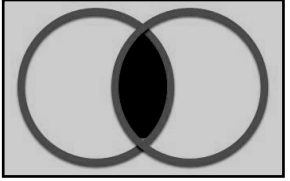


NewsLetter



Newsletter Team:
E. Foote, M. Hall, E. Kliem,
W. Rosen

Polaroid Retirees Association

April – June
2020

THIS PUBLICATION IS SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE PRA MEMBERSHIP
POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. BOX 541395, WALTHAM, MA 02454-1395
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Letter from the President

Dear PRA Members,

Please let this Newsletter find you safe and healthy. This difficult time is with us for an unknown period, so the Board of Directors has voted to postpone the May Luncheon and Business Meeting until October. This decision is hard but necessary. We are all in a high risk category! (And proud of it!)

While we're not traveling for quite a while, Polaroid memories can provide a comforting trip to calmer, more predictable times. Perhaps the following can ease some of the current anxiety:

- Go to our website polaroidretirees.org and watch the employee videos you and your co-workers created for the PRA's 30th anniversary. Click on "Videos/Meetings" and then "Scenes of Employees reminiscing and of Dr. Land." About 30 members tell stories of their years with the company in the 2 videos.
- Read Monte Reel's book *Brotherhood of Spies: The U-2 and the CIA's Secret War*. The author spoke at our May Luncheon last year and told thrilling stories of Land's involvement during this time. It's spellbinding.
- Sit down to write some of the Polaroid memories you hold dear. Perhaps there was a meaningful event, a surprising incident, a person whose character is um...memorable! Send your stories to newsletterpra@gmail.com or to R. Ruckstuhl, PRA, P.O. Box 522, Rowley MA 01969. Our readers like these stories best of all we print.
- Take a look at our membership and choose someone to contact. There are instructions for how we can help you do that. Go to polaroidretirees.org and click on Membership Roster.

Keep busy, stay well and we'll see you October,

Elizabeth Foote, President



Former PRA President Jim Grunst sent me this beautifully hand-carved gavel and block set that he was given when he took office. The cross-eyed owl is inlaid with blue glass and the pieces are carved with "Polaroid Retirees Association 1985," "Founded April 16, 1985," and "Donated J.A. Franchina." Bill Rosen tells me Mr. Franchina was the original PRA Newsletter editor and a talented woodworker.

It's lovely. I'm pleased to use it at our meetings, and I will pass it on when my term ends. Thank you, Jim.

Board of Directors & Officers

President

Elizabeth Foote

1st Vice President

John Flynn

2nd Vice President

Arthur Aznavorian

Treasurer

Nino Dilanni

Secretary

Mary McCann

Directors

Dave Bayer

Larry Chelmow

Maryann Hall

Eva Karger

Erika Kliem

Jim Mitcheson

George Murray

William Rosen

Bob Ruckstuhl

Eric Thorgerson

Ed Wade

Membership Drive Update

You may recall that PRA Treasurer **Nino DiIanni** challenged readers of the Q1 *Newsletter* to help raise membership by 100 before the end of 2020.

You have added 25 new members!

Nino and the rest of the Board of Directors encourage you to continue to add to our rolls. Direct people to our website or hand them your *Newsletter* and ask them to sign up today. A membership form is on the back page and at http://www.polaroidretirees.org/files/MEMBERSHIP_APPLICATION-a.pdf

PRA members receive four *Newsletters* per year, have access to the polaroidretirees.com website where a wealth of information and history is found, and may attend the (usually) twice-per-year Luncheons at a reduced price or free. All this for only \$15!

We are thrilled to welcome new members and hope to see you all at the October Luncheon.

Ying Liu Becker, Boston	Nadine Jackson-Lowe,	Nick Pasquarosa, Burlington
Diane Boudrot, Waltham	Smithfield, VA	Johnnie Prendergast, Melrose
Joanne Cotter, Groton	Martin Katz, Auburndale	Edward Sullivan, Waltham
Fred Dehmer, Bellingham	Paul Kelley, Weymouth	Ellen Szetela, Woburn
Rich Garabedian, Saugus	Theresa Kelly, Melrose	Lizzie Thomas, Dorchester
Bill Gray, Andover	Paul LaVoie, North Andover	Vinny Tognarelli, Medford
Jim Harrison, Burlington	Constance Leonard, Rye, NH	Edward Weiner, Tewksbury
Edmond Hebert, Ayer	John Milani, Stoughton	Mary Weinert, North Billerica
Karl Hormann, Cambridge	Catherine O'Brien, Lynnfield	

Memory of Dr. Land

From an interview written by Karla Baskin of the Boston Globe:

Michela Larson, 69, was one of Boston's trailblazing female restaurateurs in an era when they were few and far between.

Her namesake East Cambridge restaurant, Michela's, opened in 1985. This year, she created the newly opened Mod Espresso inside South End furniture design company Modern Relik.

Who was your most memorable customer?

Definitely Edwin Land, the inventor of the Polaroid, and a variety of other inventions, loads of them. One of my favorite days at my first eponymously named restaurant was the day that Steven Jobs came up to me and asked me if I would introduce him to Edwin Land. I thought, "Wow, this is like, two incredible worlds colliding! What do you mean, you need me to introduce you to him?" Anyway, I loved them both for different reasons. But Edwin Land was a wonderful diner. Any time I went over to his table to speak to him, there would always be an interesting question. There would always be something about the food, but also something about whatever else was happening within the restaurant. So I always felt like I had to be ready for a real conversation, and that was thrilling.

Find the full Globe Article: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2019/12/23/lifestyle/rialto-rocca-michela-larson-changed-bostons-restaurant-scene-now-shes-doing-same-coffee>.

McClelland, Gomes & Nangeroni at the MIT Museum

Polaroid Retirees spoke at the MIT Museum's "Polaroid Spotlight 2nd Saturday" lecture series on February 8th. The talks feature guest scientists, artists, and designers who share their unique perspectives on particular aspects of the exhibition, *The Polaroid Project: At the Intersection of Art and Technology*.

The MIT Museum's website advertised:

*Meet chemist **Gerry Gomes** with **Paul Nangeroni** and **Ted McClelland**, who worked on the development of new Polaroid films.*

Chemist Gerry Gomes was a senior scientist at Polaroid from 1986 to 2008. Holder of three patents for Polaroid Film Technology, Gomes was involved in applied chemistry work, rather than basic research. He and his colleagues will introduce visitors to some of the basics of Polaroid film technology as well as present examples of some of the challenges they faced trying to tackle some of the most difficult problems in modern chemistry.

We asked Gerry to tell us about the talk:

It was an honor and privilege to be a guest speaker at the Polaroid Spotlight Series discussion at the MIT Museum. At the Museum's Polaroid Day in November Debbie Douglas, the Museum's Director of Collections & Curator, Science & Technology, asked us to be part of the series' talks by joining artists and engineers as "chemists." My thinking was to focus on what we did in W4 - the applied research and development and problem solving aspects, not the basic research - and I knew my former colleagues Paul Nangeroni and Ted McClelland had plenty of experience in that regard as well. So I used the example of solving "hypoxanthine" crystals/bumps in the film. This was one of my favorite

problems since it touched on many aspects of what we all did and also involved working with **Lloyd Taylor** who was a mentor for so many of the younger scientists at Polaroid.

It was a pleasant surprise to see approximately 90 guests in the audience! There was a mix of former co-workers and employees, artists, scientists and other interested people. It also was a nice coincidence for me that my older son was home from Chicago to attend along with my wife and a few friends from our town. The post-talk interactions and questions were great! For example, one individual had flown in from the Las Vegas area and had just recently become a caretaker of sorts of a former Polaroid Vegas museum! Another was an artist who is doing image manipulation on old TZ pictures! A young bio chemist who just could not get her fill of Polaroid chemistry and technology asked some great questions about how the film dried out and if that affected the problem (Yes indeed!). A few users of the new Polaroid Originals film wanted my take on the new film. (Of course I like it but as they themselves feel as well, what ever can be done to make it more "instant" would be beneficial to the picture-taking experience.) It was also fun catching up with **Mary** and **John McCann** and other former colleagues who attended.

Overall a great afternoon and a testament to Polaroid pride and its staying power!

Debbie Douglas writes, "The talks were technical and ran a bit long but the crowd seemed to love it. People stayed. They asked technical questions. They loved taking selfies with the giant Polaroid "P" sign that Gerry brought in for show and tell. It definitely filled a need. As several said, 'Finally, I get into the details!'"



Life After Polaroid: Joanne Cotter

Thank you, Joanne! Hope to see you soon.

I started at Polaroid in 1976 as a per diem clerk right out of college. That was in New Bedford-1 where I spent 15 years as a clerk, then an evaluation tech. In 1992, I transferred to W4 as an R & D tech specialist working on P6, then Opal, then Single Sheet which eventually became Zink. I never officially retired from Polaroid as I was part of the R and D group that was sold in 2005 to a private investor and became Zink Imaging. When Polaroid let us all go to Zink, I had eight more years with them before being “cut” in 2013.

At that point, I said, "Enough," and have been working part time at a local gift and garden center. I find I enjoy retail and get to see quite a few former Polaroid folks. Aside from that, I enjoy riding my horse, gardening, biking with my Samoyed dog and driving my husband crazy (Polaroid retiree **Ed Bretschneider**). Life is good in Groton, MA!

In response to Elizabeth Foote's plea for new members, I thought it was time to sign-up with the PRA. Ed has been a PRA member for years - and I always look forward to seeing the *Newsletter*. Since I am now “officially” a senior, it seemed like a good time.



Ed, Niko, Romeo & Joanne

Board of Director Elections in October

As required by the Polaroid Retirees Association Constitution, “The election of Directors shall be by a majority vote of the general membership present at the Annual Meeting in May* of each year.” They are to be elected to 3-year terms.

The 18 members of the Board of Directors “shall hold office until their successors have been elected and installed. No member of the Board of Directors shall be elected to serve more than three (3) consecutive terms of office.”

Five of our Directors are up for reelection this year: **David Bayer**, **Maryann Hall** and **Eva Karger** for their third terms, **Erika Kliem** for her second term and **John Flynn** for his first term.

Al Clark resigned last year to allow more time for both his workplace and his community. We thank Al for his valuable contributions to the PRA in technical areas as well as in recruitment of great speakers and delivery of ZINK technology to a fun Luncheon meeting. **Milt Dentch** resigned in February to allow more time to writing for the American Society for Quality. We thank Milt for editing excellent *Newsletters* and many other contributions.

These openings mean there is room for **YOU!** And we need **YOU!** Please speak to any members of the Board to learn about their work and the opportunities for you to serve your PRA community. We need your help and think you'll enjoy working with the board.

*Delayed until October. See page 1, President's Letter

Osborn Street Model Makers

Jim Murphy worked at Polaroid for 35 years; he started in 1970 and retired in 2005. Jim had assignments at 640 Memorial Drive , R2 Production, P60 Production, W8 Perkin, N4 Mold Shop, NB6, 38 Henry and 730 Main St. He provided the photos of his engineering model maker and engineer colleagues along with his remembrances of 2 Osborn St. Jim writes:

In 1996, #2 Osborn St. was established as a satellite shop to support Polaroid's scientists, Engineering Fellows and Film Division engineering personnel. Engineering and all of the Model Shops acquired about 200 SolidWorks software-dedicated licensed seats. This was the first Windows based CAD software. We had previously used Pro Engineer, Computer Vision, Catia and other software to incorporate our designs into CAM (Computer Aided Machining). The SolidWorks Company was so pleased with our large purchase that they would frequently come to Tech Square and meet with us to hear our thought process for the fabrication of molds, dies, sheet metal and other tool making techniques. SolidWorks quickly developed CAM software (CamWorks) that could be imbedded into the CAD software, where the two programs "talked" to each other; hence CAD/CAM. We were then on a track to develop extremely precision parts really, really fast.

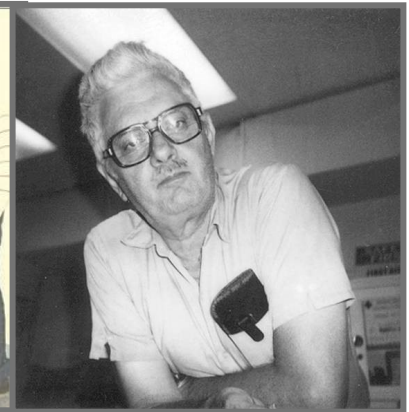
The Osborn St. Model Shops created numerous prototypes and working models for several new Polaroid products. All of these could not have been possible without support from colleagues in the other Model Shops: Dry Silver (water developed negative), I-Zone, I-Zone flip up camera, 35mm and "Deli" film, which won an award at Photokina. Other projects included 35mm and I-zone camera backs, the Opal (kiosk instant pictures), Helios instruments, Kojak parts (instant 35mm photos for law enforcement), "Bright Eyes" parts-and my favorite, the blood analyzer that used I-Zone film. I was granted a patent for that project!



Osborn St. Volley Ball



"Bright Eyes" Stereo Microscope Team



Ray Knight



Bruce Wade



Cosmo Desantis, Jim Murphy,
Frank Slauenwhite



Phil Norris

In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org



Anway, John P., 74, Quincy, 2/5/20 was the husband of Susan, father of Christen, Laura, stepfather of Virginia and Joshua, and grandfather of seven. He was a Model Maker. John enjoyed fishing, hunting and camping.



Bartolomeo, John, A., 86, 2/15/20 was the husband of the late Lillian, father of John Jr., James, and Jonna, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of thirteen. He served in the U.S. Army, (Korean War). He was a Machinist. John was an avid reader and a talented carpenter.



Baxter, Marie A., 89, Ossipee, NH, 1/3/2020 was the wife of the late Fred, mother of Marie, Patricia, Kevin, and Elizabeth, and grandmother of six.

Bay, Nickolas, "Nick", 92, Sparks, NV, 1/20/20 was the husband of Miriam, father of Linda, Vicki and April and grandfather of six and great-grandfather of five. He was a U.S. Army Veteran (WWII). Nick was Vice President of International Sales in the Camera Industry (Canada and Europe). He enjoyed playing baseball and bowling.



Bean, Jr., Frank W., 74, 12/25/19 was the husband of Vicki, father of Charles and Laura, grandfather of two, and son-in-law of Eileen Smith. He enjoyed woodworking, reading, working around his house and gardening. He worked in Computer Operations. He was a member of the PRA.



Brown, Henry T., Weston, 87, 2/13/20 was the husband of the late Melinda, father of Gregory and Allyson, and grandfather of two. Henry was a Manufacturing Manager, Corporate Safety Director, and Chemicals Quality Control Manager. He was the first Black Chemical Engineer for Squibb and Esso Research. He was an enthusiastic traveler, and camper. He was a member of the PRA.

Chudy, Robert M., 72, El Paso, TX, 12/29/19 was the husband of Linda and father of Kristen. He served in the U.S. Army, (Vietnam



War). Bob had a passion for all things mechanical.

Cobb, Maureen P., 72, Middleboro, 2/24/20 was the mother of Tammy, Courtney and Brandon, and grandmother of six. She was an Inspector in Camera Division (Norwood). She loved a good Sunday with coffee ice-cream, no nuts, from Peaceful Meadows.



Cunningham, Robert, 89, Auburndale, 2/13/20 was the husband of the late Marion, father of Robert, Sharon, Stephen and Kevin, and grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Navy, (Korean War). Robert retired as a Production Supervisor. He loved to read, fish, travel, go camping, and tinker in his basement and garage. He was a member of the PRA.



Davenport, Robert C., "Bob", 78, 1/4/20, NC, was the husband of Carole, mother of Rich and Brian, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of two. Bob served in the U.S. Navy as a Submarine Officer on the USS Tench (SS-417). He enjoyed trout fishing (and cold, damp weather), and he was a great athlete and competitor.

Davis, Charles H., Jr., 77, Dracut, 11/27/19 was the husband of Judith, father of Marsha, Sharon, and Gary, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Charlie was a Tool and Die Maker. He enjoyed bowling and golfing.



DeMeyer, David D., 75, Mount Vernon, WA, 9/16/19 was the husband of Andrea, father of Davenport, Christopher, and Padraic, and grandfather of five. He served in the U.S. Navy. David entered the business world, starting with Polaroid, and, as he would say, "Selling instant excitement!"



DeMuth, Robert J., "Bob", 2/20/20 was the husband of Rose, father of Robert, Karen and Kenneth, and grandfather of three. He worked as a Master Electrician (Norwood).



Dias, William J., 81, Melrose, 11/29/19 was the husband of Linda, father of Scott, Pamela, Lisa, and John, grandfather of 13, and great-grandfather of one. He served in the 101st Airborne Division in the U.S. Army. Bill worked as a Senior Draftsman. He loved ice cream, enjoyed vacations and going to the casino.



Downey, Rogers B., 91, Lexington, 1/25/2020 was the husband of the late Marjorie and Eleanor, father of Susan, Judi, Lesley, James, and Edward, grandfather of nine, and great-grandfather of twelve. He was an Engineering Fellow and had over 35 patents which influenced the camera world. He was a member of the PRA.



Fairbairn, Doreen, 87, Wakefield, 1/19/19 was the wife of Alastair, the aunt of Simon and Bridget, cousin of Eileen and sister Pamela. She worked in Incoming Inspection, Camera Division, Norwood. Tennis and hockey were her passions.

Fronzaglia, Donald R., 87, Lakeville, 12/10/19 was the husband of Mary, father of William and Donald, and grandfather of seven. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Korea). Don was a Human Resource Manager in New Bedford and Corporate.



Gibbons, Richard P., Sr., 80, Plymouth, 1/5/20 was the husband of Margaret, father of Richard and Mary, and grandfather of two. Richard served in the U.S. Air Force. He enjoyed reading, trips to New Hampshire, and spending time with his grandchildren.



Haynes, Ronald B., 80, Brockton, 2/20/20, was the brother of Marjorie and Deborah, stepfather of Peter, Elizabeth, and Tonya. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He enjoyed bowling, cooking and jazz music.



Holloran, Frederick V., "Ted", 90, Needham, 1/17/20 was the husband of the late Elaine, father of Timothy, and Laurie, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of two. He served during the Korean War era. He worked in Package Design. He enjoyed golfing, skiing, travel-

In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org

ing and his garden. He was a member of the PRA.

Kelley, Lucille T., Milton, 2/10/20 was the aunt of Joseph, Robert, Paul and John. She worked in Film Division, (Waltham) She was a PRA member and a former Director of the PRA.



Lionti, Mildred D., "Millie", 91, West Roxbury, 12/29/19 was the sister of the late Phyllis, Godmother of Doreen, Paula and Helen. She was an avid traveler, and a member of the Polaroid Bowling Team. She was a member of the PRA.



Marabella, Richard R., 76, Londonderry, NH, 12/19/19 was the husband of Linda, father of Anthony, Melissa and grandfather of two. Richard loved listening to oldies music and cooking. He was a Coating Technician in W4.



Martell, John, 86, Waltham, 12/24/19 was the husband of Eleanor and father of John. He was a Machinist. John served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). He enjoyed following all Boston Sports teams.



Mattie, Stephen L., "Steve", Norwell, 12/16/19 was the husband of Lynn, father of Jeannine, Michelle, Jacquelyn, Stephanie, and David, and grandfather of seven. He had a great respect for the ocean and enjoyed sailing, surfing, windsurfing and scuba diving.

Mercurio, Pantaleone A., "Sonny", 86, Wilmington, 2/27/20 was the husband of Irene, father of Michael, Stephen, David and Marc, and grandfather of three. Sonny served in the U.S. Army Reserves. He was a Draftsman. He enjoyed softball, bowling, golfing, the Patriots and Red Sox.



Metcalf, Allen G. Sr., 82, Framingham, 1/9/20 was the husband of Joan, father of Barbara, Allen Jr, Patricia, Christopher, and the late David, and grandfather of seven. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Allen was a Mechanical Engineer in Waltham. He enjoyed deep sea and fresh water fishing, along with gardening. He was a member of the PRA.

Mollenhauer, Gerhard H.P., "Jerry", 86, Northborough, 1/22/20 was the husband of Shirley, father of Kimberly and uncle of many. Jerry worked as a Master Tool and Die Maker. He loved tennis, skiing, bowling and watching the Patriots. He was a member of the PRA.



Murphy, Thomas A., 64, Malden, 1/23/20 was the husband of the late Lori, father of Thomas, brother of Daniel and Michael. He was an Electronic Technician in the Instrumentation Department, 565 Tech Square. He enjoyed working on cars and electronics and was an avid Boston Sports fan.



Papalegis, Frank E., 81, Wakefield, 12/29/19 was the father of Lori and Pamela, and former husband of Barbara. He worked as a Mechanical Engineer in Cambridge, Norwood and Newton.

Paterson, Sally Jean, 72, Lynnfield, 1/3/20 was the mother of Nikki and the late Matt, grandmother of Matti and companion to Ed. Sally was an avid skier and boater.



Pettersen, Patricia M., "Pat", 84, Groton, 1/6/20 was the wife of the late Robert, aunt to many nieces, and nephews. She was a Chemist. Pat loved to travel and all types of crafts, decorating her home with many of her own creations.



Pistorino, Robert L., 80, Braintree, 1/23/20 was the husband of Joanne, father of Donna, Robert, and John and grandfather of ten. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a Lab Technician.



Ryan, John J., 66, Lowell, 1/14/20 was the husband of Marcelle, brother of Robert and James, and uncle of many. He was a U.S. Army Veteran (Vietnam War). He was a Warehouse Manager and Forklift Operator (Cambridge). He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed horse racing.



Schmidt, William W., 89, Tewksbury, 2/17/20 MA was the husband of the late Alice, father of William, and Mary, and grandfather of two. He was in the U.S. Air Force (Korean War). He worked in Waltham. He enjoyed travelling, crossword puzzles, word games, and the Wisconsin Badgers.



Schwalm, William J., 81, Natick, 12/29/19 was the husband of Karen and the late Sandra, father of Greg, Paul, and Peter and their families, stepfather of Alyssa, and step-grandfather of one. He was a Plant Manager. He loved travel, tennis, sailing, music and golf.



Slack, Ronald B., 66, Dedham, 1/2/20 was the brother of Rhonda, Robert and Richard, and uncle to several nieces and nephews. He was a Medic in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He worked in Waltham, Free-town, and Norwood (Camera Division), and then as a Chemical Processor. Ron coached Dedham Youth Hockey, and participated in many local, state and national political campaigns.

Valle, Marie J., 94, Weston, was the wife of the late Claude, mother of the late J. Peter, Mary, Claude III, and Thomas, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of one. She was Dr Land's personal secretary. Marie was very active in various church activities. She was a member of the PRA.



Venezia, Peter A., 89, Brockton, 1/31/20 was the husband of the late Geraldine, father of James, and grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a Mechanical Engineer.



Wyman, Brenda G., 72, Hudson, NH., 2/16/20 was the daughter of Myrtle, companion to Curtis, mother of Lori and Kimberly, grandmother of 6, great-grandmother of five. She was a Secretary.



Assignment: Sam Brown in Enschede



*Part of Polaroid's rich history was the exchange assignments of US employees with their counterparts in the plants in Enschede, the Netherlands; the Vale of Leven, Scotland; and Newbridge, Ireland. Here **Sam Brown** provides his recollections of the time he and his family spent in Enschede.*

Enschede Opportunity

In August of 1982 Polaroid offered me the opportunity to exchange roles with the Dutch production manager in the Enschede manufacturing operation. **Jean Tomsin** moved into my role as Process Engineer Manager at R2, and I assumed his role as Production Manager. Because of my background, I also absorbed the role of onsite Process Engineering Manager. It was an opportunity typical of Polaroid that allowed both of us to grow beyond our current responsibilities. After a one week visit with my wife and two daughters (aged 11 & 13), we agreed to take the two year assignment.

Cultural Differences

There are many differences about that part of the "western world" versus our part of the western world. They are more to the left in their thinking politically - and much more liberal socially. We were living in a duplex house that the company rented for us and were immediately accepted into the social circle of the neighborhood. I was included in the Friday evening activity which was made up of the men playing a card game called Bonkin, and the women joining the men later in the evening for wine and chatter. Most people spoke some English and our Dutch came slowly since they would rather practice their English. The work had some very different characteristics from the US. I must say some of them significant improvements. Meetings always began and ended on time. The purpose and expected result was well known. As the end time approached people knew it and would be upset if a conclusion was not reached and action planned. The whole idea was that nothing should be left hanging. There were no lunch meetings or dinner meetings. Work began at 8:00 and ended at 5:00. No one was late, and at 5:30 I was alone in the office. None of the above had any negative effect on operating efficiency.

Dutch Efficiencies

The plant ran very well. When I first arrived the Irish plant was still getting going. When the production cutbacks started due to the overbuild of capacity, the Dutch worked very hard to make sure they had maximum efficiency. The fear was that if a European film plant was to be closed, they were more vulnerable due to the common language between Ireland, Scotland, and the US. Although at one meeting between the engineers from the two pack film plants, I brought two Dutch engineers who spoke

very good English. When the Scottish electrical engineer started speaking with a very heavy brogue the Dutchmen all turned to me and asked what he was saying, and I had no idea since I could not understand his English either. So much for the common language.

U.S. and Dutch Cooperation

The cooperation between the US and the Dutch plant was excellent. There was an acknowledged dependence on the US for materials and technical modifications. The US depended on the Dutch plant to be more consistent, since most new materials and processes were proven before implementation in the Dutch plant. One thing that stands out most in my mind was a government response to our need to cut back production in the Dutch plant and subsequently layoff some people. The province authorities proposed that we maintain the same number of people and operating shifts, but the work week back to 3 days or in some cases 4 days for a lot of the direct labor which were vulnerable to lay off. The government would make up the pay for the hours not worked which probably amounted to less than the cost of unemployment- and prevented any dislocation of people. Polaroid maintained its highly skilled workforce and when the time to get back up to full strength it was a seamless operation. I believe this condition went on for about 6-8 months. In a country with a socialist bent it was easy. I don't think that could happen here. I am not sure of the time span, but it was at the time we were discussing and closing the Irish plant and that flexibility was probably part of the consideration that kept the Dutch plant viable.

Enschede Film Assembly Continues

In 2008, "The Impossible Project" purchased the instant film assembly equipment and leased a Building North of the former Enschede, Netherlands, Polaroid plant. Impossible Project saved the last Polaroid production plant for integral instant film and continues to produce Polaroid instant film today. In 2017, "Polaroid Originals replaced Impossible Project.

Thanks Sam for sharing your interesting cultural experiences in Enschede.

*- and, Thanks **Joan Martins** for sharing your photos taken during your assignment in Enschede (following page).*

(Continued from page 8)

Enschede “Ex-patriots”

Another Waltham R2-R3 employee assigned to Enschede was **Joan Martins**. Joan’s husband **Lou Martins**, who had recently retired from Polaroid, accompanied Joan. As Joan relates: *“We were in Enschede for 6 months in 1991 working on the introduction of Hybrid IV (among other things). It was an outstanding experience!”*

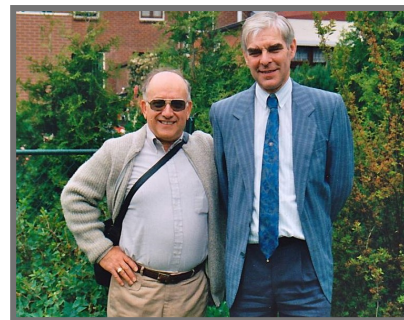
Joan provided her photos of Enschede and the Netherlands.



Joan & Eva Karger



Joan & the “Raw Herring Challenge”



Lou Martins & Gerrit Bosch

Life After Polaroid: McCaw & Schmidt

Jim Schmidt writes:



Kate joined Polaroid in 1989 and worked in Advertising and Marketing Communications for the Industrial, B&P and BI groups managing all public and private Polaroid events with internal resources and outside agencies.

Upon leaving in 1998, Kate formed her own company, Corporate Voyages, to support other corporations in creating and managing sales meetings, incentive trips and university alumni gatherings worldwide. Having satisfied her penchant for travel but resisting retirement, she became a Real Estate Advisor working out of Concord, MA. Kate is a proud member of the William Raveis Real Estate Team and has achieved the Chairman’s and President’s Clubs status.



Jim first worked for Polaroid in the sales organization out of New York City as a sales representative for the Business and Professional group in 1986. He sold to Law Enforcement, Medical, Professional Photographers and other business imaging professions. He was promoted to sales manager in Cambridge two years later and eventually went in-house to be part of the Marketing Organization overseeing multiple markets, products and programs. Jim left Polaroid in 2001 when he immediately started in the home financing business as a Mortgage Originator. He is proud to say that many Polaroid associates and friends were amongst his first mortgage clients and to this day still handles mortgages for many ex-Polaroid employees and their family members.

Through holiday parties organized annually by Steve Golden and Larry Swensen, Jim and Kate stayed in touch with other. Once Kate joined the Real Estate world, they instantly re-connected and started working together supporting each other just as they did at Polaroid. Jim just joined the William Raveis Mortgage team as an Executive Mortgage Banker so now Kate and Jim are under the same company roof once again.

Thanks to Erika Kliem

PRA Board member **Erika Kliem** walks around the twice-yearly PRA Luncheons with her camera taking photos for the *Newsletter* and for people who would like a free picture sent to them. An amateur photographer who has worked for friends' weddings and special occasions, she captures special moments for our luncheon attendees.

Deborah Greene and her mother **Muriel Bartlett** are regulars at the luncheons. Her son **Walter** attends as well. Deborah's letter, appreciating Erika's work, shows what a wonderful family is part of the Polaroid family.

Good Afternoon Erika,

Greetings and hearty thanks for the lovely pictures you sent of my Mother and me at the Polaroid Luncheon. You caught a beautiful smile of my Mother that my family and I can reflect on for months and years to come.

Thank you for your diligence in following through with my request despite the lateness of the hour at the event. I appreciate every effort you made on our behalf.

May God bless you and your family for all the blessings you have extended to others through your gifts!

Deborah Greene



Join Erika at a Luncheon and ask her to capture you with your Polaroid family.

With Thanks

Dear Polaroid Retirees Association Directors and Members,

I would like to thank you for the continued membership in the PRA Newsletter after the death of my husband Ralph.

Polaroid had been a big part of his life, starting in 1961, and retiring after 31 years in March 1995, in one of the early retirements offered.

I have enjoyed the articles about Polaroid's early and "glory" days.

Ralph lived and worked both in Enschede, the Netherlands, and in Scotland, involved in the start-up of the Vale of Leven. Our family moved to Scotland during this period and our children attended local schools.

With many fond memories, please discontinue my membership, but with sincere appreciation for letting me keep this part of my life during a sudden and sad part of my life.

*Sincerely,
Kathryn Burns
Port Lucie, Florida*

The PRA sends the *Newsletter* to the surviving spouses of our members. We are all part of the Polaroid family.

Spring Luncheon Canceled

This *Newsletter* spot usually holds the Business Meeting and Luncheon registration form, but, due to the risks of the coronavirus, **this event will not be held this spring.**

We hope to hold the Fall Luncheon on October 21st. Look for updates on our Website (polaroidretirees.org) and in our Q3 *Newsletter*.

The Polaroid Retirees Association thanks
The Lantana's staff, the Direct Federal Credit Union and scheduled speaker
Harley Kaplan for supporting us in this difficult decision.
We look forward to working with you all again soon.

We hope to see you, our members, in October. Stay safe and be well.

MFA's Elsa Dorfman Exhibit

The MIT Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts are closed until the coronavirus pandemic is past. More information is on their websites. This article was written before the temporary closings, and the exhibits may resume when the museums reopen.

Not to be outdone by the MIT Museum, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts has a Polaroid exhibit of Cambridge photographer Elsa Dorfman's self-portraits made since 1980, running until June 21st.

It's a small, warm, charming display of 20x24 photos of Dorfman's family and friends alongside a group of early black-and-white images from her 1974 photobook *Elsa's Housebook: A Woman's Photojournal* celebrating the group of friends who visited Dorfman's home in the 1960s and '70s. The exhibit includes a short video of Dorfman speaking of her love for Polaroid and the 20x24 camera.

"Her pictures are really celebratory, both of the medium and the person she's photographing," Anne Havinga, chair of the Museum's photography department, said. "She was the only photographer in the world who managed to get a 20-by-24 camera into her own studio. She looms larger than life because of it."

The exhibit titled "Me and My Camera," in its display of 82-year-old Elsa Dorfman's life's important moments, is beautiful and moving. Do go see it.

Elizabeth Foote



