



Chris Laszcz-Davis  
KASRA President

Visit website at  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://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](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com)

*Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

**Changing of the guard...** We have been very fortunate in continuing to recruit new KASRA board members and regional directors who many of you have worked with over the years. We recently had **Erach**

**Tarapore**, Manager, Process Technology at CFT and **John Schnittker**, Manager, Industrial Relations, Oakland, join the KASRA board. Our featured profile in this newsletter includes both. Thanks to both **Carlos Xavier**, former KASRA President, and **Steve Abernathy**, our website and data base guru, for their respective terms on the KASRA Board. Steve will continue to support KASRA on both the website and database activities, while Carlos is never far away when we need his voice of wisdom and KASRA Board experience.

**News from the VEBA ...** The Board of Trustees has declared a benefit of up to \$2,100 per Family Unit for 2012. Information and reimbursement request forms are being mailed out to enrolled participants. Copies will also be available on the KASRA website at [www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com). An updated Summary Plan Description for the VEBA Plan is being prepared and will be mailed out to participants in June along with the VEBA Plan's Summary Annual Report for 2011.

As of 2011, the VEBA Administrator relocated its office to Stockton, CA. If you have questions concerning the VEBA Plan, please contact the Delta Fund Administrators, LLC directly at: Delta Health Systems, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201-2308. Telephone: Toll-

Free (888) 344-8322. E-mail: **VEBA@deltafund.com**. As of December 31, 2011, there were 3,622 retiree Family Units eligible to participate in the VEBA Plan. A total of 3,352 Family Units were enrolled in the VEBA Plan for a participation rate of 92.5%. We continue to search for missing participants and ask for your help in finding them as well.

**KASRA membership....** Each year in July, we send out a hard copy of our newsletter to all retirees and surviving spouses, regardless of KASRA membership status, along with a dues enrollment form. The purpose is to invite those who are not currently members to join. Although the dues are modest, they are used primarily to defray the costs of printing and mailing a great number of newsletters (not everyone prefers an electronic version). This is a marvelous communication tool enabling all of us to keep in touch with fellow retirees and surviving spouses around the country and, indeed, around the world. If the cost poses a hardship for you, please let us know, and we will continue to include you in our newsletter distribution. For your information, as of January 16, 2012, we had 1,628 KASRA member retirees and 468 member surviving spouses; there were 1,011 non-KASRA retirees.

**One final very important point – when you move, please remember to notify not only KASRA but the Third Party Administrator as well of your change of address.** At present, the VEBA is unable to locate a number of retirees and surviving spouses who have moved and have left no forwarding address. If the VEBA is unable to contact you, you may

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

KASRA recently welcomed two new board members: Erach Tarapore and John Schnittker. Both are long-time Kaiser employees who promise to add their commitment and experience to the board. The following provides some background on them.

### **Erach Tarapore** (Lafayette, CA)

#### **When did you join Kaiser?**

I started with Kaiser in 1977 shortly after completing my Ph.D. in Material Science and Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. I was hired into the Reduction Research group under Warren Goodnow. At that time, reduction research was situated in Permanente, CA. Our primary mission was to improve the operating efficiency of the electrolytic cells used to make aluminum. Since these cells consume large amounts of electrical energy, improving their efficiency translated directly into major savings in electricity costs in Kaiser's reduction plants. Our work included developing mathematical models that would enable us to understand how to design cells for improved efficiency. We also worked on developing control algorithms that allowed for improved computer control of the operation of the cells, which also resulted in improved operating efficiency.

#### **Where else have you worked for Kaiser?**

In 1981, Kaiser wanted to modernize the Tacoma, WA, plant, replacing the old Soderberg cells with modern, high productivity prebake cells. I moved to Tacoma as part of the prototyping team and was there for three years. Upon completion of the prototyping project, I moved back to California and rejoined the Reduction Research group

at the Center for Technology (CFT) in Pleasanton, CA. My major project in the next few years was the modernization of the reduction cells at the Ravenswood, WV, plant.

Then I moved into the casting group to help support the implementation of electromagnetic casting (EM Casting) at Trentwood, WA. Initially I was involved in developing a basic understanding of the EM Casting process via mathematical modeling. Later, I conducted numerous campaigns at CFT, working closely with Trentwood, to develop more reliable casting practices for the plant. During these years, I travelled frequently to Trentwood to implement new practices as well as to troubleshoot the casting stations there.

My last major project at Kaiser was the continuous casting of thin aluminum strip. This was a radical departure from conventional processing, with the potential for dramatic reductions in capital costs. The technology was developed at CFT by a dedicated team drawn from many backgrounds. I became involved as the group transitioned from development to pilot plant prototyping and stayed with the team through the successful commissioning of the facility in Reno, NV.

#### **What did you do upon leaving Kaiser?**

I worked for Clorox for five years until I retired in October of 2011. When former KASRA board member Steve Abernathy heard I had retired, he asked me to consider joining the board.

#### **What made you accept the board position?**

I have such wonderful memories of my



**Erach Tarapore**

*(New Board Members, from Page 2)*

24 years with Kaiser. I made so many wonderful friends. This seemed like a good way to continue to be active with the Kaiser retirees.

**Tell us a little about your family.**

My wife Silloo and I moved to Lafayette, CA, when I returned from working at Tacoma, WA. We've been here 27 years now, and our son and daughter went to the wonderful local schools. It's really a great little community. My wife, who taught 1st grade in Pleasant Hill, CA, and I are both retired and finally have more time to explore the area, work on our garden, and spend time with our two-year-old granddaughter.

**John Schnittker (Alamo, CA)**

**When did you join Kaiser?**

I started in Oakland, CA, in 1968 as Division Personnel Manager for the Building Products and Packaging Divisions. Subsequently, I became Corporate Recruiting Manager, which included college relations' programs such as financial aid to education program. I also had stints in HR Planning, Compensation and International Personnel before I was early retired in 1986. I really enjoyed working for the company and just wish it had lasted longer.

**Where else have you worked?**

Prior to joining KACC, I worked for 10 years for Beckman Instruments starting in Fullerton, CA, as a recruiter. I was transferred to their Berkeley Division in Richmond, CA, and promoted to Employee Relations Manager before joining KACC.

After leaving KACC, I worked for 10 years for Conner Peripherals/Seagate

Technology in various HR capacities, retiring as Personnel Manager of the Disk Division. Both companies produced hard disk drives. Conner was the fastest growing in the world for the first three years I was there, having come out with the first three and a half-inch disk drive, which turned out to be a barnburner product.

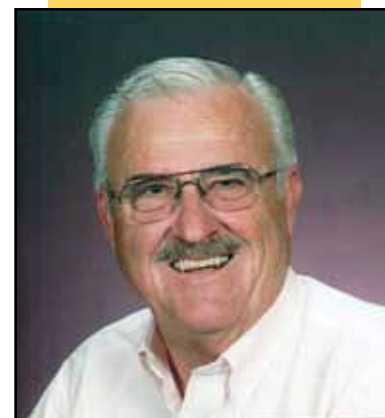
I also had recruiting jobs with TRW and Northrop.

**Did you spend time in the service?**

I was in the U.S. Navy on active duty. After graduating from Officer Candidate School and receiving my commission as an Ensign, I was assigned to an Oceanographic Station in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. It was a base jointly run by the Canadians and the U.S. I spent three years there and reached the rank of Lt.JG, prior to my discharge.

**Tell us a little about your family.**

I met my wife, Jayne, at Millikin University, where I graduated in 1955 with a double major in Chemistry and Business Administration. I was lucky enough to marry her. On April 8, we celebrated our 56th anniversary. We have three sons and four grandchildren. All three are married and one has a wife named Kristi with a KACC connection. My son, Rob, met Kristi, a young electrical engineer, here in the Bay Area while working at Chevron. After months of dating, they happened to be driving by the Kaiser Building in Oakland when Kristi told Rob that was where her dad worked. He was really surprised and said that was where I used to work as well. It turns out her dad was the late Al Hopf. Small world!



**John Schnittker**

## KASRA MEMBER'S GRANDFATHER PAVED FAMOUS RACE TRACK

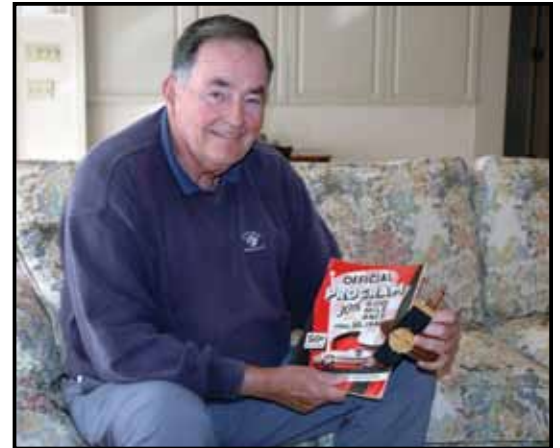
Howard Nelson (Alamo, CA) loves to reminisce about his grandfather, Otto, who built the track at the Indianapolis, IN, Motor Speedway, known to racing fans as "The Brickyard."

Otto Nelson was a successful paving contractor in Indianapolis at a time when streets were paved with bricks, if they were paved at all. His farm and home were outside of Indianapolis in an area that became known as Speedway City, after the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) became famous for its signature "500 Mile Race."

The IMS was initially built and owned by a group of automotive pioneers that included Carl Fisher and James Allison, namesakes of later GM Divisions -- Fisher Body and Allison Engine. Fisher had gone to France to drive in a race, lost the race, and returned home determined to improve his driving skills. He couldn't find a place to practice, so he formed a group with Allison, Arthur Newby and Frank Wheeler to build a racetrack with their own money.

The 2-1/2 mile track was originally "paved" with macadam, a kind of asphalt and gravel mixture. The first race program was run on August 19, 1909. The first race that day was for five miles, won by local driver Louis Schwitzer in a Stoddard-Dayton 4-cylinder. The program for that day (I have a dog-eared original Official Program with my grandfather's notes in it) included another 5-mile race and two for 10 miles each.

The original track proved unable to withstand the speeds and wear and tear; pieces of macadam "flew up and cracked goggles of drivers," according to one writer. After seven fatalities in the first



**Howard Nelson with the program from the first race at the Indianapolis Speedway following World War II along with his grandfather's medal.**

few programs, the owners closed the track and contracted with my grandfather to replace the macadam with brick; it was then November, and they wanted it to be ready for racing by the following spring. He and his crews laid 3,200,000 paving bricks through that Indianapolis winter, and the track reopened on schedule! They ran a 250-mile race in 1910, and the first 500-Mile Race in 1911. It's been run every year since, except for breaks during the two World Wars.

The owners were so pleased with granddad's work that they made him a gold medal. Years later, my dad used a photo of that gold medal to get us tickets to the first race following World War II. It was almost impossible to get tickets for that first race. However, Mr. Hulman, the owner, not only gave us tickets, but invited us to attend as his official guests. Dad even got an Official's armband, which I have, allowing access to every place on the property, including the pits. I was only 10 years old and not allowed in the pits, so my dad went after the race and got autographs of most of the top drivers, which I still have. Mr. Hulman continued his generosity for three more years, so we had the same deal for 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949!



## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

**Delmar Dow** (Sonora, CA) and his wife Jean celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in September. "This year, instead of our usual long mountain hike, we decided to just have a nice dinner at a historic hotel," says Del, who worked at the Center for Technology in Pleasanton, CA. Del also mentioned his military service during World War II where he saw combat in Europe and Japan: "We ended the war just 45 miles from Prague, CZ, before being re-deployed to Japan," says Del, who received a Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Star.

**A. Keith Sprouse** (Palm Springs, CA) celebrated his wife Dorothy's 80th birthday in Florida with their three children, 26 cousins, and numerous friends. "We had a ball," he says.

### Accomplishment . . .

**Kenneth Hymel, Sr** (Gramercy, LA) applauds his wife and her former basketball team "The All American Redheads." The team was recently recognized as pioneers for women's pro basketball when they were enshrined in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, TN. She played with the Redheads from 1969-72.

The former head of Kaiser's chemical division, **Howard Nelson** (Alamo, CA) and his wife Dorothy traveled to Cambridge, MA, to see their daughter Ann installed as an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ann, who received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2004, is a professor at the University of Washington where she has collaborated on a number of significant theories, including one that could explain the origin of matter in the universe!

**Jim Falk** (Anacortes, WA), whose hob-

bies include boating, golf, music and classic autos, recently retired from the Anacortes Parks Foundation as Founder/Trustee Emeritus. The City of Anacortes and the foundation plan to name an educational observation building in the harbor after the former employee of Kaiser Chemicals (Cleveland, OH).

**Michael Goldsmith** (Oakland, CA), who last worked at KACC Oakland in the Transportation Department, is still managing KLS Logistics Services, Inc. He formed the company after leaving KACC in 1987. Goldsmith notes, "Much of my time is now taken up with my duties as a trustee at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. I am now in my 5th year on this all-volunteer board of trustees. I also serve on the University's Audit Committee and Academic Policy Committee. Otherwise, my wife Dotty and I spend our time on cruise ships sailing the world."

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

**Jack Hill** (Amelia, OH) enjoys spending six months of the year in Ohio and six months in Florida. "We have fun playing tennis with a great bunch of retirees during the winter months in Florida," he says before adding, "Some of the guys in our group are really inspirational." When in Ohio, the former Permanent Foil employee finds time to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Golfing keeps **James Hitchings** (Harvel, IL) busy as he waits for his Alaska Cruise scheduled for July. Also enjoying a bit of golf is **Donald Skeens** (Ravenswood, WV). The former Ravenswood employee, who also likes to garden and volunteer at First United Methodist Church, has been with the Lion's Club for 37 years.



Michael Goldsmith

### 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](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

\* Photos encouraged.

*(What's Going On, from Page 5)*

Formerly with Kaiser in Erie, PA, **Lynn Huston** (Erie, PA) loves to spend time with his grandsons, ages 8 and 12. Their dad is in Kuwait for a year and had previously been in Afghanistan the year before. When not volunteering at his church, Lynn restores old furniture and designs and builds old-style rockers.

**Edwin McKeown** (Piedmont, CA), former assistant secretary and financial counsel in Oakland, CA, volunteers at the Oakland Museum's White Elephant Sale.

He quips, "The question I have is whether to renew my passport after having one for over 70 years!" Another Californian, **Catherine Bell** (Stockton, CA), loves music and teaching others to play the piano: "If you have a piano, I can teach you how to read music so you can enjoy it more." Catherine also enjoyed ice skating, hiking the mountains near Vancouver, BC, and swimming in the ocean. **Mortimer Crockett** (Pompano Beach, FL), on the other hand, finds himself swimming in a sea of "doctors, doctors, doctors."

The 92-year old Crockett, who worked at Kaiser Aluminum HQ in Oakland, CA, ends that declaration with a hearty "ugh!"

An ardent bowler and gardener, **Dean Gressley** (Huntington, IN) took time to join fellow WWII veterans on a trip to Washington, D.C. Gressley, who is now 91 years old, served in the Mediterranean, North Africa and Hawaii.

After 21 years on the road in a 5th wheeler, **J. K. (Ken) Signer** (Whitesboro, TX) and his wife have decided it's time to settle down. Previously employed at Kaiser's Sherman, TX, Extrusion Plant, the 81-year-old Ken looks forward to sharing many experiences with new and

old friends in Texas.

Not settling down at all is **Susan Ashe** (Spokane, WA). The former Kaiser Public Affairs employee is the owner of Ashe Public Affairs and is acting Executive Director for Health Sciences and Services Authority in Spokane.

### **Traveling Near and Far . . .**

Ellie Comfort (Newman Lake, WA) certainly lives up to her name. Previously with Trentwood Works in Spokane, WA, Ellie cherishes her 45 years plus attending family reunions. "The Comfort family spends the 4th of July at Hat Rock, OR, and the Bates family meets over Labor Day at a church camp near Emigrant State Park, OR," she explains. "It's a wonderful way of maintaining family ties, hugging new babies, and remembering with love those no longer with us."

Exploring the national parks is a favorite vacation destination for **Maria Valdivieso** (West Palm Beach, FL). "The Grand Canyon is one of the seven wonders in the world," she states. **Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucca, NV) enjoyed attending her grandchildren's graduation in Superior, AZ, last year. Although she spends every Sunday feeding the homeless with her church group, former Chalmette Slip worker **Shelley Delhomme** (Chalmette, LA) found time in October to visit North Carolina and see the changing of the foliage. Also taking time to enjoy the fall colors was **Jerry Denny** (Morgan Hill, CA), who traveled to New England and Niagara Falls. The former Permanente Foil employee likes to hike and is the EHS Coordinator for the San Jose Flea Market as well as the Chair of the Bay Area Board of Directors of Breathe California, a group dedicated to the prevention of air-pollution related diseases.



Several KASRA members have ventured to South Africa including Tony Procanik and his wife Kathy. They got a photo of this King of the Beasts at the Kruger National Park.

*(What's Going On, from Page 6)*

A ranch in Montana on the Bull River where her family and friends have met for 47 years calls to **Norma Crull** (Spokane Valley, WA). "For the past 20 years, we've also gone south for the winter to Lake Placid, FL, where we stay with my sister's family," says the former RN at Kaiser's Trentwood, WA, facility. **Jacqueline Singer** (Appleton, NY) traveled to France for two months with her sister. "We visited with lots of relatives and reconnected with friends from Morocco," says the surviving spouse of **Tom Singer**. In January, she went on a 50-day cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, to Sydney, AU, where she visited with old friends. "One of them was **Doris Russell**, the widow of **John Russell**, who worked for Kaiser in the 1960s in Australia and decided to stay there," she says.

**Rod LaRocque** (Las Vegas, NV) and his wife Marilyn visited Lima, Peru, before cruising around South America. A second trip took them to London and then on a cruise of the British Isles and Ireland where the former Oakland, CA,

employee kissed the Blarney Stone. "We're working our way through our Bucket List," he says. "Next year, we plan to tour/cruise Western Europe and the Black Sea." **Faye Miller** (Livermore, CA) also enjoyed a cruise last year. The surviving spouse of **Harry E. Miller** went to Alaska.

Heading for warmer weather was **John Davis** (Columbia, SC) who wintered on the lake at Okeechobee, FL, and **Bob Workman** (Cross Lanes, WV), who traveled with his family to Hawaii and then to Myrtle Beach, SC.

#### **Best Wishes . . .**

Lee Wilson sends word from Oakmont, PA, that her father, **James Willis** (Lancaster, PA), is peaceful and content at his Willow Valley Alzheimer's care facility.



**Dick Davidson, Jim Giesy, Cathy Penson, Lindy Nelson, and Diane Nelson enjoyed a December lunch with the Tacoma Lunch Bunch. Please remember to send in your photos!**

*(President's Message, from Page 1)*

miss out on important information concerning the VEBA Plan, including benefit amounts, and benefit claim-filing deadlines.

Send in your news... This newsletter is for and about YOU, so continue to send in your contributions and photos to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or email her at [sallyhogarty@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com). If you know of any retiree in your region you believe would make an interesting "profile," please let us know. Also, we welcome any suggestions you may have to improve either the format or content

of the newsletter. Send them to either our mail box @ PO Box, 1171, Lafayette, CA 94549 or by email to [news@e-kasra.com](mailto:news@e-kasra.com)

If you have missed any of our previous newsletters, we encourage you to visit the newsletter page on our website at [www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com). Remember, we are here for you!

*Chris*

Chris Laszcz-Davis  
President, KASRA



P.O. Box 1171  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 685-1313

E-Mail:  
news@e-kasra.com

### KASRA Board of Directors

Chris Laszcz-Davis  
*President*  
Paul Flores  
*Treasurer*  
Ed Westerman  
*Secretary*  
Carlos Xavier  
*Past President*  
John Schnittker  
Erach Tarapore

### Local Directors

Klaus Adler  
*Membership/  
In Memoriam*  
Merton L. Van Dreser  
*Legal & Events*  
Chris Laszcz-Davis  
*Newsletter*  
Ed Quinnan  
*VEBA*  
Doug Mann  
*Planning*

### Regional Directors

John Billips  
Norm Manger  
Bob Eisenbach  
Bob Mohr  
Dave Whitman

We're on the Web!  
See us at:

[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)

**May 7 Los Angeles**  
Lunch – Noon at The Elephant Bar,  
14303 E. Firestone Blvd. La Mirada.  
Contact Bob O'Leary (714) 898-7463.  
Lunches are first Monday of each month.

**May 10 Mead**  
Lunch -- 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North  
Division St. Contact Danny Petrus (509)  
483-2171 or [dpjr@comcast.net](mailto:dpjr@comcast.net).

**May 14 Bay Area (KARLA)**  
Lunch -- Noon at the Wedgewood Ban-  
quet Center at the San Ramon Golf Club.  
Social hour starts at 11:00 a.m. Speaker:  
Ivy Morrison who will discuss the con-  
struction and drilling of the nearly 1 mile  
long 4th bore of the Caldicott Tunnel.  
Contact Sharon Fraetis (925) 934-4334 or  
[lafnatv@silcon.net](mailto:lafnatv@silcon.net).

**June 5 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 (985) 690-4924  
or Chuck Schimmel (985) 643-0437 or  
[schimcol@aol.com](mailto:schimcol@aol.com).

**June 6 Tacoma**  
Lunch – 11:30 a.m. at Johnny's Dock,  
1900 East "D" St., Tacoma. Contact Bob  
Mohr at (253) 820-6569.



Cathy and Tom Franklin, Joe Drennan, Dot Creel reminisce at Calmette's March 8 luncheon.



Frank Kraus, Earl Bellanger, Augie Albano enjoyed Calmette's March 8 luncheon at Todd Schaeffer's Original Family Restaurant.

**June 12 Newark**  
Lunch – 11 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown  
Buffet – Heath. Meals are paid by the  
plant. Contact Jim Bope at (740) 601-  
7034.

## In Memoriam

*John N. Andersen - Palm Desert, CA*  
*Elizabeth F. Atkinson - Castro Valley, CA*  
*William A. Caldwell - Spokane Valley, WA*  
*Patsy R. Hackett - Libby, MT*  
*Yvonne D. Nauss - Valley Center, CA*  
*Edward R. Steele*  
*Princeton Junction, NJ*  
*Charles C. Sulka - Camarillo, 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., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 or (925) 935-2938 or [kcharlie34@comcast.net](mailto:kcharlie34@comcast.net).

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