

and Sciences, of which he has not only served on the Board of Governors, but is also co-chairperson of the Chapter's archives and museum committee.

What are the keys to Catchings' success?

"In doing what we do, we meet a lot of interesting people in all walks of life, he says. "We tell stories that cover just about any subject imaginable. To tell the story accurately, you have to take time to listen and understand it. As a result, you're always learning. Every so often, situations arise where you can apply that knowledge. At which point, someone will say "how do you know that?". And, my answer is always the same, "we did a story on it".

**Kevin Wing** is a San Francisco Bay Area-based producer for ABC News' Good Morning America. He also serves as editor of Off Camera and as vice president, representing San Francisco, on the Board of Governors of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He is also a 2013 Silver Circle inductee. Tweet Kevin @KevinWingABC

## Soundbites



Bay Area television viewers have become accustomed to watching **Carolyn Tyler** cover some of the most important stories during her nearly three decades as an anchor and reporter at KGO-TV ABC7. Last month, Tyler received quite the honor: she was named Veteran Journalist of the Year by the Bay Area Black Journalists Association. It's fitting: in 2007, she was inducted into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for her more than 25 years of contributions to the television industry. In

2015, Tyler will begin her 29th year with the station -- a rarity in any large market. Now is your chance to find out more about her. She hails from a large family -- she has 10, count 'em, 10 siblings! She's also quite the goof and her favorite ice cream flavor is chocolate! And there's more. Get the scoop on her, right now.

### **Where did you grow up?**

Cheyenne, Wyoming... Yes, there are Black people everywhere! My father was stationed at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base there.

### **Do you have siblings?**

Yes, ten... eight brothers and two sisters. One brother and one sister live in the Bay Area.



**Carolyn Tyler**  
*At the anchor desk at KGO-TV ABC7*

studio audience there every day-especially during the brutal winter months.  
Who has inspired you in your career?

### **Who has inspired you as a person?**

### **When did you first realize that you wanted to be in television news?**

When I saw the first female and first Black television anchorwoman, Reynelda Muse, on the Denver NBC station.

### **Where was your first job in TV? What was it like there?**

KSTP-TV in Minneapolis-St. Paul. I was a production assistant in the programming department and then became Associate Producer for one of the first locally produced talk/entertainment shows, "Twin Cities Today". The most difficult part was getting a

My Mother.. She stressed the importance of education, not just in words but deeds. Sometimes on parent/teacher nights, she would have to make it to the elementary school, the junior high and the high school...and she didn't drive! She reads the newspapers from cover to cover and has a curious, active mind. All 11 of us have gone to college, some graduating from prestigious universities including Harvard, Duke, and MIT.

**You've worked at KGO-TV ABC7 for 28 years. What's the key to your longevity?**

Keep my nose to the grindstone, do solid work, connect with the community, and have allies in the newsroom.

**Please tell me more about that wonderful honor you received a month ago from the Bay Area Black Journalists Association.**

Thank you! I was honored as Veteran Journalist of the Year. I hope my presence on the airwaves have done for aspiring reporters, what seeing Reynelda Muse did for me. Inspire!

**What's your favorite ice cream flavor?**

Chocolate

**How do you spend your weekends?**

Family, friends, good food, maybe a concert, a party or a Golden State Warriors game. Of course, on Sundays, I work.

**What charitable organizations are nearest to your heart?**

Friends of Faith. It's a non profit I helped found in honor of my late friend, KTVU



*Tyler's early years as a reporter in Minneapolis-St. Paul.*

reporter Faith Fancher. She died of breast cancer in 2003. We keep her legacy alive by providing grants to grass roots organizations that serve local low-income women and men battling the disease.



**What year was this, Carolyn?**

I enjoy being around my nephew, Solomon, who is ten. Doing kid things with him makes me laugh.

**Who is your favorite television journalist?**

Charlie Rose (nationally) I started watching him back in the CBS News Nightwatch days because one of my best friends was a producer, and he remains the best. Dan Ashley (locally) One of the nicest, most generous guys in the business.

**Favorite read: San Francisco Chronicle, or USA Today?**

Chronicle -- no contest!

**Perfect dinner?**

Anything cooked by my personal chef! My guy, Gary.

**Any guilty pleasures?**

Black licorice Twizzlers.

**At KGO-TV, you've been a successful anchor and reporter. You've worked evenings, mornings and weekends. Does it take time to adjust to the different schedules?**

Sorry, I didn't hear you. I'm napping!

**Do you have any professional mentors?**

Harry Fuller and And Andrew Shinnick, who were the news director and assistant news director at KGO-TV; they hired me from Austin, Texas, back in 1986. They were the first to take a personal interest in my development as a reporter.

**What do you do to relax?**

I enjoy being around my nephew, Solomon, who is ten. Doing kid things with him makes me laugh.

**Who is your favorite television journalist?**

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**Favorite read: San Francisco Chronicle, or USA Today?**

Chronicle -- no contest!

**What's your favorite TV show?**

It's a tie: Homeland and Scandal

**See any good movies lately?**

Not lately.. but I did enjoy "Chef" and I'm a sucker for all the Planet of the Apes movies-even though the last one "Dawn" wasn't very good.

**Personality-wise, are you more of a goof than you are serious?!**

Definitely a goof with my friends.

**If you could do it all over again, is there anything you would change about your life?**

Yes, lots.

**Any words of wisdom for the next generation of television journalists?**

The industry is evolving rapidly. Stay on top of your game. I also get annoyed at those who say they want to be anchors without going through the process of being writers and reporters.

**Favorite vacation destination? Where have you yet to travel to?**

Paris is my favorite city. At one time I seriously considered moving there. Cuba is on my bucket list.



*With Mom, during a recent visit to San Francisco.*

**During your career, has there been a story or stories that you've "owned" that, up to now, has defined who you are as a television journalist in the Bay Area?**





***Tyler, relaxing with her main man, Gary.***

Same Sex Marriage. I was in the San Francisco clerk's office in 2004, when then Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered her to start issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples. I interviewed the first couple to get a certificate, lesbian right's legends, Phyllis Lyon and Dell Martin. I followed every twist and turn through all those years and became on a first name basis with people on both sides of this issue. In March 2013 photographer Mike Clark and I were sent to Washington to cover the case before the U.S. Supreme Court. I can't really describe the feeling of sitting in the courtroom and seeing those Justices in person during the oral arguments. When the high court's Prop 8 decision came down, I felt a sense of closure.

**Favorite music? What's in your iPod (if you have one) or collection of CDs?**

I like old school R&B like Marvin Gaye, and Barry White.. I'm also a big fan of Mary J. Blige and John Legend.

**Wine tasting, or a cold bottle of beer?**

Wine.. though I used to drink lots of beer when I lived in Texas.

**Favorite spot in the Bay Area?**

A walk along Ocean beach always quiets my mind.

**Favorite restaurant in the Bay Area?**

I love John's Grill because my picture is on the wall!

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**In the January 2015 edition of *Soundbites*:**



In the January edition of *Soundbites*, we start 2015 by turning the spotlight on **Eric Thomas**, the longtime anchor and reporter at KGO-TV ABC7 in San Francisco. Stay tuned for him next month!