio from Penn State football games.

The highlights of his radio career include covering the implosion of Veterans Stadium, the 2006 MLB All-Star Game in Pittsburgh, Smarty Jones' run at the Triple Crown, and Penn State's triple-overtime thriller over Florida State in the 2006 Orange Bowl.

A 1993 graduate of Perkiomen Valley High School, Melwert is happiest when he's in the pool playing water polo or on the ice playing hockey. He also enjoys triathlons and he's a big fan of the local sports teams. Jim lives in Collegeville, PA, with his wife, Amy, and their two dogs, Rudy and Barry.

## December 15 Holiday Party

*The Holiday Party & Annual Holiday Gift Basket Raffle at Edgmont Country Club* will benefit the General Scholarship Fund will lead off an exciting program.

Members will receive a **surprise Holiday Gift**.

Donations of White Elephant Items or Gift Items, Packages, Coupons, etc. are needed for Holiday Gift Basket Raffle.

Contact Peg De Grassa at:

[pdegrassa@delconewsnetwork.com](mailto:pdegrassa@delconewsnetwork.com) or

Barbara Zippi at:

[President@ThePressClubPA.org](mailto:President@ThePressClubPA.org).



Barbara Ann Zippi

## President's Update

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Wednesday of the month from through May for our monthly luncheons. All of the establishments have the benefit of free or valet parking. Menu's, directions and specifics are posted each month on our web site.

## Membership, Dues, Invoicing & Directory

In the next couple weeks, you will receive an invoice for the program year July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011. We've been computerizing our records to make them available to our membership online.

This year's form will ask what contact information you want to post on the web and what information to include in the printed directory. Given the financial concerns that we all face, our membership dues will once again hold steady and will not increase.

News organizations and other qualifying members with more than six employees in The Press Club fields will qualify for a discounted membership rate for all employees, so they may receive information direct to their designated e mail addresses.

We will distribute our printed Directory in January.

## LIFETIME MEMBER HONOREES

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### Term Expires 2013

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**David Belanger** - Delco Library System

**Paul Bennett** - Chester & Community Spirit Newspapers

## Member News

### Abruzzese Delco Honors

### Don Guanella Priest

### And Town Talk Editor

By Barbara Ormsby



Peg DeGrassa

Town Talk Newspapers Managing Editor Peg DeGrassa was honored Sunday by the Associazione Regionale Abruzzese Delco, along with Father Silvio DeNard of the Servants of Charity, Don Guanella Village, Marple Township.

The association was founded more than two decades ago to honor the rich history and heritage of the Abruzzo region of Italy. It sponsors an Italian language school for adults at Neumann University and at St.

Mary Magdalen Elementary School in Upper Providence, and offers a Mass in the Italian language the last Saturday of the month at Don Guanella Seminary. In addition, a variety of other programs are held throughout the year.

The Heritage Ballroom in Ridley Township was filled to capacity as the association presented its Person of the Year awards at the 19th annual dinner dance.

DeGrassa is a lifelong resident of Delaware County, is a graduate of Archbishop Prendergast High School, Penn State University's county campus and Neumann College (now Neumann University). She began her career in journalism as a reporter at the News of Delaware County and wrote a music column for the Beach Haven Times in New Jersey. In addition to her duties as managing editor at Town Talk, she also writes a weekly column and a daily blog on the Delco News Network site ([delconewsnetwork.com](http://delconewsnetwork.com)).

Vice President of the Delaware County Press Club, DeGrassa is also a member of the National Press Club in Washington D.C. and has served on various community boards and advisory committees.

DeGrassa and her husband, Russ live in Ridley Township, have been married for 35 years and are the parents of four children and grandparents of five.

DeGrassa told the dinner guests that she believes in her community and in giving back.

"Those familiar with Town Talk know it is a community-based, grass roots newspaper," DeGrassa said, adding that the newspaper highlights the good in the communities it covers.

The honoree told of discovering her love of writing when she spent a year in a full body cast when she was in the eighth grade. She spoke of writing to pen pals all over the globe, of making up newspapers and sending copies to relatives.

"My future career was embedded in my soul," she said.

DeGrassa spoke of the importance of the Associazione Regionale Abruzzese Delco.

"We can't know who we are unless we know where we came from," she observed.

Father DeNard was born in Italy in 1949 and was ordained a priest in the Servants of Charity religious order in 1979. He served as director and principal of the Primary School for Boys in Como, Italy, founded by Blessed Louis Guanella. In 1985 he was sent to Marple to the Don Guanella School for boys with developmental disabilities. He also serves the community as Formation Director of Seminarians, and serves the residents at the Don Guanella Village and St. Edmond's Home in Rosemont.

Also honored at the dinner were Julia Simone, a 2010 graduate of Ridley High School and a freshman at Temple University, and Marc Bandola of Lawrenceville, NJ, a senior at Widener University. Each received a \$500 scholarship.