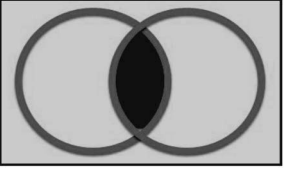


Newsletter



Newsletter Team:
Peter Clark, Maryann Hall,
Mary & John McCann

Polaroid Retirees Association

January - March
2026

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,

Business before pleasure! Our Annual PRA Membership payment is due at the first of the year. The form is on the back page of the *Newsletter* with the address to mail your check. It is also a good time to consider adding a little more to your check to help sustain the PRA's future.

The holiday season is a time of reflection for me, and I suspect it is for many people. It is often a time we get to share with those who are important in our life. This year I realized that the holiday season is not the only time I can share with those who have walked with me through my life's adventures. This year I attended the PRA May Luncheon for the first time. Previously, I had lived too far away for a quick visit, or it conflicted with the necessary chores at the start of growing season.

What a joy to see people I had not seen in many years. These people impacted my life in many ways. I got the chance to thank people for helping my career; to thank people for the ideas that inspired me; to remind some people of some very embarrassing moments and to be reminded of some of my own. We hugged, we laughed, we remembered and shared. Most of all, we were proud of being a part of a truly great company, Polaroid.

The 2026 Anniversary Luncheon is going to be held on May 18th 2026 featuring our PRA Member John Reuter as speaker. (See page 11 for more information.)

I know many of you have fond memories of your years at Polaroid. Some of these moments are filled with laughter when events did not happen according to plan. Some of these moments are filled with pride because you reached new horizons. Some of these moments have great historical value, such as bringing on the P-60 film assembly machines. Someone mentioned that Dr. Land was on the production floor during the initial phase. I would love to hear about that. Please consider submitting a story for our Jubilee Collection. (See Page 4.) We do not want to lose the spirit of a company that helped us grow, spurred our imagination, and was an asset to the community.

Ruth Scanlan, *President, Polaroid Retirees Association*

PRA 40th Jubilee Celebration Stories Time Capsule

Tell a special short story. Aim for a max of 250 words, or as many as you need.

Feb 2 - Last chance to submit your Jubilee Story! - Ground Hog's Day

Email it to <newsletterpra@gmail.com> or

Mail it to R. Ruckstuhl, PRA Assn. P.O.. Box 522. Rowlev. MA 01969

Welcome New Members!

Joseph Galluzzo of South Grafton and Joseph Kowalik, of Marblehead

Board of Directors

Officers

President

Ruth Scanlan

Vice President

Don Foster

Treasurer

Bob Ruckstuhl

Secretary

Peter Clark

Directors

Jim Bodkin

Dan Cence

Caren Friedman

Paul Lubin

Mary McCann

Phil Souza

Beau Stebbins

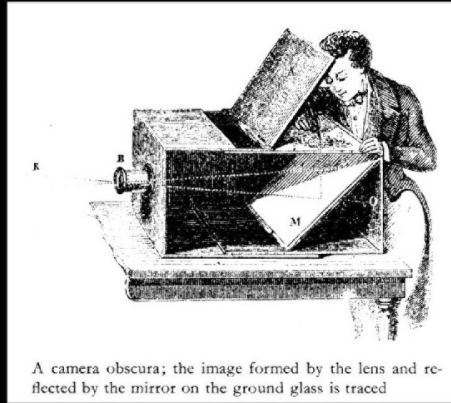
Drew Webb

Pictures from the 2025 Fall Meeting on Oct 15



Maurice Lartigue, 1911

A History of Creative Photography



Peter Clark, Speaker



Sam Brown



Harriet & Dr. Warren Kantrowitz



Edyie Johnson & Bob Ruckstuhl



Peter & Frank Silveira



Photio Photiou, James Cerroni, Hugh McGrail



Don Foster & Hersh Clopper



Peter Clark's Talk "Creative Photography"

After lunch, we heard Peter Clark present the history of creative photography, beginning in the pivotal year for chemical photography, 1839, up to the present era of digital and mobile phone photography. Peter is retired from his 49 year career in optics, including 20 years with Polaroid's Optical Engineering Department. He has been passionate about photography since he was a teenager.

It was a lot to cover at a luncheon like ours, but we saw many images and learned about the work and the lives of some of the most influential photographers, with some anecdotes about them along the way. We got a sense of the progression of still photography from the "pictorialists" mimicking impressionistic painting to "straight" photography, celebrating precise recording of the world that we see. There were side journeys into abstraction, scientific images, fashion, portraiture, street photography, documentation, and photojournalism.

Peter's talk gave his personal tour of Creative Photography that he admires. On a trip to Paris, he followed the footsteps of Eugene Atget (1857-1927), who created a comprehensive photographic visual catalog of French culture, capturing houses, streets, shops, parks, and people. Atget sold prints to architects, artists, libraries, and collectors who wanted to preserve the image of "Old Paris" amidst modernization. His work gained recognition posthumously, influencing Walker Evans and Ansel Adams. Atget's photographs showcased Paris through his eyes, capturing his experience of the city.

Peter took this photo of a Paris door knocker in 2015, redoing Atget's picture from 1901.



Fall Luncheon Attendees

Steve Berry	Kristen Johnson	Mary Nangeroni
Eric Brown	Edyie Johnson	Paul Nangeroni
Sam Brown	Dr. Warren K. Kantrowitz	Carol Pekar
Mike Carrafiello	Harriet Kantrowitz	Photios Photiou
Dan Cence	Ed Kingsley	Bill Plummer
James Cerroni	Bernie Lorge	Peggie Prebensen
Peter Clark	Paul Lubin	Bill Quinn
Hersh Clopper	Kass Martin	John Reuter
Katherine Curran	John McCann	Bob Ruckstuhl
Sue Cusick	Mary McCann	Dana Schuh
James Dumas	Carole Groncki McCarthy	Richard Silva
Bob Eaton	Ken McCarthy	Frank Silveira
Michael Ferreer	Connie McGaffigan	Phil Souza
Elizabeth Foote	Hugh McGrail	George Stebbins
Don Foster	Betty McGuire	Eric Thorgerson
Caren Firsty Friedman	Julia McPherson	Leo Van Glabbeek
Gerry Gomes	Doris McPherson	Drew Webb
Ethel Goodwin	John Meyers	Tony Zagame
Steve Herchen	Doug Miller	
Bob Ielapi	George Murray	

40th PRA Jubilee Stories

Editor of the PRA Newsletter and Polaroid 40th Jubilee Celebration Stories, Mary McCann

We have more than 20 stories for the 40th Jubilee Collection. We announced the Collection just before our 2024 Annual Meeting. The idea was to collect a year's worth of Polaroid stories that make your friends smile or laugh.

Google has all of our patented inventions, Harvard Business School has Polaroid Corporate documents. But the PRA has all of the stories about what Mac Booth described as the "POLAROID AURA".

As the current editor of the PRA Newsletter I have felt great pride and affection toward the PRA Membership while reading all these wonderful Jubilee stories! Similar to our original Polaroid, our *Association of Retirees* is an absolutely unique organization. The prime reason we are members of the PRA is that we are Proud of our Polaroid, its people, its products and its aims. No-one could have anticipated that an independent, self-funding *Association of Retirees* would last for 40 years based only on the idea that their work for a corporation was important to them and to all of their colleagues.

We need to be especially Proud of our *Association of Retirees*. There are no other PRAs. This has been possible because of all the decades of work by our PRA's components: BOD, Newsletter and Website Staffs, Luncheon Attendees, DFCU support, and most important, the continuing interest of all PRA Members.

*Please become a proud participant. I want to invite all members to send us your **Polaroid Story**, Mary.
See instructions. Bottom of Page 1.*

"A Tale of Two "Columbos" Peggie Prebensen, Dr. Land's Office, 2 Osborn St.

It was not unusual for Dr. Land to come through the door of his Osborne Street office wearing his tan raincoat. However, on one occasion, he certainly wore it with flair! Instead of his usual, "Good Morning, Peggie," he began to pace back and forth in front of my desk. With his head down and right hand resting on his forehead, he exclaimed, "Yes, Mam, I heard you, but there is something about your statement that I find troubling." Continuing to pace, his next comment was the classic line, "Just one more thing..." I almost fell off my chair laughing! Dr. Land was impersonating the iconic Lieutenant Columbo and doing a great job! (Obviously, he was a fan of the popular TV series and Peter Falk.) I shared this amusing incident with a family friend, Detective Ed O'Callahan, because I knew he would appreciate the story. Ed was a Cambridge police officer and also a member of the Land security detail.

Coincidentally, this is what actually happened a few months later...

One afternoon I received a phone call from Detective O'Callahan informing me that a Hollywood production company was coming to Massachusetts to film a new movie, *The Brink's Job*, starring Peter Falk. Ed was working in the Middlesex Prosecutor's Office on Thorndike Street, and one of the production company's shooting locations was the old Cambridge courthouse. Remembering my Columbo story, Ed offered access to the set if Dr. Land wanted to meet Peter Falk.

Although, Dr. Land could not go, he suggested that his Technical Assistant, **Dick Chen** and I accept the invitation and capture the encounter with Polavision and SX-70! It was quite an experience. Peter Falk was very gracious and flattered that Dr. Land enjoyed his Columbo character. He accommodated us by launching into his Columbo persona while Dick filmed a vignette that we brought back to Dr. Land. We were given a tour of the set, met the production team and learned that Polaroid cameras were an important part of "continuity" on film sets—when filming stopped (either intentionally or when the Director called cut), instant photos ensured that everything was in the exact place and condition when filming resumed.

Oh, ... if only I had a Polavision camera on my desk that morning!

"I just shook the hand of a genius!" - Brad Pires, Technician, New Bedford 1

I was an R & D Technician in NB-1 assigned to the TC-205. On a Sunday afternoon in 1979, I got a phone call from my Supervisor, **Dave Morreale**, who said that I was needed at the building ASAP! He would also call the rest of the crew in, and would explain the necessity when we all had arrived. In a meeting he said that we needed to prepare all of the chemicals needed to basically recreate a very particular TC-205 coating run. It was a very new prototype that was coated the week prior but was damaged on the pack-making machine in Cambridge.

So, as a now motivated crew, we prepared all of the necessary chemicals which included imaging dyes, polymer interlayers and silver halide emulsions. In addition, the coating applicator was assembled and the process-air system was started and all parameters were verified.

Before the evening was over, we were told that as a crew, we would be needed again the following morning to complete the execution of the coating run. Our C-shift would handle run start-up and we would finish the necessary coatings.

The coating run went smoothly! Upon completion I was just beginning the system flush procedure when my Manager, **Jack Wilkins** appeared at the control panel. Very much to my surprise, he was accompanied by **Dr. Edwin H. Land!!** I was in shock! I was introduced! He thanked me, and then he departed, taking with him the bagged light-tight rolls of photographic negative with him. That photographic negative material was successfully processed into SX-70 Time Zero film packs and was previewed by him at the 1979 Shareholder's Meeting.

I will always remember, upon his departure that day from NB-1, I looked at my hand and said, "I just shook the hand of a genius!"

40th PRA Jubilee Stories cont.

“Oak Rails - Dr. Land's Display System for SX-70” John McCann, Research, 2 Osborn St.

Oak Rails is a story about a display device made for the first public introduction of the SX-70 camera and film at the Polaroid Shareholders Meeting in May 1972. Thousands of people attended. Many employees, many Polaroid fans, Wall Street analysts and financial press were all expecting Dr. Land to demonstrate Polaroid's new camera system to the public for the first time.

The first challenge for those working on that demonstration was to create an environment where each attendee could watch - up close - an SX-70 camera eject a photo; observe that photo in good lighting; watch the image emerge into a bright, colorful, finished photo in minutes. This challenge required that, individually, a thousand people would be able to watch an SX-70 image appear before their eyes over several minutes.

Recall that very few Polaroid Employees, even those working separate parts of the new SX-70 system, had never heard of, nor seen the entire system in operation. Now, at this shareholders meeting, the whole world would see this new camera expose a photo, eject it, and develop it in bright light. The challenge for the display device for SX-70 photos was to give every attendee the chance to watch a print develop, as if they were holding it themselves.

Dr. Land asked **Bob Chapman** (Trades Coordinator), **Gerry Malnatti** (Facilities Architect) and **Walter Dettlaff** (Memorial Drive Carpenter Shop) to make 10 octagonal stages to be placed in the warehouse. Each stage, about a foot off the floor, had room for a photographer and a distinctly different photographic subject. Each stage was in the shape of an octagon so people could gather on all sides. In total the perimeter had room to display about 80 photos. At the end of the demonstration more than 1000 SX-70s would be displayed.

Imagine how much our Kodak competitors would want to take souvenir photos back to their Rochester research labs! The display device had to ensure that none of the thousand photos made in the demonstration left the building. So an apparently simple stick of varnished oak became a remarkably successful security device. It became an effective, elegantly simple display system. It was a completely accessible display to the shareholders, while being a secure protector from those wanting souvenirs.

About a week before the Shareholder's meeting, I got a 6 am call from Dr. Land. He had a new idea on how to safely display SX-70 photos around all of the octagons in construction in Needham. He asked me to contact **Vaito Eloranta** (Research Machine Shop) and Walter Dettlaff to construct a unique and secure display system.

Dr. Land rattled off a complete description that began with Walter's carpenter shop making a 5 foot long oak rail. The rail was supported from the floor of the octagon by 3/8" aluminum rods. Bend the rod's tops to put the rail at 45° relative to the floor. Place above each rail a 1000 watt theatrical spotlight shining down on the SX-70 photos. The mechanism to secure the SX-70 photo is to have Walter saw a slot in the rail's top surface in the long direction. The slot must be wide enough for pods to sit on slot's bottom; and narrow enough so the SX-70 is perpendicular to the rail. The mechanism to secure the photo to the rail is the way Walter and Vaito will make that rail. It should be 1.5" thick, 3" high, and nearly as long as one face of the octagon. The edges will be camfered. Ask Walter to cut a slot in the oak rail along the long side of the top of the 1.5" dimension. The depth of a saw should be the height of the pod at the bottom of the photo. That height will allow the full SX-70 frame and a uniform border to be visible to the viewer.

The mechanism to secure the SX-70 photo is a 1/4" diameter aluminum bullet that passes through the oak rail and through the SX-70 pod that has a hole punched through it. The aluminum bullets will secure the SX-70 inside the slot in the rail. The bullets need to be 1" long with one rounded end and one pointed end. The photographer's assistant will punch the hole in the pod, place the photo in the bottom of the slot in the rail; align the pod's hole with the holes in the rail; insert the bullet's pointed end first; and push the bullet until it rests inside the rail.

Ask Vaito to make a custom photo holder and 1/4" hole punch to place the hole at the appropriate height relative to the bottom of the slot. Also, ask him to make a jig for the carpenters that will align the different diameter holes drilled into the front and the back of the rail. The assistant will bury the bullet in the rail. The bullet's pointed end will guide it through the pod's hole. The front hole is for burying the bullet inside rail. The back hole is for our assistant to remove a developed SX-70 to make room for a just-made SX-70. For security reasons the back hole needs to be larger than a paperclip, but smaller than a standard ballpoint pen's refill that someone might have, giving them the key tool necessary to take home a souvenir. Only our assistants will have the right diameter rod to remove the bullet.

This remarkable four-minute detailed explanation was followed by Dr. Land asking if I had any questions. I simply said I think I understand what you want. He said thank you, and went to start his next call. I replaced my pajamas with work clothes and told Mary as I ran to the car, "I don't know when I will be back."

Early the following day Walter and Vaito had a prototype display. Late in the afternoon of the following day, all of the octagons in the Kendall St warehouse had 8 fully functional *Oak Rails* installed in them. Everyone involved was so proud of being able to design, make and install a hundred of Dr. Land's ingenious Oak Rail display devices in two days.

40th PRA Jubilee Stories cont.

Then our enormously proud balloon burst!. Dr. Land took a photo, punched a hole in the pod, put it in the rail and inserted the bullet. Everything worked great, except the SX-70 photo was crooked. It was not perpendicular to the rail. He tried another slot with the same result. Dr. Land was so frustrated that he spoke harshly to Walter. I was astonished because Dr. Land never did that. Everyone was shocked. Everyone who worked so hard on making these rails just silently walked away with their emotional tails between their legs.

I got home earlier than expected and felt so dejected that I went directly to bed. This time the phone rang at 2 am. It was Vaito. He said he was in Walter's shop. He's said they had found the problem with the rails. He said he needed somebody to say that it was ok to make another full set of rails. Could I come to Walter's shop? I said I would be there from Belmont in 15 minutes. No traffic after midnight.

As I entered the shop I was greeted by a totally revitalized Walter, chewing his unlit cigar stub. He offered me a celebratory taste of Jack Daniels. The bottle was resting on a table saw! (Obviously, **Al Nagel** was not at this party.) He pointed to Vaito who was sitting in a corner with a pile of the rails they brought back from Needham. He was carefully measuring each of the rails with his machinist's six-inch steel ruler, that he always had in his breast pocket. He had spent the time since leaving Needham with all the rails analyzing the problem, and designing a jig to fix the problem. Vaito told me that it was the choice of wood, namely oak, that caused the crooked photos. Carpenters' table saws made the oak's slot. They set the blade's height above the table to calibrate the depth of slot. They planed the oak's surface making it perfectly flat and applied pressure to hold the wood and table in perfect contact.

What Vaito found was the actual depth of the slots in those oak rails was not constant. Rather, Vaito's measurements of the depth of the slot varied from rail to rail, and along a single rail. The first jigs Vaito's shop made indexed the drill-hole distance down from the top surface of each rail. Since those rails had variable depth, Vaito made new jigs that indexed the hole from the bottom of the slot. That change delivered straight photos. The photos varied a few tenths of an inch in height from the floor. But nobody cared.

Just as Vaito put a big smile on my face, because he had solved the crooked photo problem, **Ben Ruggles** and **Charlie Mac Donald** arrived from 730 Main St. shop with the new jigs that Vaito had designed. **George van der Pool** and the other carpenters began making new rails, Ben and Charlie drilled holes up from the bottom of the slot. The painters began to varnish the finished rails to put them in the drying hood.

As the first new rails were moved to the truck headed toward Kendrick St, I headed for home. Bob Chapman had an all trades meeting at 6 am at Kendrick St. It was a very quick trip home. Nobody was on the roads. On the way, I could not help but recall how remarkable my experience in the Carpenter Shop had been. It was quiet, except for some lively late-night radio background music. It was far too late for that day's small talk. Nobody was trying to be in charge - giving orders!. Nobody was overseeing the quality of work. Everybody who was actually making the new "Oak Rails" was a skilled professional who knew exactly what to do. All of them had worked for Polaroid and with each other for decades. As I approached Harvard Stadium, I felt amazed at their extraordinary and smooth cooperation. Even the moving crew, who had to wait for varnish to dry on the last new rail, without instruction took on the job of moving the carpenters' slotted rails to the machinists' drill presses, and then to the paint shop, and then to the drying racks, and then to their truck.

When Dr. Land arrived at the Kendrick St. warehouse the following afternoon he was greeted with a complete set of installed new and perfect Oak Rails.

A few days later the Shareholder's demonstration of Polaroid's SX-70 was a great success. After that Kendrick St. had three meetings for all employees. A few months later, 4 octagons appeared in a New York City ballroom at a Society of Photographic Scientist & Engineers meeting. The morning after Dr. Land's talk, a New York paper printed a short article about an announcement from Kodak. The story had only two remarkable sentences, "Kodak has discontinued their plans to manufacture films for Polaroid cameras." and "They have scrapped a factory."

At that time I had worked 4 years part-time while in college in Dr. Land's Polaroid Vision Research Lab, plus 7 more full-time years. It took many decades for me to fully appreciate what I witnessed in Walter's shop that night and the 1972 Shareholder's Meeting. That SX-70 demonstration used dozens and dozens of totally new components. It used a new Polaroid-made negative, hundreds of new chemicals, new transparent sheet, new opacifier in the goo, a new film ejection and motor driven processor, new optical components, new solid state chips and circuits, new flat batteries, new flash bars, and so many more innovations. If any of these components failed, Polaroid would have failed!

Dr. Land's courageous SX-70 demonstration set the course for Polaroid's future work and success that we all shared.

Postscript

The Oak Rails worked as designed, with one exception. At the very end of the meeting the doors to the exits were packed. **Jim Shea** (Head of Polaroid Security) reported that one of his guards near an exit saw a large man try and try and succeed to rip one mylar photo out of its rail. That photo was the one nearest the door. **Nick Hadzekariakedes, Dick Chen, Barbara Theobald** reported that one photo was missing. Decades later, an Imaging Society friend who worked at Kodak Research, told me that the missing photo was in a very secure Kodak Research safe. If an analytic experiment was approved at the highest corporate levels, a tiny piece of that photo was removed from the safe for study.

In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org



Barker, Alfred B. "Al", 88, Burlington, MA, 12/7/25 was the husband of the late Ginny, father of Kathleen, James and the late Michael and was the

longtime companion to Donna. He served in the U.S. Marines. Al was a Senior Production Planner. He introduced his family to skiing, mountain climbing, hiking, biking, running and travelling throughout the United States and Europe. He was a member of the PRA.



Barry, John F., 93, Rockland, MA, 11/8/25 was the husband of Mary, father of Charles, Ann, Joanne, Thomas, Daniel and the late Karen and

grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). John was a Machine Designer. His claim to fame was that he was one of several folks that worked on the design of the One-Step Camera. He would also give his opinion freely, was sharp-minded and up to date on the status of every single Boston sports team.



Branco, Manuel, 78, Dedham, MA, 12/9/25 was the brother of John, Joseph and Joaquim. He was a Lab Technician. He developed key analytical

processes that extended the capabilities of Polaroid film. He was a passionate lover of the arts and later wrote about it in his book PUSHBACK – Fear of Art.



Bremberg, Donald E. "Don", 78, Melrose, MA 10/13/25 was the husband of Charlene, father of Kristin, Kim, Eric, Katie, Joshua and Ryan and

grandfather "Pops" of seven. He was a Facilities Engineer. Don was an avid photographer, woodworker and experienced in all trades. He loved to travel, exploring New England, taking memorable trips to the Bahamas and Bermuda, and visiting US National Parks.



Brown, James H., 92, Waltham, MA 12/4/25 was the husband of the late Rosemarie, father of James and Jeri and grandfather of one. He served

in the U.S. Air Force (New Mexico, Guam and England). He was a Chemical Processor.

He was known in the neighborhood as the local "Dogfather," caring for and walking dogs. Jim enjoyed reading, classic western serials, action movies, lighthouses, and a good turkey dinner.



Burns, Donald G., 90, Weymouth, MA, 6/23/25 was the partner of Joan, her daughter Nicole and her granddaughter Evelyn, father of

Debra, Donna, Diane and the late Dennis, grandfather and great-grandfather of one. He was an HR Manager. He enjoyed reading documentaries, travelling, riding his Harley, and following the Patriots and Bruins. He was a member of the Elks, HOG (Harley Owners Group), and OFR (Old Fart Riders). He was a member of the PRA.



Byrnes, Edward G., 99, Chagrin Falls, 11/30/25 was the husband of the late Joan, father of Micki, David and the late Gerard Jr., grandfather of two

and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Asia-Pacific Theater. Edward was a Scientist. He worked in R&D to develop unique products for military applications, and in Sales and Marketing. He was a member of the PRA.



Campbell-Jones, Katie N., 88, Dorchester, MA, 9/24/25 was the wife of the late Yeudall, mother of Randy and Medina, grandmother of six, great-

grandmother of four and best friend of Joyce. She also gave her time to civic life supporting low- and moderate-income families through efforts in voter registration, healthcare, affordable housing and community safety.



Cassidy, James F., 79, Randolph, MA, 11/18/25 was the husband of the late Sandra, father of Amy, Deborah, Karen, Mary Beth and the late James

and grandfather of four. Jim read the Bible daily, took pleasure in art, photography, design, literature, current events and trends.



Conley, Janet M., 84, Fredericksburg, VA, 10/11/25 was the wife of the late Spencer, mother of Christopher, stepmother of

Andrea and Michelle and grandmother of three. Janet was the Director of Global Trade Shows that culminated with organizing the Polaroid Tech Expo in Tokyo in 1982, earning her the Japanese name "Janet-san." She broke multiple barriers for women throughout her life.



Cutler, Jr., Norman W., The Villages, FL, 10/7/25 was the husband of Mary, father of Michelle and Suzanne, and grandfather (Bampi) of Alexis.

He served in the U.S. Army. He was a Principal Mechanical Engineer. His expertise in Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing (G.D. & T.) earned him a place on the ANSI ASME Y14.5 committee. Norm and Mary enjoyed traveling, especially on ski vacations, summers on Cape Cod with family, and driving trips to historical landmarks.



Darling, John D., 86, Everett, MA, 11/9/25 was the husband of the late Barbara, father of JoAnne, Kim and Jay and

grandfather of seven. Jack was a true character, an engaging personality with a quick, sarcastic wit, a great sense of humor and stories galore. He lit up every room he entered and his positivity was contagious.



Dawson, Elizabeth "Teddy", 98, Neptune Beach, FL, 10/15/22 was the wife of the late Clayton and mother of Margaret and the late Robert

and grandmother of three. She was an Inspector and Lab Technician. Teddy was deeply engaged in political and civic life.



DiDonato, Orlando, Arlington, MA, 12/16/25 was the brother of Anthony, John, and the late Frank, Louis and Ann Mari and uncle of many

loving nieces and nephews. He served in the U.S. Army (Vietnam).



Dorey, Margaret G., 83, Plymouth, MA, 11/9/25 was the wife of the late Arthur "Skip", mother of Linda and grandmother of Christopher.

She and Skip shared a wonderful life together, enjoying many vacations and traveling far and wide.

In Memoriam cont.



Eisnor-Dolan, Gretchen L., 78, Mosley, VA, 9/20/25 was the wife of the late Steve, mother of Christine and grandmother of two.

Gretchen was an expert "bargain hunter," always on the lookout for wonderful treasures that she would share with her family and friends.

Elkind, Manny, 11/27/25 - REST IN PEACE.



Esquirol, John H., 96, Essex, MA 9/23/25 was the husband of Bridget, brother of Howard, father of Anne, Clive, Katherine and John, grandfather of six and great-grandfather of one. He assisted Edwin Land and a team of Inventors (Cambridge) to create and protect the trademarks for their 'instant photography' systems. John was an avid sailor in his youth. He enjoyed sports, his school and home teams, the Lord Jeffs, the Red Sox and the Celtics and summers at their home in Harpswell, Maine. He was a member of the PRA.



George, Richard "Dick", 85, Newburyport, MA, 12/8/25 was the husband of Laurie, father of Dawn, Elizabeth, Richard and Christopher, stepfather of Michael, grandfather of eight, step-grandfather of six and great-grandfather of four. He was a Paratrooper in the U.S. Army (101st Airborne Division). Dick was a Stock Clerk in Dr. Land's laboratories. He organized hundreds of chemicals used in instant photography. Dick had a love for politics. He was the first Assistant Clerk Magistrate in the Cambridge District Court.



Golonka, William J., 90, North Andover, MA, 10/19/25 was the husband of Johann, father of Kimberly, Lynn and Jodi, grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of ten. He served in the U.S. National Guard. He worked in the Tool and Die Department (New Bedford). William loved marching in the Bedford Minuteman Company, played the fife and attended historical reenactments.

He was an avid skier and participated in the development of the first fiberglass rescue sleds for ski resorts.



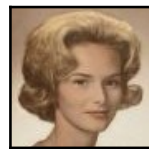
Grogan, Nancy Ruth, 78, 12/5/25, Dedham MA was the wife of Donald, sister of Carol and Dorothy and the late Judith and aunt of Mark, Dean Pamela, Jeffery and Karen, great-aunt of eight and great-great-aunt of two. She was a Worldwide Sales Administration Manager in the Medical Imaging Systems division. Nancy traveled to numerous states and countries.



Hagan, Jr., Thomas J., Reading, MA, 9/2/25 was the husband of Jean, brother of Rita and James "Pinky" and uncle of many. He worked in Purchasing (Cambridge and Norwood). Tom was an avid gardener, golfer, traveler and chef. He was a member of the PRA.



Hyland, Albert L., Jr., 87, Wayland, MA, 11/ 20/25 was the husband of Ann Marie, father of Ann, Amy, Jeanne and Christine and grandfather of nine. He was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Coast Guard. Albert held several senior positions in Research, Manufacturing, and Systems Management with domestic and international responsibility. He held several patents in photographic and battery technology. He was a member of the PRA.



Igoe, Elaine P., 79, Norwood, MA, 9/24/25 was the wife of Kevin, mother of Lisa, Kevin Jr., and Jeffrey, grandmother of fourteen and great-grandmother of five. She was a Buyer (Norwood). She found joy playing Chinese checkers and dominoes and championing a Worldle group chat. She loved cheering on Norwood teams, attending local music and theater productions, sharing a cup of tea, cooking and baking.



Johnson, Dorothy L., 87, Boston, MA, 10/9/25 was the wife of the late Alton, mother of Delton, Waundolyn, Dorothy and Regina and was a grandmother and a great-grandmother.

She was a Camera Assembler. She faithfully served the various ministries such as Missionary (Emeritus), Steward Board, Lay Organization, Trustee Board Number One, Mass Choir, Anniversary Choir, and Senior Choir.



Kelly, Rose Mary, 90, Fayetteville, 11/29/25 was the wife of Dick, mother of Rick, Joe, Paul, Anne and the late Mary Beth, grandmother of eleven and great-grandmother of three. She was a Sales Representative. She enjoyed golf, tennis, cross-country skiing, reading, walking, bargain shopping, dinners with friends and travelling.



Kuzmich, Catherine A., 91, Boston, MA, 11/9/25 was the mother of Audrey, Andy and the late Pamela, grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of four. Catherine served in the U.S. Marines at Quantico, VA and served in the U.S. Navy Reserves. She was known for her contagious laugh, love for the Boston Bruins, grandchildren, ballroom dancing, and swapping recipes. All felt her warmth and generosity, and she had an exceptional talent for making everyone feel at home.

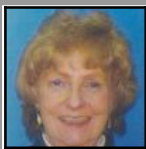


Lavoie, Gerald, R. "Gerry", 85, Assonet, MA, 9/21/25 was the husband of the late Claire, the father of Lisa, Nicole, Christopher and Jason and grandfather of five. He was an Electrical Technician. Gerry enjoyed woodworking and playing golf and was a New England sports fan.



Maccini, Mary Louise "Marylou", 92, Burlington, MA, 11/20/25 was the mother of Rita, Catherine, James, Gregory and Laura, grandmother of seventeen and great-grandmother of eight. Marylou was an incredible seamstress and crocheter, a wonderful cook and helped her daughter Rita rescue horses.

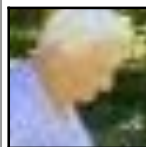
In Memoriam cont.



MacDonald, Diane M., 88, Nashua, NH, 10/25/25 was the wife of the late Thomas, mother of the late David and late Cliff, aunt of Steven, grandmother of Jessica, great-grandmother of Lucille, great-aunt of Stephanie, stepmother of Thomas, Cathleen, David, Michael, Stephen, Douglas and Patrici and step-grandmother of four. She was an Administrative Assistant. Diane cherished her cat "Big Red" which was named after her son Cliff.



MacLeod, Robert E., 85, Billerica, MA, 12/8/25 was the husband of Nancy, father of Robert and Donald and grandfather of six. He served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army (Vietnam War). He was a Supervisor. He enjoyed working in his yard, attended many Billerica sporting events to see his children and grandchildren play and followed all of the Boston sports teams.



Maenhout, Incoronata "Jenny" Giovanina (nee Zelano), "MA, Auntie, Cumare and Nonna", 90, Walpole, MA, 11/30/25 was a single mother of three, grandmother and aunt. She happily sat through rainy soccer and baseball games, travelled far for music performances, played in the shallow waves of the ocean for hours saying "oopla" and threw the grandchildren into the air every time the whitewash lapped at their ankles. She loved to garden and cooked homemade Italian meals. She worked in the Manufacturing.



Magnifico, John N., 90, Leesburg, FL, 10/15/25 was the father of Jacquelyn, Jeanne and Janice and was a grandfather and great-grandfather. He served in the U.S. Army. John was an Illustrator. He found joy in flying and in building things with his hands, whether fabricating a machine part or shaping wood into something beautiful. He played the guitar.



McGrath, Harold J. "Jack", 97, South Yarmouth, MA, 12/8/25 was the husband of Pauline, father of Wendy, Scott,

Holly and Gary, grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Army in Japan and Korea (Korean War). Jack was a Pipe-fitter Plumber (Waltham).



McLelland III, Theophilus "Theo" J., 85, Holliston, MA, 9/10/25 was the husband of Elizabeth and the late Barbara, father of Georgia, Edmund, Theophilus IV, "Teddy" and Liz, brother of Edmund, grandfather of six and great-grandfather of two. He was a Senior Manufacturing Engineer for the 20x24 Program. He was a member of the PRA.



Miele, Joseph, 87, Maynard, MA, 12/12/25 was the husband of the late Josephine, father of Roseanna, Gina, Mario, Angela, Adrianna and Antonella and grandfather of twelve. His laughter was contagious, his stories endless and his presence unforgettable.



Morasca, Domenico G., 76, 11/7/25, North Dighton, MA was the husband of Rita, father of Frank, Margaret and Carmelo, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of two. In his "me time" Domenico loved tending to his garden and listening to his collection of vinyl records.



Nash, Allen D., 85, 10/25/25, Watertown, MA was the husband of late Barbara, father of Kelli and Kristen, grandfather of three and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Navy, aboard the USS The Sullivans, a decorated Fletcher Class Destroyer. He was a Material Handler (Waltham). He served as a Deacon of the Community Church of Watertown. His hobbies included cooking, gardening and listening to classical country music.



Odware, Wybettie "Bettie", 85, Needham, MA, 10/22/25 was the mother of five, grandmother of twenty-two, great-grandmother of twenty-eight and great-great-grandmother of four. She had many extended family and friends.



Patno, Horace E. "Pat", 87, Livingston, NJ, 9/18/25 was the husband of the late Betty and his first wife Rita, father of Steven, Michael, Timothy, Todd and the late Paul, grandfather of seventeen, great-grandfather of fourteen and stepfather to Becky and Michelle. He was a Coating Machine Operator. He taught himself how to play the electric guitar, enjoyed sharing music with family and friends, collected and repaired antique clocks and travelled across the country in his RV.



Penney, Robert E., 89, Stoneham, MA, 10/8/22 was the husband of Marie, father of Patricia, Robert Jr. and Gary, grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of one. Robert served in the U.S. Navy. He was a Mechanical Engineer. He always found time to get out on the golf course and looked forward to spending time on his boat at his Maine house on the lake. He was a member of the PRA.



Pescatore, Frances "Jane", Cohasset, MA 11/28/25 was the wife of Peter, mother of Matthew, Christopher and Noah and grandmother of three. She was a Senior Manager. She was an avid tennis player, a prolific knitter and loved to travel, ski, sail and cook.



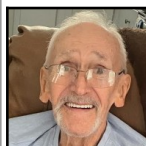
Phelps, Mont M., 80, Houston, TX, 11/2/25 was the husband of Jane and his first wife Marcia and their blended family of Alison, Meredith, Drew, Amy, Manlio, Marco and Liana and fourteen grandchildren. He was an Executive. He enjoyed playing pickup basketball, mental games, golf and sailing and always needed a project to be busy such as designing homes in Narragansett, RI, Charlestown and Cohasset, MA.



Pietrzak, Walter T. "Trax" "Wladzu", 83, West Yarmouth, MA, 10/20/25 was the husband of Virginia and the late Grace, father of Donna, Wally, Nancy and Amy, grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked in New Bedford.

In Memoriam cont.

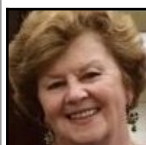
Walter found joy in gardening, tinkering with home improvement projects and traveling with time spent between New Hampshire and warmer temperatures in North Carolina.



Popoloski, Douglas L., 79, Cape Coral, 11/5/25 was the husband of Elaine, father of Jason and Scott and the late granddaughter Everly. He served in the U.S. Navy on two Aircraft Carriers (Vietnam). He was an Automated Equipment Mechanic. Fishing in Maine was his favorite. He always had the fishing rod on the boat ready to go.



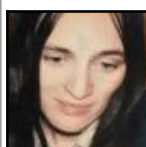
Powell, David W., 93, Meredith, NH, 6/14/25 was the husband of Elaine, father of Glen, Scott and Linda, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard. David worked in Cambridge and Helensburgh, Scotland. He held the position of Principal Horn with the Concord Orchestra. He loved the ocean and could be found on the water throughout his life.



Radley, Katherine "Kathy", 78, Melrose, MA, 10/4/25 was the wife of Daniel, mother of Sean and grandmother of two. She was a Secretary for International Finance. She served as the President of the Melrose Symphony Orchestra. Her home in Limerick, Maine was Kathy's happy place for peace, relaxation and family time.

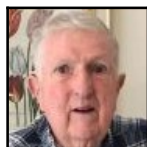


Rocha, Patricia A., 85, Acushnet, MA, 10/15/25 the wife of the late Ronald, mother of Kenneth, grandmother of three and aunt of Toni. Patricia was a passionate reader and loved spending her time getting lost in a book or a knitting pattern. She was an Administrative Secretary.



Rogers, Mary T., 81, Billerica, MA, 10/23/25 was the wife of John Sr., mother of Catherine, Michael, Kevin, Brian and the late John Jr. and grandmother of six. Mary cherished family time, beaming with pride at every event and milestones, offering unwavering love. She was a true

champion for youth development and a cornerstone of local sports.



Sennett III, John "Jack" J., 86, Billerica, MA, 10/8/25 was the husband of the late Carol, father of Nancy, Susan and Kathryn and grandfather of five. He served in the National Guard. Jack was an Engineer. He was a member of the PRA.



Soto, Victor M. Sr., 78, Wareham, MA, 11/13/25 was the husband of the late Inez, father of Wanda, Inez and Victor and grandfather of Victoria. He dedicated many years of his life to his work as a Water Purification Specialist, earned the respect of his colleagues and contributed to the community.



St. Germain, Alfred W. "Al or Fred", 91, Lovell, Maine, 8/29/25 was the husband of Irene, father of Mark, Chris, and Michelle and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Army for the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment in Bindlach, Germany as a Tank Commander, where his primary mission was to patrol the then East German and Czechoslovakian borders. He worked in Cambridge and was an Industrial Engineering Manager at Polaroid's Vale of Leven plant in Scotland. Al enjoyed fishing trips, skiing, sailing, and hosting friends and family.



Storace, William G., 83, Chelmsford, MA, 12/3/25 was the husband of the late Joanne, father of William and Matthew and grandfather of two. He and Joanne loved attending plays, reading books by the lake, cheering on their kids at countless sporting events, exploring new restaurants and traveling throughout the east coast.



Sumner, John C., 69, Ponte Vedra, FL 10/26/25 was the husband of Karen and the late Nancy, father of Ashley and Allison and grandfather of three. He worked in Sales and Publishing. John had a way of making every person feel seen, welcomed and valued.

Thayer, Patricia Ann, "Pat", 90, Northborough, MA, 12/7/25 was the mother of Holly, Carol and Peter, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of one. She was an Administrative Assistant. Pat practiced an eclectic spiritualism throughout her life, and her greatest passion was genealogy.

Theobald, Barbara, Chelsea, MA, 6/15/07 was the sister of Carol and Joan and aunt of several nieces and nephews. She worked in Dr Land's lab at 2 Osborn Street, Cambridge, MA.



Timmins, William D. Jr., 79, Naples, FL, 12/16/25 was the husband of the late Jeanne and father of Lori and the late Bill. He worked in Sales. Bill had an active social life and enjoyed golf so much that after retirement he worked at Naples Grand Golf Course as a Ranger.



Walsworth, Ronald L. "Ronnie", 89, Theodosia, MO, 10/10/25 was the husband of Judith, father of Ron Jr., Jamie and Sarah, grandfather of ten, and great-grandfather of one. He was an Officer in the U.S. Navy. Ron hunted quail, turkey and pheasant. He enjoyed fishing the White and Buffalo Rivers, played Poker and was widely known as a prankster.



Whitney, Helena, 71, South Boston, 11/24/25 was the mother of Joe, sister of Paul and Linda, and aunt of many. Helena was a Boston Sports fan and enjoyed watching football and baseball.



Williams, Johnnie L., 76, Jacksonville, FL, 12/4/25 was the husband of Dorothy, father of Anthony and Tonya, grandfather of Aushanee and great-grandfather of two. He was an avid card player, a sports enthusiast and an excellent cook who loved sharing meals with family and friends.

Recently the PRA lost two beloved long-time and very-active Members

Ed Byrnes (1926-2025) joined Polaroid in 1951. He wrote a 40th Jubilee story in last April's Newsletter saying, *"Ed here. Surprisingly, I'm approaching 99 years old and still writing about life and its consequences. When I think about it, I suspect I may be the oldest living Polaroid retiree. My date of employment was October 1951"*.

Ed challenged all PRA Members to see if he had the lowest Polaroid Clock number. No one has challenged him. Ed met his wife **Joan Agnes Stephenson** at Polaroid; they were married in 1954 and raised 3 children.

With a Masters in Physics, he was first employed in Research, developing a radiation detector for the US military. Ed's Polaroid career path went from research in Physics; to Polarizer applications for aviation and optical industries; to integration of Polaroid photo-systems into both OEM's medical imaging and data recording products. Ed was an initial member of Tech Photo's Worldwide OEM Group, and was their Director, Asia Pacific when he retired from Polaroid in 1988 after his 36-year Polaroid career. He continued as an independent Sales & Marketing Agent in Asia until 2011. Ed was a tireless PRA Newsletter contributor with 18 Newsletter stories on our website, since 2014. Sadly, the Newsletter was about to award Ed, on his 100th birthday, an honorary title of *Author Emeritus* for his humor, enthusiastic good will, and great stories.

Ted "Theo" McLelland (1940-2025) joined Polaroid in early 1960s. He and his wife Bette have been very active Lifetime PRA Members. In the 1960's Ted worked in Howie Roger's Osborn St. Color Lab. His career included Employee's Committee, Waltham's Building 4, and Film Manufacturing. Ted retired with 47 years seniority as Senior Engineer-Film Manufacturing, and became Director of Research, 20x24 Holdings LLC (**John Reuter's** Company) that has supplied Original Polacolor Film for 20x24 cameras for 19 years. In the early 2000's, the 20x24 Studio Polacolor had quality issues. John Reuter got advice from Theo that was very successful. John Reuter wrote *"In 2007 the 20x24 Studio was able to survive and emerge as 20x24 Studio LLC formed by John Reuter and Dem Stern with the inspiration of Elsa Dorfman. After many delays, the Studio set up shop in Central Massachusetts with a reagent reactor and pod machine. Theo came out of his brief retirement to take over the reagent production. "We went from getting film from a major corporation with a dozen people making 20x24 film to three guys in a garage with palettes of film, bins & bottles of chemicals and six(y)-year old machines to keep this dream alive. Without Theo, we never would have survived."*

Ted set up John Reuter's film manufacturing facility with the help of **Gerry Gomes, Al Clark, Rob Young, Tom Silva, Roy Johnson, John Boudreau & Marc Souffran**. Gerry and John have now taken over Theo's job.

John Reuter's video in his 2015 PRA Luncheon Talk featured Ted who explained 20x24 Studios manufacturing. Ted had to design reagents that compensated for aging. At the end of Ted's segment, he said, *"Things are getting old. Very old! The last negative were coated in 2006. At Polaroid we typically used negative within a year of coating. So, 2006 to 2015, we are in a space we have never been in. The sensitometry has moved every quarter. I don't know how much longer this can be done."* (Then Ted looked into the camera's lens, and grinned.) *"Maybe it can be done another 10 years."* Ted was very successful. John's video was made in 2015!

Combining Ted's 47 years with Polaroid, with 19 years with 20x24 Holdings adds up to an unbelievable 66 years of Polaroid Film Research & Manufacturing.

John Reuter, 20x24 Holdings, LLC, and PRA Member will be our speaker at

—Save-the-Date— May 18, 2026, PRA's Annual Spring Luncheon, Newton Marriott Hotel —

John Reuter is a phenomenal photographer. He has an incredible eye for images! His career has led him to be the most influential user, collaborator, and teacher of artistic instant photography. He is recognized for his beautiful images across all kinds of Instant Photography worldwide. John has collaborated with hundreds of leading photographers since the 1990s. He has worked with more established artists, mentored more younger artists, and has taught more serious art-school students at the university level than any other instant photography artist. Neal Slavin and John Reuter photographed David Letterman's television audience with the 20x24 camera.

John is a terrific film maker. His documentaries recount so many fascinating stories and historic people. He made a remembrance of Elsa Dorfman, a film on generations of Wicmarander dogs photographed by William Wegman, and documented making Presidential portraits. He made the video for his 2015 PRA Luncheon talk.

John has worked extensively with the New Polaroid's Foundation making exciting new images using their new commercial film in a 20x24 camera. If you think you are familiar with 20 x 24 photography, you aint seen nothing yet!

Watch on YouTube <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya4mGUX0Ls0>>

John's new PRA talk will show us so many different perspectives on the artistic use of Instant Photography over the last two decades, around the world.



Prsrt First Class
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1325
Boston, MA

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.

The note above your address is meant to alert you to your dues status at the time the Newsletter is sent to the printer

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

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

Email Address: _____ **Date of Retirement:** _____