



Chris Laszcz-Davis
KASRA President

Visit website at
www.e-kasra.com

Do you know a retiree who has not signed up for the VEBA? Suggest they call KASRA at (925) 685-1313 or email at kasra@e-kasra.com

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

We hope that you've had a chance by now to slow down after the holiday rush and anticipate the new year with some wonderful adventures, family and friend visits, and community work opportunities. The economy continues to challenge many of us...and the impending 2012 presidential debates promise to be interesting.

Newsletter. The response to our request for you to share with us your pictures of retiree events or your vacation photos has been positive. Also, your response to sharing with others the volunteer work in which you are currently engaged has been interesting and energizing for us all. Expect to hear more about some of the innovative efforts your former colleagues are involved in for the May 2012 issue. In the meantime, please continue to let us know about the volunteer work you are doing, the activities you're engaged in, the travels you take, how your family is faring, what anniversaries you've welcomed and any other special events. We encourage any suggestions from you on how we can improve our newsletter.

Website. This resource, almost single-handedly stewarded by **Steve Abernathy**, gives us greater flexibility in providing news and information to our members since we are not restrained by space or cost. We try to provide current news and articles as we receive them. You can read more about these articles on the website at www.e-kasra.com. Our webmaster will

be happy to receive your feedback, and you can contact him at web@e-kasra.com.

Email. This is the fastest and most economical way for KASRA to communicate information to all our members. Please continue to provide us with any changes in your email address as soon as you can. About half of our retirees now receive their newsletter via email.

VEBA. If you are aware of anyone who hasn't yet applied for VEBA benefits (and is entitled), please let us know by contacting us at kasra@e-kasra.com, and we will be happy to follow up. As a reminder, this benefit is not automatic and the eligible person must first enroll and then annually apply to the Administrators for reimbursement. Application forms are available on the website or by requesting a form from us. The VEBA has advised us that the 2012 benefit materials should be expected sometime in April. In addition to the VEBA mailing, KASRA will post copies of all the VEBA's 2012 Benefit Program materials on our website.

Until our May 2012 newsletter, please continue to keep us informed so that we can continue to keep you informed. Above all, stay active, positive and healthy!

Chris

Chris Laszcz-Davis
President, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Richard (Dick) Strabley (Barrington, RI) and his wife Betty retraced their wedding trip to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Richard worked at several Kaiser Refractories locations (Columbiana, OH; Mexico, MO; Oakland, CA headquarters), followed by a transfer to Bristol, RI as a controller, eventually retiring from KACC in 1988. After his Kaiser retirement, he became vice president of finance for AMA Ltd. in Newport, RI, before retiring for good in 2005. The couple's five children hosted a dinner party to celebrate their Golden Anniversary with over 50 family members in attendance. Also celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary are **Dar Ekstrom** (Polson, MT) and his wife Rosemary. The former Ravenswood, WV, employee still works a few days a week as a substitute teacher at the local middle school and high school. Each December, he works with a group to provide toys for kids under 12. Last year, they made the holidays happier for over 400 children.

Stuart "Bud" Rother (Lake Wylie, SC) and his wife celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary with a cruise. The couple has two daughters, two grandsons, two granddaughters, and one great granddaughter. Doing the Rother's one better, **Herbert Gant** (Hebron, OH) and his wife Peggy recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. **Lilly J. Mitchell** (Deer Park, WA) turned 90 this year. She is the surviving spouse of **James W. Mitchell**, who was a general foreman at Mead, WA, and who also traveled to India to help start Kaiser's aluminum plant in that country.

But **Alfred "Al" Zucker** (Sunrise, FL) tops the list of birthdays and



Betty & Richard Strabley retraced their wedding trip to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

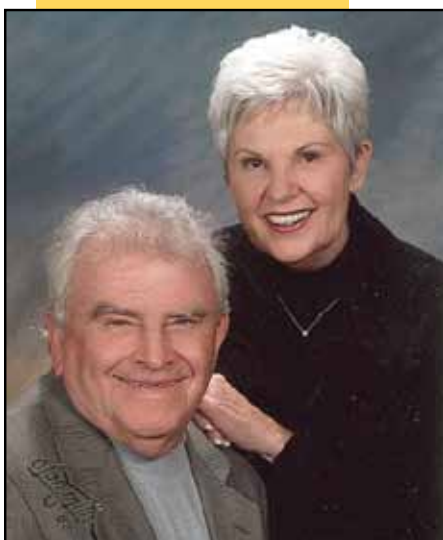
anniversaries. The former Extrusion Division employee at Woodbury, NY, recently celebrated his 92nd birthday and his 70th anniversary of wedded bliss with his wife Jeanette. Alfred, who keeps busy with the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and raises money for local charities, would like to say "hello" to any of the Woodbury Extrusion Team. "It's been about 30 years since we've worked together," he says. "But I recall it as though it was yesterday."

Accomplishment . . .

Chris Laszcz-Davis (Orinda, CA), KASRA president, was recently designated by *Industrial Safety and Hygiene News* (IHSN), a national environmental, occupational, health and safety magazine, as one of IHSN's 2012 Power 101 Leaders in the environmental health, occupational health, and safety world.

A Little of This, A Little of That . . .

Bonnie Ebert (Wanatah, IN) knows the importance of staying active. The former Wanatah, IN, foil plant employee weaves baskets and enjoys knitting. She also makes bran muffins and takes them to friends and neighbors in nursing homes. She recently increased her basket weaving skills on a cruise.



Dar & Rosemary Ekstrom celebrated their 50th anniversary with their family.

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Violet P. Johnson (Alameda, CA) found the 1960s photo (to the right) while cleaning out her home recently. It brings back memories of her days at the Cupertino, CA, plant. Violet also reports that Kaiser Oakland, CA, retiree **Dick Spees** is the vice president of her resident council at Cardinal Point in Alameda, CA.

Sharon Crowe (Danville, CA) recently attended her granddaughter Courtney's wedding in Portland, OR. **Joseph E. Darling** (Bristol, RI) keeps busy boating, sailing, and operating his ham radio. Previously at the Kaiser's Portsmouth, RI, facility, Joseph spends the winters at his daughter's home in Beaufort, SC. Also living in Bristol, RI, is fellow Portsmouth employee **Ida Kloner**, who enjoys working out at her local fitness center and particularly enjoys the treadmill. According to Ida, she doesn't travel much because "Bristol is too beautiful to ever leave!" **James J. Burgess** (Stuart, FL), formerly with Kaiser in Baton Rouge, LA, is also staying close to home as he cares for his wife, who had a stroke in 1992.

Dennis Seymour (San Diego, CA) has trouble finding time for his many interests. The former LA Extrusions worker enjoys swimming, fishing and

golf. He volunteers at Pomerado Hospital, is the handicap chair at the Sandblaster Golf Club, and is on the maintenance staff at the San Diego Maritime Museum. Amateur astronomy is a favorite subject with **William "Bill" Sparks** (Vacaville, CA). Previously with Kaiser's Center for Technology in Pleasanton, CA, he also enjoys furthering his education through professional courses and fishing – that is when he's not at his full-time job with Home Depot!

Gardening, the Lion's Club, and golf keep **David Martin** (Humboldt, TN) busy. The semi-retired Realtor also spent part of the winter in Gulf Shores, AL. **Robert Weber** (Brentwood, CA) has spent the last 15 winters in sunny Arizona. He recently sold their home there, however, and is now happy to just stay in Brentwood, CA. "It's the best place in California to live," he says. Thirteen grandchildren keep **Robert L. Conrad** (Spokane Valley, WA) on his toes. They spend lots of time camping together in his 5th wheeler. The former Trentwood, WA, worker also belongs to his community ham radio club, participates in running races, cycling and walking.

Marion "Marty" Martinez (Thibodaux, LA) doesn't let much grass grow under his feet, nor in his 50-tree orchard, or his many blueberry and raspberry bushes. Previously with Gramercy Works, LA, Marty is also a member of his church's finance council and is building a one-acre bass and catfish pond. Back in the countryside and loving it is **Shelby J. Deem** (Longs, SC). In July, the former Belpre, OH, worker and his family moved from Myrtle Beach, SC, to Longs, SC, so that they could enjoy the country



John Cady (Phoenix, AZ) and **Violet Johnson** (Alameda, CA) at the Cupertino, CA, plant in the late 1960s.



December's Tacoma, WA, luncheon - John Baker, Nancy & Joe Caddy

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and have a garden once again. Keeping up with his gardening and woodwork is former Chalmette Works, LA, employee **G.A. Robicheaux** (Slidell, LA). G.A. also works with teens in the Slidell Art League and is still trying to perfect his own watercolor technique.

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Visiting relatives and taking cruises keeps **Harry Darnell** (Homosassa, FL) and his wife Dottie very busy. They recently stopped off at Panama City Beach, FL, enroute to visiting their son Steve in Baton Rouge, LA. They've also enjoyed cruises to Cancun, the Carribean, and the Bahamas. In fact, their two daughters were both married on cruises. Also enjoying cruising to fun destinations are **Eugene P. Miller** (Baton Rouge, LA) and his wife Ann. They recently returned from a return cruise to Alaska.

After 40 years with Kaiser Baton Rouge, LA, **Sidney "Zeke" Breaux** (Plaquemine, LA) and his wife have traveled around the world to such beautiful Italian destinations as Venice, Florence and Rome, as well as cruises to the Caribbean and trips to Palm Springs, CA, and San Francisco, CA. **Raymond Sansbury** (Ripley, WV) traveled to Alabama to visit his daughter and her family. Formerly with Ravenswood, WV, Raymond is looking for fellow employees **Jim McKnight** and **Jim Hammond**. He can be reached at 202 Hudson Place, Ripley, WV, 25271. Surviving spouse **Florence Morris** (Ghana, West Africa) welcomed a grandson in October, who joins her beautiful 2-year-old granddaughter living with son R. Telly and his wife in England. When not welcoming new grandchildren, Florence,

whose husband was **Dave Morris**, enjoys gardening and traveling around the State of Ghana, West Africa.

Best Wishes . . .

Best wishes for a complete recovery for **James W. Miller** (Rocky Point, NC) and his wife Erika. They were visiting family in Texas to meet their new great granddaughter when their motor home was hit, and they were both seriously injured. The former Gramercy, LA, employee and his wife have remained in Texas to recuperate. For those of you who know **Wally Yahn** (Germany), she is currently battling lung cancer and would love to hear from her former co-workers. Wally was secretary to Lee Hunt in Ghana, West Africa, for many years. You can reach Wally at: Mrs. Wally Yahn, Oberer Markischer Weg 9, 58285, Gevelsberg, Germany.

Reading and writing are a bit of a challenge for **Robert Norman Barker** (Phoenix, AZ) since he had cataract eye surgery, first in one eye and then the other. But he's doing fine now and hopes to be back to reading his favorite books soon.

Charles R. Horn (Burrows, IN) sends his best wishes to all former Kaiser employees. He turned 88 this past year and had open-heart surgery. But following a four-month stay in a nursing home, he's back in his home with his Boston terrier. Congratulations to **Harold V. Rosselli** (Madisonville, LA). The former Chalmette Works, LA, employee was listed as cancer free after two years of surgeries and treatment. Now he can concentrate on his vegetable garden. **Sharon Huffman** (Hermiston, OR) marks the passing of her husband Jim, who died of liver cancer. The former Oakland, CA, employee was married for 34 years.



Harry & Dottie Darnell in Panama City beach, FL.

MEMBER PROFILE: Jack Lashover

Although he left Kaiser in 1995, **Jack Lashover** is anything but retired. The former Vice President for Environmental and Government Affairs at Kaiser Aluminum's Gramercy Works in Louisiana teaches chemical engineering full time, helps people with their taxes as an AARP volunteer, and enjoys spending time with his family.

Jack, born in Chicago and raised in the New Orleans area, and his wife Faye live in Baton Rouge, LA.

While some people kid about being a "rocket scientist," you really were. Tell us about it?

It was very exciting. You can't imagine how loud and bright a rocket launch is until you've experienced it. It takes 1.6 million pounds of thrust to lift-off about 1 million pounds of rocket and fuel to eventually reach the speed of 25,000 miles per hour needed to escape gravity.

I got my first taste of the space industry working for Union Carbide in Charleston, WV. Initially, I worked on distillation design. Using work done on my master's thesis at Tulane, I was able to cor-



Jack Lashover with his grandchildren.

relate the data used to design Carbide's "Sevin" insecticide process. I later computerized the selection of the JANAF (Joint Army Navy Air Force) thermo data needed to calculate the performance of various rocket fuels and oxidizers. This resulted in significant savings in time and manpower for Carbide's solid propellant work on the Air Force's Sidewinder and other missiles.

In the early 60s, Union Carbide (now part of Dow Chemical Corporation) owned one of only three computers (IBM 7094) in the world that could make these rocket fuel calculations. They cost about \$3 million apiece and required a large room, yet only had 32k of memory (about the size of this article). Now those same calculations performed by the IBM 7094 can be made on a desktop computer. I would regularly fly to New York to use the IBM 7094. Having grown up mostly in Arabi, LA, a community of about 2000 people, I would stare out from the observation tower of the Empire State Building in disbelief at the size of New York City.

Then in 1963, at Michoud, LA, where the Chrysler Space Division built the Saturn S-IB moon rocket 1st stage propellant tanks, I developed a model for simulating the propulsion and power systems for the Saturn 1B. We confirmed NASA's "flight safety envelope" which ensured that the flight could succeed if one inboard (non-steering) engine failed by running the other engines longer with the now extra propellants.

You've been in the same home for quite a while. How did that come about?



Jack & Faye Lashover

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or sallyhogarty@gmail.com.

* Photos are encouraged.

(Members Profile, from Page 5)



Jack, Faye and niece Tiffany

Faye and I were married right after I graduated from college. I had so many different jobs while I was working on my master's degree that we were always moving. After about 10 moves, she finally asked if we could find one place and stay put. We've been in our house in Baton Rouge,

LA, now for 42 years. We raised our three boys (Kirby, Keith, and Brett) there. Unfortunately, we lost Kirby when he was just 27. A drunk driver hit the car he was riding in. It was strange that I was at a safety meeting when they told me. It's not the natural order of things, but what can you do? We helped raise his daughter who was 8 years old at the time. She's been a real joy and will give birth to our first great grandchild this September.

Tell us about your career with Kaiser?

I worked at Kaiser Gramercy, LA, from 1971 until 1979, managing several different sections including the Chemicals Technical Department and the Chlor-Alkali plant. I ended up as Chair of the Chlorine Institute's Emergency Response Committee and helped set safety standards and training for response to chlorine leaks and spills throughout the United States and Canada.

The Environmental Department at Kaiser was growing at the time and, by 1979, I became the Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Gramercy. We were able to institute a safety culture that led to a 10-fold reduction in injuries & ill-

nesses and millions of dollars in savings for medical and worker's compensation costs. In 1990, I was promoted to Division staff and worked to complete similar changes corporate wide. When I took early retirement in 1995, I was the Vice President for Environmental and Government Affairs at Gramercy Works, LA.

What did you find most gratifying during your time with Kaiser?

Improving the safety of the plants was very satisfying, but it's the people I worked with that I really value. When I first started, I had the pleasure of working with several WWII veterans – a bombardier, a navigator, and a tail gunner. I was only a 5-year-old child during the war, so I looked upon these men as my heroes. After the war, the high pressures and temperatures in the plant didn't scare these guys. They took us youngsters under their wings.

I worked with so many great people – **Merlin Romig, Leroy Holt, Lester Deaton,** and **Emil Bocz,** to name just a few. Over the years, Kaiser Aluminum started-up new plants around the world and the employees who participated became close friends. The atmosphere was like



Nancy & George Jung enjoyed the Bay Area December luncheon at the San Ramon, CA Golf Club.

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that of another family. Those employees became cosmopolitan or citizens of the world, spoke additional languages, and had a wide variety of interests.

What was your biggest challenge at Kaiser?

Probably running our chlorine plant. Dealing with something that dangerous, safety has to be a primary concern. We stressed education so workers knew how to deal with transporting and storing chlorine. I was Kaiser's CHEMTREC (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center) representative, and we were called when a Kaiser product was spilled or released countrywide. I recall a chlorine leak (our chlorine tank car) at CLOROX's plant in Oakland, CA, requiring a multi-block evacuation in downtown Oakland. Coincidentally, **Don Smith**, General Manager of the Chemicals Division, was having lunch with CLOROX management in Oakland at the same time. It turned out to be CLOROX's error, but we didn't find out until an investigation later. Don, who was a shift supervisor for the Gramercy Chlor-Alkali Plant start-up, was amazingly calm during the telephone call he made

to us while CLOROX evacuated its people.

What are you doing now?

I keep very busy teaching Chemical Engineering at Louisiana State University. I've been on the faculty since 2005, teaching in the Chemical Engineering Unit Operations Laboratory. It's a senior level course during which students are assigned open-ended problems for which one solution does not exist. It's a good way to prepare them for the real world. You can visit us at www.uolab.com.

I also really enjoy volunteering with AARP to help people with their taxes. The tax laws are so complicated that everyone can use some help. I've also been known to use some of my computer skills to help me play the horses!



Jack in his office at Louisiana State University.

Resource for News on Aluminum Industry

A number of our KASRA readers have inquired about periodic news about the aluminum industry. We made several inquiries. Alunews, developed and stewarded by former Primary Aluminum's **Bill Kegge**, has for many years kept up to date with aluminum industry news, both here and abroad. Aluminium Consulting Engineers (ACE) recently acquired Alunews.

ACE has offered to make their website www.alconsults.com accessible to KASRA readers. Readers who follow Alunews know that it is one of the most comprehensive and relevant industry news websites in the business. Please contact ACE (Sam Manaktala or Siegfried Prangenberg) at manager@alconsults.com if you have questions or comments.

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news@e-kasra.com

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See us at:

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March 5 Los Angeles

Lunch – Noon at The Elephant Bar,
14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada.
Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463.
Lunches are first Monday of each month.

March 8 Chalmette

Lunch – 11:30 a.m. at Todd Schaeffer's
Original Family Restaurant, 348 Robert
Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$23.00 per person.
Contact Sherman Faught at (985) 690-
4942 or Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-
0437 or schimcol@aol.com.

March 8 Mead

Lunch 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn on North
Division St. Contact Danny Petrus at
(509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

March 20 Trentwood

Meet at 11:00 a.m. at The Valley Eagles,
16801 E. Sprague Ave. Hot lunch served
at 11:30 a.m. Mead retirees always
welcome. Contact Steve Harvey at (509)
924-1132 or S1harv3y@comcast.net.

April 10 Newark

Lunch 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown
Buffet, Heath. Meals are paid for by the
plant. Contact J. Bope at (740) 601-7034.

April 12 Mead

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on
North Division. Contact Danny Petrus at
(509) 924-5838 or dpjr70@comcast.net.
Mead meets the 2nd Thursday of each
month.

April 17 Trentwood

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at The Valley Eagles,
16801 E Sprague Ave. Hot lunch served
at 11:30 AM. Mead retirees are always
welcome. The cost for the meal and dues
is \$11.00. Speaker will discuss Senior
Fitness. Contact Steve Harvey at (509)
924-1132 or s1harv3y@comcast.net.

April 27 Belpre

Breakfast 9:00 a.m. at Shoney's, Garfield
Ave. Parkersburg, W.V. Contact Betty
Lou Blair at (304) 489-1337 or
Bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

April 28 Bay Minette

Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Street's Restaurant,
Bay Minette. Contact Betty Wilson at (251)
626-1262 or bsw1939@netzero.com.

T.B.D Tacoma

11:30 a.m., Johnny's Dock, 1900 East
"D" St., Tacoma. For date, contact Bob
Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or Bobjanet-mohr@comcast.net.

T.B.D Ravenswood

For date and time, contact Dave Whitman
at (304) 273-5548 or
dwhitman@wirefire.com or Lee Corder
(304) 273-9457.

T.B.D. Baton Rouge

For date and time, contact Camp Matens
at (225) 769-9020 or cematens@cox.net.

In Memoriam

Frank Bucca - Dunedin, FL
Ralph L. (Sonny) Ethredge - Colbert, WA
Joseph J. Fedele - Tickfaw, LA
William H. (Bill) Fehrs Jr. - Dacula, GA
Robert B. Fisher - Granite Bay, CA
R. Gene Hanquist - Salinas, CA
Louis P. Helmreich - Cassville, MO
*Norman H. Martien Jr. - Denham
Springs, LA*
William A. Rupp - Veradale, WA
John W. Weese - Lake Forest, CA
Malcolm Thornley, Jr. - Chico, CA

*Please inform us of a retiree or
spouse passing. Include date of death,
city and state, and first name of
surviving spouse. If possible, a copy
or link to the obituary or name of the
newspaper would be helpful. Contact
Klaus Adler, 1127 Rachele Rd., Wal-
nut Creek, CA 94597 or (925) 935-
2938 or kcharlie34@comcast.net.*

The Board of Directors expresses
its deepest sympathy to families and
loved ones.