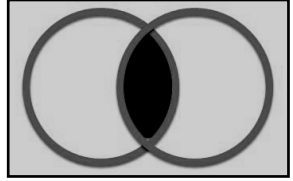


NewsLetter



Newsletter Team:
M. McCann, M. Hall,
E. Kliem, W. Rosen

Polaroid Retirees Association

July - September
2023

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

Presidents Letter

Dear PRA Members,

The PRA Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting has been held for the first time in three years! One hundred and thirty-one members and guests attended.

The weather was beautiful, and the mood was festive. Our new venue, The Warren Center in Ashland, received very positive marks for its ambiance and quality of service. Attendees enjoyed seeing each other in person again. We extend our thanks to the **Direct Federal**



Credit Union for once again underwriting the event as they have for many years.

Special thanks go out to the Luncheon Committee members who made the day's success possible: Arthur Aznavorian, David Bayer, Dan Cence, Touie Jackson, Erika Kliem, Bill Rosen and Bob Ruckstuhl as well as the rest of the board who contributed in significant ways. Based on our experience in May, we have reserved the Warren Center for November 2nd's luncheon. We hope to see you there.

The Business of the PRA, on page 2, is the Annual Report to the membership from the board. It includes a report of the election of new and returning board members held at the Luncheon and reports of the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Audit and Membership Committee Chairs and the Governance Commission.

Nino DiIanni has resigned from the Board of Directors and from the office of Treasurer of the PRA. He joined the board and has served as Treasurer since 2018. We will miss both his sage financial advice and his good humor. Thank you, Nino, from the entire PRA for your friendship, willingness to be involved in every aspect of the Association and serving as our constant DFCU liaison. Bob Ruckstuhl has accepted my appointment as Treasurer.

Connect with the PRA. The continued vigor of the PRA depends on the active participation of its members.

1. *Ask Others to Join* \$15/ year. Mail check: R. Ruckstuhl, P.O. Box 522, Rowley, MA 01969.
2. *Contribute Newsletter Articles* - Tell your stories of people & projects. Email to M.McCann, newsletterpra@gmail.com
3. *Explore the Website.* Browse and add to Bulletin Board at www.polaroidretirees.org

John Flynn, President of the PRA.

PRA Board of Directors

Officers

President
John Flynn

1st Vice President
Open

2nd Vice President
Ruth Scanlan

Treasurer
Bob Ruckstuhl

Secretary
Don Foster

Directors

Jim Bodkin

Dan Cence

Caren Friedman

Touie Jackson

Erika Kliem

Paul Lubin

Mary McCann

William Rosen

Ruth Scanlan

George Stebbins

The Business of the PRA

The annual May Luncheon is the Polaroid Retirees Association Board of Director's forum for sharing the fiscal year's business information with the larger membership. Below is a summary of the presentation.

Secretary's Report: Donald Foster, Secretary

The PRA Board of Directors met 12 times during the year using Zoom. In addition, the Governance Commission, a subcommittee of the Board, met 24 times during the year using Zoom. Minutes from the Board meetings and the subcommittee meetings are available electronically to all members upon request.

The 2022 Luncheon and Annual Meeting were cancelled because of the pandemic; nonetheless, the Board held its Annual Meeting via Zoom in June 2022. The meeting minutes were approved by the Board and were presented to members at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved by the members present at the Luncheon.

John Flynn, President, announced that two new Board members, Caren Friedman and Jim Bodkin, are on the ballot (for their first three-year term) at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Current Board members who are ready to stand for election for their second or third three-year terms are Paul Lubin, Ruth Scanlan, John Flynn and Erica Kliem. Two long-time Board members, David Bayer and Maryann Hall, have served their full three terms and will be stepping down from the Board. They have our thanks for their many years of dedicated work for the PRA. Maryann Hall has agreed to remain working with the Board as a volunteer to continue researching, organizing and preparing obituaries for the *Newsletter* and the PRA website. George Stebbins was recently appointed to the Board by John Flynn and will stand for election in 2024.

Treasurer's Report: David Bayer, (Acting Treasurer)

With the resumption of dues collections in 2022, the PRA received \$8,951 in receipts. Total expenses were \$8,972, resulting in a slight deficit of \$21.

Major expenses were for the *Newsletter* and administration.

Cash balance at December 31, 2022, was \$26,418, assuring a positive cash position entering 2023.

Audit Committee Report: Arthur Aznavorian, Audit Committee Chair

In accordance with the requirements of our Constitution, the Audit Committee, comprising Nino DiIani, David Bayer and Arthur Aznavorian conducted an audit in May 2023, of the financial transactions of the Treasurer and the Membership and Luncheon Chairs. This was done by taking randomly chosen entries on the deposit and expense sides of the PRA checkbook and comparing them to backup documentation provided by the Treasurer. All transactions were found to be in good order, and it was so reported at the May Annual Meeting of the Association.

Membership Committee Report: Bob Ruckstuhl, Membership Chair

The PRA membership remained relatively stable over the period June 2022 through May 2023. The deaths of 33 of our members was offset by the addition of new members and surviving spouses. We closed May 2023 with a total membership of 912.

Governance Commission, Ruth Scanlan, 2nd VP

This committee was formed in June of 2022 to *define* the future purpose, direction and objectives of the Polaroid Retirees Association. To determine what factors might influence members' ability or desire to attend events, the subcommittee emailed two surveys to PRA members with listed email addresses. The first survey was a broad overview of members' preferences. The second survey asked more specific questions that were based on the information learned from the first. The results were shared with the luncheon attendees by Dan Cence. The full Board of Directors will now address the initiatives suggested in the surveys. Meanwhile, the subcommittee will review the Constitution and By-laws to address membership requirements and the processes for disbanding the PRA when the membership level has significantly declined.

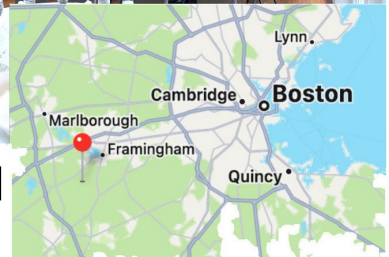
To view the survey presentation, copy the link below and paste it in your browser, or go to the website Polaroidretirees.org and click on the link at the bottom of the home page.

http://www.polaroidretirees.org/NewsletterBOD/Luncheon_Survey_Presentation_modified.pdf

Spring Luncheon 2023



Panoramic photo of the Warren Center's main dining room where the PRA's Spring Luncheon was held. The Center is conveniently located near the intersection of the Mass Pike and Route 495; it provides easy access from North, East, South and West.



Entrance



Registration



Touie Jackson & David Bayer



Dr. Kantrowitz & Medical Staff*



Tony & Maryann Hall



Bob, Mary & Paul Nangeroni



Neil Sanders



Willis Rose



Dick Adans & Lydia Smith



Peggy Prebensen



Paul Bau

* front: L. Maregni, C. Hart, M. Donahue back: D. Boudreau, E. Szetela, W. Kantrowitz, M.L. Ruckstuhl

In Memoriam

Find more complete obituaries at www.polaroidretirees.org



Chapman, Robert J., Lexington, MA, 5/19/23 was the husband of the late Marilyn, brother of Janet, Barbara and the late Charles, uncle of

five, grand-uncle of many and close friend to Wendy. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp. Bob was an Operations Manager. He enjoyed his ranch in Montana and wintered in Arizona.. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, and spent much time at his camp on Sebec Lake, Maine. He was a member of the PRA.

Denessen, Arthur Jeffrey - "Jeff", 87, Sudbury, MA, 4/22/23



was the husband of Cynthia, father of Laura and Erica, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Army

in Germany as a Weapons Specialist. He was a Mechanical Engineer.



Doyle, Arthur L., 90, Longboat Key, FL, 4/17/23 was the husband of Kathy, father of Ted, Denise, Debra, Doris and Donna,

stepfather of Michelle, James and Michael, grandfather of twenty-eight, great-grandfather of eighteen, great-great-grandfather of three, step-grandfather of 16, and step-great-grandfather of five. Arthur was an Engineer. He was on many committees and served as a Selectman in Billerica.



Eisner, James F., 83, Salem, NH, 4/1/23 was the brother of the late Warren Sr., uncle of Warren Jr., Carol, Linda, John, MaryBeth, Lee, Kim

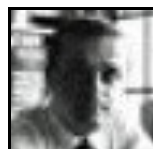
and the late Teri, and great-uncle of many. He was a Machinist. James served in the US Airforce. James enjoyed playing cards with family members and going to Suffolk Downs where he owned a horse that raced there.



Gelzinis, Bill, 89, Dexter, ME, 12/24/22 was the husband of Lorraine, father of Robert, Scott, Elin and Stacy, and grandfather of four. He served in the U.S. Air

Force and the Air Force Reserves. Bill

worked many years for Polaroid in Boston. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed his beagles.



Giambarba, Paul F., 94, Mashpee, 5/1/23 was the husband of Fran and the late Ruth, father of Lily and Andrew, step-father of Allan and Stephen, grandfather of seven, and

great-grandfather of two. He served as an Artillery Sergeant in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. As a graphic designer, he created 25 years of award-winning graphic designs, including the iconic rainbow stripes. He was a versatile artist with accomplishments across many media, as well as a prolific book author, illustrator and publisher. He enjoyed swimming, fishing & boating and nature-watching in all four seasons.

Haley, Donald K., "Don", 88 Randolph, MA, 1/10/23 was the



husband of the late Rose, stepfather of William, Robert, and Marjorie, grandfather of 12, and had many great-grandchildren. Don

served in the U. S. Army (Korean War). He was a Technician.

Inglese, Anthony "Tony", 77, Westborough, 3/7/23 was the husband of



Joyce, father of Michele & Lisa, stepfather of Laura & Jason, and grandfather of eight. He served in the U.S.

National Guard. He was a Master Electrician. Tony loved to cook and work with his hands and he enjoyed landscaping, gardening and playing with his dog Brady.

Jarvis, Arthur S., "Buzzy", 86, Cambridge, MA, 4/6/23 was the longtime partner of Shirley, father of Arthur and Christina, and grandfather of Nicholas. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp. Buzzy worked as a Laboratory Technician. Buzzy was a lover of the Red Sox and



the Patriots, loved deep sea and freshwater fishing and a good plate of "Fish and Chips."

Jenkins, David, 91, MA, 5/1/23 was the husband of Dianne, friend of Anne, father of Dianne, Jeff, Karen, Rick, Duane and Peter, step-father of Alex and Nick, grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of 13. He died at home surrounded by music, cats, dogs, his wife, children, and friends, as well as the attentive Care Dimensions Hospice staff. He was a seeker of truth, always on a spiritual quest.



Malcolm, Reita L., 82, Boston, MA, 5/26/23 was the wife of Aubrey, mother of Barbara, Merna, Carlfred, Michael and



Alexia, grandmother of twenty, and great-grandmother of eighteen, and had one great-great grandchild . She was a Camera Technician (Waltham). Reita loved

spending time with her family, and family trips to Canada, Florida, various places in Boston and beaches She loved family gatherings. Reita loved to shop; she had an expensive eye for things. She was also an incredible cook, known for her porridge (cornmeal and hominy corn), mackerel and banana, rice and peas, and fish "flitters."

Malenchini Philbrook, Donna, 73, The Villages, FL, 6/1/23 was the wife of Wayne, mother of Lindsey, Stacey and Robin, and grandmother of five. Donna also enjoyed playing golf and bocce with her family and friends and above all else adored visits from her daughters and her grandbabies.

Manbuca, Anthony C., 89, Milford, MA, 4/29/23 was the husband of the late



Jean, father of Anthony P. and Lisa, and grandfather of Amanda. He served in the U.S. Army as a Specialist 3rd Class (Korean War).

Tony was employed as a Mechanical Engineer. He served as the Director of the Maspencock Rod and Gun Club and was an avid fisherman and runner. He was a member of the PRA.

In Memoriam cont.

Massucco, Melvin J. "Mel", Jr., 83, Revere, MA, 1/17/23 was the husband of



Florence, father of Melvin III and Susan, grandfather of five, and great-grandfather of one. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Vietnam War).

Mel was an Electrical Designer. He enjoyed golfing, visiting the local casinos, and spending time with family. He was a member of the PRA.

McCarthy, Joseph P., Sr., 86, Lynnfield, MA, 5/31/23 was the husband of Patricia, father of Donna, Thomas, Joseph and Sean, grandfather of ten, and great-grandfather of five. He served in the U.S. Army. He was a



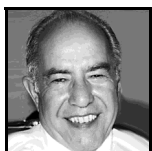
Service Manager (Waltham). He was an avid golfer and past President of the Thomson Country Club in North Reading, MA.

McDonald, Richard M., Sr., Ritchie, 82, Northborough, MA, 6/14/23 was the husband of Patricia, father of Richard, Jr., and Christine, and grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Air Force (Vietnam War). He was a Mechanic (Cambridge and Waltham). He enjoyed



spending time outside and reading his many books and newspapers, tending his vegetable garden and home's landscaping, and taking the family on vacations to Cape Cod. He was a member of the PRA.

Mingace, Herbert Jr., "Herb", 81, 3/15/23, Port Saint Lucie, FL, was the husband of Nancy, father of Joseph, David, Christopher Dina and Gina, and grandfather of eleven. He worked as a Senior Technical Specialist in the Holography Department (750 Main St., Cambridge). He is credited as an inventor of Holograms with the United States Trademark and Patent Office which were displayed at the Museum of Science in Boston, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum Cambridge, MA, and the Smithsonian Institute Museum in Washington DC. He also made a record and ultimately "starred" in a movie with Demi Moore and John Cusack called *One*



years before taking a position as a Medical Coder for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Crazy Summer. Herb enjoyed many hobbies including fishing, boating, gardening, poker and running the local pool league. He was a member of the PRA.

Mohr, John J. "Jack", 96, Lincoln, MA, 5/ 8/23 was the husband of the late



Jean, father of Bonnie and Heather, and grandfather of two. He served in the U.S. Army, (WWII). He helped design and manufacture the Swinger, Big Swinger and the SX70. He was a member of the PRA.

Munzert, William "Bill" M., The Villages, FL, 5/5/23 was the husband of Lee-Ann, father of Christopher, Billy and Eric, and grandfather of two. Bill led a successful career working in Human Resources, specifically in Organizational Development and Training. Bill enjoyed traveling the world, whether swimming with sharks in South Africa or relaxing on Cape Cod at his former Mashpee summer home. He was an incredible gardener and a sharp Bocce player.



Neville, Charles D. "Rusty", 78, Wakefield, MA, 4/3/23 was the husband of Janice, father of Charles, Kathleen and John, and grandfather of five. He was a Principal Engineer. He loved being on a boat, whether sailboat or motorboat, and his favorite place was Back Beach in Essex He enjoyed going up and down the New England coast on the family boat for vacation. Along with woodworking, Charles had a passion for do-it-yourself work around the home and could fix almost anything. He was a member of the PRA.



O'Brien, Carol A., 80, Everett, MA, 4/30/23, was the sister of Helen, the late Catherine and Mary, and aunt and great-aunt to many. She worked in Waltham. Prior to retiring, Carol, worked for Polaroid Corporation in Waltham for many



years before taking a position as a Medical Coder for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.



Russo, Theodore, "Ted", 89, Peabody, 4/11/23 served in the U.S. Army. Ted was an Electrical Engineer and Manager. He enjoyed reading,

walking, watching the Patriots and working on his own electrical projects. He was a member of the PRA.



Swinhart, Steven L., 73, Marshfield, MA, 6/11/23 was the husband of Jennifer, father of Steven and Alison, and grandfather of five. He served in the U.S. Navy, (Vietnam War). He was a Technical Representative. Steve was intense and passionate at baseball games.



Welch, James "Jim", 94, Wilmington, NC, 6/19/23, was the husband of late Lyne, father of Kathy, Rick Kevin, Michael, Stephen and the late Dennis, grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of five. Jim served in the US Marine Corps as a Cpl, Amphibious Recon Company, Second Marine Division (World War II). He worked in Senior Management. Jim was an avid sports enthusiast.



Wronski, Francis W. "Frank", 89, Lowell, MA, 5/30/23 was the husband of Ilona, father of James, Joanne, & Thomas, grandfather of seven, and great-grandfather of nine. He served in the Air Force National Guard for 42 years, retiring as a Master (First) Sergeant. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for distinguished career achievement. He worked in Management Roles. He enjoyed art and drawing and was an avid New England sports fan and was particularly fond of the Red Sox and Patriots. He was a member of the PRA.



Yankowski, Carl J., 74, Butler, PA, 5/13/23 was the son of the late Mitchel and Helen He was an Electrical Engineer and Corporate Vice President. Carl enjoyed aviation, classic automobiles and electronics. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Bob Chapman by John McCann

This *Newsletter's* obituaries include **Bob Chapman**, who passed away on May 19, 2023. Anyone who attended a Shareholders' Meeting in the 1970s will recall going to 40 Kendrick Street, Needham, every May. A little-known "Polaroid Trades Group Committee" emptied a large part of Polaroid's warehouse. That group transformed the empty space into an auditorium for thousands of people.

In 1973 Bob Chapman was the chair of the "Trades Group" for the first public demonstration of the Polaroid SX-70 camera to shareholders, followed by 3 more meetings for all Polaroid employees. The "Trades Group" planned for this event every year, but the plan for the actual demonstration was not available until four weeks before the meeting. It was Bob's job to coordinate all the Polaroid Trades to build and install everything: state-of-the-art auditorium sound, a xenon-arc projection system for a large auditorium screen, and dynamic stage

lighting systems. In 1973 these components were assembled for installation as soon as the plan for the SX-70 demonstration was finalized. This plan depended on the entire SX-70 Program's progress on model cameras, prototype film supply with internal batteries, and a new generation of OEM flash bars.

As the supply of cameras, and film began to build up in early May, the plans for 11 octagonal stages surrounded by SX-70 images developing in daylight came into being. Many Trades Groups around the company made it happen in very little time. As the Shareholders left the meeting, a gallery of SX-70 images on black velvet curtains exhibited the wide range of SX-70 applications. That gallery was installed the morning just before the meeting. Bob's team had met and exceeded all expectations.



(Above Left) Shareholders first view of photographs developing in daylight.

(Middle) Bob Chapman, second from left, installing camera room in MFA Gallery.

(Right) Bob Chapman and Tony Pistorino in the Vatican Museum, covering the 3-story frame with black Mylar®.



(Above Left) Bob's head is seen near the top-center; Tony, is top-right.

(Above Right) The exhibit's close-up portraits were being made on the left while Bob and Tony were making the 3-story "CameraCamera" (Italian for "Camera Room").

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

For the 1978 Shareholders meeting, Bob Chapman took on the task of making a portable camera room (16 feet by 12 feet) to be installed in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The photo shows Bob (second from the left) as a team of carpenters moved the components of the camera darkroom through a Museum Gallery. Again the entire camera, film supply, and the photography of six paintings and their framing, had a schedule of less than three weeks. After the completion of The Camera Room, Bob worked out the sourcing of framing materials and frame manufacturing.

In 1980, Bob and **Tony Pistorino** built Polaroid's largest Camera in the Pinacoteca Gallery, Vatican City. This time Bob built a structure of iron scaffold piping (three stories high). He and Tony covered it with rolls of five-foot wide Mylar sheet (Base for Polaroid negatives from New Bedford).

When Polaroid began selling "Museum Replicas," Bob became the Manager of Replicas, including the photography, mounting, framing, sales and distribution. When **George Fernald** set up an entrepreneurial organization for new businesses, Bob was asked to join the group.

Replica's biggest customer was Konica Museum Art, Tokyo. Bob worked very closely with **Koiti Mitomi**, a former Sales Manager for Polaroid Japan. Bob and Mitomi-san exchanged faxes almost daily, and built a very successful business together.

Bob Chapman was one of many Polaroid colleagues who shared the remarkable talent for finding ways to get things done, and done extremely well. If you left a 1973 SX-70 meeting in Needham with a sense of pride in Polaroid or you admired a Polaroid Replica, Bob Chapman is one of those valued colleagues who contributed so much with his calm ability to solve so many problems.

**Save the Date: Fall PRA Luncheon
Thursday, November 2
at the Warren Center in Ashland, MA
Look for the Reservation Form in the Q4 Newsletter.**

Cambridge Science Connections

Perhaps you're entertaining visitors or old friends from Polaroid times: A trip to Cambridge would be an adventure.

Polaroid's earliest buildings were located on Main Street in Cambridge. Many are still standing and have been repurposed, many still with scientific purposes. If you have a day to explore a truly creative neighborhood, try these!

INNOVATION TRAIL

The Innovation Trail is a guided walk through Cambridge and Boston, highlighting sites where a wide range of scientific endeavors have taken place. **Stop 2** on the trail in Cambridge, is the 2 Osborn Street building, where Dr. Land had his laboratory. The PRA raised the funds (from many of you) for creating a plaque in recognition of the work carried on here! Walking the full Cambridge portion of the trail takes about 90 minutes. Over Longfellow Bridge into Boston recalls much more. Take it as a self-guided tour, or with a guide on weekends. . theinnovationtrail.org

THE MIT MUSEUM

The MIT Museum, long a neighbor of Polaroid, became curator for many Polaroid models and instruments. The museum has now moved to a location near the Kendall Square T Stop, with more room for exhibits. mitmuseum.org

CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2023

Monday September 25 – Sunday October 1

Currently *in the planning stage*, the one-week festival is a city-wide celebration showcasing the leading edge in Science, Technology, Art and Math,

Comprising hundreds of events: workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions. Keep track of the events at cambridgesciencefestival.org

THE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

Housed at the Harvard Science Center in Harvard Square. See some of their fascinating instruments from past centuries as well as current equipment. Scientific instruments spanning centuries! chsi.harvard.edu

Spring Luncheon Attendees

Dick Adams	Mickey Doak	Jim Harrison	Ed Motuzas	Neil Sanders
Arthur Aznavorian	Al Donaghy	Corinne Hart	George Murray	Peter Schwind
Joyce Babcock	Frank Donaghy	Sue Isgur	Norma Murray	Rich Silva
Gail Barton	Mary Donahue	Charlie Jack	Paul Nangeroni	Frank Silvera
Paul Bau	Steve Donnelley	Touie Jackson	Bob Nangeroni	Lydia Smith
David Bayer	Stephen Douglas	Kristen Johnson	Mary Nangeroni	Phil Souza
Ray Bedard	Jeanette Douglas	Edyie Johnson	Bob Nowak	George Stebbins
John Bennett	John Doyle	Warren Kantrowitz	David Oberhauser	Ellen Szetela
Steve Berry	Marie Drayton	Harriet Kantrowitz	Louise Oberhauser	Lee Tanguay
Veronica Bilodeau	Terri Duggan	Eva Karger	Neil Orlando	Eric Thorgerson
Diane Boudrot	Bob Eaton	Ed Kingsley	Mario Patriarca	Phil Tower
Connie Bowen	Sal Emma	Erika Kliem	Photios Photiou	Jaap Van Hell
Joan Bradley	Paul Fallavollita	John Kosinski	Ann Photiou	Leroy Vargas
Carmel Brown	Vinny Fiorino	Larry Kunz	Peggie Prebensen	Gordon Wallis
Eric Brown	John Flynn	Kent Lawson	John P. Prendergast	Mike Walters
Ed Byrnes	Elizabeth Foote	Sandy Levine	John R. Prendergast	Drew Webb
David Byrnes	Don Foster	Al Libby	Bill Quigley	Paul Whyte
Walter Byron	Caren Friedman	Nick Livadis	Bob Reilly	Tony Zagame
Dan Cence	Andrew Gabriel	Dolly Livadis	Jamie Reilly	Bob Zuccaro
Louise Cence	Ed Gaffey	Paul Lubin	Bob Robertsson	
Peter Clark	Bob Gill	George Macrina	Janet Robertsson	
Dan Conley	John Gillooly	Bob Manning	Willis Rose	
Ken Costa	Mike Glennon	Lucille Maregni	Bill Rosen	
David Couture	Gerry Gomes	Lou Martins	Richard Rosenblatt	
Susan Cusick	Susie Gray	Joan Martins	Bob Ruckstuhl	
Milt Dentch	Maryann Hall	Mary McCann	Mary Lou Ruckstuhl	
Nick DiMasi	Tony Hall	John McCann	Larry Rudy	
Wilma DiMasi	Regina Hammond	Betty McGuire	Hank Rush	

*We all say,
**Thank
You,
DFCU!***

***We had a
great time!***



Bob Ruckstuhl & Bill Rosen
synchronize their watches



Steve Berry, Walter Byron & Erika Kliem
share memories

Recollections of Vision Research by George Stebbins

I believe my wife and children are becoming bored with my epic Polaroid anecdotes. However, as I look back at the month of February, I realize what a significant day the 10th is... to me. I began my career at Polaroid on that day in 1969 in the oddest way. At the time Polaroid was growing exponentially. I had entertained two offers from Building Trades – one in Waltham and another in Cambridge. I accepted the Cambridge position in the Instrument Shop, under **Jim Overby**, and was to start on February 10th. Overnight on the 9th a blizzard blanketed the area in more than a foot of snow. The trek from Quincy on the Red Line to Kendall Square was slow yet uneventful. The walk down Main Street to 28 Osborne before seven AM was deep, unplowed and very quiet. When I arrived at the entrance I was greeted by a handwritten sign taped to the inside of the door... “No A shift today.” Having had my very first day off from work my first impression of life at Polaroid was it was going to be very positive! Through the ensuing thirty years my assumption was proven correct many times over.

After several years in Instrumentation and gleaning as much knowledge as possible by working with plumbers, electricians, carpenters and painters, the internal bidding system allowed me to land in Vision Research. I was about to learn that this family of scientists, artists, photographers, model makers and chemists who made up this small lab in the basement of 2 Osborne Street, under the direction of **John McCann**, could create for me an exciting, stimulating atmosphere, which made me wonder what I was doing there! The projects this lab accomplished were then, and remain now, most amazing. Only through the collaboration of so many were imaginative goals achieved. Each member had their own assignment but when crunch time came, which was often, everyone contributed to form a solid team.

In the early days of my life in Vision Research I was tasked with bringing an old Tektronix oscilloscope from 2 Osborne to Tech Square to facilitate an experiment. As I was lifting the equipment from the sidewalk up the steps in front of 565TS a voice asked if I could use a hand. I gladly accepted as those old scopes were not exactly portable. One of us on either side of the cart, we lugged it to the top of the stairs. As I looked up to express my gratitude I was surprised to encounter a fine looking gentleman in his signature bow tie. **Bill McCune** was just that kind of person! He brushed off his hands, bid me a good day and proceeded in his original direction toward the Block House.

Most of us in Vision Research were principally engaged in extremely interesting experiments in color vision. The lab was awash in Mondrian patterns, varying surrounds and a plethora of devices used in vision experiments. In a word... it was fun, one of **Dr. Land's** descriptive terms for a successful result. Each year the major distraction for the Vision Research family was the Annual Shareholder's Meeting. When most shareholder

meetings drew a throng of roughly 100 concerned investors, Polaroid's involved thousands. The 1977 meeting transformed the Needham warehouse into a carnival-like venue for the formal public introduction of Polavision, Polaroid's instant movie system. Various stages were erected with a professional entertainer assigned to each from ballet dancers to gymnasts to jugglers. Polavision cameras were available to stockholders and guests to record a cassette, then, in a Polaroid minute, see it processed and then projected on Polavision players located adjacent to each stage. Vision Research members, along with other recruits, were to welcome guests and encourage them to exhibit their motion picture abilities. This shareholder's meeting was a smashing success as Dr. Land circulated among the movie makers. As usual, his keynote address was inspiring and more than slightly humorous.

Then came Christmas Eve, 1977. Dr. Land entered the electronics lab of which **Bill Wray** was the Senior Scientist and I assisted as a Technical Specialist. Dr. Land sat both of us down (good thing) and explained he would like to have stereo sound for the Polavision equipment. Bill and I thought this was going to be an interesting challenge to say the least. The

assignment became even more interesting and challenging when Dr. Land told us he'd like it for the shareholder's meeting in April! Daunting does not aptly describe this challenge. We had literally nothing in the way of equipment or concepts to even think about initiating such an undertaking. Right after Christmas we cleared our desks and work benches and began learning as much about audio as possible. We needed to create super quiet amplifiers, directional microphones, noise filters and motion controls most of which existed but not specific to our application. The work was exhilarating but meant many extended days and weeks in the lab. Throughout this time Bill Wray provided the brains and I the brawn. Although the film incorporated an audio track on each side, the side with the sprocket holes, used to drive the film, caused a serious 18 hertz flutter rendering one side of the film unusable for sound, making a two track stereo sound system most difficult if not impossible. Even as Bill designed ultra-quiet amplifiers, anything we recorded on the two-sided film tracks sounded like an old car driving on a flat tire when played back in stereo. The immediate issue was to eliminate the sprocket holes but that was not an option as they were absolutely necessary. To resolve this dilemma a separate length of high-quality recording tape was interwound with the film, drawn out of the top of the cassette, and through a synchronized playback head



Dr. Land, Bill Wray,
John McCann

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provided impeccable stereo sound. Finally, two weeks prior to the date of the meeting, we were planning a demonstration for Dr. Land in the lab.

While making some final adjustments, one of the dozen or so circuit boards chose that exact time to dislodge itself and rotate into the power supply. It shorted out

and fried just about all the circuits. The smoke cleared and we realized the light at the end of the tunnel actually WAS another train. There was only one thing to do... roll the sleeves back up and rededicate ourselves to achieving the original goal. Bill and I, with the help of new hire **Brian Hallstrom** and scientist/engineer consultant **Jim Burkhardt**, managed to patch together a working model. However, this equipment was not in a state to be publicly demonstrated. We worked "behind the curtain" for the introduction of Polavision with stereo sound at the 1978 stockholder's meeting. Dr. Land imagined and realized a summer-like scene for the Polavision sound intro and went so far as to engage an opera diva to contribute a beautiful, bluesy rendition of the Gershwin composition "Summertime" from the opera *Porgy and Bess* to emphasize the summer motif. She performed a marvelous aria while Dr. Land recorded using the Polavision sound camera, which was then accurately reproduced via the Polavision "stereo" player system. In a manner of speaking, we had accomplished what we had established as our immediate ideal in an incredibly brief period of time. Granted we had the amazing resources at our fingertips in **Vaito Eloranta's** model shop at 730 Main Street. The model makers there were incredibly accommodating and



Dr. Land describes the new Polavision stereophonic sound system at the 42nd Annual Shareholders' Meeting

seemingly capable of producing miracles. It seemed everyone in the Vision Research Lab at the time contributed in meaningful ways to help ensure success and prove once again that crunch time produced a solid, creative team capable of nearly anything.

Assignments in Vision Research were often varied, but never boring. They ranged from recording Dr. Land's addresses to various organizations, to being a subject for vision experiments (painless be assured), to working in an anechoic chamber at MIT (eerily quiet in there), to creating myriad prototypes for countless experiments, to keeping **Ansel Adam's** and **Elsa Dorfman's** 20x24 cameras in working order.

Being part of the Vision Research Lab meant never knowing what would be asked of you on any given day. One such day I arrived to find I needed to go to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to assist with creating replicas of master works. One of the most interesting assignments ever allowed me to work with **Denise Dunn**, an extremely talented artist/photographer. She introduced me to the "camera", a roughly twelve by twelve room, painted totally black from floor to ceiling, with a large lens in the wall and a ten foot platen with cords and pulleys all designed to produce a one-to-one sized Polaroid photo of works by Monet, Degas, Renoir and many masters. Early in the morning a curator would deliver and mount one of the paintings on a (believe it or not) small portable forklift used to position the painting before the lens. Once properly positioned Denise and I would enter the "camera," turn off the lights, mount a sheet of negative onto the platen using a vacuum to maintain its placement, open the shutter and observe the incredible image of the painting on the negative, close the shutter, then place a pod of developer between the negative and a roll of positive mounted near the floor. Then eight feet of magic occurred as the two sheets and the developer squeezed between two rollers as we stretched the assembly out on the floor. On came the lights and sixty seconds later, voila! A fantastic photo replica of one of the most beautiful paintings in the world! And they called this a job – bring it on! So many wonderful memories with which to now bore my grandchildren.

Welcome New Members!

Roosevelt Allen of Framingham

John F. Bennett of Naples, FL

William Bobrowski of Marblehead

Maryruth Capite of Framingham

Steven P. Donnelley of Franklin

Regina Hammond of Woburn

Ed Kingsley of Stow

John T. Kosinski of Millis

We're glad you're here!

Polaroid is Still Going Strong by Jan van Steenwijk

The legendary story of Polaroid from its invention of instant photography to its bankruptcy has had an enormous impact on the thousands of people who, as an extended family, created what was a wonderful world. Now, for many, only memories are left, yet reminders continue to emerge. Once artists discovered that instant films could be used for artistic purposes, the door to creative experimentation opened wide. The evidence: Polaroid fine art photography continues to grace the walls of galleries and museums worldwide.

Dr. Land fostered the use of instant film for fine art purposes to show the high quality of this revolutionary film. With his encouragement, the Polaroid Collection was born, grew and flourished. The Artists Support Program was established to provide Polaroid cameras and film to artists in exchange for photographs selected for inclusion in the Polaroid Collection. During the 1980s, '90s and 2000s, **Barbara Hitchcock** was actively working with artists worldwide to provide Polaroid products, from SX-70 to 20x24" films, in exchange for photographs that she selected for the company's collection. In addition to collecting photographs, she curated exhibitions that were displayed in museums, collaborated with publishers to create books featuring Polaroid art photography, and worked with the media to publicize these activities. These efforts helped garner respect and goodwill for the company at large.

Then came the disaster – Thomas Petters who got caught running a Ponzi scheme that ultimately forced Polaroid into bankruptcy. What to do with a collection of more than 16,000 photographs? Work had been underway to place most of the Massachusetts-housed part of the Collection at the Harvard Art Museum to safe-guard it for the future. Ultimately, all that mattered to the Bankruptcy Court was to sell the collection for top dollar. What would be the monetary value? Would a rich collector buy it? Or perhaps a museum?

The Polaroid Bankruptcy Trustee hired Barbara to try to find a single entity to purchase the Collection that would keep it together. In the end, it turned out not to be possible; therefore, the Collection was sold. More than 1,000 highly lucrative photographs were sold at auction by Sotheby's and an individual purchased the remaining 10,000 or so works archived in the Boston area. A private collector in Austria purchased the 4500 Polaroid Collection photographs held under contract at a Swiss museum.

Was this the end? Fortunately, not! Barbara has continued efforts to keep Polaroid's name alive. She still writes essays for



Barbara in Spain

magazines and books and curates exhibitions for museums.

Following its display at the MIT Museum in 2020, *The Polaroid Project, At the Intersection of Art and Technology* opened March 10, 2023 at the Fundación Barrié in A Curoña, Spain.

Barbara, who co-curated the exhibit's art component with Swiss-based curator William Ewing, was invited to meet the press and give gallery talks to the many people interested in Polaroid photography. The exhibition which traces the rich history of Polaroid technological innovation as well as the growth of creative imaging will go on view in Taiwan and possibly China this year. Museums in Korea and Japan are considering venues in 2024 and beyond. The magic lives on!

I am the lucky one who has been married for many years to Barbara who taught me that famous art is not just a Rembrandt or a da Vinci -- it can also be Polaroid photographs taken by any one of a number of contemporary artists who have explored their worlds through their artwork, thus catapulting Polaroid's name into the spotlight again and again.



Plenty of Press (Spain)



From the Beginning...Spain



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

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