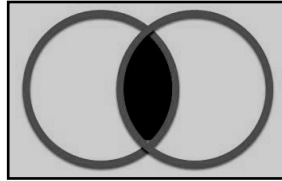


NewsLetter



Newsletter Team:
Mary McCann, Maryann
Hall, Bill Rosen,
Erika Kliem

Polaroid Retirees Association

July-September
2022

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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President's Letter

Dear PRA Members,

I hope this *Newsletter* finds you enjoying the summer with family and friends. Those of you in New England know the season is short, and I hope you are able to make the most of it.

We were on track to go ahead with the first in-person Luncheon since October of 2019 until we canceled it only 10 days before it was to be held. The number of people -125- who had responded that they would attend the meeting was remarkable, indicating the tremendous interest in meeting with our old friends and co-workers. It was with deep disappointment that the board voted unanimously to cancel the event because of the continuing threat of COVID-19 and its variants.

Bob Ruckstuhl coordinated a Herculean effort to notify all of the confirmed Luncheon attendees of the cancellation. All of the board members pitched in with an intense email and phone call effort. Two even resorted to USPS mail. We were able to reach all but one member who actually showed up at the Warren Center on the scheduled day of the event. Of course, he was looking forward to seeing old friends and co-workers. We had coffee and muffins on the patio and a nice reminiscence of our experiences at Polaroid.

The election of board members ordinarily takes place in May at the Business meeting but was conducted by the board members via Zoom. Arthur Aznavorian and Mary McCann were elected to their third 3-year terms. Ruth Scanlan and Paul Lubin were elected to 1-year interim terms; they will stand for their first 3-year terms in 2023. Don Foster and Dan Cence were elected to 2-year interim terms. They will stand for their first 3-year terms in 2024.



Jackie Flynn with lone Luncheon attendee Mike Glennon. Jackie, known for her hospitality, brought the muffins.

Both Elizabeth Foote and George Murray are leaving the board after completing the Bylaw's limit of three 3-year terms. While the PRA Constitution calls for eighteen members on the Board of Directors, there are currently fourteen members. We welcome participation by PRA members who are interested in working to keep the PRA an important and entertaining resource for all our Retirees. If you are interested in working on the Board, join a Board meeting via Zoom to learn more. Contact us at our email address, newsletterpra@gmail, and we'll Zoom you into a future meeting.

Elizabeth Foote reported Board Officer elections as first order of business at the June 14th board meeting: See the results on page 2.

As of this writing, Mary McCann is now *Newsletter* editor. She's looking forward to following Elizabeth's lead, keeping the *Newsletter* engaging and informative. She'll endeavor to make a seamless transition from Elizabeth's capable leadership as we go forward into the 37th year of PRA's existence.

Be well,
John Flynn, *President, PRA*

Board of Directors & Officers

President
John Flynn

1st Vice President
Arthur Aznavorian

2nd Vice President
Ruth Scanlan

Treasurer
Nino Dilanni

Secretary
Don Foster

Directors

Dave Bayer

Dan Cence

Maryann Hall

Touie Jackson

Erika Kliem

Paul Lubin

Mary McCann

William Rosen

Bob Ruckstuhl

The Business of the PRA

Secretary's Report: Mary McCann, Secretary

The Board of Directors continued to meet via Zoom throughout the year.

Both the October 2021 Luncheon and the 2022 May Luncheon and Business Meeting were canceled because of the threat of COVID..

The election of Board Members ordinarily takes place in May at the Business meeting; it was also conducted via Zoom. Arthur Aznavorian and Mary McCann were elected to their third three-year terms. Ruth Scanlan and Paul Lubin were elected to one-year interim terms, and they may choose to start their first three-year terms in 2023. Don Foster and Dan Cence were elected to two-year interim terms, and they may choose to start their first three-year terms in 2024.

Board Officers were elected prior to the June 12 board meeting. John Flynn was re-elected President, Arthur Aznavorian as 1st VP, and Ruth Scanlan as 2nd VP. Don Foster was elected to his first three-year term as Secretary, and Nino DiIanni was re-elected to a three-year term as Treasurer. Bob Ruckstuhl was re-elected as Membership Chair, and David Bayer as Audit Committee Chair.

Treasurer's Report: Nino DiIanni, Treasurer

The PRA Financial Results for 2021 were as follows:

Total income: \$3,546, from Dues and interest.

Total Expenses: \$8,322. (Newsletter \$6,725, Other Expenses \$1,597).

Net Loss: (\$,4776).

Cash on hand at the end of 2021 was \$26,439.

Dues for 2021 were suspended in recognition of the stress incurred by COVID-19 epidemic. Dues payments have resumed in 2022

Audit Committee Report: David Bayer, Audit Committee Chair

In March, 2022, the PRA Audit Committee convened via Zoom to review the Association's records for the period ended December 31, 2021. The Committee selected six (6) of the largest income and disbursement transactions to verify that proper documentation and recording were present. No discrepancies were found. The Committee agreed that the audit results were in compliance with the Association's policies.

Membership Committee Report: Bob Ruckstuhl, Membership Chair

June 2021 through May 2022 was a "slow" year for the Membership Committee. With all hopes of reinstating our semiannual luncheons dashed due to the COVID pandemic, coupled with the decision to forgive one year of dues payments for those members whose dues were current, the difficult times served to slow normal Membership Committee activities. Dues receipts predictably slowed and the addition of new members interested in partaking in our luncheon(s) slowed significantly.

The PRA membership shrank by 94 members over the period June 2021 through May 2022. While gaining 13 new members, we lost 38 who died and 69 more who either resigned or were dropped from the ranks of the PRA due to failure to keep their dues current. We closed May 2022 with a total membership of 915.

Emailed Newsletter Link Introduced: Ruth Scanlan, 2nd VP

A big change in distribution has taken place this year. In 2021, more than 200 PRA members elected to receive their *Newsletter* electronically. Members who have elected to receive an electronic *Newsletter* receive a link to the *Newsletter* on the Website when the printer mails the *Newsletter*. The switch from printed copy saves time, and saves resources, saving paper and clutter for members and saving expenses for the PRA.

Ruth Scanlan spearheaded the effort to make the switch. The *Newsletter* carried a notice of the new benefit to members, and Ruth followed up with emails to those members with a valid email address on the PRA roster. Conversion to electronic reception is still possible – email praemail@comcast.net to let us know that you would prefer the digital mailing.

Important: If your contact information changes, please let us know at praemail@comcast.net so we can update our mail, email and/or phone listing.

Formosa: Taiwan by Ed Byrnes

One of the joys of Newsletter editorship has been meeting members through their interest in connecting with old friends. Ed has been a pleasure to work with and, I hope, will continue to contribute. I hope, too, that we will maintain our communications, grow this friendship and meet again one day.
-Elizabeth

Formosa/Taiwan History:

In the late fifteenth century, a Portuguese ship in the China trade came across a small archipelago 75 miles off the coast of mainland China. Since it had no official map designation, they named it Formosa, a Portuguese word that translates to "beautiful island." 200 years later, the island was invaded by the Japanese in the first Sino-Japanese war. The Qing Dynasty was defeated and thus ceded Formosa to Japan in 1895 as part of war reparations.

It was Japan's first colony and so viewed by the Japanese Empire as their first step in their southern expansion of conquest. Japan ruled Formosa for about 90 years until it transitioned back to China at the end of WW2 as a war reparation.

Twenty years of on-and-off fighting Mao's communist forces, and the impact of the Japanese invasion in the mid-thirties, greatly debilitated the head of the China Republic Chiang Kai-shek's ability to govern a divided nation. Thus in 1948 he abandoned the mainland and took up residence on Formosa naming himself President and renaming it Taiwan.

Chiang didn't flee the mainland lightly. An estimated one and a half million civilians and military personnel, along with all the national treasures within his reach, transited to Taiwan. The current population of Taiwan is 23 million, of which 95 percent are Han Chinese.

Polaroid:

My first exposure to Taiwan was in the early 1980s when I assisted in evaluating potential Polaroid photo-dealerships who would report to Polaroid's Far East Operations in Tokyo. By the mid '80s, Taiwan's export-oriented industrial complex had made it one of the world's most developed nations, thus a lucrative market for Polaroid's photographic products.

When I checked into my hotel, the Taipei Hilton, I was issued a business card and told to keep it safely in my wallet. As to why, a simple practical answer: The formal side of the card referenced both the hotel and my name as guest. The opposite side was in Mandarin describing hotel's location and so forth. The concept of the business card was obviously one to ensure foreign guests would never get lost.

Within 15 minutes of my room arrival, the phone began buzzing. Since I expected no calls, I assumed it was the

front desk calling over some minor issue. To my surprise, a very seductive female voice asked if I would enjoy some immediate companionship. Wow, suitcase yet to be unpacked but an offer for a quick tryst before dinner! I informed the silky, sexy voice that I appreciated her offer, but not today; perhaps some time in the future. And I ended the call. What a way to start a business trip.

I found Taiwan to be a most fascinating country, albeit quite small, about the size of the Netherlands. It has a population of some 23 million, and it weighs in as the most densely populated country in the world. Taiwan's society is in many ways similar to that of Japan. It has long work hours and a robust night life to assuage the pain. Taipei's night life seemingly exceeded Tokyo's in terms of the number of clubs, bars, dance halls, massage parlors and, shall we say, "comfort facilities," all bathed in eye-catching brilliance of neon signage.

Over the years, I made five trips to Taiwan. Three were with Polaroid prior to its bankruptcy, and two with my own consulting company. It seems appropriate at this point to bring closure to this odyssey with a humorous or perhaps some may consider poignant evening experience shared in my last trip to Taiwan.

The Taiwan import-export sales agency with which I was associated arranged what best be called my farewell dinner at their favorite night club. What I found most surprising of the club's various amenities was its dance floor. It was, essentially, a transparent glass dance floor over a large tank of brightly illuminated water with Koi swimming about. The visual effect was quite stunning, further enhanced by the club's low ambient lighting from table candles. The overall effect was so phantasmagoric that I was compelled to ask a club hostess to share many a dance upon the water with its flickering illumination.



And that experience, dear friends, was the closing chapter of my professional career.

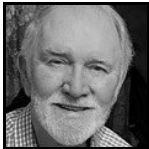
In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org

Belmore, Joseph "Joe" T., 80, Marlborough, MA, 4/4/22 was the husband of Shirley, father of Craig, and Erin, and grandfather of three. He was a Senior Planner. Joe loved to drive, spot local wildlife, paint, travel, and spend time with family.



Benson, Russell M., 83, Stoughton, MA, 4/20/22 was the husband of Alice, father of Lisa, Mark, Steven and David, and grandfather of six. He was a Civil Engineer and a Training and Development Manager. Russell was an avid tennis player and loved to golf. One of his biggest passions was photography. He was a member of the PRA.



Blocka, Ruth, 92, Ontario, Canada, 3/27/22 was the wife of Harry and the mother of Dan and Greg. Ruth worked for Polaroid Canada. She was always working, caring, helping, supporting as an ear and shoulder. 'Ruth to the Rescue!' Hobbit sized with a giant personality and heart. She was an awesome Ukrainian cook, a seasoned traveler, a yarn spinner, a lover of all sports and a white wine tester - generous to a fault.



Bradanese, Lucille M., Pepperell, MA, 83, 4/3/22 was the wife of Donald, mother of Donald, David, and Dennis, and grandmother of four.

Bradspies, Juanita "Nita", 84, Wayland, MA, 5/12/22 was the wife of the late Sydney, aunt of Robin, Debra and Lauren, and great-aunt of four. She was a Chemist in Film Manufacturing. Her interests included attending Tanglewood and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and loved to garden and cook. She was a member of the PRA.

Brown, Samuel, "Sam", 82, Framingham, MA, 6/7/22 was the husband of Susan, father of Lisa and Jennifer, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force. Sam managed Operations in the U.S. and The Netherlands, and worked extensively in the Far East. He was a member of the PRA.



Camerato, Carmine, Jr., 83, Watertown, MA, 5/7/22 was the husband of the late Jean and the late Alice, father of Carmine and Christine, stepfather of Joseph, Michael and Richard, grandfather of ten, and great-grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Navy. He was a Machinist (Film Division, Waltham) and set up production lines in the European markets of Scotland, the Netherlands and Ireland. Carmine loved traveling, snowmobiling and sailing his boat, Stamina.



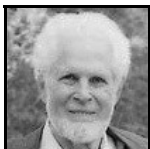
Campbell, John J. "Jack," Sr., 80, Mansfield, MA was the husband of Therese, father of John J., Michael, Patrick, Erin and Katherine-Mary, and grandfather of nine. He worked in Cambridge. Jack loved being a part of the Mansfield community and gave back to the town he loved as a former Mansfield Volunteer Firefighter and by volunteering at the Mansfield Food Pantry.



Canavan, Eileen Marie, 75, New Bedford, MA, 5/30/22 was the sister of Rosemary, James, Michael and Paul, and aunt of four. She enjoyed volunteering, walks and spending time with her family and friends. And she often reminded us, "carpe diem cuz tempus fugit."



Coates, Arthur M., 89, Weston, MA, 3/22/22 was the husband of Diana, father of Suzanne and Dana, and grandfather of six. He served in the U.S. Army (Korean Conflict). He was a Principal Engineer in solving developmental and production problems in contamination, material analysis and engineering on site and in his lab. Arthur's interests and skills, included scuba diving, sailing, skiing and ham radio. He was a licensed pilot and thoroughly enjoyed flying his Comanche airplane.



Collins, Nim, 64, Townsend, MA, 6/5/22 was the mother of Cody and Taylor, and grandmother of two, daughter of Micke and former wife of Robert. One of Nim's favorite places was the family beach house in Wareham where she and her family spent many enjoyable summers.



Costa-Fontana, Judy, 74, Plymouth, MA, 6/22/22 was the mother of Meredith Andrea and grandmother of seven. She was a Color Technician. Judy was a great cook and best known for her home-made sauce, lasagna and meatballs.



Daly, Michael, West Roxbury, MA, 4/20/22 was the husband of Eileen, father of Michael, Thomas, Kevin, Daniel and the late Patricia, and grandfather of six. Michael and Eileen enjoyed winters in Bradenton, FL., where they enjoyed memberships in New World Celts, Elks, Moose Club and the Sons of the American Legion. They were members of the Irish Social Club of Boston where they enjoyed the dances.



Dowalo, Fredrick G., 82, Ipswich, MA, 2/10/21 was the father of Linda and Thomas. He was a Bench Chemist (600M Cambridge). He loved sailing and was an accomplished boat builder. After his retirement from Polaroid he built several houses.



Duffy, Arthur J., 87, Center Barnstead, New Hampshire, 3/31/22 was the husband of Patricia, father of Arthur, Jr., Michael, Theresa, Maureen, Gerald, Kevin, and Joseph, grandfather of fifteen and great-grandfather of eleven. He served in the B Battery as a Sergeant, 102nd Field Artillery Battalion of the Massachusetts National Guard. Arthur was an Electrician (Cambridge, Norwood and Waltham). Arthur loved to golf, and play in card leagues.



Fitzgerald, Joseph G., 88, White River Junction, VT, 5/7/22 was the husband of late Cathleen and father of Cathi Jo and Joy. He worked in Camera Division, (Norwood) and also as a Machine Operator (Waltham).

Glass, John S., 86, Boxford, MA and Lake George, NY, 3/9/22, was the husband of Sharon, father of John, Sue, Stephanie, Amy and Hannah, and grandfather of ten. He worked to develop and expand the early use of instant photography. A modern renaissance man, he had many and varied interests, including



In Memoriam

ceramics, photography, wildflowers, history (particularly of his native upstate New York) and genealogy.

Goneau, Paul J., 87, Lebanon, NH, 3/21/22 was the husband of Patricia, father of Jonathan and Jennifer, and grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He loved piano jazz, playing his piano, and history.



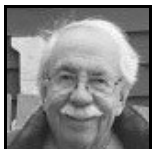
Grosso, Alfreda A., 93, Norwood, MA, 5/14/22 was the wife of the late Anthony, mother of Marie and Frank, and grandmother one. She loved Christmas, especially displaying ornaments and other Christmas memorabilia. She loved gardening and working around her yard.



Hawes, Robert "Tim", 75, Needham, MA, 5/25/22 was the husband of Linda, father of Jessica and Heather and grandfather of four. He was a Chemical Engineer. Tim loved the Red Sox, tennis, and playing golf. He was a member of the PRA.



Henault, Edmund L., 85, of Peterborough, NH, 3/30/22 was the husband of Muriel, father of Elizabeth, Thomas and Margaret, and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Navy as an officer on the USS Voelgesan DD862, USS Charles H. Roan DD853, and USS McCaffrey Dd860. He worked in Manufacturing and Human Resources. He was an avid fisherman.



Hill, Ronald James, 75, Watertown & Wareham, MA, 6/1/22 was the husband of Annbella, father of Cheryl, Christine and AnnMarie, and grandfather of seven. He was a Master Electrician and Network Operations Project Manager. Ron was an avid golfer, soccer coach and girls softball coach, and he enjoyed genealogy, camping, fishing, cooking, baking, the Red Sox and the New England Patriots. He was a member of the PRA.



Hughes, Quentin E. Jr., 89, Brockton, MA, 6/14/22 was the husband of Marilyn, father of Steven and grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Air Force, (Korean War). Quentin was a Project Engineer in New Bedford. He enjoyed traveling, sports, fol-

lowing the BC Eagles, and spending summers at their cottage in Falmouth. He was a member of the PRA.

Jordan, Virginia Sara "Ginny", 75, Belmont, MA, 3/28/22 was the partner of John, step-mother of Tucker and Eben, and step-grandmother of three. Ginny was a Programmer for Engineering and Research Projects including a new digital printer and digital camera. She enjoyed growing vegetables in her community garden plot.



Jula, Theodore F., 81, Arlington Heights, MA, 6/4/22 was the husband of the late Renee, brother of Lorraine and uncle of James. He was a Senior Research Group Leader and Manager of Commercial Chemical Development. The joy of his life was flying.



Kennedy-Tate, Lucinda I., 93, Cambridge, MA, 5/31/22 was the wife of the late Moses and the late Robert, mother of Jane and grandmother of two. She was a Financial Specialist. Lucinda had a special crew of ladies who enjoyed dinners, plays, and museums. For OVER 50 YEARS Lucinda was known for her legendary Annual Christmas Dinner and welcomed anyone from all over the world who did not have a place to go on Christmas Day.



King, Patrick F., 68, Greenville, S.C., 3/14/21, was the husband of Brenda, father of Kelly, Ross and Derek, stepfather of Ryan and Eric, grandfather of two, and step-grandfather of two. He was a Research Chemist (730/750 Main St., (Cambridge) and W4 (Waltham) and worked in Polaroid Graphics Imaging (103 Fourth Ave, Waltham). Pat had many interests, including racing his Yamaha motorcycle at Daytona International Speedway and rebuilding classic cars.



King, Sharon E., "Shari", 79, Scituate, MA, 4/13/22 was the partner of Richard, sister of Anne, Carole, Barbara and Robert, and aunt of many. She was the head of Customer Service (Waltham). She enjoyed traveling and lived for several years in Barcelona, Spain.



She loved her many cats, and was a beautiful athlete, excelling in every sport she played.



LaBelle, Theodore J. Jr. "Ted", 89, Canton, MA, 3/27/22 was the husband of the late Theresa, father of Theodore III, Peter, Karen, Daniel, Thomas, Mark, Susan, and the late Catherine, grandfather of fourteen, and great-grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Air Force, 44th AREFS (Korean War). Ted loved gardening with his wife and children as well as fishing with his sons.

Leahy, Dorothy L., 96, Middleborough, MA, 3/22/22, was the wife of the late John, mother of Kevin, Kathleen and Maureen, grandmother of three, and great-grandmother of one. She was a sports fan, loved her Red Sox and Patriots, learned to golf at the age of 60, and continued that in addition to aerobics, well into her 80s.



Liberatore, Ernest R., Sr., 83, Culpeper, VA, 2/23/22 was the husband of the late Louise, father of Ernest, Kenneth and Philip, and grandfather of six. He served in the U.S. Air Force processing imagery taken by U-2 spy planes (Laughlin, Air Force Base, TX). He was a Photographic Scientist. Ernie was recognized for his efforts in organizing blood drives in Culpeper County.



Lopes, Phyllis, 80, New Bedford, MA, 8/28/21 was the mother of Deirdre, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of twelve. She was a Junior Engineer. Phyllis was a talented singer, and a community activist. She was a Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Elder and enjoyed attending tribal events.



Miele, Hazel, D., 85, Marlborough, MA, 4/8/22 was the wife of Benedetto, mother of Brenda, Benedetto, Judith and Eric, and grandmother of eight. She was a voracious reader and writer, publishing both fiction and nonfiction articles, and enjoyed travelling, history, politics and current events.



In Memoriam

Dr. Osha, Judith Paul, 79, Morgantown, West VA, 5/2022 was the wife of the late J. Frank, mother of Jen, Johan and Joseph, grandmother of nine, and great grandmother of two. She spent several years working as a Researcher under Dr. Edwin Land and then became a Pediatrician.



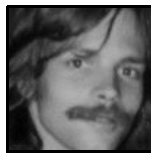
Pitzer, William E., 84, Port St. Lucie, FL, 1/12/22 was the husband of Janet, father of Allen and Nancy, grandfather of four, and great-grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). He worked in Waltham. He was an active member of the Wyoming Lodge in Melrose MA. He was a member of the PRA.



Reddington, Albert S., "Al", 87, Naples, FL, 5/5/22 was the husband of Christine, father of Dennis, and Denise, grandfather of four, and great-grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Air Force, (Korean War). Al worked in the 4x5 Operations (Waltham). He will be remembered for singing at many Naples venues; music was Al's joy. He had an abundant knowledge of history. He was a member of the PRA.



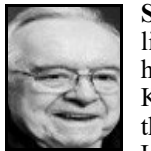
Richardson, Jr., Jack T., "Tumbleweed", 80, Lyman, ME, 6/28/22 was the husband of Rachel, father of John, Eileen, Philip, Maryann, Joseph and Patrick, stepfather of Victoria and Gabriel, and grandfather of ten. He served in the U.S. Army. Jack was a Senior Principal Engineer and Graphics Manager and was the recipient of several design patents. He loved hiking and the outdoors, and was an avid runner, winning the New England AAU Master's 50-mile Track Championship in 1985.



Saylor, Joseph W. "Joe", 57, Roslindale, MA, 4/6/22, was the dear friend of Lisa and former partner of Debbi, uncle of Elizabeth and John. Joe was a Computer Programmer. He was gifted in technology and computer sciences and used his skills as a hobby, building computers at home. He could fix "anything" electronic, and was a trophy-winning billiard player.



Stone, Robert V., 87, Edgartown, MA, 5/5/22 was the husband of Elizabeth and the late Alice, father of Sue Noell, and grandfather of two. Bob was the Director of Professional Photographic and Technical Products (Cambridge). He enjoyed traveling, flying gliders, singing in the Federated Church Choir and the Island Community Chorus, reading, and entertaining friends and strangers with an endless supply of questions and stories always garnered from first hand experience!



Sugrue, Edward J., 80, Arlington, MA, 4/22/22 was the husband of Beverly, father of Kristin and Kerri, and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Air Force. Ed worked in Management and mentored a number of coworkers who quickly became friends. He was generous to a fault and always ready to offer a ride, a meal or whatever anyone needed.



Sweet, Robert Alvin, 87, Rippon, CA, 5/7/22 was the husband of Dorothy, father of Mark, Lorelei and Ben, grandfather of five and great-grandfather of six. He served in the National Guard. He was a Computer Engineer.

Tait, Tom, 88, Paisley Scotland, 4/9/22 was the husband of the late Kathleen, father of Louise, Gillian and Richard, and grandfather of five. He was the General Manager of Polaroid's Vale of Leven Manufacturing Operations and was an International Polaroid employee. Tom and his wife Kathleen spent five wonderful years living in the Boston area.



Wade, Edward C., "Ed", 85, Reading, MA, 7/8/22 was the husband of the late Maureen, father of Maryann, Edward and Timothy, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Navy. Ed was Director of Materials Management and Logistics for Worldwide Manufacturing. He enjoyed attending BC football games, playing on a state champion adult softball team, being on the ocean and beach, and hosting an annual family whale watch. He served as a President on the Polaroid Retirees Association and was a PRA member.



Webb, Ronald E., 74, New Bedford, MA, 5/7/22 was the father of Ronald, and grandfather of two. He was a Warehouse and Inventory Manager (New Bedford). Ronald served in the U.S. Marine Corps, in the National Security Agency, with Top Secret Clearance. He was an avid golfer.



Governance Commission by Ruth Scanlan

At the May meeting of the Polaroid Retirees Association Board of Directors, it was voted to establish a commission to define the future purpose, direction, and objectives of the Association. It will also review the Constitution and Bylaws to keep them current with those objectives.

There are currently 7 members on this commission. If any member of the PRA would like to participate in this commission or offer ideas for consideration, please email your thoughts to praemail@comcast.net. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Currently, we are reviewing ideas to establish priorities and necessary resources. The PRA membership will be informed of progress through *Newsletter* updates.

In Appreciation by Bob Ruckstuhl



Bob Ruckstuhl, George Murray, Eric Thorgerson
Marylou Ruckstuhl, Norma Murray, Elizabeth Foote

Serving the Board for over 16 years and Polaroid for over 39, Bob has raised his hand for most every important task the organizations have undertaken. When it came time to say goodbye to these board members, he volunteered to thank them at the May Luncheon. The now canceled event brings his speech to you here.

Good morning. My name is Bob Ruckstuhl and I am Chairperson of the PRA Membership Committee.

It's my honor today to celebrate three very special individuals. Among them they have served as President of the PRA for a total of ten years. It's a unique circumstance to have three past presidents leave the PRA Board at the same time, but then again, they themselves are unique individuals. They are leaving the PRA Board only because our Constitution's term limits say that they have to, not because they choose to. These are truly dedicated individuals that I have the pleasure to speak about today.

Some trivia. You know, I have known these three individuals for a cumulative 149 years. That's a lot of friendship that I have enjoyed!

ERIC THORGERSON

Eric and I first met in the Officers' Club at the US Naval Base in Charleston, South Carolina. We both went through Naval ROTC programs, he at Tufts and I at Rensselaer, and upon graduation in 1960 we were both assigned to the US Naval Mine Warfare School in Charleston, South Carolina. That means that I have known Eric for 62 years. 62 years is so long ago that when Eric was assigned his first sea duty billet after the mine warfare school, it was on a wooden boat. Its true, Eric will back me up. Come to think of it, Eric never did tell me if his wooden boat had sails or oars.

But back to the mine warfare school. It was traditional after class to go down to the Officers' Club, have a swim,

play 9 holes of golf or visit the Officers' Club and have a couple of beers. It was hot there in the summer. If your choice was a couple of beers you were certain to find Eric down at the end of the bar strumming this guitar and inviting a song. Oh, those were great times! The Eric that I met then is the same Eric that I know today, a friendly, even tempered, easygoing guy always with a smile on his face, not to mention a dedicated and hard worker.

Eric and I served the Navy in different locations. It wasn't until the fall of 1969 when our paths crossed again. I was eating lunch in the W4 cafeteria when I walked Eric. I almost didn't recognize him without his guitar. He had just been hired by Polaroid.

Eric's storied career was marked by five years in the US Navy as a commissioned officer, thirty-two years at Polaroid leaving with the title of Senior Director and Corporate Ombudsman, ten years as a Professor of Chemical Engineering at Northeastern where he left as Department Chair, and eleven years on the PRA Board where he was President from 2013 to 2016. Eric brought to all of his PRA Board roles, and especially as President, the personal and professional characteristics that made him a successful leader and manager. Eric's proudest memory is the commemorative plaque honoring Dr. Land which adorns the brick wall at the corner of Osborn Street and Main Street which housed Dr. Land's lab. Eric led the three-year effort to design, fund, fabricate and install the plaque and he worked closely in coordination with the City of Cambridge and MIT making sure that the plaque met their requirements and expectations. His enthusiasm for the project resulted in over 125 PRA members donating money to insure its success.

Eric, we know that you have been off the Board for a year but, because of the pandemic, we didn't have the opportunity to thank you for your service. Belated as it may be, our appreciation and admiration are no less enthusiastic. You brought new ideas and skilled leadership to the Board and the entire PRA family, and for this we are grateful. 62 years ago you were just my good friend. Today you are OUR, the Polaroid family's, good friend. Congratulations.

GEORGE MURRAY

I have known George for 52 years. In 1970 Polaroid was going through a big expansion and in W4 we were hiring like crazy to staff a large new building and preparing for ground breaking in New Bedford. We would bring in a half a dozen job applicants on any given day and run them through the gauntlet. If in the first few interviews an applicant was judged not to be a good fit, we would end his or her visit and bid them well. However, if we identified a hot prospect, we would scurry around in real time to line up interviews further up the organizational ladder. George turned out to be one of those hot candidates, so up the interview ladder he went. After a

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tiring day we managed to find a small time slot for candidate George to meet and speak with the building manager **George Fernald**. At the appointed time George Murray walked into George Fernald's office, extended his hand for a handshake and blurted out "...and what do you do here?" George Fernald paused, obviously a bit startled, and replied, "Well, I sorta run the place." A few days later George Murray received three letters in the mail from Polaroid. Two of the letters were outright rejections and the third was a job offer. We'll never know which one of the letters was a result of the interview with George Fernald.

George Murray has spent his whole career in the Quality field, from his days in W4 evaluating and perfecting the SX-70 film product to Quality Manager in R2 SX-70 film assembly to the company wide TQO effort to his own consulting practice. Throughout this adventure George has always been the "process" guy. You've heard the phrase "all work is a process." That phrase epitomizes George's approach to things: organized, sequential and analytical. **Jim Grunst** recruited George to the PRA where he immediately applied his "process" approach, first to the organization and documentation of the activities associated with our luncheons, then to an extensive review and updating of the PRA Constitution bylaws and operating procedures. During his three years between 2016 and 2019 as President of the PRA George was focused on "process," trying to make sure that we had clear procedures, well documented for the work we were trying to accomplish, and then the eventual use of them. George's final effort, and maybe his most significant, was to introduce the Board to what he called The Planning Cycle. We are an aging and shrinking organization and what worked in the past may not necessarily work in the future, and George started us into the process of addressing this and developing a plan to deal with it. We have much to accomplish in this regard, but we have George to thank for starting us down that path.

I could share much more about George's contributions to the company, to the PRA and to you the membership, but time is limited. Thank you George; we are much the better for having had you as part of the PRA family.

ELIZABETH FOOTE aka Mrs. Eric Thorgerson
(In case you didn't know)

Elizabeth is the baby of the bunch. We've only known each other for 35 years.

Elizabeth is no stranger to saying good-bye to Polaroid. She left once to join her sister's rubber stamp company named "Ink-a-dink-a-do," once to follow her husband Bob to Fort Worth, once to be at his side as he was dying, and one final time to let go of Polaroid. Each time, with the exception of the last, Elizabeth returned, much to our joy and excitement. She was never forgotten, always missed, and the fact that she was rehired multiple times speaks volumes about her character and her capabilities.

Elizabeth crafted a career of helping others being "the

best that they can be." She flew under the radar and made her contributions quietly but with impact. Before arriving at Polaroid she taught school on St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands and then as an education coordinator for a Federal Government Program called CETA where she worked with high school dropouts to get their diplomas while they worked and got paid for community projects. She also worked on education and training programs for the Boston Drug Abuse Rehabilitation center.

Elizabeth joined Polaroid in 1978 where she continued to help others through her training and organizational development skills. She collaborated with a consultant and several Polaroid people to develop a workshop titled "Participation in Polaroid" which explored the sharing of decision-making power and process between the boss and the subordinate. Elizabeth delivered the workshop hundreds of times. **Mac Booth** and his staff went through the workshop and were so pleased that he suggested that every division acquaint every person with its content. Its creators never thought that it would be so popular.

Elizabeth needed some convincing to join the Board of the PRA. Eric, her husband, was already on the Board and Elizabeth was reluctant to join. George Murray relates that, "Perhaps my greatest achievement on the PRA board was convincing Elizabeth to serve. She was a very reluctant candidate and I worked to encourage her for several months before she said yes. Same story on the *Newsletter*. I knew she'd do a great job and she didn't disappoint." Elizabeth has made the *Newsletter* what it is today. With contributions from many, Elizabeth has put together a document of informative and entertaining writings that you, the membership, anxiously look forward to receiving every quarter. Midway through her term on the Board Elizabeth was approached to run for President. Reluctant to accept as she had found a role that she loved as editor of the *Newsletter*, but honored by the gesture, Elizabeth agreed to take on the presidency. Soon thereafter the person replacing Elizabeth as editor of the *Newsletter* resigned from the Board. Lacking an individual familiar with the routine of the *Newsletter*, Elizabeth saw an opportunity to return to the role that she enjoyed most. The result: Elizabeth is the first person to hold the positions of President of the PRA AND editor of the *Newsletter* at the same time. Bravo Elizabeth, well done!

We on the PRA Board know what it's like to work with Elizabeth. Her compassion, her understanding, her counseling and her work ethic are a joy to behold. We all experience good times and bad times as we go through life, and Elizabeth has had her share. She tells of the time that her late husband Bob passed away and the support that she garnered from her Polaroid family. To that she has said, "I could not have gotten through that without Polaroid and my Polaroid friends." Elizabeth, you have returned that favor many times over. We the PRA could not have gotten through some difficult times without you as a partner and a friend.

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I owe these three more than I can express. They have been my council, my sounding boards, my critics, and my friends. They have helped me be a better person in what I do and how I think.

In closing, as the Polaroid Retirees Association, we owe these three a debt of gratitude. I know of no three members of the PRA Board who, collectively, have done as much for the PRA as they have. They leave 3 gaping holes in the organization and will be sorely missed. Fortunately, we have a strong team behind them that is ready to pick up the

mantle and influence in their own personal ways, but there will still be three empty chairs at the table.

Don't let those chairs remain empty too long. We need to fill them with talented and dedicated individuals from your ranks, like yourselves. The tasks at hand won't go away.

We are an aging organization and need to plan for the future. I and the rest of the Board urge you to stand up and be counted. Lend your time and talent to the PRA so that it can continue to flourish and support its members going forward.

The Cambridge Science Festival Returns!

The MIT Museum announces the in-person return of the Cambridge Science Festival, October 3-9, at their new location in Kendall Square at 314 Main Street.

While we don't yet know what will be planned for the 15th year's activities, the website invites volunteers to contact the program now. The large Polaroid collection brought demonstrations and lectures in the past (some of you were presenters), so send your interest in helping or your ideas for events at <https://cambridgesciencefestival.org/about-us/>

This week-long series of events makes science accessible, interactive and fun. There will be LOTS of events to choose from and something for everyone regardless of age or education. We hope to see you and your family there.

Remember When? by Mary McCann

Remember the time when many of us were working on a new and revolutionary film and camera system? A time when we couldn't tell a friend in a different department about the film that would develop in full daylight outside the camera? - And you didn't have to peel it apart? When engineers were still modifying the design of the radically new SLR camera? And another group was creating a revolutionary battery design?

Steve Berry has posted an article about SX-70 chip design on the PRA website Bulletin Board: "How a Design Battle Between Chip Engineers Led to Polaroid's Revolutionary SX-70 Camera." The article appeared in the May 1989 issue of the *IEEE Spectrum*.

Read about how engineers **Peter Carcia** and **Sy Ellin** had to "obfuscate" details of the camera when working with chip-makers fabricating the electronics that would control our SX-70 cameras. Go to polaroidretirees.org and select the Bulletin Board. Steve's addition is near the top of General Messages.

<https://www.bulletinboards.com/message.cfm?comcode=PRAPRA>

Stamp Update

Board member **Paul Lubin** took on the task of studying how the United States Postal Service accepts designs for its stamps. Composing a letter outlining **Dr. Land's** extraordinary contributions to science, business, labor and government, Paul made the very strong case that Dr. Land deserves recognition much as other contributors on stamps have earned. Paul now reports with an update on the effort:

"Last summer your Board voted to request that a U.S. postage stamp be issued to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Land. In August we were notified that this request would be acted upon at the next meeting of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. At the end of December we received this reply:

"This topic was recently reviewed by the Committee and after careful consideration and deliberation was not recommended at this time. A limited number of stamp subjects (approximately 25-30) are chosen for each yearly stamp program. Unfortunately, the vast majority of suggestions submitted, including many meritorious and meaningful subjects, do not result in a stamp."

Paul notes, "It sounds a lot like a job turndown. We can resubmit the request in three years."

Career History by *Bill Eburn*

We've read Bill's Newsletter articles and look forward to each one. With curiosity, we asked Bill about his career history. Here's what we learned:

In 1947, my chequered working life started with Peters Engraving Company, a photoengraving company in Boston. During my work with them, I spent two years learning the technical aspects of chemically engraving printing plates for printers throughout the Boston area. I was intrigued by the methods of photographically copying original pictures and drawings, then transferring the images to copper plates coated with a photosensitive material. After exposing these images to a bright light, they were rinsed to remove the portions of the unexposed layer. These plates were then dipped in an acid bath to produce a raised image for the printing process. While at Peters, I learned the trade secrets of producing these etched printing plates, a knowledge which would come in very handy later.

After a tour in the Air Force, I worked as a design engineer for a company supplying 3D movie viewers to Polaroid for the rash of 3D movies then being released. At the demise of the 3D era in 1956, I joined Polaroid as a design engineer for cameras and associated products. We were working on the design of an automatic shutter which required a thin metal vane with a complex shape that was very difficult to produce by conventional stamping methods. A number of prototype designs were needed during the development of the shutter and my earlier experience with photoengraving gave me the idea that I might be able to etch the vane in a similar manner.

Experimenting at home in the proverbial "garage" (actually my den) I developed the etching techniques now widely used in industry. This novel method of producing thin metal parts with a high degree of accuracy and no burred edges was a success.

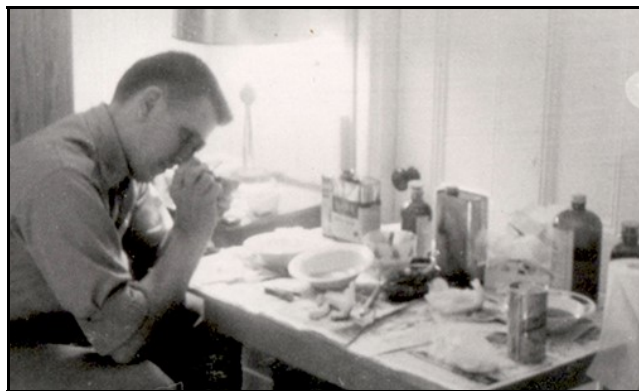
In 1958, I left Polaroid, to establish Eburn Industrial Research Corporation as the pioneer in pursuing this new commercial method of producing mechanical parts which has fast become extremely popular with many segments of industry. Amazingly, engineers at General Electric and Sprague Electric heard of this work and contacted me about the possibility of making electronic lead frames for the

Skybolt missile program which was a joint US and Canadian project. This was one of our first jobs, and was particularly amusing, due to the fact that military contracts required two or more suppliers for any critical parts, and as bureaucracy would have it, two of the largest military suppliers, were both getting a critical part from a tiny new company. We also worked closely with Kodak in developing and improving the various chemicals and techniques used in this process. In the 1960's, the creation of the printed circuit board further spearheaded the growth and development of the chemical etching process for commercial use.

I sold Eburn Research in 1961 and in 1966 its name was changed to Tech-Etch, Inc. which has grown to be a leader in the photoetching business. After our introduction of the process to industry, a number of similar companies were established to take advantage of the accuracy and time saving of this technique.

I rejoined Polaroid from 1973 to 1983, during which I spent some very interesting times as Engineering Manager of the SX-70 flat battery program in Appleton, Wisconsin. As those involved would agree, that is most assuredly a story for another time.

I eventually founded Corporation Xidix as an engineering design business until my partial retirement in Florida in 2010.



Bill's first experiments in photoetching procedure (1957)

Welcome New Members!

Rosemary Bessette, Milford
John Gillooly, Hingham

Carmen Friedman, Newton
Gerard Gomes, West Boylston

Annmarie Mazzucotelli, Winchester

Company Travels by Paul Fallavollita

From time to time, our newsletterpra@gmail.com mailbox receives messages and photos from members who wish to alert us of a colleague's death or share memories and other pieces of interest with our readers. When we received photos from Paul Fallavollita we asked him to tell us about his time at the company.

I worked at Polaroid from June 1978 to September 2001. Right after I left, as I was waiting for the first severance payment, Polaroid filed for bankruptcy. Like a lot of folks, after 23 years I/we got zilch.

I started at 640 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, putting the OneStep Camera's bezel onto the apron along with the Polaroid colors stripe. After that I moved to 117 Kendrick Street, Needham, to the left side of the building where the OneStep Camera packaging lines were. Eventually I moved over to the right side of the building where production of the Polavision emerged.

From there I bid on a job in the Payroll Department & moved to 119 Windsor St. Then I was bumped from Payroll into the Consumer Sales & Marketing Division in an administrative role.



Susan & Paul Fallavollita

I met my wife at Polaroid. **Susan Nielsen** worked for the company's Newsletter @ 549TS-1. She came to work up on 549TS-2 for **Mr. Terry Amon**, and, well, the rest is history.

In my later years I worked for the

Professional/Technical Group for **Eileen Poirier** and **Michael Suvalle - Jim Baron's** world. I also worked on the SAP project back in Needham towards the end. Some of my co-workers were **Peter Malaspina, Don**

Anderson, Jean Guilmarten, Chuck Francis, Tom Derosa and Theresa Flynn.

Finally, I moved down to the new state of the art warehouse Polaroid built. When 140 Kendrick was done the Distribution operations moved to Norton. I worked with **Walter Fitzgerald, Jim Donovan, Steve Donnelly, Phil Donahue and Phil Poirier.**

My mother, **Lucille Fallovollita**, worked with **Touie Jackson** in Norwood on the SX-70 shutter.

We were a Polaroid Family.



Lucille Fallovollita receives award



From lower right: Phil Cabral (or Frank DiGiovanni?), Robert Touhey, Touie Jackson (or Lionel Richie?), Marline Jarvis..
Can you identify others? Let us know!

October Luncheon Canceled

We look forward to seeing you in the Spring of 2023

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, and the lead time necessary in planning for a luncheon, the Directors have reluctantly chosen to wait until the Spring of 2023 to have a Grand Reunion.

We will keep you apprised of arrangements as they develop.

In the meantime, keep track of your friends and fellow employees in the *Newsletter* and on the PRA website polaroidretirees.org

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What's a special memory or two of your life at Polaroid?

Send your stories to Bob Ruckstuhl's address below or to newsletterpra@gmail.com

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