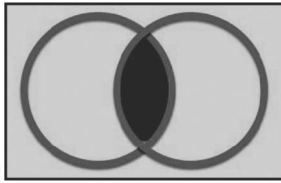


# NewsLetter

*PRA 40th Jubilee Year 1985-2025*



**Newsletter Team:**  
Peter Clark, Maryann Hall,  
Mary McCann

## Polaroid Retirees Association

October-December  
2025

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

### *President's Letter*

*Dear PRA Members,*

Welcome to the final *Newsletter* of 2025.

The exhibit *From Concept to Product: Meroë Morse and Polaroid's Culture of Art and Innovation, 1945-1969* has been on display at the Harvard Baker Library since 2024. When I viewed it, as a former Polaroid employee, it brought back the excitement of working on the edge of new ideas and the pride of working with an organization that did not recognize conventional barriers. It will be closing soon. I encourage you to visit the exhibit before it closes. You can find further information on how to find the exhibit in this *Newsletter* on Page 5.

Please enjoy the 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration Stories in this *Newsletter*. I am sure they suggested your own similar humorous or instructive events that happened to you during your time with Polaroid. I encourage you to write them down and send them to the *Newsletter*. (See Page 8) Bring a smile to other Polaroid employees, as they have done for you.

As we review the year, your PRA has had some big changes. Three long-time PRA board members left the board this year. **Arthur Aznavorian, Touie Jackson and Bill Rosen** have played a significant role in the vitality of our association. We have had a new member join the board this year, **Drew Webb** at our Annual PRA Meeting in May.

We need your help in recruiting new talent for the Board of Directors. We now ask each member of the PRA to consider serving on the board, or suggesting other members to apply. The board meets via Zoom once per month. You are familiar with our efforts: the luncheons, the *Newsletters* and the website. Even if you do not attend the luncheons, you may view the video of the meeting, including the invited speakers.

Now for the second BIG ASK!!! The PRA has been serving you for many years. It keeps you informed, creates social events, and keeps Polaroid present in the Cambridge, Waltham and New Bedford communities. If you know former Polaroid employees who are not members of the PRA, please ask them to consider joining. They may just need a slight nudge from you to join. It's easy! Copy the form at the bottom of the back page of this *Newsletter*, and ask them to mail it in! Both of you will be contributing to PRA's vitality.

Ruth Scanlan, President, *Polaroid Retirees Association*

***Welcome our New Member!***

**Leonard Chicarello, Groveland, MA**

### ***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**

## Christopher Bonanos's 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Talk

### *Polaroid after Polaroid*

Christopher Bonanos spoke after Mac Booth at the May 12, 2025, PRA Annual Meeting. The *Newsletter* reported on so many Annual Meeting features, that our report on Chris's talk was scheduled for this fall edition.

-----

Chris greeted the PRA saying, "Well, thank you all for having me. The people that **Mac Booth** just talked about are names I read about in patent documents, memos and books that I read while I was working on my book. (*INSTANT: The Story of Polaroid*). For me, hearing them come up off the page is valuable and fascinating. This talk to the PRA is my second time. I love talking to Polaroid's retirees. **Land**, and his colleagues, loved to hire people for their brains. So, here we have a whole room full of smart people, talking about interesting things. That doesn't happen every day. The last time I came here, it was 2014. My hair was black. My kid was in preschool. He is now touring colleges. In my first 2014 PRA talk, I thought I was telling the story of the instant photo medium - and its company. Polaroid, that was essentially at the end.

It turns out, now the kid is in high school, and we're seeing something very different."

Polaroid had been through bankruptcy in 2001, and filed the second time in 2008. The digital photographic world had swept in. Many people thought it had won. The company announced that Polaroid film production would close down in 2009. People were still buying film. The Instant Film business was not sustainable with drastically smaller demands for film. Polaroid 2008 management believed that film demand would tail off to zero.

Chris began his slides with one of Tom Petters, and said that closing film production was his decision in order to steal millions of dollars. Petters got caught, and he is scheduled to complete his jail sentence in 2060, at the age of 97.

Chris wrote a tiny story for *New York Magazine* in 2008 about a current show of Polaroid photography at the Whitney Museum. His story told about the end of Polaroid film media at the same time it was celebrated in the arts. Chuck Close, the artist and painter, was not nostalgic. He was annoyed and upset. He said, "This didn't have to happen." Chris said that conversation was the tiny germ that led to his book, *INSTANT*.

Chris's talk with slides told what happened between the time when Polaroid stopped making cameras & film and today.

#### **Impossible Project**

The very last Polaroid major asset to be scrapped was the Enschede film factory in the Netherlands. On Friday, the final day of manufacturing, there was a closing ceremony. Dr. Florian Kaps attended.



Kaps is an entomologist and entrepreneur who distributed original Polaroid film in Europe.

- At the closing ceremony Kaps talked with **Andre Bosman**, the Polaroid plant manager there. Kaps and Bosman went out for a beer. Both bemoaned sadness; "This didn't have to happen".
- Andre told Florian that the film-assembly machinery was not demolished, yet. It was scheduled for the following Monday, three days later.
- "As Dr. Kaps says, 'We stopped drinking beer and started talking'. Over that weekend, they managed to wrangle some financing, and throw themselves in front of the bulldozers. They made a pitch to Polaroid's management, and somehow persuaded them to lease the building's contents."
- They incorporated a company they called it the *Impossible Project*, because it looked really hard to do, and they were thinking of Dr. Land's famous quote, "Don't do anything unless it is manifestly important and nearly impossible."
- It turns out it was even harder than they thought.
- The Impossible Project had about a year's worth of film to sell, so they had a year to get the plant going. with no supply lines, no ingredients, no employees.

Chris said, "You all know how hard it was to make film reliable and stable. I'm sure some of you threw away a lot of batches that didn't come out right. They couldn't do that. They had to sell whatever they made."

"*Impossible Project* film could be better. But it was the beginning of something. You may remember that the very first Polaroid film in 1948 was a little brown, and a little touchy, and it got better. Mission Impossible film, in a metaphorical way, retraced that passage. And within a few years, their films started to look a lot better."

Chris showed a slide of his son Alex and said, "This is, by the way, the kid I mentioned earlier. You can watch him grow up, 'cause I've been shooting him since he was born on this Instant stuff."

Chris said that *Impossible* was struggling to get this plane aloft. You have to admire everything about it, while saying the product was maybe not all it could be.

## Polaroid after Polaroid cont.

Something was happening in the world around that time. At a smaller scale, there was an embrace of non-digital things, even as the digital world was clearly taking over all our lives. It was not just comfortable nostalgia. Something else was going on. People were developing an interest in keeping non-digital media alive, in many ways.

Fuji Film started to sell its Instax line in the United States as it continues to now. Within a few years, Instax became the best selling camera in the world.

Fuji Instax became popular, especially among very young teenagers; they use it at parties to this day. And it's fun. The last thing you'd have expected was that the very youngest people who had grown up entirely on digital photography suddenly wanted this other thing. Instax is OK as a camera, but it'll do. It is inexpensive. The film's colors are good.

### The non-digital movement is not just found in cameras

There's a movement toward, pen and paper for people who have literally never learned to write in cursive.

- The Bullet Journal Method is a phenomenon young people use to keep track of their lives. They journal everything that happens as little bullet points - all day long. <https://bulletjournal.com/pages/book> It's a version of keeping a desk diary, but it is a very specific way of making notes to manage your life. "And you would think that the calendar app on your phone is the way to do that? No. They want to get away from the buzzing and the beeping, and all of that. They make notes with ink in a couple of colors. They find it restful, they find it useful, they find it calming and settling as a way of grounding themselves in contemporary life.

Other companies, too, got into this. Moleskin, the Italian notebook people, has been growing by leaps and bounds, making inexpensive little notebooks that people love for writing on paper with ink.

- The real market for what was going on was the LP record which surely we all thought was finished. Not anymore. Something started to happen. The top selling vinyl record in 2008 sold 25,000; in 2015, sold 116,000; in 2025, sold 1,489,000 copies. A million and a half copies of Taylor Swift's LP sold last year. Again, young people, not nostalgists, wanted something that's fun as an object to own. It is a great big cover art object, instead of the little tiny digital icon.
- Even Ektachrome film started to find a small revival. It's back with one of the hottest shows on TV, *Euphoria* on HBO. The entire season was shot on 35mm Ektachrome movie film. Why? This is a show about kids.

**The Revenge of Analog Real Things, and Why They Matter**  
David Sax's book is a good read. It reports the social

changes in film and notebooks and vinyl. For example, he went to a record LP pressing plant that used to be idled and is now running so hard the equipment is breaking.

### Pola-kitsch

For the nostalgists, there are *One-Step* camera products for sale. People spend money for them.

- The Lego's *One Step* camera doesn't work: you assemble it to make an object. One of its photos is a little Lego of Dr. Land.
- 3M's *One Step* dispenses *Post-It* blank notes.
- There is a *One Step* that dispenses a toilet paper roll.
- There is a *One Step* cheese slicer.

### There are three *Impossible Project* documentary videos

- *Time Zero* is about the beginning of the Impossible Project made by Grant Hamilton.
- *An Impossible Project* is the second video about Dr. Kaps and the beginnings of new Instant products. (See the PRA video <https://youtu.be/bWR79ILOzuU> for the description of the final dinner party.)
- *Instant Dreams (2017)*, made by Willem Baptist, documented Polaroid enthusiasts. It centers on four principal characters. Stephen Herchen, Polaroid & Impossible Project scientist; a Japanese teenager, who shoots a lot of Fuji Instax; Stephanie Schneider, an eccentric Los Angeles photographer working with expired films on fashion photography in the desert; and Chris Bonanos and his son, who stole the show.

Throughout his talk Chris used his Instant photographs of Alex, from pre-school to pre-college, to document the growth of maturity of *Impossible* imaging. Willem Baptist's documentary shows the special partnership of Alex and Chris collaborating on making Instant images together. The still image below, taken from the Baptist documentary, captures Alex, and Chris and Instant Photos three-way partnership they enjoyed for more than decade.



### Polaroid Trademark

In 2009, after getting out of the film business, Polaroid's trademark was owned by Hilco and Gordon Brothers, private equity partnership. They received licensing payments from other manufacturers who wanted to sell their products using the Polaroid name. Their business sold OEM Polaroid TVs, digital cameras, digital printers, batteries, and light bulbs.

## Polaroid after Polaroid cont.

### Fotobar licensed Polaroid stores around the country

Fotobar customers were supposed to bring their memory stick or phone to their store, and walk out 15 minutes later with a framed high-quality print. They opened a bunch of stores, including a giant two-floor store in Las Vegas on the Strip. On the first floor they sold cameras, made enlarged prints and framed them. On the second floor was their Polaroid Museum with a life-size wax Andy Warhol you could take your selfie with. They had a timeline with every Polaroid camera.

### Polaroid B.V

Chris said, "In 2013, Dr. Kaps moved on, and today Oskar Smolokowski of Poland now heads the *Impossible Project*. He is very young, and has a clear-eyed understanding of this product and this idiom. He wants to make the film better and better, but he's also not a romantic. He wants to get cameras to market that are really usable. He wants sustainable and even production with steady growth rather than going off in wild directions."

In 2017, Polaroid Corporation's brand and intellectual property were acquired by Impossible Project's largest shareholder. Finally, the Polaroid trademark came full circle. Since 2017 *Impossible Project* cameras and films have been sold using the name *Polaroid Originals*. In March 2020, branding was shortened to the name *Polaroid*.

"The tiny startup running on nothing in Enschede had become *Polaroid* again. The minnow swallowed the whale!"

### Brooklyn Film Camera

"It is a small retailer in Bushwick, Brooklyn. A couple of young people saw this embrace of non-digital instant photos, and went all in on it, and they opened this tiny little business. They started as a flea market kiosk, but they soon had a real store in 2015. This is a niche community, but it turns out to be a bigger niche than you might have expected. I want to show you how enthusiastic it is. That store opened 10 years ago this month. It's pretty. You will notice an old Polaroid sign in the window. You go inside, and it has the vibe of an old photo store. You don't have those anymore. They're almost gone. They sell film, they sell accessories, they refurbish old Polaroid cameras and repair them. If you bring in yours, they'll fix it. And because they refurbish it, they offer a warranty. A model 680 SLR is almost \$1,000. People are paying it."

- "In the back of the Brooklyn Camera store, there is another Polaroid Museum, but it is not a big, glitzy Las Vegas thing. It's all heart., and it's from people who really care and are trying to keep this flame going".

- *New Polaroid* released its latest batch of SX-70 film, and changed the box just for this special release. They used *Old Polaroid* Art Director **Bill Field's** 1972 design with original stripes on the film box.

### Polacon

"The Brooklyn Film Camera people also got involved with a group called Polacon. The Instant Film Society started in Austin, Texas, as a convention where all sorts of instant enthusiasts could come and take pictures of one another and share notes and just embrace their own community and their enthusiasm. And they did it in Austin for a few years. Now, there are spin offs with one in the Bay Area, and last 2023, they did it for the first time in New York City. I went last year. It's wild what you see."

- "First of all, I have never seen so many Polaroid tattoos anywhere in my life. It's that sort of culture. But you also see these crazy camera modifications. One guy had a 1930s Graphlex camera with a Instax filmback mounted on it.. Another guy had more elaborate version with a circa.1900 big brass lens. Another guy's shooting with a 1950's Model 110 roll film camera with a pack film back? What was the last time you saw a Model 110 out in the wild, right? Another guy is using two Polaroids; a the tiny new Polaroid Go, and an old SX-70 with leather case around his neck."

- "My favorite moment, I got to interview **Mary and John McCann** surrounded by an audience of Polaroid enthusiasts. I wish you could have been there just to see the enthusiasm amongst these very young people. They were like, You were there. You were really there in Polaroid in the 1960's."

### New Polaroid Film Assemble in 2026

"The new Polaroid are still making film with your 50 year old Polaroid machinery. Enschede opened in 1972. The new Polaroid is so successful that they are planning to build a new factory, with all new film assembly equipment. But what a wild thought that they can build a new instant film plant in 2026! I would never have thought it possible. Certainly not a dozen years ago when I was here talking about the tail end of everything Polaroid.

Thanks so much for having me here."



Jan 23, 2013 - Chris wrote on his POLAROIDLAND website *The Long Walk*-video by **Bill Warriner**. Chris tried to see the video while writing his book *INSTANT*. Then he acquired an original 16-mm movie print of Bill's film shown first at the 1970 Polaroid Shareholder meeting. Bill read Chris's Post and contributed a wonderful self critique of his then 46 year-old movie. See the movie and read Bill's wonderful comments.

<https://www.polaroidland.net/2013/01/27/instant-artifact-the-long-walk/>

## ***Meroe Morse and Polaroid's Culture of Art and Innovation, 1945-1969*** **at The Baker Library, Harvard Business School**

Last May, **Ruth Scanlan** and **Mary & John McCann** went to the Polaroid exhibit featuring **Meroe Morse, Edwin Land** and **Ansel Adams** in the lobby of the Baker Library at the Harvard Business School. By chance, they ran into Tim Mahoney, special collections librarian, and collection manager for the HBS Polaroid Archive. Tim took this picture of these Polaroid visitors.

Tim told us that the Polaroid exhibit will be closing permanently in mid-December, 2025. Until then, the best window to plan your visit is between 9 AM - 5PM, Monday to Friday.

The Baker Library is a 13 minute walk from the T in Harvard Square. Parking (if space is available) for a fee in the HBS lot or garage.

It is a free, and beautiful, informative and inspiring exhibit. Please don't miss it!



### **Directions by T Subway**

#### ***13 minute walk from Harvard Square T stop***

1. Walk toward the Charles River along JFK St.
2. Go straight across the Bridge and continue straight. Walk along Harvard Stadium on your right.
3. Turn left onto Gordon Rd. and go to the rotary.
4. Turn left - Baker Library is between rotary and river.
5. The exhibit is in the Main Lobby on the first floor.

### **Directions by Car**

1. Use Map Apps to find N. Harvard St., Allston
2. Enter Gordon Rd - across from Harvard Stadium
3. Drive to rotary - turn right.
4. Parking is on the left.

**Some Polaroid photos from 1945-68 in the Baker Library Exhibit closing soon.**



#### **All Photos are from Polaroid Corporation Collection(PCC) at Baker Library**

**Left:** Meroe Morse with Polaroid Land Camera, test photograph, ca. 1950s. PCC, Photograph & Visual Materials, b. X.428, s. \$-586.

**Left Center:** Edwin Land with an early Polaroid Land camera. PCC Photograph & Visual Materials Box X.612, Folder 5

**Right Center:** Ansel Adams with Polaroid camera, ca. 1972, PCC Corporate Archives Records, b. IX.38, f. 8.

**Right:** Meroe Morse, test photograph, 1950s. PCC Related to Meroe Morse, b. VII.83, f. 11.

## 40<sup>th</sup> PRA Jubilee Stories

### **Editor of the PRA Newsletter and Polaroid 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration Stories, Mary McCann**

We have a dozen authors for the 40<sup>th</sup> 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 laugh. This *Newsletter* is half-way through that year. Please enjoy the stories below. It is time for all of us to plan the second half of the project. We need all members to help us find another dozen, or many dozens, of additional stories.

Think of this project as our very own PRA TIME CAPSULE. 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". *Hurry! It's time to fill the PRA's TIME CAPSULE of STORIES. (see Page 8)*  
*The final deadline for sending in your Story is Groundhog Day, Feb 2, 2026. Just around the Corner! Don't be left out !*

- - - - -

### **"Thanks for the memories"**

**Susannah Nilosek**  
daughter of  
**Charlie Nilosek**, Norwood  
Cameras

Hello,

I want to take a moment to thank you for being an essential part of my childhood and for helping me preserve those cherished memories. My dad, Charlie Nilosek, worked at the Norwood branch during the 80s, and I was just a child at that time.

Thanks to you, all my childhood moments were captured on instant film. It's hard for me to reflect on my childhood without thinking of Polaroid, as each image is framed in that classic white border.

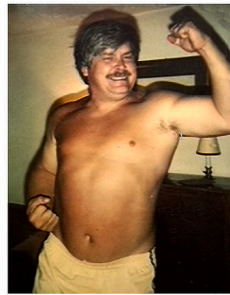
I've included a few cherished pictures from my childhood, along with a wonderful photo of my dad posing as a superhero—he truly was one to us.

The only photo I have from a Polaroid event is from the 50th anniversary celebration in 1987. It features my best friend and me. My favorite part of that photo is the clown; she looks a bit unenthused.

Thank you once again, Polaroid.

Best,

Susannah Nilosek



## 40<sup>th</sup> PRA Jubilee Stories cont.

### ***“A failure to communicate!” - - Donato Cence, Information Technology, Cambridge***

Our Japanese subsidiary was in trouble. The software that they used to process and ship orders was failing. Orders could not be processed; product shipments were frozen. Customers were not happy. Two days had gone by and there was no solution in sight. The situation was getting dire.

We made several attempts to diagnose the problem from Cambridge, but we ran into language difficulties trying to explain the tests that we wanted our local IT people to make, and trying to understand their interpretation of the test results was just as difficult.

This was the time before the internet, and we couldn't just log into their system remotely. So, we got the idea that if we could get a floppy disk copy of the software Fedexed overnight, we could diagnose the problem on our computers in Cambridge. So, we asked our Japanese team to send us a copy of the disk. We waited anxiously for the copy to arrive, and even drove to the Fedex office in Logan Airport to pick it up.

When we opened the package, there was a nice Xerox copy of the disk. No disk, just a paper copy. I can just see our Japanese IT team scratching their heads wondering how we were going to solve the problem with a Xerox paper copy of the magnetic floppy disk.

Fortunately, we figured it out shortly afterwards!

- - - - -

### ***“784 Memorial Drive Deserves a US Flag” - - Willis Rose, Plant Services, Memorial Drive***

My memories from New Year 1985 being a supervisor now for 10 years in the Plant Services Division (PSD) in Cambridge. The PSD was responsible for all maintenance and security in the fourteen (14) locations in Cambridge. They were 750 Main St, 730 Main St, 600 Main St, 28 Osborn, 2 Osborn, 119 Windsor, 575TS, 565TS, 549TS, 21 Ames St, 640MD, 620MD, 784MD and 38 Henry St.

For me, and some of our older retirees, a few names from back then “to be remembered”: **Joe Bartel, Fred Lenox, John Harlor, Jim Hawkins, Matt Noble, Paul Saunders, Arthur Browning, Willie Anderson, Nino Dianni, Pete Femino, Pete Gilberto, Bob Radochia, George Maxalexir, Bill Kennedy, Jim Roberts, and Bob Wallace** were managers in the Division.

Now here is the rest of the story: Because of my love of Country and our flag, I could not help but notice the flagstaff on our building at 784MD was barren and it bothered me. I told my manager I wanted a flag put on that staff. And he told me that I would have to get permission from the manager at 784; that was Connie Pappas, and a meeting was made. She agreed, and using a graph paper, she drew a flagpole with a flag at the top. And the size she drew was not fitting because of its size. So a larger flag was needed to compliment the building.

Now begins the work needed to accomplish the task: The trades, carpenters and electricians had to get involved to install the light to illuminate the flag at night. This took 3 or 4 weeks to complete, and I had to order two 5 by 8 Heavy Duty flags because after several months the flag would fray and be replaced or sent for repair at the flag store on Mass. Ave in North Cambridge.

Then the day came and the flag got tangled and was not flying and all my efforts to free it were unsuccessful. Believe it or not, I knew **Bob Eaton** at 38 Henry Street who was a steeple chaser that could climb the flagstaff. I asked him, would he do the job, he replied, “No Problem.” So we went up to the roof of 784MD (4 stories) and he started his ascent up the pole with the ropes he uses to climb. As he got further up the pole, it started oscillating, and now I'm having a Panic Attack! “Oh my God! What have I done?”

I thought “If he goes over, I'm going over with him!”

Not until he was half way down did I start breathing again. – And I knew better than to tell anyone what an insane thing we had done!

- - - - -

### ***“Sign In ... Please!!” John McCann, Research, 2 Osborn, Cambridge***

**Tommy Granville** was a Lead Plumber in Waltham. This is his story. I met Tommy working with the Polaroid trades converting (temporarily) the Kendrick St. warehouse into Polaroid's Annual Shareholders Auditorium. Every year one leader from all the trades groups became the coordinator for all trades. **Bob Chapman** did it in 1972 for the introduction of the SX-70. Tommy was the Trades Coordinator for Shareholder's another year.

Many of us may remember, *the Desk Guard* at the entrance of Building 1, Waltham, and his fastidious attention to signing IN and OUT all visitors. One day, Tommy was supervising a major plumbing project that required reconstruction of the building outflow through the basement wall, (a hole big enough to crawl through). Ordinarily, Tommy's job required entering and leaving W-1 many times a day. Every time *the Desk Guard* made Tommy sign IN and OUT. That is, until the day that Tommy could crawl through the hole in the basement. That day Tommy signed in a dozen times, but left via the hole without signing out. This did not go unnoticed by that observant guard at the desk.

## 40<sup>th</sup> PRA Jubilee Stories cont.

After the *Guard's* shift on the front desk was over, he punched out, and began his search.. He searched the entire building until he found Tommy and his crew working overtime. Security required a patched hole before they could go home. Eventually Tommy heard *the Desk Guard* shout: "I caught you! You ##@\$%^&\*() &#%#". Nobody was going to get away with screwing with that guard's sign IN/OUT records!

All of Polaroid had a remarkable workforce. Polaroid Employees took great pride in the precise accuracy of their work. But, that never interfered with having a good time with their colleagues when an opportunity presented itself.

- - - - -

### ***A Polaroid Memory That Is Hard To Erase ... Frank Ceppi, Polarizers, Ames St.***

It was the mid-'60s and both the Polaroid Swinger camera and oversized sunglasses were all the rage. The glass lined platens the Polarizer Division had been using for years to provide the curved polarized lenses for the Cool-Ray Division of American Optical were too small for the larger style sunglass frames. Bigger platens were required, and we also needed to calculate if our existing equipment could supply sufficient heating and cooling capacity for the larger platens. The engineering team responsible for answering these capacity questions were **Sam Balkan, Ray Chubbuck, Frank Ceppi** and a consultant from MIT, Professor Hoyt C. Hottel.

I remember our first meeting with Professor Hottel in Ray Chubbuck's office at 12 Ames Street, Cambridge. It was an all-day event, very much a class lecture on thermodynamics. By the end of the meeting the conference room-sized chalk board was filled with formulas and equations. There was only a small space on the lower right corner of the board for Ray Chubbuck to write DO NOT ERASE and he drew a circle around those words. This wrapped things up for the day and the plan was the next morning to take pictures of the chalkboard to memorialize the formulas and equations.

#### **My Introduction to Murphy's Law...**

Early next morning when I went into Ray's office to take pictures of the chalkboard, I found it wiped totally clean except for the encircled words DO NOT ERASE.

Fortunately, from our combined notes we were able to cobble together what the professor had written on the board. Sam Balkan questioned some of the professor's formulas, so I went to the Polaroid Library at 750 Main Street to get a textbook on Thermodynamics to corroborate them. The professor's calculations checked out and when I returned the book I noticed the author's name: it was Professor Hoyt C. Hottel our consultant.

#### **Epilogue...**

Larger lens forming platens were made. We determined the existing heating and cooling equipment was sufficient to accommodate the larger platens.

The "phantom eraser" shall remain anonymous however we do bump into each other from time to time and wave with an erasing motion.

I chose not to tell **Sam Balkan** who the author of the thermodynamics reference book was. All is well that ends well...

- - - - -

### **PRA 40<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration Stories Time Capsule**

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

**We can include your photos in the digital time capsule.**

**More than one story from the an author will be included.**

***Submit your Jubilee Story!***

**Email it to <newsletterpra@gmail.com> or**

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

***Join the authors of these great Jubilee Stories in our 40<sup>th</sup> year collection***

## In Memoriam

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



**Baldwin, Robert L., 87**, Concord, MA, 7/5/25 was the husband of Pamela, father of Bartholomew and Timothy and grandfather of two. He served in the U.S.

Army as an Intelligence Research Officer. Robert worked in Finance's Domestic and International Operations. Robert loved to fish and be outdoors. He was a member of the PRA.



**Beckford, Donald F., "Bug, Buggy, or Buggy", 88**, Cambridge, MA, 7/7/25 was the husband of Roberta and Rosetta, father of Phyllis, Darlene, Harold, Cynthia

the and the late Nancy, grandfather of seven, great-grandfather of seven and great-great-grandfather of one. Donald worked in Cambridge. He loved Cadillac cars, jazz music, cooking, and he painted and bedazzled walking sticks.



**Breen, Richard P.**, Wenham, MA, 8/2/25 was the husband of Aletta, father of Nicole and grandfather of Joshua. He was a Mechanical Engineer. His

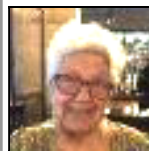
passions were reading, cooking, and spending time with family.

**Buck, Sharon C.**, 82, Rutland, VT, 7/14/25 was the wife of the late Edward, sister of Bruce, Patricia and the late Edward, aunt of Joshua and great-aunt of two. She worked in the IT Division.



**Carley, Rose L., 95**, Wayland MA, 1/24/25 was the wife of late George and late Frederick, mother of Carroll, Joy, the late Sandra and the late Amy,

stepmother of Frederick, Cynthia, Linda and Richard, grandmother and great-grandmother of many. Rose worked in Management. Rose was avid reader, dedicated gardener and practiced Tai Chi.



**Carmosino, Calliope "Callie" P.**, 89, Marlborough, MA, 9/18/25 was the wife of the late Ronald, mother of Peter and Paula, grandmother of two.

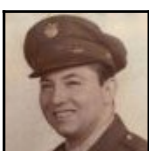
She worked as a Secretary and Corporate Trainer. Callie's favorite things were reading, cooking, shopping, traveling and cats.



**Cianci, Eileen M.**, Saugus, MA, 9/10/25 daughter of the late Vincent and Corinne, sister of Corinne, Eugene, Roberta, the late Paul, the late Corvin and Kathleen, aunt of Cory, Kimberly, Derek, Darrin and Daniel and the great-aunt to many. Eileen was a Divisional Vice President. She was a member of the PRA.



**Cournoyer, Frederick F. "Freddie"**, 89, Oak Bluffs, MA, 7/31/25 was the husband of Sandra, father of Kimberly, Karyn, Scott and Keith, grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of four. Francis served in the U.S. Army (Korean War). He was a Senior Principal Engineer. He designed and built his dream home, had an enthusiastic sense of humor and honesty, enjoyed a good book and perfected his golf swing.



**Curro, Joseph A.**, 99, Londonderry, NH, 9/18/25 was the husband of Annette, father of Peter and Vincent and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corp (WWII) and U.S. Air Force Reserves (Korean Conflict). He worked in the Film Division (Waltham). Joe was a serious napkin hoarder, attending the Concerts on the Common and enjoyed breakfasts at Janie's Uncommon Cafe.



**Daniell, Thomas D.**, 78, Burlington, MA, 9/3/25 was the husband of Dolores, father of Charlene and the late Thomas and grandfather "Bampy" of five. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps (Vietnam). Tom loved nothing more than being with his family, sharing stories, creating memories, and simply enjoying time together.



**DiBari, Jerome "Ronnie"**, 84, Boston, MA, 9/18/25 was the husband of Marie, brother of Joseph, father of Karen, Arlene and Jerome, grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of seven. He had a deep love for cars, Boston sports, and, most of all, his family.



**Doiron, Arthur J. Jr.**, 89, Walpole, MA, 8/24/25 was the husband of Elvira, father of Michael and Suzanne and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Army

Reserve. He was a Senior Customer Service Representative (Cambridge and Bedford). He enjoyed bird watching (aka scaring the squirrels off the feeder), following the weather, living up to his title as the "Grill Master", travelling, played the saxophone and reading, and he had a love of classic cars and airplanes. He was a member of the PRA.



**Donovan, John F. "Jack", Jr.**, 90, Norwood, MA, 8/30/25 was the husband of late Ethel, father of Jack III, Maureen, Michel, Brian and Steven, grandfather of nine

and great-grandfather of nine. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Drill Instructor on Parris Island. Jack was an avid Boston sports fan and loved spending time at his house located on the Cape in West Dennis.



**Fernandes, Regina "Dino"**, 72, Mansfield, MA, 7/12/25 was the mother of Jason, Tasha and Lynette and leaves a host of relatives and friends who will miss her dearly. She worked in N2Y (Norwood).



**Fitz-Gerald, Robert V. Sr. "Bob"**, 84, Middleboro, MA, 8/30/25 was the husband of Margaret and the late Pauline, father of Mary, James and the late Robert Jr.

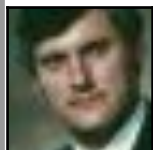
and grandfather of three. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Benham DD-796. He was a Mechanical Engineer (Cambridge, Boston, Waltham, Norwood). The entire family spent time at the shooting club, riding around New England on bikes and stopping at the Hall's for famous "Junie Bread" and tea.



**Flynn, Edward P.**, 87, Medford, MA, 8/25/25 was the husband of Susan, father of Cara, Gabriel and the late Jeremy and grandfather of two. He was an Engineer

(Cambridge). Edward was a Lector and Eucharistic Minister and received the Cheverus Medal from Cardinal Sean O'Malley.

## In Memoriam cont.



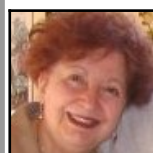
**Galibois, Robert J. (Bob)**, 80, Duxbury, MA, 6/20/25 was the husband of late Kathy, father of Robert and Michael and grandfather of four. Bob served as a First

Lieutenant in the U.S. Army stationed at various posts in and around Vietnam. He was a Senior Executive. Bob was an avid reader, who also enjoyed sharing his own stories and provoking debate.



**Giacobbe, Gerald M. "Jake"**, 74, Braintree, MA, 9/6/25 was the husband of Maureen, father of Michelle, Lisa and Kristin, grandfather "Bumpa" of nine. He served

in the U.S. Navy (Vietnam era) as a Signal 3/c Petty Officer aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Intrepid, CV-11. He was a Financial Analyst. Jake enjoyed sitting by the fire with his wife, listening and dancing to their favorite song, going for a car ride to watch the sunset, and golfing.



**Gubbay, Janet M.**, 83, Stoneham, MA, 6/26/25, wife of the late Jacob, sister of Doreen, aunt of Lori, Ken, Beth, Sheryl, David and Marcy. She was an

Executive Assistant. Janet enjoyed music, belly dancing, and writing stories for children.



**Heskey, Dorothy H.**, 78, Northborough, MA, 8/6/25 was the wife of the late William, mother of Kenneth and the late James and grandmother of Alexandria.

She was an Administrative Assistant. Dorothy loved taking trips to New Hampshire, Europe, England, Scotland, Wales, Bermuda, Alaska, and Canada—memories that she would hold dear long after the suitcases were unpacked. She was a member of the PRA.



**Hillier, Arthur E. "Art"**, 92, Lockport, IL, 8/26/25 was the husband of Evelyn, father of Kathleen, grandfather of four and uncle to many. He served in the

U.S. Navy on the USS Newport News, (Korean War). He researched the genealogy of his family and was the author of the *An American Family*.



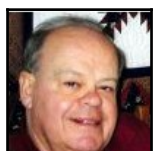
**Hourigan, John J. "Jack" Jr.**, 83, Millis, MA, 9/4/25, was the husband of the late Karen, father of Kelly, Kristine, Bruce, Brandon and the late John III and

grandfather of ten. He was a hobby photographer, a proud New England sports fan for the Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics and Bruins. Jack loved gardening and watching birds at his feeders.



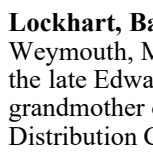
**Kearney, John, "Jack"**, 92, Groveland, MA, 2/28/24, 2024 was the husband of the late Marjorie, longtime companion of the late Adriana, father of Eileen,

Jeanne, John, Marjory, Kara and the late Paula and grandfather of thirteen. John was an avid Bruins Fan and very proud of his Irish Heritage. He was a member of the PRA.



**Knell, Warren E.**, 88, Bedford, MA, 7/9/25 was the husband of late Mary Lou, father of David, Cheryl and the late Matthew and grandfather of four. He

served in the U.S. Army Reserves. Warren worked in Waltham. He enjoyed fishing and had many fond memories of fishing trips with friends in New Hampshire and Maine. He was a member of the PRA.



**Lockhart, Barbara**, Newton and Weymouth, MA, 9/15/25 was the wife of the late Edward, mother of Brian and grandmother of two. She worked in the Distribution Center (Needham).



**Longleway, Ann Marie**, 79, West Newbury, MA, 9/3/25 was the wife of the late Frank, sister of Leo and the late Gael and aunt of several grandnieces,

grandnephews, great grandnephews, and cousins. She worked in Accounts Payable. After the death of her sister at the age of 45, Ann made it her enduring priority to make sure her sister's six children always felt supported and loved.



**Mason, John "Jack"**, 84, Billerica, MA, 8/24/24 was the husband of Carol. Jack worked in Manufacturing and Materials in the Camera

Division (Norwood) and later was Manufacturing Manager on the Helios X-ray Printer (Newton).



**Mercury, Juliette F.**, 76, Roxbury, MA, 8/8/25 was the mother of Helen and grandmother of three. Juliette loved cooking,

baking, gardening, crocheting, singing, traveling and quilting.



**Micavich, Cynthia A.**, 78, Amherst, NH, 7/5/25 was the wife of John, mother of John, Keith and the late Kirk and grandmother of four. Cindy was the Senior

Vice-President: Chief Information Officer. She will always be remembered for her caring, compassion, and selflessness.



**Nelson, Roger C.**, 82, Upton, MA, 7/1/25 was the husband of the late Virginia, partner of Joanne, father of Tammy and Stephen, grandfather of seven and

great-grandfather of eight. He was a Senior Plastics Engineer. Roger loved to go on cruises, gardening, camping, hiking, biking and playing pétanque and pickleball. He was a member of the PRA.



**O'Brien, John D.**, 87, Saugus, MA, 9/16/25 was the husband of the late Anna, father of Denise, David, Kevin and the late John, and grandfather of eight. He was

a Mechanical Engineer. John's greatest joy was his grandchildren, attending their sporting events, dance recitals and other cultural and school events and introducing them to his favorite movies.



**O'Connell, Bernice M.**, 82, Cambridge, MA, 8/7/25 was the daughter of the late Thomas and Mary, sister of Barbara and cousin of many.

She was an Administrative Assistant.



**Olivieri, John J.**, 82, Chester, NH, 8/20/25 was the husband of Linda, father of Joanne, Elaine and Trina, grandfather of four and great-grandfather of four.

He served in the U.S. National Guards. He was an Electrician. John enjoyed cooking, eating, traveling, camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, ATV riding, foraging for mushrooms, golf cart cruising, gardening and time with many friends and family.

## In Memoriam cont.



**Oppenheimer, Susan R.**, 99, San Antonio, TX, 8/17/25 was the wife of Jesse, mother of David, Jean and Barbara, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of two. She was a

Chemist who worked for Dr. Land in the development in night-vision technologies for the U.S. military. They included dark adaptation goggles, which allowed Allied pilots to land at night, without the benefit of artificial light as well as other optical devices used in aerial reconnaissance photography.



**Prout, Theodore H., "Teddy"**, 71, Boston, MA, 7/14/25 was the son of Virginia, brother of Janice, Regina and the late Carla,

father of Roger, Tiffany, Tyler and the late Anthony and grandfather of many.



**Reddington, Dennis M.**, 71, Woburn, MA, 7/29/25 was the husband of Maria, father of Lindsay and Andrew, son of Christine and grandfather of seven. He worked in

Marketing. He had a deep love for music and singing karaoke, maintained a pristine lawn, spent time with his grandchildren drawing together.



**Schmuhl, Russell "Russ"**, 77, Centennial, CO, 6/5/23 was the husband of Sandy, father of Kristen, Sarah, Gwen and Aaryn and grandfather of six. He served in the U.S. Army.

He worked in Customer Service (784 Memorial Drive, Cambridge). Russ played the trumpet, loved gardening, was an active tour guide at the Denver Botanic Gardens and enjoyed supporting fundraising events. He was a member of the PRA.



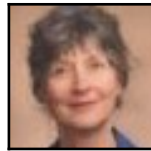
**Scibilia, John P.**, 87, Mashpee MA, 6/12/25 was the husband of Ellen and the late Carol, father of Stephen, Diane, Laurie, Jack, Scott, Lisa and Jeanne, grandfather of nine

and great-grandfather of seven. He was a Mechanical Engineer. John enjoyed golf, billiards and tennis as well as cycling along the Cape Cod canal and visiting all the small towns.



**Searcy, George Jr.**, 82, Roxbury, MA, 7/14/25 was the husband of late Maryann, father of Carmen, Gwendolyn, James, Derrick, Dwayne, Bruce, Avis,

Tyrone, George and Tyreesa, grandfather of thirty-one and great-grandfather of fifty-five. He played the saxophone, piano, harmonica, had a deep love for the blues, found great joy in making music, had a passion for working on cars and owned a collection of old classic cars. George loved travel whether by car or by plane to visit many states and countries.



**Simic, Mira**, Naples, FL & Westwood, MA, 8/22/25 was the mother of late Duncan. After retiring, she followed her heart to Naples, drawn by the ocean's calm and warmth.

Mira was strong and opinionated, loving, and loyal. She offered advice freely and had a way of making people feel seen, and her words, whether sharp or tender, always came from a place of truth.



**Smith, Florence A.**, 74, Hyannis, MA, 8/4/25 was the sister of Reid, Paul, Donald, Mark and the late Karen, sister-in-law of Marianne, aunt of four, and great-aunt of

three. After retirement she received her Nursing Assistant Certification and helped many seniors in the Cape Cod area. She loved her dogs, including her beloved Casey, spending time at the beach and time with her nieces and nephews.



**Solomon, Lois Lee K.**, 82, Brookline, MA, 9/11/25 was the wife of Harold, mother of Lara and Jeremy and grandmother of six. She

worked in Human Resources and Training & Development. She traveled the world, made art and music central in her life and was a voracious reader.



**Spear, Peter C.**, 83, Belmont, MA, 8/21/25 was the husband of the late Marie, father of Christopher and Caroline and grandfather of Bridget.

He was Senior Technical Specialist. Peter had a passion for photography; he loved capturing unique people and places. He believed memories were built, not bought. Weekends and vacation weeks were often spent sailing in Buzzards Bay, camping beneath the stars or exploring museums. He was a member of the PRA.



**Steele, Lorraine P.**, 71, Boston, MA, 7/19/25 was the wife of Lee and ex-wife of Mark, sister of Bill and Jim, aunt of seven and countless grand-nieces and nephews.

Lorraine loved gardening, was a passionate and active participant in local Boston non-profits. She organized many memorable social events with friends and neighbors in the Durham Street area. Many referred to her as the de facto "Mayor of Durham Street".



**Szura, John R. "Jack"**, 77, Cedar Grove, VT, 9/20/25 was the husband of Nancy, father of Jill and Todd, grandfather of four. He was a Salesman.

Jack loved adventure, skiing at Mount Snow in Vermont and walking the New Jersey shoreline searching for sea glass. He enjoyed collecting cars and driving his Porsche Boxster.



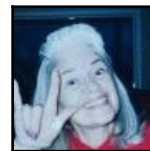
**Terry, Richard G. "Dick"**, 95, Arlington, MA, 9/5/25 was the husband of Patience, father of Elizabeth and Catherine and grandfather of two. Dick

enjoyed simple pleasures such as a meal cooked by his wife or a walk around the neighborhood, going to the beach, swimming, canoeing and ice skating on Spy Pond. He was a fan of musical theatre and travelling domestically and internationally. He was a Compensation Manager in the Human Resources department. He was a member of the PRA.



**Weeden, Robert J.**, 83, Watertown, MA, 7/17/25 was the husband of Linda, father of Paul and Erik and grandfather of four. Robert served in the U.S. Navy in the SeaBees

(Vietnam). He was an Engineer. He built and raced dragsters and was a coach for Watertown Youth Hockey, as well as a scout leader for Watertown's Cub and Boy Scout troops. He enjoyed his summers in York Beach and winters in Watertown.



**Williams, Donna M.**, 82, Medway, MA, 9/1/25 was the mother of John, Thomas, Paul and Donna, grandmother of several and great-grandmother

of many. She had many siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends in her life. Donna worked as a Parts Assembler.

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.

**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.***

Yearly Dues \$20.00  
 Make check payable to **POLAROID RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
*and mail to R. Ruckstuhl, Polaroid Retirees Assn, P.O. Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969*

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:** \_\_\_\_\_