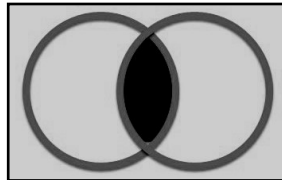


# NewsLetter



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

## Polaroid Retirees Association

October - December  
2022

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.POLAROIDRETIRES.ORG EMAIL - NEWSLETTERPRA@GMAIL.COM

### *President's Letter*

Dear PRA Members,

It's been a long, hot summer. As we gradually emerge from the record heat and humidity of the summer, we can hopefully look forward to a pleasant fall and return to some degree of normalcy, both weather-wise and in terms of a smoother road ahead for the PRA.

For almost three years we have endured a persistent pandemic and the emergence of several variations of the coronavirus. Because of the high rate of transmission we have had to cancel our last four luncheons including this October and modify our board meeting practice from in-person to on-line Zoom meetings. This change has been very effective in keeping the business of the PRA on track and allowing us to conduct our business in a smooth and effective manner. This includes carrying out the election of new board members and moving ahead seamlessly.

During this summer we learned of the passing of our fellow board member Ed Wade. While his term as president of the PRA was brief, Ed made significant contributions to the organization. He will be remembered for his participation and his efforts on behalf of the board.

At a special meeting of the board on May 26<sup>th</sup> it was proposed and approved to establish a commission to study the future purpose, direction and objectives of the Association. The committee consists of Ruth Scanlan as chairperson, and Art Aznavorian, Dan Cence, Don Foster, Edyie Johnson, Mary McCann and Bob Ruckstuhl.

The commission's charter consists of, but is not limited to, several key elements relating to operational documents, such as a constitution, by-laws, and an outline of a plan to implement the Association's defined purpose going forward to guide the PRA in achieving its objectives. The commission will draw upon ideas solicited from current and former directors and the PRA membership as a whole. It will continue in this mode until a document for the future can be formulated and presented to you, the membership, for final approval.

To that end, the commission is formulating a survey to circulate asking how the PRA and the board can best serve you. Feedback from the membership will be crucial to the success of the commission. You will find more details within the body of the *Newsletter* from chairperson Ruth Scanlan.

In this *Newsletter* issue, you will find articles about present activities of PRA members and reminiscences about the past that you might recognize as similar to your own experiences. Feel free to submit your own memories for inclusion in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

With that, stay well and I look forward to seeing you in the not too distant future.

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**

## ***Welcome New Members!***

***Tom G. Donovan of Fort Myers, FL***

***Caren Firsty Friedman of Westford***

***Joseph Labenski of Boxborough***

***Michael Pettiniccio of Palm City, FL***

### **Governance Commission Report *by Ruth Scanlan***

*September 2022*

In examining how the PRA should move forward and remain active, your Governance Commission is studying the following areas:

- 1) Increasing membership,
- 2) Enhancing the PRA Members' experience and
- 3) Changing the Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate changing times.

It was decided to initially focus on enhancing the PRA experience. Therefore, we are sending some PRA Members a survey that will help us determine the level of interest in different activities and methods of communication. The results of that survey will guide our future efforts.

**Within the next month, many of you will be receiving a survey from your PRA.** We would like your opinion on new ideas that the Board is considering in order to enhance your PRA experience. **This is your chance to shape the PRA of our future.** Let us renew some of the sense of discovery we enjoyed at Polaroid by reaching out in new ways today.

C'mon, admit it! Aren't you just a little bit curious about sharing more experiences with your Polaroid friends??

### **Reminder: Dues Are Due**

This is our fourth quarter *Newsletter*.

Expect the first quarter edition in January.

A reminder: 2023 annual PRA dues of \$15 are payable by the first of the year.

A payment form is printed on page 12 of this *Newsletter*. Please make sure to include any updated contact information.

### **A Call for your Memories *by Mary McCann***

I volunteered to be the *Newsletter* Editor because I want to preserve memories --Yours! Your memories of the people you worked with, the projects or products you worked on and the places you worked in. I hope you will write about those memories so that they can be shared with all PRA members in the *Newsletter*.

Do the current stories trigger any memories for you? Do you remember other occasions when law enforcement agencies asked for Polaroid expertise to pursue an investigation or testify in court?

Who always had a cheerful word to say? Or who always made you chuckle? Or who could be counted on for a novel solution? This is the time for you to get those memories recorded.

Contact us at [newsletterpra@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterpra@gmail.com) or at Polaroid Retirees Association, P.O. Box 541395, Waltham, MA 02454. We'll work with you to get them recorded.

## Clarence Kennedy - A Bit of Polaroid History

Polaroid owned the 750 Main Street building long before developing it for research labs in the late '60s and '70s. When the 750 Main Street building entrance was opened, visitors might have noticed that there was an exhibit gallery in the corner of the building nearest to Main and Windsor streets. The gallery was built to show photographs from the Polaroid Collection. It was dedicated to a man who was never a Polaroid employee but had had enormous influence on the company. Who was he? And what did he do? He was a friend of the **Dr. Land's** even before Polaroid was formed.

**Clarence Kennedy** was responsible for the name "Polaroid." Land had been asking his Cambridge friends what an appropriate name for the company would be. A professor of Greek suggested "Epibolipol," a sheet that polarizes light. Kennedy's response was, "For heaven's sake, Din, call it Polaroid!"

Land often said that photography was at the intersection of art and science. Clarence Kennedy was a photographer. He taught art history at Smith College concentrating on ancient Greek and Roman sculpture, and he spent summers in Europe photographing ancient sculptures. Kennedy experimented with vectographs to convey the three dimensional qualities of sculptures, and Land had a stereo camera designed for him. The collection of his photographs is now at Harvard's Fogg Museum.

Kennedy's biggest contributions to the company were the people he sent to Land's side. One of the first people to work on the first instant film (SX-70) was **Eudoxia Muller**. An art history major at Smith College, she came to Polaroid upon graduation and worked on vectographs. She was Land's lab assistant who worked on the very early concept of instant pictures. **Chris Bonanos**, in *Instant: The Story of Polaroid*, wrote that she was the first person to ever see a Polaroid instant picture. She was reputed to have tried mayonnaise as the viscous reagent. At Polaroid she met and married the chemist **Robert Woodward** who was recruited to consult for Polaroid on the chemical synthesis of quinine. He later received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

Kennedy was also responsible for **Meroe Morse** joining Polaroid. Described as bright, cheerful and energetic, Meroe came to Polaroid in 1944 after graduating from Smith College. She assisted Land on both vision and photography research, and became Director of the Black and White Lab.

Finally, Kennedy was also responsible for introducing **Ansel Adams** to the Lands. Mrs. Land described meeting Ansel when he knocked on the door of their

home on Brattle Street. A note in **Ronald Fierstein's** book, *A Triumph of Genius*, noted that Kennedy arranged for Ansel to be invited to a party at the Lands' celebrating the announcement of the one-step photography system. He visited the labs the following day and was a Polaroid consultant for many years.



*Main Street view, Google Maps 2020  
The boarded windows on the street level mark the location of  
The Clarence Kennedy Gallery*



*Originally built in 1910 and formerly home to the Polaroid Corporation, the two connected industrial buildings at 730-750 Main Street have sat vacant in recent years. MIT's targeted improvements will transform the property into a place where academia, industry partners, and the extended community can gather and collaborate, helping propel the area's innovation environment forward.*

*<https://capitalprojects.mit.edu/projects/730-750-main-street>*

# ***Polaroid Photos Were His Alibi --- Until They Helped Convict Him!***

***by Milt Dentch***

In late November of 2021, I received an e-mail from Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney (DA) Ani Bailey. She was prosecuting an alleged child molester, who was using Polaroid photos to establish his whereabouts during the timeframe when the abuse occurred.

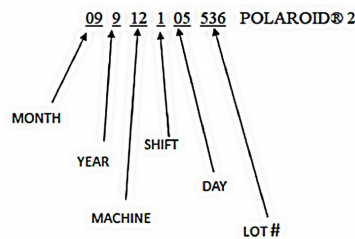
DA Bailey had roots in Arlington, Massachusetts, with knowledge of Polaroid products. She had located two Polaroid Film Code manuals on the Internet: “Polaroid Film Codes 1998” and “Film Identification and Manufacturing” but needed assistance in de-coding the eleven-digit manufacturing reference numbers on the back of Polaroid photos. The date of the film’s manufacture at the Polaroid plant was essential information in the case — to either verify or dispute the defendant’s claim. The DA needed “date-of-manufacture” evidence. The defendant claimed he was living in another location at the start of 1988, that was far distant from the location of the alleged abuse. If the Polaroid photos were manufactured on a date later than 1988, the defendant’s alibi was not valid since the photo could not have been taken in 1988, with film that had not yet been manufactured.

To establish a Polaroid contact with knowledge of the company’s film dating, DA Bailey contacted a company in Brooklyn, NY, called Brooklyn Film Camera. They referred her to **Chris Bonanos**, the author of the book *Instant: The Story of Polaroid*. She contacted Bonanos, who suggested **Paul Nangeroni** as someone with knowledge of Polaroid film manufacturing. Paul provided the names of people who might assist. Over the next month DA Bailey’s group of Polaroid volunteers grew to include Paul, **Joe Labenski**, **Rob Young**, **Larry Kivimaki**, **George Murray**, **John and Mary McCann**, **Jon Frankle** and myself. This Polaroid group attempted to answer the DA’s question, namely “What was the date of manufacture of each of the photos in evidence?”

The back of every Polaroid SX-70 photograph has a printed code. DA Bailey could not send the actual photos to the Polaroid group (they were sealed as court evidence). She sent the McCanns JPEG digital copies of the backs of 17 photos in evidence for the trial. The JPEG photos were overexposed and their low-contrast numbers were very hard to read. They used Photoshop® techniques to enhance the images to be able to clearly identify the film code numbers. Using the “1998 Polaroid Film Codes” and “Film Identification and Manufacturing Information” they made a draft list of dates for each of the photos. They distributed them to the group for verification.

## **The Code**

The SX-70 photos of interest had an 11-digit code plus POLAROID® on the back. The third digit defined the year, within a decade, the film was manufactured but not the precise year (1979, 1989, 1999). An example of one of the SX-70 prints furnished by the DA had the 11-day code manufacturing markings:



SX-70 Film Code Defined



Back of SX-70 Photo Provided by Defendant

This photo was manufactured on September 5<sup>th</sup>, on the first shift, on the number 12 SX-70 machine, but in what year: 1979, 1989 or 1999? Paul Nangeroni, Joe Labenski, Rob Young and Larry Kivimaki narrowed the range to 1989, or 1999. DA Bailey was able to eliminate 1999 using other evidence. The date of manufacture for this picture was September 5, 1989. This date disproved the defendant’s alibi.

## **The Polaroid “Expert Witness”**

DA Bailey was delighted with the evidence provided by the group, but she needed an Expert Witness to attend the trial in California to describe and defend the evidence of the manufacturing dates. Ideally, the witness would have direct experience in Polaroid’s film manufacturing plants—and be willing to make a multi-day trip to California, just before Christmas in 2021, while the COVID-19 virus was still a major concern. Joe Labenski, with considerable film manufacturing experience, volunteered to attend the trial. He had all the credentials, and first-hand experience to testify as the Expert Witness.

## **The Trial (Joe Labenski reporting)**

I arrived in Los Angeles, CA, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, met with the DA on December 16<sup>th</sup>, and spent several hours reviewing the conclusions and preparation for the trial/cross examination. The next day, I was called into the courtroom as an Expert Witness. I was asked about my



qualifications/background and several questions regarding Polaroid. They wanted to know the history of the locations, products and how they worked. The jury appeared very interested about our history and products. Then I was specifically asked to identify the manufacturing dates and location of manufacture of several photos. The team-generated presentation was extremely helpful in explaining this to the jury.

The judge, and probably some of the jurors, had a little difficulty with my Boston accent, especially when combined with my having to wear a mask. I was asked a few times to spell words. For example: “Enschede,” “Emulsions,” “Vale of Leven,” etc. After the DA had completed her questioning, the judge asked the defense if they wished to cross examine the witness (me)— and they declined.

I met with the DA after the jury was dismissed for the day. She was very pleased with the testimony and was glowing in her praise of the high-performance Polaroid team that assisted her. She said she would keep us informed on the verdict.

## **The Verdict and Sentence**

The Polaroid film code group received an e-mail from the District Attorney Ani Bailey on January 7, 2022. She wrote:

*The defendant was finally sentenced today. He received the possible maximum under the current law which was 10 years in the state prison. He will need to register as a sex registrant when released.*

*I had the chance to speak to the jury after trial and asked them if they found the Polaroid expert and evidence helpful in their deliberations, and they said absolutely! The dates on the photos provided them with a hard and fast line of the defendant's whereabouts.*

*It was a very long journey, but we finally got it done. Thank you again for all of your input and cooperation in making this happen. What a great memory I will have of this experience in my career. It was so unique and so close to home for me, being from Mass myself.*

Ani Bailey

Deputy District Attorney at Los Angeles County

## ***Venturing Out to Cambridge 600M by Mary McCann***

On Labor Day, we took advantage of the light traffic and ventured into Cambridge to look at the buildings where we had worked some thirty years ago. Many older buildings in Cambridge have been renovated and still enjoy a productive life. Many others have disappeared, been “scrapped.”

The Osborn Street Building, stretching from Main Street along Osborn Street, is a designated Historic Building and still displays the same Main Street facade. The plaques citing Dr. Land and Alexander Graham Bell are still there. The building has been modernized and houses a variety of laboratories.

Across Osborn Street, the 730 Main Street building that housed Polaroid's first Corporate Offices and chemical labs has retained its same old facade until quite recently. Now both 730 Main and the adjacent 750 Main buildings are being developed concurrently. A recent photograph of the 750 Main building is on page 3 in another article.

Further down Main Street toward Kendall Square, we looked for the 600 Main Street building. Sixty years ago, the building looked like an old garage - and that's exactly what it had been, the site of a car dealership. By the early '60s Polaroid had transformed it into its first Pilot Plant, and its workers had the task of scaling up the manufacture of the chemicals created at 730 Main St.

New chemical compounds, first synthesized at 730Main in small amounts, were tested for their effectiveness in black

& white and color films at the labs at 2 Osborn Street. If they appeared promising, larger quantities would be needed for larger scale testing. A group of up to 150 people staffed the facility where they developed safe and efficient processes to manufacture the new molecules. Their products might be sent to Waltham for further testing or incorporation in film systems.

The 600 Main Street building we knew is gone. But the site will continue to be one of creative chemistry. It's the site of a new building for the Ragon Institute, a cooperative venture of MGH, MIT, and Harvard, that will rise in the next few months when again, maybe its occupants will build new chemicals.



## Photokina and the Epic of Shoes

### *One Exposition, three memories.*

#### *From Ed Byrnes...*

The noun “Chronicle” is perhaps best defined as a record of events or more simply put, a history of events. We shall go with history for it implies more of a living narrative than simple statistics. As to the narrative in mind, it’s simply one of many that occurred in my 70-plus years of association with Polaroid.

As we are well aware, all things have a beginning, middle, and end of life cycle. A trifecta of sorts for life is but a race from onset to the finish line. Although Polaroid’s lifeline was less than 80 years, it became an international icon and one so universal that its name seemingly lives on in perpetuity. I suspect a poet’s description of its demise may be of more elegant verse such as, “Polaroid was a bright star among the Universe but now lies in slumber within the Heavens.”

There are many fascinating epics associated with Polaroid’s history, but today’s essay is not one per se. One might honestly say it’s nothing more than an interesting tale of a popular industrial event, the trade show. The event in mind was some 50+ years past: the bi-annual, “International Industrial Exposition” hosted in the romantic European city of Hanover, Germany. It should be noted that the Exposition was not your typical trade show but more aligned to a World Fair Expo configuration with many exhibit halls.

For reasons lost in antiquity, I and a few other Cambrians were assigned to support Polaroid Germany’s staff for the 10-day exhibit. Obviously, it was a great opportunity to practice the rudimentary German we were learning at Cambridge tutorials.

Polaroid’s exhibit space at the Exposition was of “Fair size,” with various product demo areas, business meeting facilities, rest/food areas, and perhaps most importantly, an extremely popular portrait studio. Four beautifully attired female models were available for either single or with exhibit attendee portraits. As one might expect, the portrait studio had long, daily lines of male attendees, awaiting their turn for an instant photo taken primarily with one of the models.

Polaroid booth personnel were given various product assignments which varied day to day. The daily exhibit activities were reviewed and discussed during staff dinners, then off to curate a night’s sleep for the following day’s challenge.

One evening, when **Don Dery**, Polaroid Publicity, and I for perhaps no particular reason other than to speak English (Deutsch gets heavy of tongue at night) sat about the bar until closing time. On the way back to our hotel

rooms, we could not but notice “shoes” neatly parked in front of most room doors awaiting their nightly waxing experience of a shoeshine. Don looked at me with mischievous eyes and I silently agreed and then we went about exchanging one shoe for another, thus mismatching the lot. Since it was not Halloween, we were conservative in our approach and limited our trick-or-treat saga to 5 or 6 pairs of shoes. Upon completion, we sidled off to our respective rooms.

In the early hours of the AM, I was awakened by loud shouts of what I assume to be Germanic epithets thus knowing the march of the shoes was in full swing. I called Don and we agreed to delay breakfast by 1 hour in hopes the pandemic would settle down. When we did arrive at the breakfast facilities, every German eye in our presence was laser focused upon us.....are you two the culprits of this mockery? Fortunately, our youthful looks of innocence belied any and all suspicion of shoe felonies, but doubts remained throughout our residence.

In thinking back about “shoe night” those 50 some years ago, were Don and I fostering the “Ugly American” terminology so popular at the time, or were we simply young men having a tad of fun albeit at another person’s expense? My reflective smile and giggle were more than an adequate answer and I suspect when Don, the instigator of the event, gets his copy of this *Newsletter* he will smile as well.



*Don & Ed, not so innocent*

### ***Meanwhile...from Don Dery...***

I have enjoyed all of **Ed Byrne**'s stories on the early days of Polaroid. I joined in 1958, left in 1982, and Ed and I became very good friends.

There is one story about Photokina he did not relate, but it is worth retelling.

I forget the year, but Ed and I had a late dinner and returned to the "Polaroid" hotel after most of our colleagues had retired. Their shoes were outside their bedroom doors awaiting pick up for polishing by the hotel staff. It was a temptation Ed and I could not resist.

We moved a pair of shoes from one room door and swapped it with another pair five doors down the hall. We took a right shoe from one pair and married it to the left shoe of another pair. We took a woman's shoes from one door and swapped them with men's shoes on the next floor up. We took another pair of men's shoes and left them in the elevator. This nonsense went on for the better part of a half hour.

Then Ed and I retired, but rose early and checked out of the hotel. We did not want to be around to witness the chaos which erupted!

Now Ed may admit to participating jointly with me, but I'm sure he will say it was all my idea.

### ***And, finally, from the Editor...***

When Photokina moved to Cologne, hotel rooms for workers were at a premium. After many years of commuting from distant hotels, Polaroid solved this housing problem by chartering a river cruise boat to serve as dormitory for their staff. Ed is pictured by the

Polaroid boat.

The Rhine River flows through the city of Cologne, and it is an important shipping route. Barge traffic is heavy both day and night, traveling in both directions. Since the river flow is so swift, barges use much more power traveling upstream than on their downstream leg. The engine noise of a passing barge is audible on the docked boats, and even in the middle of the night, it was easy to tell whether the barge was traveling upstream or down.

The strength of the current on the Rhine was also evident on a ferry ride across the river. The exhibit area was immediately across the river from the central city area. One might expect that the ferry would head directly across the river to the "Messe." Instead, the captain would steer a course nearly 45 degrees into the current. A lesson in velocity vectors!



*Ed at Photokina with the Polaroid "boat hotel"*

## ***Community Connections***

### **Cambridge Science Festival is Back! October 3-9 - Live and in Person**

Kendall/MIT Open Space, Kendall Square, Cambridge

This includes a light show October 6-9 2022 8:00PM - 11:00PM

Check [cambridgesciencefestival.org](http://cambridgesciencefestival.org) for events and times

### **The MIT Museum – Newly Opening in New Location!**

The Museum has just moved to a new location at 314 Main Street on the MIT Campus in Cambridge. This is in MIT's Building E-28, the Gambrill Center.

Cambridge Residents Day, Saturday, October 1, marks the opening for Cambridge residents only.

Check [mitmuseum.edu](http://mitmuseum.edu) for opening to general public.

### **Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation**

The museum is open Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 – 3:00, and Saturday, 10:00 - 2:30

Check the website [charlesrivermuseum.org](http://charlesrivermuseum.org) for its collections, special exhibits and calendar.

*Be sure to watch the video on the Museum homepage for getting to the Museum's front door.*



## In Memoriam

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



**Arnaud, Richard (Dick)**, 79, Concord, MA, 6/28/22 was the husband of Joanne, father of Cassie and Rick. He was a

Software Engineer. Dick was an avid cyclist, particularly fond of routes through interesting urban areas and trips where there were stops for premium ice cream.

**Callahan, William H. (Bill) Jr.**, 78,



Hingham, MA, 7/17/22 was the husband of the late Janice, father of Libby and grandfather of two. He was a Lead Mechanic/Technician. In addition, Bill spent 60

years with the Boston Bruins organization and later the NHL, starting as a locker room attendant before settling in as the long-time penalty box attendant for the visiting team.

**Conkling, John Warren, (Jack)**, 88, Saint Petersburg, FL, 7/3/22 was the husband of late Stephanie and the late



Elyse, father of Cynthia, Cheryl and Melissa, grandfather of seven, and great-grandfather of four, stepfather of three and step grandfather of four

He served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Matsushima, Japan. He was a Process Engineering Manager Waltham. He was an avid reader and a sponge for knowledge, a tinkerer and a do-it-yourselfer and a storyteller.

**Dirks, Jean Lambert "John"**, 87,



Lexington, MA, 8/16/22 was the husband of the late Tina, father of Patrick, Marco and David, and grandfather of five, and foster grandfather of one. John was born in Luik, Belgium, and

worked at Polaroid B.V., Enschede, NL and Cambridge. He was a Purchasing Agent for sunglasses and cameras. John excelled at languages in his business studies at Nyenrode University, NL, and traveled the world throughout his long career for Polaroid. He was a member of the PRA.



**DiSanto, Peter J.**, 71, Bluffton, SC, 7/14/22 was the husband of Sandra, father of Gabrielle, Peter, Francesca and Angelica

and grandfather of five. Peter served in the U.S. Navy. He was an avid golfer and community member, participated in local Vietnam Veteran gatherings and enjoyed playing Santa Claus.

**Fields, Floyd Gerald**, 86, Charlotte, NC, 5/28/22, was the husband



of Gail and the late Anna, father of Valerie, Annette and Rebecca and grandfather of 7. He served in the U.S. Army.

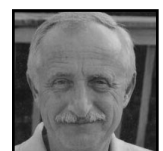
His 'joie de vivre' was most noticeable when he could share stories, discuss issues in race and politics, or share historical or genealogical research with new and old friends alike.

**Gurner, Richard**, 93, Lexington, MA, 8/13/22, was the husband of Jean, the



father of Joel, Hilary and Sarah, grandfather of 6, and great-grandfather of 10. He served in the U.S. Air Force stationed in Japan (Korean War). He was a Library

Administrator. He enjoyed reading biographies of Romantic poets: Keats, Shelly, Wordsworth, Blake, and Byron, and "our cats got named Blake and Byron." He was a member of the PRA.



**Junguzza, Joseph J.**, Auburn, MA, 79, 6/30/22 was the father of Lisa, Susan and Rebekah, grandfather of three, and great-grandfather of one.

Joe was an avid traveler and was known for his love of Long Beach Island, NJ, had a passion for basketball and music, and lived a life of Epicureanism.

**Macomber, Jr., Harrison (Hank/Sonny)**, 84, North Dartmouth, MA, 7/24/22 was the husband of the late Jean Marie and a long-time companion to Constance, father of Karen, Susan, Carrie, James and Jeffrey, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of one. Hank enjoyed bowling, baseball and golfing, winning multiple championships.

**Marckini, Eugene F. "Gene"**, 85, Weston, MA, Fort Lauderdale, FL, and Tiny, Ontario, 7/13/22 was the husband of the late Toni and Inez, father of Fredrick and Sandra, and grandfather of four. After college, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served as an officer. He was a Senior Director in Cambridge and for Camera Division in Norwood. Gene was an avid pilot. He was a member of the PRA.



**McCarthy, William (Bill/Mac/Pa)**, 92, Hingham MA, 2/10/21 was the husband of the late Mary, father of Lynne and



Deidre, grandfather of five and great-grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp (World War II). He was a Construction Engineer.

He loved spending time fishing, bowling, volunteering at Pine Street Inn and Habitat for Humanity, playing golf, playing games (especially cribbage), and watching sports (especially the Red Sox and Patriots). He was a member of the PRA.

**Owens, Isaac**, Vale of Leven, Scotland 7/25/22 was the Production Manager at the Camera Assembly Plant at the Vale of Leven, Scotland. Isaac was highly respected by both the people who worked for him and management at the Vale and the U.S. He was a great guy.

**Piercey, Brian T.**, 80, Danvers, MA, 7/8/22 was the husband of Ethel, father of Sharon, Donna, Ronald and Stephen, grandfather of 17, and great-grandfather of 6. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Vietnam War). He was an Electrician. He

enjoyed many camping trips. Brian felt strongly about getting the children out into the country for their favorite camping trips where they would enjoy the many outdoor activities.

**Ruddick, Philip E. "Phil"**, 81, Norwell, MA and Bonita Springs, FL, 7/5/22 was the husband of Mary, father of Scott, and Lisa and grandfather of five. He served in the U.S. Army





## In Memoriam cont.

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

as a 1st Lieutenant and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. Phil was Vice-President in Finance. His passion was golf. He enjoyed beautiful beaches and the New England Patriots. He was a member of the PRA.

**Sharkey-Evans, Janice C.**, 73, Lynn, MA 8/9/22 was the wife of Retired Lynn Fire Lieutenant, Daniel, sister of Edward, William and Christine and aunt of many. Jan worked in the IT department. She loved cooking, reading and needlepoint and enjoyed watching her favorite television show, NCIS.

**Strenck, JoAnne Tufts-Boyle**, Sudbury, MA 7/13/22 was the wife of Louis, daughter of the late Robert and Jane Tufts-Boyle, grandmother of Dawn and Lindsay and step grandmother of two. She worked in E.F.E.D as an Administrative Assistant and was a friend to everyone she interacted with. She was a member of the PRA.

**Williams, Richard A.**, 80, West Wareham MA, 7/13/22 was the husband of Margaret, father of Monica, and Spencer, stepfather of Allan, Kim and Glenn, grandfather of 9, and great grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Navy (Vietnam War) and served in the Seabees. Richard was a Machinist. He loved watching the Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots, but especially enjoyed watching NASCAR car and truck races and also enjoyed camping, fishing, tending to his vegetable garden and tinkering with anything with a motor.



## Polaroid Pride

When the PRA received an inquiry from a 26-year-old San Diego student interested in the development of Polachrome 35mm instant film and in the company's legendary social aspects, PRA members **Julian Bullitt** and **Ken McCarthy** responded. They shared their personal experiences and are leading him to more resources.

These kinds of questions and the response are not uncommon. They make us proud of our company and its members' willingness and efforts to perpetuate the social and technical visions of Dr. Land and Polaroid. These exchanges prove again that Polaroid was special.

## Jimmy Fund Walk



On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund Walk will bring out its 34<sup>th</sup> year of committed walkers who help raise money for research discoveries and exceptional patient care. Polaroid Corporation was *the original sponsor* of the walk that still draws former employees impacted by cancer. Participants complete parts or all of the over 26-mile Boston Marathon route.

PRA and former Board of Directors Member **Dick Gellis** has been walking since the event began in 1989, and he will participate again this year. This time, with the help of his daughter, he is walking virtually each day in order to complete his walk over a few weeks.

Among other former employees, **Mike Rider**, **Bob Schrandt**, **Peter Marino** and **Kathy Radley** will be on the trail. If you read this after the race, you can still help Dick meet his fundraising goal by donating at <https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org> or mail your check to: Jimmy Fund Walk, PO Box 3595, Boston, MA 02241.

As Dick's website says, "When you make a gift to my Walk, you're directly supporting Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's unique 50-50 balance between cutting-edge research and compassionate patient care. Your support allows Dana-Farber leaders to enhance programs and initiatives that serve pediatric and adult patients and their families."

*Thanks for your dedication, Dick!*

## Life During & After Polaroid

*We asked new PRA Member Caren to tell us a bit about her time at Polaroid and what she's doing now. Here's what she said:*

While at Polaroid, I worked all over. Started right out of college from RIT and went into Integral Film Manufacturing W3, then went to Customer/Technical support (the old 800 hotline) on Mem Drive (best office ever, overlooked the Charles!). Then went to Film R&D in W2 and New Bedford for the Test Coater and, lastly, New Product Dev at Tech Square where I worked on large format printers and the Santa Clause/Events Camera system among other things. All great experiences with even better people. I truly miss it all and am so grateful that this was my career start.

Then I was off to Intel Corporation in Chandler, AZ, where I helped them set up a Photo Imaging Lab (including test space - they gave us a large closet), and we developed the test procedures and test fixtures. That was exciting because I was working with people who were formerly competitors. There was even a person who was working on the Kodak high-end digital camera and had been testing against our first digital camera being developed in ISL. Unfortunately for us at Intel, we developed the lab, tests, and data that indicated that Intel could not compete in that arena. Basically we put ourselves out of work. Still, overall an experience I would not trade for anything!

I left the workforce to stay at home with my family for a few years, and then, thanks to my Polaroid network, I was

able to once again work again with former Polaroid colleagues at Boston Scientific where we were developing a disposable colonoscope, and finally now at Collings Aerospace (again thanks to my Polaroid family) where I am supporting defense imaging.

The most incredible part of the overall story is that this tale of reuniting with former Polaroid colleagues had about a 15-year gap, and none of us seemed to age a day!

I miss my Polaroid days, friends and products so dearly. I am so excited to continue to expand my alumni connections.

**Caren Firsty Friedman**

Polaroid 1987-1997



*784 Memorial Drive, Cambridge*

## Dining with Dr. Land

A September 1<sup>st</sup> *Boston Globe* article reflects on a restaurant at 245 First Street in Cambridge's Kendall Square. With owner Michela Larson's stories of the Michela restaurant, its history, fine food and prominent visitors before closing in 1994, the article says,

Edwin Land's Rowland Institute sat across the street, on the river. Land became a regular — always preferring a table in the middle of the dining room “so he could see everything,” Larson relates.

“Any time I went over to his table to speak to him, there would always be an interesting question... So I always felt like I had to be ready for a real conversation, and that was thrilling,” she previously told the *Globe*.

One day Steve Jobs visited, and spotted the Polaroid founder. “He came up to me and said, ‘My god, that’s my hero,’” Larson says. ““Can you introduce me?”” She did, but only after checking with Land first that it was all right.

In a July 26 *Boston Globe* article, sommelier Jan Novak of Il Capriccio restaurant in Waltham says of his memories of working at Michela's,

“Edwin Land from Polaroid, who founded the Polaroid Corporation. ... He was something; he was a character. I thought he was a wonderful man, Edwin Land.”

## ***The Birthday Party by Tom Donovan***

Hello to the Polaroid Retirees Association. Thank you for allowing me to join the organization!

My brother **Gene [Donovan]** and I joined Polaroid in the sixties, Gene in 1968 and I in 1969. Sadly, Gene passed away eight years ago and our dream of retiring in Florida and owning homes next door to each other and close to The Red Sox Spring Training Site ended. I however did retire to Florida with my wife of 37 years and, sure enough, we have spring training season tickets at Jet Blue Park which is ten miles from our home.

Last February, my dear friend **Willis Rose** came to visit me, and during that visit he showed me a copy of the PRA newsletter and suggested I join the group. I took his advice and here I am.

I started at Polaroid as a custodian in Cambridge and throughout the years I was a security guard, a two term member of the Employees Committee, a lead guard, and eventually a security supervisor at the New Bedford Site.

My fondest memory at Polaroid was in the mid seventies when I was the custodian responsible for cleaning **Dr. Land's** office and Lab at 2 Osborn St. The custodian at the time was **Don Hill** and he had just been promoted to a lead position. Our supervisor, Willis Rose, gave me Land's beeper with one simple instruction. When the beeper goes off get running! The Doctor doesn't give us much time when he realizes the office needs cleaning.

On one particular day in May, I don't recall what year, Dr. Land's friends were having a small birthday party for him in the office. After it was over, I got the beep to get down there and clean up before his next meeting. When I arrived, everyone was gone except for Dr. Land and his assistant **Natalie Fultz**. She gave me two pieces of cake and told me to keep one and give the other to my brother Gene. Gene at the time worked at the front desk at 549 Tech Square and Natalie was very fond of him. I put the cake on Land's desk and started vacuuming the rug while the Doctor paced around the perimeter of the office.

When I finished, I went to get my cake and I noticed a group of pictures on the desk. One was of **Howie Rogers** dancing by himself. Another was of **Bill McCune** playing with a toy frog. A third was of The Doctor himself throwing a "Pet Rock" up in the air. It turns out that these were joke gifts from the party.

After seeing the pictures, I started laughing. The Doctor stopped pacing and turned to me and said "What do you see"? You must understand that 99 percent of the time he never even noticed that I was in the office. So when he stopped and spoke to me, I was shocked. I pointed to the photos and said "I've never seen your people in this way." He picked up the pictures and asked "What else do you see?" I told him the colors are so vibrant the photos almost look three dimensional. He stared at the photos for a few seconds, said Hmmm, then handed them to me and said "You take them. They may be worth something someday." Now I was completely taken aback. I started to thank him but he had already turned and started pacing again. I took my cake and left the office with a feeling that I had just actually spoken to probably the most important person I would ever meet in my life.

After all these years, the photos are priceless and worthless at the same time but I will treasure them always. I have attached a few of the pictures and I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

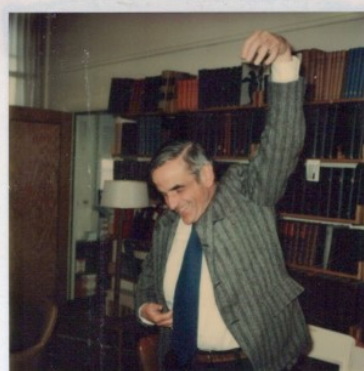
Regards,  
Tom Donovan



*Tom in Florida today*



*Dr. Land at his birthday party*



*Howie Rogers dancing*



*Bill McCune & toy frog*

POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 541395  
WALTHAM, MA 02454-1395

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

CURRENT DIRECTORIES ARE FREE. UPON REQUEST, BUT A CHARGE OF \$6.00 IS REQUIRED TO COVER SHIPPING & HANDLING.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION** AND MAIL TO :  
POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 522, ROWLEY, MA 01969 ALLOW 3-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS THE PROPERTY OF THE **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.** PUBLISHED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION AND USE BY AND OF ITS MEMBERS. NO MEMBER, ASSOCIATE, PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY IS ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL USE OF THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. ANY USE OF THIS DIRECTORY FOR REASONS OTHER THAN SOCIAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEMBERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

**DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

MUCH OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED FOR THIS NEWS LETTER IS GLEANED FROM AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SOURCES, INCLUDING THE INTERNET. THEREFORE, **THE POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.** DOES NOT WARRANT OR ASSUME ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT, ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR USEFULNESS OF ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

MUCH OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED FOR THIS NEWS LETTER IS GLEANED FROM AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SOURCES, INCLUDING THE INTERNET. THEREFORE, **THE POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.** DOES NOT WARRANT OR ASSUME ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT, ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR USEFULNESS OF ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

**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](mailto:newsletterpra@gmail.com)**

***Membership Fees are due and payable the first of the year.***

Yearly Dues **\$15.00**  
 Make check payable to **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
*and mail to R. Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Assn, P.O. Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969*

<b>Please <u>Print</u>:</b>			<b>New:</b> _____	<b>Renewal:</b> _____	<b>Change of Address:</b> _____
<b>Name:</b> _____					
		<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>MI</b>	
<b>Address:</b> _____					
<b>City:</b> _____		<b>State:</b> _____		<b>Zip:</b> _____	
<b>Spouse's Name:</b> _____			<b>Phone (optional):</b> _____		
<b>Email Address:</b> _____			<b>Date of Retirement:</b> _____		