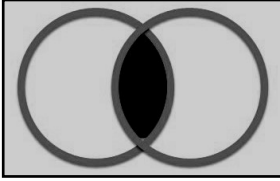


# NewsLetter

*PRA 40th Jubilee Year 1985-2025*



**Newsletter Team:**  
Mary McCann, Maryann  
Hall, Bill Rosen

## Polaroid Retirees Association

January - March  
2025

THIS PUBLICATION IS SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE PRA MEMBERSHIP  
POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. BOX 541395, WALTHAM, MA 02454-1395  
WEBSITE ADDRESS - WWW.POLAROIDRETIREES.ORG EMAIL - NEWSLETTERPRA@GMAIL.COM

### *President's Letter*

Dear PRA Members,

This is an exciting year for the PRA as we remember that the PRA began in 1985. That's right, 40 years ago. That makes 2025 our 40th Jubilee Year. The *Newsletter* will add "*PRA 40th Jubilee Year 1985-2025*" to all its banners this year. The first celebration is our May 2025 Spring Luncheon. We are still working out the details, but the date is **May 12, 2025**. Mark your calendars and look for more information as we get closer to the event. (See page 11 for Jubilee Year.)

We have had many positive comments about our recent Fall Luncheon. As we consider a 2025 Fall Luncheon, we will use those items that worked smoothly and make our new expanded fall meeting even better. All those happy faces on the next page show how hard the PRA Board worked to expand the meeting to 103 attendees and have such a great meeting.

The speaker at the Fall Luncheon, Bob Perry, Executive Director of the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation, emphasized the importance of not losing the history of manufacturing in the Waltham area. Polaroid played a significant role in this history. Part of the story is in documents that detail Polaroid's remarkable technical achievements and forward-thinking personnel policies.

You have that history in your memories. It is this history that makes you smile and feel proud. It is the history that makes you grin and say, "We created that on the fly!" It is the history that made you respect your coworkers when someone unexpectedly came forward with the idea that saved the day. It is the way Polaroid sometimes celebrated these achievements. If, as you read this, some of those stories come to mind, you should know that the PRA *Newsletter* plans to celebrate the PRA 40th Jubilee Year with a new "Jubilee Collection of Short Stories." Tell a story that you and your friends will laugh about over coffee. Focus on one event and aim for a 250-word length. During the year, some stories will be in the *Newsletter* and all of them will be published in the Jubilee Collection in 2026.

Email your story to PRAemail@comcast.net and put "Jubilee Short Story" in the subject matter line. Our snail mail address is R. Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Association, PO Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969.

I am getting excited as we look forward to the May 40th Anniversary Luncheon. I hope you are, too. Mark your calendar today for May 12, 2025. I hope to see you there.

Ruth Scanlan, *President, Polaroid Retirees Association*

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**Beau Stebbins**

### ***Welcome the PRA's Newest Members!***

- Samuel H. Brown, Boston***
- James R. Cerrone, Reading***
- Lisa O'Clare, Newburyport***
- Jack Wilkens, Westport***

**Pictures from the 2024 Fall Meeting on Oct 15**



**Bob Perry, Charles River Museum**



**Julie McPherson**

**Katherine Curran**



**Bob Perry**

**Elizabeth Foote**



**John Gillooly**

**Barbara Skelley**

**Peggie Prebensen**



**Ken & Carole McCarthy**



**Carol Pekar**



**John Milani**



**Sam Brown**



**Larry Kunz**



**Nancy Lane**



**Lydia Smith**



**Michael Walters**



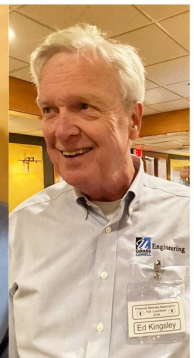
**Rob Young**



**Ted & Bette McClelland**



**Joseph Terry**



**Ed Kingsley**

## **2024 Fall Luncheon Attendees**

Arthur Aznavorian	Marylyn Dilillo	Laurie Keith	Doris McPherson	Peter Schwind
Ray Bedard	Jeff Eaton	Jim Kenney	John Meyers	Frank Silvera
Jeannie Benton	Paul Fallavollita	Mary Kenney	John Milani	Barbara Skelley
Steve Berry	Elizabeth Foote	Ed Kingsley	Doug Miller	Lydia Smith
George Bray III	Don Foster	Larry Kunz	George Murray	Maryellen Smyth
Eric Brown	Caren Friedman	Nancy Lane	Bob Nowak	Phil Souza
Carmel Brown	Ed Gaffey	Charlie LaPier	Irene O’Leary	Beau Stebbins
Sam Brown	Keith Gedrich	Arthur Larm	Anne O’Neal-Carrington	Joseph Terry
Bill Butterfield	John Gillooly	Catherine Lawrence	Carol Pekar	Eric Thorgerson
Walter Byron	Gerard Gomes	Nick Livadas	Bob Perry	Philip Tower
George Cairns	Ethyl Goodwin	Bernie Lorge	Photios Photiou	Leo VanGlabbeek
Leslie Carrington	Maryann Hall	Paul Lubin	Peggie Prebensen	Michael Walters
Anne Carrington	Tony Hall	Mary McCann	John R. Prendergast	Drew Webb
Dan Cence	Charles Harper	John McCann	John P. Prendergast	Paul Whyte
James Ceraoni	Steve Holmes	Ken McCarthy	John Reuter	Jack Wilkens
Betsy Chen	Touie Jackson	Carole McCarthy	Willis Rose	Tiny Williams
Peter Clark	Edyie Johnson	Connie McGaffigan	Bill Rosen	Rob Young
Katherine Curran	Richard Judy	Betty McGuire	Bob Ruckstuhl	Tony Zagame
Susan Curran	Warren Kantrowitz	Theo McLelland	Larry Rudy	Robert Zuccaro
Mike Darland	Harriet Kantrowitz	Bette McLelland	Dana Schuh	
Joanne Darland	Eva Karger	Julie McPherson	Anne Schwind	

## **Fall Luncheon Was A Great Success!**

It was held at the Chateau Restaurant (Rt 1 in Norwood, MA) with a side entrance at street level for very convenient adjacent parking and easy access. Sign-up was easy for our buffet-style lunch of chicken, fish or vegetarian dinner with broccoli, rolls, and delicious cannoli dessert. This great meal cost only \$35!

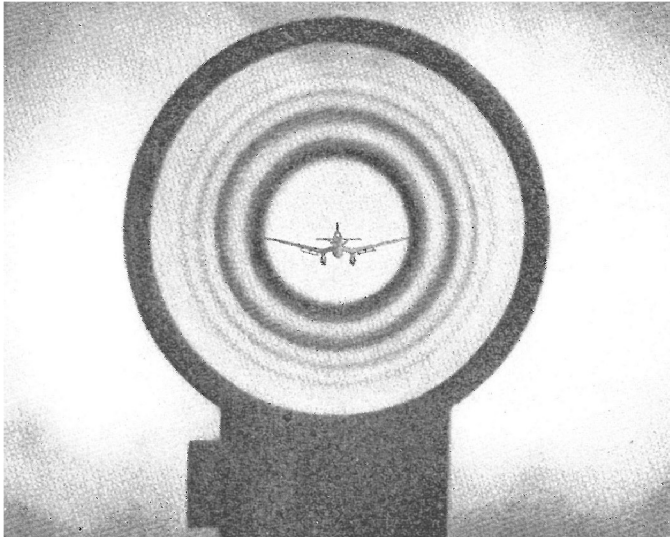
Thanks to the special marketing efforts of the PRA Board, the Fall Luncheon was filled to capacity with more than 100 attendees. By focusing on expanding the ways to sign up there were improved communications with Members. The room was crowded, but Members had a great time.

Our Luncheon speaker was Bob Perry, Executive Director of Waltham’s Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. The City of Waltham was incorporated in 1738. Bob talked about the Boston Manufacturing Company that was organized in 1813 by Francis Cabot Lowell, a Boston merchant, for the manufacture of cotton textiles. It built the first integrated spinning and weaving factory in the world in Waltham. Bob explained that in 1800, the textile industrial revolution began in England where machines were used to spin yarn and weave cloth. Lowell had a shipping company that transported English cloth to Boston. While visiting customers in England he became fascinated with textile machines that were driven by industrial waterwheels in rivers. Lowell also observed that the English Guild system used many independent factories in scattered locations for each step, i.e., spinning, weaving, finishing, etc.

Francis Cabot Lowell’s Boston Manufacturing Company factory in Waltham was the *first in the world* that took in raw cotton and delivered finished woven cloth! It’s still on the Charles River at Moody Street but today is the home of Bob’s Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. It is well worth a visit.

In addition to Lowell’s first textile factory, the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation shows things made by dozens of Waltham manufacturers including Waltham watches and Polaroid cameras.

## Dr. Land's Optical Gun Sight



An illustration of a WWII enemy airplane viewed through Dr. Land's Optical Ring Sight

The sight was made of a large calcite crystal sandwiched between linear and circular polarizers. The sandwich is in the black mount attached to a naval aircraft gun.

When hunters aim their rifles at their targets they have to align four different things, at four different distances. The hunters need to precisely line-up (1) the target, (2) the front sight on the end of the gun's barrel; (3) the near gunsight next the hunter's eye; (4) and the hunter's eye. The hunter will miss the target unless all four things form a perfectly straight line. The target and both sights are at different distances, and they require a change in the eye's focus to see each in best focus.

Larry Hughes in his story below, describes one of Stanley Ballard's many requests for Polaroid's help in WWII. Navy airborne gunners in combat situations, that tossed them around, had no chance to align their eye to traditional gun sights on fast moving targets.

Land's insight was his observation that the enemy plane was near infinity, so the best gun sight markers would be optical markers at infinity. Dr. Land knew that a specific optical axis of pure clear calcite crystals ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), when sandwiched between crossed polarizers, made markers at optical infinity. Using linear polarizers, the crystal made an extinction cross at infinity through the center of the image. Dr. Land added circular polarizers next to the crystal to change the pattern at infinity to the clear center, surrounded by concentric extinction color circles in the above gunsight illustration.

As long as the target in the ring sight appeared in the center of the rings, the gun was aimed at the target. There is no front sight; nor does the eye have to be lined up with the ring sight.

Larry Hughes tells the Polaroid Ring Sight's story.

## An Untold Page from Polaroid History

*Larry Hughes*

As Edwin Land's plane home leveled off, headed home, lightning struck. Not from the sky, but from the creative forces that discharged from his imagination. The flash of an idea, a technical solution, that would add to Polaroid's efforts to reverse the tidal forces of WWII threatening to swamp democracies worldwide.

Land's insight sprang from a problem posed a few hours earlier by Lt. Stanley S. Ballard, head of optical fire control at the navy's Bureau of Ordnance. Navy pilots had a problem with their telescopic gunsights fogging up from temperature changes as they dove on targets. Could Land come up with a better sighting design that avoided this problem? And avoided having the pilot's eye too close to a fixed metal telescope to get a clean look at a moving target?

As his plane banked northeast, it did not take Land long to envision the solution: a birefringent optic (calcite, sliced perpendicular to its optical axis), sandwiched by linear and circular polarizers that already were being manufactured by Polaroid. The optical sandwich should project a series of concentric circles around the target, requiring nothing but an open sky for illumination – no complex optics, no power source, and focused on infinity along with the target. The Optical Ring Sight (ORS) was born.

Striding confidently into his office the next morning, Land set his team to work on a prototype. Physicist Ed Barr cobbled together the requisite polarizing elements and waited for Land and his entourage to see it. As Land arrived, Barr reached for the prototype with as much flourish as he could muster – a bit too much flourish, maybe. The sight went sailing to the floor, where it converted itself to dozens of shattered, and useless, minisights.

But armed with a replacement, Land met Ballard at New York's LaGuardia Airport. Handing over the unassumingly small disk, Land watched as Ballard examined it uncertainly. But putting the sight to his eye, Ballard beheld a wondrous series of concentric, colored rings. Was this science or art? For Land, such a question would never come up – science and art were a continuum, discovery and beauty being inexorably linked. "Industry at its best," Land remarked years later, "is the intersection of science and art." But centering planes and buildings in the rings, Ballard found the science component entirely sufficient. The ORS surely would be a dead aim.

In the several years that followed, Polaroid would find that such a simple device was not so simple to manufacture. A series of vexing problems ensued: coring, slicing, and finishing the brittle calcite crystals in the optical shop; dealing with continual frustrations of laminating optical elements; mounting a stress-phobic crystal in a stress-producing mount atop a stress-projecting antiaircraft gun. Coming to the rescue was a crack team of Polaroid scientists and technicians. Clinton J.T. Young, a physicist/ manager who was unafraid of rolling up his sleeves to solve a problem, worked with some of the originals of Polaroid's earliest days – Ernie Calabro, Frank Cooke, Max Parrish (Jr.), and a management committee that included future company president, Bill McCune. Working through the technical challenges, calcite's profligate physical properties

were tamed, and more prototypes started trickling out to the navy and army.

Joining this expertise was a new cadre of workers that Land had the vision to develop. Land routinely culled Harvard and MIT for top, typically male talent. But he also recognized the untapped potential in female college students, particularly liberal arts majors, whose creativity had not yet been stifled by rigid book learning regimens devoid of practical application. In a time of wartime labor shortages, young women came into Polaroid's wide-open, creative culture that Land sustained. Some worked in the optics shop, fashioning glass and plastic optics, filters, goggles, etc., and some in the ORS shops to fabricate the calcite disks. Among these ORS workers, Doris Arhondy, Elizabeth Clebourne, Frances Jenney, Beth Ingraham, and others did yeoman service. They did not make magazine covers like the iconic 'Rosie the Riveter,' but in their anonymity, these women overcame severe manufacturing problems to help make the program a success.

Complementing female expertise at Cambridge was a similar crew in Montana, one of the few localities where optical calcite was found and mined. In a glorified crossroads of a town, Clyde Park, half a dozen rural women learned how to examine calcite crystals and determine their optical orientations to permit trimming before shipping back east. They were taught by Harry Berman, a mineralogy professor at Harvard and a friend of Land's. Launched by Berman's crystallographic tutelage, they did their job so well that not only did they rescue the mining site from closure, but also gained a branding: "Crystal Crackin' Mamas," after the popular wartime song, *Pistol Packin' Mama*.

In addition to Montana, two other calcite locations were developed, starting with one in the southern California desert. Before the war, the Palm Wash deposit had been worked for collector specimens by several prospectors, including perennial "Desert Rat" John Hilton, whose skills ranged from cactus cultivation to off-key singing in bars to oil painting, not to mention mineral prospecting and an ever-ready collection of tall tales. The California mine that grew from Hilton's prospecting pick became a multicultural reflection of America: southern bayou boys, eastern sons of college professors, a gruff western cook; drifters and draftdodgers and "the underbelly of America" as one commentator put it; Cahuilla Indian farmers and a firewalking shaman; successful mining engineers and downon-their-luck ex-cons. Together, they formed a team that worked long days in the broiling desert sun to produce the crystals Clint Young and his team urgently needed.

It was quite a handful for Polaroid to manage such a disparate crew from Cambridge, so mining development was outsourced to international mine developers Arnold and Robert Hoffman. The Hoffmans even brought their brother, Irwin, up to the mine for a few weeks, ostensibly to do crystal sorting. A well-established artist, Irwin painted a magnificent series of watercolors of the miners, in many cases the only accessible records of lives otherwise lived out in obscurity.

Down in Mexico, a third mining locality was being developed by Edwin Stanton, a former optometrist whose delusions of spying for the FBI had brought him under the personal scrutiny of J. Edgar Hoover. But Stanton's tragic death, possibly caused by his impulsive hubris, unleashed

government involvement that produced a calcite windfall from two bonanza mines in 1944.

But back at Polaroid, Land's ORS group had gone through quite enough boom-and-bust cycles of calcite supply, and the search was on for a laboratory-grown substitute. Crystallographic expert Cutler West found it in sodium nitrate, ending the crystal supply problem near the end of the war.

West's sodium nitrate crystals and the many calcite crystals produced before them went to the guns of war in profusion: as anti-aircraft gunsights on navy merchant vessels, warships, and patrol planes; and for a brief time, army bazookas. The ORS was but a drop in the bucketful of WWII technologies. But when facing an incoming enemy plane, every gunner that used it found that drop in the bucket to be wet enough.

Oddly enough, Edwin Land said little about the ORS project after the war. He simply moved on to the next experiment, and especially the instant photography field to which some readers of this article contributed back in Polaroid's glory days so many years ago. But the ORS made a few more contributions to history after the war. In the 1950s it was used to aim TV cameras, and then to aim still and video cameras mounted on the helmets of skydiving photographers. Then it went higher than that – all the way to the moon. Because of Edwin Land's elegant, compact, and simple design, the ORS was a perfect aim for NASA space cameras when using long-focal length lenses. It almost certainly composed the iconic *Earthrise* photo from Apollo 8. And today, two optical ring sights lie embedded in the lunar dust, offloaded with their cameras to reduce ballast on Apollo 16's and 17's returning lunar landers. They are, in a sense, memorials to an enduring inspiration that hit Land 5,000 feet in the air so many years before.

Surely even the visionary Edwin Land did not conceive of such a fitting tribute. Or did he?

Note: This article is gleaned from *Rings of Fire: How an Unlikely Team of Scientists, Ex-Cons, Women, and Native Americans Helped Win WWII* (Rowman & Littlefield). This book, which delves heavily into Edwin Land's creative process and his legacy at Polaroid, is available in hardback and as an e-book from many online booksellers, such as:

<https://www.amazon.com/Rings-Fire-Unlikely-Scientists-Americans/dp/0811773892>

*The author thanks the many PolAlums who were so helpful in the research, including: Lou Rosenblum, Bill Plummer, Vivian Walworth, Mary McCann, Bob Jones, John Ford, Paul Lee, Claude Valle Jr., Nasrin Rohani, and Mary Ellis.*

## ***A Tad of History by Ed Byrnes***

Polaroid was a major scientific contributor to the Allied effort during WW2. Thus, it earned the right to fly the Government's "E" (Excellence) flag at 730 Main Street Headquarters during the war years. Dr. Land was rightly proud of Polaroid's defense contributions, but the war was over, and the future offered unlimited business opportunities for those possessing insight into public needs or desires.

Prior to WW2 Polaroid was known for its invention of large-scale synthetic polarizing plastic sheeting which quickly replaced size-limited crystal polarization technology. Thus, the development of unique polarizing sunglasses and other specialty polarizing products was Polaroid's introduction to the world at large. In 1947 Land introduced to the scientific community "Instant Photography." The model #95 camera and instant film launched to overwhelming praise of technical excellence. In time Polaroid would become a cultural phenomenon, thus a desired destination for employment.

When I received my master's degree in physics, in the summer of 1951, US employment was readily available to all, for industrial growth was seemingly ever growing. Fortunately, my choice had been made: Land's Polaroid. Because Polaroid had top secret clearance for WW2, 750 Main Street's 6-story building was enclosed by gated fencing. Sitting in the middle of the gated parking area was a temporary two-story, two-room shack, a remnant of WW2. The lower floor was Customer Service; the second floor was Personnel.

It was early September 1951 when I arrived at Polaroid's Personnel Office to accept their offer of employment as a physicist in their research organization. Please note the phrase, "Personnel Office" as compared to current "HUMAN RESOURCES" which tends to signal far greater significance than Personnel.

It should be noted with the ending of WW2, most of Polaroid's WW2 tenured female employees resigned when their husbands were discharged from military service. This meant a new era for Polaroid, a younger demographic of male and female scientists and technicians who would create a unique new product... Instant Photography.

My employment interviewer was a young charming woman with the call sign Ms. Cronin who, I guessed, was a recent hire herself. After 15 minutes of shuffling contracts about, I was ordained an official member, Physicist, ID# 666, of Land's research department. Before exiting the Personnel shack, another newly hired hand arrived on scene. His name was George Fernald, a very handsome dude with a smile one might suspect disoriented a few of those new female employees. For whatever reason, we became not only associates but close friends until his far too early death.

## ***A Blast from the Past***

**Len Aberbach** and **Steve Engler** sent the *Newsletter* the words to Tom Lehrer's, *POLAROID PHOTOGRAPHY SONG* written for the September 1980 Polaroid Sales Meeting. Tom Lehrer, a Harvard math professor, is famous for his witty songs, and entertaining videos. Hear the song on YouTube at

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-WSIYZ2o9s>> performed by the "Tom Lehrer Band"

*Of uses for our photographs you'll find a multiplicity,  
From quality control to advertising and publicity,  
Computer graphics, diagnostics, also radiometry,  
Endoscopy and dentistry and microdensitometry,*

*And micrometallography and paper chromatography,  
Spectrography, thermography, and color scintillography,  
For studies biomedical and studies anatomical,  
[soft] For bodies microscopic and  
[loud] For bodies astronomical!*

### **CHORUS:**

*For bodies microscopic and for bodies astronomical,  
For bodies microscopic and for bodies astronomical,  
For bodies microscopic and for bodies astronomical.*

*Geology, oncology, pathology, myology,  
Astrology --- astrology? --- forget it, my apology ---  
With spectroscopes, oscilloscopes, and cam'ras  
ultrasonical,  
There's hardly any science that is missing from this  
chronicle.*

### **CHORUS :**

*With spectroscopes , oscilloscopes , and cam 'ras  
ultrasonical ,  
There's hardly any science that is missing from this  
chronicle.*

*Acoustical holography, computerized tomography,  
Diffraction crystallography and autoradiography.  
In short, in ev'ry field from cosmic rays to choreography  
There's bound to be a way of using Polaroid photography.*

### **CHORUS:**

*In short, in every field from cosmic rays to choreography  
There's bound to be a way of using Polaroid photography.  
[Getting faster and faster:]  
In short, in ev'ry field from cosmic rays to choreography  
There's bound to be a way of using Polaroid photography.*

### **CHORUS:**

*In short, in every field from cosmic rays to choreography  
There's bound to be a way of using Polaroid photography.*

## In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at [www.polaroidretirees.org](http://www.polaroidretirees.org)



**Adams, Elaine L.,** 76, Wellesley, MA, 11/3/24 was the wife of George. Elaine was a Technology Marketing Manager. They travelled extensively together all over the world.



**Banz, Robert D. "Bob",** 91, Venice, FL, 11/1/24 was the husband of the late Nancy, father of Vicki, Richard and the late Robert, grandfather of three, and great-grandfather of three. Bob served as a Navy Pilot. He enjoyed skiing, golfing, diving into a heated domino game and sailing. He was a member of the PRA.



**Baron, Richard C.,** 82, Painesville, OH, 12/5/24 was the husband of the late Linda and father of Christopher and Matthew. He was a Research Chemist. Richard had a lifelong interest in birdwatching, loved to play chess, was an avid reader, film buff and a classical music fan.



**Bearse, Janette E. "Jan",** 99, Hyannis, MA, 12/18/24 was the wife of the late Robert, mother of Penny, Julie and Robert, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of eleven. Jan was actively involved in her community, serving as a member of the Hyannis Junior Women's Club and a charter member of the Cape Cod branch of the National Secretary Association.



**Belcher, Richard P. Jr. "Zip",** 77, Winthrop, MA, 12/18/24 was the husband of Isabel, father of Richard, Michael and Daniel, stepfather of Kevin, Eric and Mark, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of two. He worked in Optics. He was an avid golfer and spent a lot of his time between Belmont, Hopkinton, Sebago Lake in Maine and his winter getaway at Greenacres in Florida.



**Bjork, Albion P. "Al",** 94, Lincoln, MA, 10/26/24 was the husband of the late Betty, father of Kristen and Jill and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Bomber Navigator (U.S.S. Wasp). Al was a member of the team that developed the

Land Camera. He enjoyed building furniture, mastering photography, designing houses and raising unruly dogs.



**Boland, Richard D.,** 82, Westford, MA, 9/30/24 was the husband of late Elizabeth, father of Julie and the late Tim and grandfather of six. Richard had a passion for photography, gardening and cars, especially drag racing. He took great pride in his vintage car.



**Bosse, James J. "Jim",** 82, Easton, MA, 12/25/24 was the husband of the late Jeanne, father of Michael, Linda and the late Kevin, and grandfather of five. Jim loved adventure, taking "mystery rides" and traveling around the world. Jim had a green thumb and loved tending to his garden. He was a lifetime member of the PRA.



**Brayton, Christopher,** 90, Boston and Fairhaven, MA, 11/28/24 was the husband of Jane and the late Dianne, father of Gary, Scott, Alan and Kevin, step-father of Laura and Emily, grandfather of 10 and step-grandfather of three. Christopher was an avid reader, loved the ocean and collected and repaired clocks. He was a member of the PRA.



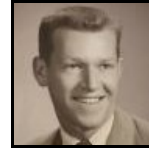
**Burger, Walter R.,** 89, Bedford, MA, 10/26/24 was the husband of the late Phyllis, father of Leslie and David, grandfather of two, great-grandfather of one and companion to Alice. He was a Mechanical Engineer. Walter had a pilot license and enjoyed playing soccer, golfing, and auto racing.



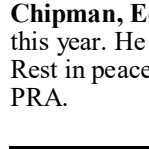
**Callender, Ora L.,** 89, West Bridgewater, MA, 12/16/24 was the wife of Godfrey, mother of Myron, Arniece, Stacey and Terence, grandmother of eleven and great-grandmother of seven. She worked in the Processing and the Testing Division (Norwood). Ora was a gifted seamstress, enjoyed traveling, ceramics and tending to her beautiful flower garden. She was a lifetime member of the PRA.



**Camara, Jordan,** 78, Chandler, AZ, 11/6/24 was the husband of Paula, father of Adam and Whitney and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force. Jordan loved bowling, baseball, billiards, card games and golf (making 2 hole-in-ones).



**Cass, William E. "Bill",** 85, Yarmouth Port, MA, 12/8/24 was the husband of Patricia, father of William, Michael and Lisa and grandfather of seven. He served in the U.S. Navy. Bill was an Electrical Engineer. He enjoyed fishing, boating, all things sports, volunteering at the Y-D Redsox, giving "tours" to his favorite spots, chasing sunsets with his granddaughters, listening to music early in the morning, sitting on his back porch and watching the birds, sharing memories, refereeing and coaching hockey. He was a member of the PRA.



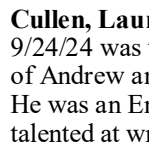
**Chipman, Edward** passed away earlier this year. He lived in Apollo Beach, FL. Rest in peace. He was a member of the PRA.



**Collins, Paul H.,** Malden, MA, 9/29/24 was the father of Karen, Paul, Patricia and John, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of one. He was a Warehouse Foreman and Manager of the Mailroom. Paul loved working in his backyard.



**Crimaldi, Barbara Ann,** 85, Cambridge, MA, 10/19/24 was the partner of the late Harold, ex-wife of Salvatore, sister of Josephine, Carole, Geraldine, Dolores, Annette, Philip, Joseph and Deborah, mother of three, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of five. Barbara adored spending time with all her relatives, especially at large family gatherings, specifically, when she hosted her annual Christmas Eve party. She was a member of the PRA.



**Cullen, Laurence E.,** 82, Manchester, NH, 9/24/24 was the husband of Sandra, father of Andrew and grandfather of Chimnora. He was an Engineer Assistant. He was talented at writing poetry, was a big American Civil War history buff, was very interested in Native American culture and liked to collect arrowheads. He was a

## In Memoriam continued

member of the PRA.

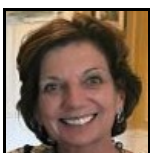
**Cyr, Bruce A.**, 76, Acushnet, MA, 11/20/24 was the husband of Cathy, father of Matthew and Danielle and grandfather of eight. Bruce worked in NB-1 Negative Manufacturing. He was an Electrician. He enjoyed golf, playing his guitars, shooting, riding his Harleys and spending many hours at the Bayside, The Whale and Ressi.



**Davies, William J. "Bill"**, 91, 11/14/24, Dunbarton, NH was the husband of Philippa (Pip), father of Adam and Jason, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of seven. Bill was a Sr. Tooling Engineer in the International Division with a specialization in plastic injection molding tools. Bill enjoyed cruising the high seas and had love for dogs, photography, golf, table tennis, dragon boat rowing (paddling), dominoes, reading and sudoku games.



**Davison, Richard H. "Rich"**, 85, Hudson, MA, 9/8/24 was the husband of Sheila, father of Jeffrey and Suzanne, grandfather of five and great-grandfather of two. Rich was Product Manager for the SX-70, (Camera Division, Tech Square). He enjoyed camping and backpacking throughout New England and Canada and loved music and reading. He was a member of the PRA.



**Delahunt, Nancy A.**, 63, Quincy, MA, 9/26/24 was the sister of Paul, Jeff, Peter, Steven and John and aunt of 14. She found great joy in golfing and took care of everyone. Nancy was the epitome of grace and warmth, dubbed the Jackie O. of her friend group and lit up every room she entered, making her the favorite guest at every gathering.



**Deppner, Robert "Bobby D"**, Trinity, FL, 10/18/24 was the husband of Ilene, father of Kevin, Steven, Jackie and Ellen and grandfather of five. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp. He was an elected Labor Representative and Internal Consultant who had a gift for uniting people. He learned to horseback ride, was an overall animal whisperer, an avid golfer and a NE Patriots Fan.



**Dery, Donald "Don"**, 89, Newport, RI, 11/18/24, was the husband of Rowena and the late Gayle, father of Jo-Ann, Robert, David, Michael and Robin and grandfather of nine. Don was the Manager of International Public Relations who was in charge of European Public Relations, stationed with our subsidiary company in London. He enjoyed sailing, autobiographies and historical books. He was the author of two books of fiction and he co-authored a three-volume history of the sugar industry in Antigua.



**DeWitt, Joan**, 90, Fort Lee, NJ, 12/12/24 was the mother of Mary, Gerald, Kevin and Brian, grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of seven. Joan modeled as a Polaroid Girl. She was a lively conversationalist who loved happy hour and cooking. She collected many cookbooks and admired Lydia Bastianich and Jacques Pepin. Her favorite meal always included oysters and champagne.



**Dicker, Gerald R.**, 90, Wayland, MA, 11/19/24 was the husband of Saralyn, father of Barry and Elysa, and grandfather of four. He was a Vice President. He loved jazz, old movies, crossword puzzles, politics and poetry. He contributed many original prayers to their Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley in Sudbury, MA. The prayer he wrote after the death of his own father "Remembered in Love" has been used many times including with permission in Anita Diamant's book, *Saying Kaddish*, 1998. He was a member of the PRA.



**Donaghy, Albert E. "Al"**, 92, Abington, MA, 11/2/24 was the husband of Ellen, father of Frank, John, Barbara and Michael and grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Army, (Korean Conflict). Al was an Electrician and an Engineer, (New Bedford, Waltham and Cambridge). He was famous there for his sense of humor at company outings and the creation of a competitive running event titled the Conti Cup. He was a member of the PRA.



**Doncaster, Richard**, 84, West Harwich, MA 8/31/24 was the husband of the late Elizabeth, father of Lori, Scott and Steven, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of two. He was a voracious reader, enjoyed travelling and good food and never turned down a glass of Cabernet.



**Dresser, Douglas S.**, 79, East Hampstead, NH, 12/12/24 was the husband of Sheila, father of Kevin and Brian and grandfather of five. He served in the U. S. Army Reserves. He was a Sales Manager. Douglas enjoyed all types of exploring: daily walks with Sheila, an early breakfast out (before the crowds), weekend adventures taking the 'old road' to the Maine coast, his favorite place in the world where a portion of his ashes will be scattered.



**Dumas, George S.**, 84, Wakefield, MA, 11/19/24 was the husband of Diane and father of Roy. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard. George was a Chemical Processor. George and his wife traveled extensively and he was an "Antique Car Enthusiast." He was a proud owner of a 1956 Pontiac Star Chief.



**Dwyer, Timothy J.**, 71, Clayton, NC, 9/21/24 was the husband of Linda, father of Shana and Molly and grandfather of three. He played hockey until he was an "old-timer," loved Boston sports, the Grateful Dead, lobster rolls (always cold), big waves, hoppy IPAs and his summer in Matunuck.



**Erdman, Richard C.**, 87, of Columbia City, IN, 9/5/24 was the husband of Patricia and father of Kevin and Alexander. He was an Electrical Engineer. Dick loved to go camping and fishing in Northern Canada, volunteering as a greeter at Parkview Whitley Hospital, attending Komet Hockey and playing cards and live poker at casinos.



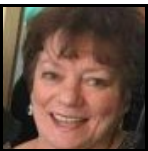
## In Memoriam continued



**Fraser, Richard, "Richie", "Poppy" "Dick"** 84, Cotuit, MA, 12/26/24 was the husband of Margaret, father of Karen, Kevin and Brian and grandfather of eight. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a Senior Principal Design Engineer and held several patents. He enjoyed building model ships, kayaking, hiking and skiing in the White Mountains.



**Godfrey, Zelda G.**, 71, Dorchester, MA. 9/7/24 was the sister of Daniel, twin sister of Sarita, partner of Percy, aunt of four and great-aunt of six. She worked in Cambridge, MA. Zelda was an avid lover of watching wrestling, football, baseball and basketball.



**Hill, Linda A.**, 70, Derry, NH, 9/13/24 was the wife of Wesley, stepmother of Melanie and Wesley IV and grandmother of two. She was a Process Technician, (Norwood). Linda was full of love.



**Idelson, Martin Dr.**, 96, Newton, MA, 9/22/24 was the husband of Paulette, father of James and Shirley and grandfather of two. He joined Edwin Land's R&D team, and was awarded numerous U.S. and foreign patents, gave lectures on the chemistry of instant photography, specialized in photographic dyes and led the development of the dyes for the SX-70 photographic films.



**Jones, Henry Jr.**, 72, Roxbury, MA, 10/4/24 was the brother of Melvin, Michelle, Latricia, Reginald, Catherine and the late Arthur, father of Angela, Mark, Damon, Jonathan and Catherine, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of two. Governor Weld presented him with the highest firefighter honor of the Medal of Valor.



**Kane, Donald**, 76, Quincy, MA, 12/16/24 was the husband of Joanne, father of Stacie, Tim and Michael and grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Army

Reserves. Donald was an Electrician. He excitedly anticipated his annual trips with his grandchildren to Story Land and Santa's Village and cheering them on at their many baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer and hockey, cheerleading, dancing and gymnastics competitions.



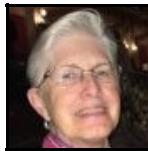
**Keating, Louis "Phil"**, 94, West Roxbury, MA, 12/15/24 was the husband of the late Cora, partner of Mary, father of Darrell and Kevin, grandfather of five, great-grandfather of six and great-great-grandfather of three. He was a master Craftsman and Cabinet Maker (Trades Department). He enjoyed working with wood throughout his life as his skills weren't limited to any specific area of that genre. He was a member of the PRA.



**Kenney, Shirley L.**, 92, Freeport, ME, 10/4/24 was the mother of Tammy, and James, and grandmother of two. She dedicated many years to Special Olympics events and was purchasing food for the Freeport Community Center Food Bank until her passing.



**Kentley, Francis H. Jr.**, 87, 11/4/24 husband of Ruth, father of Lori and Kevin. He served in the U.S. Navy. Francis was a Technician (Waltham).



**Koch, Cheryl E.**, 77, Pelham, NH, 12/10/24 was the wife of the late Richard, mother of Ian, Melanie and Harmony, stepmother of Kimberly and grandmother of nine. Cheryl was a Secretary. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Pelham where she enjoyed singing in the church choir and playing the bells. She was a member of the PRA.

**Lucier, Geoffrey R.**, 74, New Bedford, MA, 11/23/24 was the brother of Bruce and Leeann, father of Trent and Myles and friend of Laura. He worked in New Bedford. Geof was a voracious reader, amateur paleontologist and cat lover. He loved art and films and enjoyed music from classical to rock.

**MacArthur, Neil**, 79, Winchester, MA, 9/26/24 was the husband of Jane, father of

Kathleen, Timothy and Erin, grandfather of Bennett and former husband and friend of Tina. He was a Lead Coating Technician. Neil played football, softball, and hockey, and he enjoyed running and cross-country skiing.



**Marciello, John A.**, 84, Northborough, MA, 11/26/24 was the husband of Carol, father of Robert, David and Joanna, grandfather of ten, and great-grandfather of two. He was a Senior Process/Production Chemical Engineer. John held many patents and was an accomplished handyman with skills in plumbing, carpentry, auto mechanics, masonry and winemaking taught by his grandfather.



**McDonough, John J.**, 67, Mansfield, MA, 11/17/24, was the brother of Robert, Gerard, Paul, Maryjane and the late Susan. He was a Security Guard. John was a history buff and avid reader who enjoyed learning and sharing interesting facts. In his free time, he enjoyed the arts, including photography, plays and music. The Beatles and Elvis were his favorites. John's sense of humor lead him to stand-up comedy and eventually to local television commercials. Most important to John was his family, especially his nieces and nephews, whom he adored.



**McGaffigan, Roberta M. "Bobbie"**, 80, Bellingham, MA, 12/18/24 was the wife of Cornelius, mother of Kelly, Kimberley, Jay and Brian, grandmother of five and soon to be great-grandmother of one. She enjoyed traveling with her many friends and cherished her time with her Waltham card group girls, creating a lifetime of lasting memories. She was a member of the PRA.



**Meehan, Paul J.**, 77, Lexington, MA, 12/20/24 was the husband of Margaret, father of Maureen, Paul, Darlene and Christine and was a grandfather. Paul served in the U.S. Navy (Vietnam Conflict on two deployments) on the USS Renville as a Diesel Engineer and was a River Boat Engineer "primarily running the rivers of Nam in the Northern

## In Memoriam continued

province." He worked in the Security Department. He played softball, and loved to hike, fish, bike, study history and genealogy, and was a voracious reader.



**Morrison, Shirley, 83**, Marlborough, MA, 9/19/24 was the sister of Kenneth, John, Dorothy, Donna and Barbara, aunt of many and lifelong friend of Linda. She

was a Nurse. She enjoyed sports such as softball, bowling and golf, and even tried scuba diving. She was a big Pats fan and an even bigger Bruins fan.



**Ogilvie, Richard, 88**, Westborough, MA, 11/18/24 was the husband of Harriet, father of David and Richard Jr., grandfather of five and great-grandfather of one. He

served in the U.S. Air Force attaining the rank of A/1C (P) (Korean Conflict). He was a Manufacturing Specialist. He enjoyed travelling, being with family and friends and church activities. He was a member of the PRA.



**Pitkin, William Jr., 85**, Farragut, TN, 10/15/24 was the husband of the late Sharon, father of Sara, Julia and William III and grandfather of nine. He was a Mechanical Engineer (Waltham, MA). A ham radio enthusiast, he often spent his time tracking storms. He was an avid sailor, skier, camper and hiker.



**Rutter, Carlton G., 93**, Seekonk, MA, 12/8/24 was the husband of the late Joan, father of Steven, Michael and Carlton, grandfather of six and great-grandfather of one. He served in the Korean War. He was a gifted painter and found solace in gardening, fishing and golfing.



**Sharp, Kent, 73**, Acton, MA, 11/30/24 was the husband of Maura, father of Stephanie, Brian, Julie and Kevin and grandfather of four. He loved building things and working with tools, was an accomplished cook and baker, attended to his decades-old black raspberry patch, had a love of travel and adventure and enjoyed golfing.



**Silverston, Jay, 89**, Lexington, MA was the husband of Carol, father of Andrew, Neil and Chuck, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of one. Jay was an Electrical Engineer. He was a committed Red Sox and Patriots Fan. He never met a cookie or slice of pizza he did not like and was a fast car enthusiast.



**Smith, Paul F., 86**, South Yarmouth, MA, 11/13/24 was the husband of Ann Marie, father of Sue, Mark and the late Matthew, father-in-law of Jill and grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Air Force. Paul worked in Human Resources. He was selfless his whole life, putting everyone before himself. He was a member of the PRA.



**Smith, Scott M., 69**, Waltham, MA, 11/18/24 was the father of Alicia, brother of Laurie, Susan, Dorothy and Dede and uncle of many. He held various positions. Scott was a talented artist and amateur watercolor painter. He enjoyed music, fishing and cooking and he loved visiting the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.



**Taschioglou, Kemon P., 96**, Lincoln, MA, 8/31/24 was the husband of Rhoda, father of Ellen, Peter, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. Kemon worked in Sales. He would regularly jog, swim, chop wood, canoe on the Sudbury River, and camp in the Appalachians.



**Tauro, Rita M., 79**, Burlington, MA, 11/22/24 was the wife of Ed, mother of Michele, Denise and Ronald and grandmother of five. She worked in the Legal Department. Rita enjoyed going to casinos and traveling whenever she could. Her "Girls Weekends" with close friends were cherished.



**Theodores, Theodore P. "Ted", 89**, Charlton, MA, 12/24/24 was the husband of Louise, father of Denise and Matthew and grandfather of six. He served in the Massachusetts National Guard and was a Pilot in the Civil Air Patrol. He was the Director of Industrial and Technical Products. He enjoyed boating, fishing, tennis and painting. He was a member of the PRA.

**Tripp, Diane Gerwatowski, Acushnet, MA, February 2024.** She was the wife of Dave Dennis. Diane was an Analytical Lab Technician in NB-1, Negative Manufacturing, New Bedford, MA.



**Viola, Mary, 100**, Somerville, MA, 10/29/24 was the wife of the late Benedetto, mother of Letitia, Michael and Nancy, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of seven. She was an Administrative Assistant. She was a "domestic goddess" who enjoyed classical music, piano, instrumental music and opera.



**Wagner, Leo F., Jr., "Lee", 82**, Dearborn, MI, 11/30/24 was the husband of Jeannine, father of Lisa, Kristin and Cheryl and grandfather of seven. He was an Electrical Engineer. Lee loved listening to music and attended weekly mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Canton, MA. He cherished family trips and his mother's home-cooked Italian meals. Leo enjoyed being a dog owner and was an avid supporter of Boston sports teams.

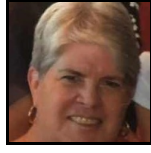


**Whalen, Robert F., 86**, The Villages, FL, 11/11/24 was the husband of Debra, father of Robert, David, Christopher, James and Douglas and grandfather of two. He was a Vessel Designer. Bob enjoyed fishing, golfing, unique music, beach walks and time with family and friends.

## In Memoriam continued



**Whyte, Carmen C. P. "Baby Whyte"**, 89, Boston, MA, 11/28/24 was the mother of Freeston and Joan, grandmother of three and great-grandmother of one. She worked in Cambridge and Norwood. Her hobbies were gardening, cooking, photography and playing the lottery.



**Wilson-LeDone, Kathleen A.**, 75, Port Orange, FL, 9/28/24 was the wife of Robert, mother of Eric and Jennifer and grandmother of five. She was a Sales Representative. She was deeply committed to her community, donating her time to the local garden club and the Museum of Science and Arts (MOSA) in Daytona Beach, FL.



**Wybert, William C.**, 81, Chester, NH, 10/4/24 was the husband of Rita, father of Patricia and James, grandfather of six and great-grandfather of four. Bill served in the US Air Force. He was an Engineer. Bill enjoyed football, riding his motorcycle, Hudson Speedway racing and classic car shows.

### PRA Celebrates Its 40th Jubilee Year Throughout 2025

Save the date for the Annual Meeting on **May 12** at the Marriott Newton.

Chris Bonanos, author of *Instant*, will return as the Luncheon speaker.

During 2025 we are collecting your favorite **Jubilee Short Stories**

Karl Hormann sent a great short story, "Camera from Mars."

#### Marriott Newton Luncheon - May 12, 2025

We hope you will join us! Located just off Exit 39A Route 95/128. Wheelchair & handicap accessible. The Direct Federal Credit Union is again most generous in its support of all PRA Members' lunches.

#### Chris Bonanos - Luncheon Speaker

Chris was the PRA's speaker for our 2014 Spring Luncheon. Many Members met Chris during the earlier years when he commuted from New York City to spend nights and weekends at Harvard's Baker Library writing his wonderful book *INSTANT: The Story of Polaroid*. Chris started writing for *New York Magazine* in 1993, and now is its City Editor and theater critic. Chris' writings focus on the history of how technology causes changes in social trends. Chris has been a Polaroid fan since childhood. Polaroid careers have been focused on organizing, inventing, engineering, manufacturing, and marketing optical things. *INSTANT* tells that story extremely well, and adds insights on how the world was affected by using those optical things.

PRA Members often think that Boston is center of all things Polaroid. However, Chris sees the world through a wider lens. His writings, Instagram feeds and global connections see more than we do of the continuing Polaroid presence around the world. Our Jubilee speaker will connect us with new Polaroid things that have changed in the past decade and remind us of Polaroid's influence on social culture that remains constant.

#### Jubilee Short Story Collection

What are your favorite Polaroid memories? We are collecting Jubilee stories that made you feel good. In particular, we'd like the Polaroid stories that made you and your friends laugh. We will collect them over the next year, publishing some in each *Newsletter*, and publishing the whole collection in 2026. Please write us your Polaroid Proud Jubilee Short Stories.

Tell a special short story. Aim for a max of 250 words. Then email it to <[newsletterpra@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterpra@gmail.com)> or mail it to R. Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Assn, P.O. Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969. The *Newsletter* deadline for our Q2 stories is March 1. The following "Camera from Mars" story is a great example!

#### Karl Hormann Jubilee Short Story "Camera from Mars"

*Trying to impress European patent examiners with the SX-70 camera & its many novel features, I had taken one to Europe with me. During a week-end I had an opportunity to visit one of the wine-growing villages near Bonn in Germany. Whilst at dinner I was asked by other guests in the pub from where I had come. I told them (in German) "from Mars". Of course, they did not believe me - at least not until after I had pulled out my SX-70 demonstrator to take a few pictures of them & had them develop before their eyes. You should have seen their faces! Whether or not that was the first public demonstration of that camera, I do not know. But I may be excused for feeling a bit of pride about being a member of an organization that developed such a "magic" camera. **Karl Hormann, Patents, Tech Square***

**Let's celebrate our 40th Jubilee Year**

