



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:

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. The dues are modest and are used primarily to defray the costs of printing and mailing 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, 2013, we had 1,628 KASRA member retirees and 468 member-surviving spouses; there were an additional 1,011 non-KASRA retirees.

News from the VEBA ... The Board of Trustees will be mailing out 2013 reimbursement request forms to VEBA participants soon. A section on "Frequently Asked Questions" about the VEBA will also be included along with the 2013 benefit declaration. Copies will also be available on the KASRA website at www.e-kasra.com. If you have personal questions concerning the VEBA Plan, please contact the Delta Fund Administrators, LLC directly at: Delta Fund Administrators, LLC; P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201-2308. Telephone: Toll-Free (888) 344-8322. E-mail: VEBA@deltafund.com. As of December 31, 2012, 92.7% of

retiree Family Units eligible to participate in the VEBA Plan had enrolled. We continue to search for missing participants and ask for your help in finding them as well.

One final very important point – when you move, please remember to notify both KASRA and the Third Party Administrator (address noted in previous paragraph) of your change of address. The Third Party Administrator and KASRA are two separate notifications since they are separate. 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 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 news contributions and photos to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or email her at 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 at P.O. Box, 1171, Lafayette, CA 94549 or by email to 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. All newsletters are archived here. The www.e-kasra.com website also holds a wealth of information, including

WHAT'S GOING ON

Accomplishments . . .

Former Oakland, CA, worker **Joe Reger** (Meridian, ID) keeps busy restoring cars. His 1949 Mercury 4-door sedan Resto Rod was awarded 1st place in the '49-'51 category at the Boise Roadster Show held in Boise, ID. "Although I have several classic cars, this one took three years and lots of 'moola' to complete," Joe says. "It's restored completely with modern

running gear starting with a 396 HP engine and all the 'bells and whistles' of a modern car.

Congratulations are also due to **Lee Corder** (Ravenswood, WV), who was recently elected to his second term on the Board of Directors for Jackson General Hospital.



Maxine and Eric Louchis celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary last June

Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .

Roger Triemstra (Munster, IN) and his wife Gerrie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their entire family in January. And, what a celebration it was! All 24 children, grandchildren and their first great grandchild all went on a Caribbean cruise. When not celebrating special occasions, Roger keeps busy reading and teaching and Gerrie is an accomplished quilter. Celebrating 66 years of wedded bliss is **Stavros (Eric) Louchis** (Moraga, CA) and his wife Maxine.

Bob Schwab (The Woodlands, TX) and his wife Jan celebrated 55 years of marriage recently. Bob also enjoys golf, including organizing golf outings for his

Special 4th of July Celebration Memories

What do you do on the 4th of July? Is there a special celebration of our Nation's birthday that you'll never forget? We'd love to include your remembrances in our July issue of the KASRA newsletter. Please send your responses – including any photos – to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or email Sally at sallyhogarty@gmail.com. Thank you so much!

neighbors, and traveling with Jan in their motor home. Happy 89th birthday to surviving spouse **Marjorie Bess Miotke** (Puyallup, WA) who loves to keep busy with bowling, chair volleyball, bingo and arts and crafts.

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

Volunteering with the local 4-H group and working cattle with his son keeps 93-year-old **Peter Miranda** (Plaquemine, LA) young, while **David Saunders** (Baker, LA) prefers his collection of Lionel Trains. David and his wife **Elsie Messina-Saunders** both worked for Kaiser. Elsie worked at Chalmette, LA, as a



Gerrie and Roger Triemstra celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a Caribbean cruise.

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buyer for the Ghana Plant and David was the General Foreman at the same facility. They're planning a trip to the East Coast this fall.

Operating his ham radio and getting his Trojan 25 Cruiser ready for the water makes **Joe Darling** (Bristol, RI) a busy man. **Frank McCoy** (Utica, OH) worked at Kaiser's Newark plant but now he's a career-based intervention teacher at the Knox County Career Center. Singing, dancing and walking are favorites of former Kaiser employee and now travel agent **Aprina Leavy** (Oakland, CA). Former Trentwood, WA, employee **William (Bill) Nadwornick** (Greenacres, WA) doesn't travel much, but does enjoy being an amateur radio operator and watching the wooden clock he built keep perfect time.

LaVerne (Toni) Brumbaugh (Oakland, CA) has been working at Jack London's Regal Theatre in Oakland, CA, since 1999, while surviving spouse **Janice Coon Smith** (Erie, PA) enjoyed seeing another former Eric Works employee, **Charles Locke**, at a holiday retirement party. She also spent several days in the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania – also



(L-R) Howard Anderson, Frank Kraus and Guy Robicheaux enjoy Chalmette's March luncheon.

known as Pine Creek Gorge. "It's such beautiful country."

Avid cycling enthusiast

John Baker (Mukilteo, WA) cycles the 200-mile trek from Seattle to Portland every year. "I've done it 21 times and plan on doing it again next year," says the former Tacoma Works, WA, and Ravenswood, WA, Reduction Plant employee.

John retired in 2011 from his job as Western Region Director for Concurrent Technologies Corporation, and his wife will retire this June. They are both looking forward to being able to travel. "Kaiser was the best," John says. "I miss being judged by 'pounds out the door.'"

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Also burning up the highway is **Russell Radach** (Porterville, CA) and his wife Leona. They have traveled around the U.S. three times and "Rv'd" in 49 states.

"We just returned from a two month trip to Nevada, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, visiting family along the way," says Russell. **Sherry Hellyer** (Ravenswood, WV), the surviving spouse of Homer Hellyer, loves going to bluegrass shows. She also went to Alaska and headed for Florida in February. She plans to drive all the way to Washington State in



Elsie and David Saunders were crowned Sweet-heart King and Queen at the Valentine's Day banquet at their church.

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May. When at home, Sherry works as a hair stylist.

Evelyn Schwab (Slidell, LA) wonders how she had time to work all those years for Kaiser at Chalmette, LA as a traffic clerk. "We have such a busy life," she says. "I love to play golf and, of course, travel. My husband and I have cruised the Mediterranean and also Europe (British Isles and the Scandinavian Isles). We have gone to the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand, the Panama Canal and Alaska. We also travel to visit our children and grandchildren." The couple's next trip will be to Pompano Beach, FL, for a seafood party with family and friends. "Of course, we bring the seafood from Louisiana," Evelyn adds. When not traveling or playing golf, Evelyn volunteers in the surgery waiting room at Slidell's Ochsner Medical Center Northshore.

Enjoying a trip to Superior, AZ, to visit her daughter was **Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucca, NV). **R. Lee "Bob" Cadwell** (Metairie, LA) has made it his mission to visit all 50 states. The former AC/DC Operations Supervisor at Chalmette Works, LA, finally made his goal! Surviving spouse **Lilly Mitchell**



Evelyn Schwab and her husband have traveled all over the world but their next trip is to Pompano Beach, Florida for a seafood party with friends.

(Kettle Falls, WA) traveled to Hawaii and Wisconsin last year. Her husband James Mitchell worked at Mead Works, WA. When not traveling, the 92 year old likes to sew and do needle work. She moved from Deer Park, WA, to her daughter's home in Kettle Falls, WA, earlier this year. "She lives in a beautiful log cabin and I can go fishing. In June, I move in with my son and his wife in Metaline, WA. So I have my future all planned out."

Formerly in sales at Kaiser's Los Angeles, CA, facility, **Tony Procanik** (Ormond Beach, FL) spent three weeks exploring the islands of Thailand. Although retired, Tony recently embarked on a new career as a professional voice over artist.

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information about VEBA forms, emails, and contact information. In addition, the website lists lunch bunch schedules and photos from all the regional gatherings.

And, finally, we sadly note the passing of KASRA Board Member Mert Van Dreser, who lost his battle with cancer on March 31, 2013. Van joined Kaiser at the Milipitas, CA, laboratory as a research engineer

in June 1957 and retired from Kaiser in 1988 as Vice President, Research and Development, after a long and successful career. He will be missed on our KASRA Board!

Chris

Chris Laszcz-Davis
President, KASRA

MEMBER PROFILE: Dick Spees



Dick and Jean Spees (front row) with their large family of four children and spouses and nine grandchildren.

Kaiser retiree **Dick Spees** lives in Alameda, CA, with Jean, his wife of 62 years. Their retirement home overlooks Jack London Square and downtown Oakland, CA. For 32 years, Dick served in public affairs, community relations and governmental relations for Kaiser Aluminum, retiring as Vice President of Public Affairs. He was also known as “Mr. Oakland” because of his involvement with the City of Oakland and the community.

Dick and Jean have four children: Rick (a lawyer in Washington, D.C.), John (a financial consultant), Kate (a professor in Kona, HI), and Patty (Chief of Staff at UC San Diego Medical Center). Patty was a member of the U.S. Swim team and trained for the 1980 Olympics, which were boycotted by the U.S. and 64 other countries to protest the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

How did you meet your wife Jean?

We were both attending Oregon State. I was a science major in the School of Agriculture and Jean was studying to be a hospital dietitian. Our paths didn’t cross until the beginning of our sophomore year. I like to say we were working the same street corner, which

gets a few funny looks. But, we had both volunteered to welcome incoming freshman to campus and we ended up on the same street corner. We started dating and then, one week after graduation, we got married.

But you didn’t stay in Oregon long after you married, correct?

No, I had to report to Mountain Home Air Force Base in Boise, ID, on July 22. Jean got a job as a dietitian at St. Luke’s Hospital and I prepared to go to Korea. But, they noticed that, in addition to my science background, I had also majored in public information, so they sent me to the Air Weather Wing at Wiesbaden, Germany, instead. Jean joined me, and we lived in the town in a small room where we shared the bathroom with another American couple and everyone shared the kitchen. We came back to the United States in 1953 after 15 months abroad.

How did you get involved with Kaiser?

When we first returned to the U.S., I applied to graduate schools and chose Georgetown, so we moved to Washington, D.C. But I also needed to work. Fortunately, Citizens for Eisenhower was hiring. I started as a volunteer before being hired as Director

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 encouraged.

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of Research. I worked Congressional Campaigns for Citizens for Eisenhower up and down the Eastern seaboard. When that ended, I worked on getting my Ph.D., but with a wife and one child and another on the way, I needed to work. I had five really good offers and took the one with Kaiser Aluminum.

What was your career with Kaiser like?

I loved it! There were so many wonderful people working for Kaiser. I started in public affairs at Ravenswood, WV. The plant was under construction at the time, and we had to put the Ravenswood plant on the map and help the community build everything – schools, houses, and churches. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun.

Then we moved to Chicago, IL, which was Kaiser's major hub for servicing the Eastern markets. We weren't there long before Kaiser decided to move everyone to the new offices in Oakland, CA. By then, Jean and I had three children.

Approximately 135 families moved to the San Francisco Bay Area with 130 settling in Contra Costa County and only five of us settling in Oakland and Berkeley CA.



(L-R) Jean and Dick Spees with First Lady Nancy Reagan.

We bought a house on top of the Oakland Hills, and I began my love affair with Oakland, CA.

You had been in PR/Marketing for Kaiser,

but then you switched to Governmental Affairs. How did that come about?

In 1967, Kaiser sponsored me for a six-month Fellowship Program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. We had four children by then, ranging in age from 6 – 13. We were all fascinated watching our government in action, especially our oldest son Rick. He would go to the Senate and to the Supreme Court and just watch them all day. It made him decide to become a lawyer, and he's now the managing partner of the Washington office of a large national law firm. When I returned to Oakland, CA, after my experience at the Brookings Institution, I focused the rest of my career on governmental affairs working in Oakland, CA, but also traveling and assisting with governmental activities with Kaiser facilities throughout the United States, Jamaica and Ghana.

You describe yourself as “an unusual bird” for Kaiser. What do you mean?

Well, I had my feet in both worlds – the private sector for Kaiser and the public sector as a member of the Oakland City Council. I was the most fortunate person on the face of the planet because I had jobs that I absolutely loved. Not a day went by that I didn't love going to work.

At the time I began my public career, I had been doing governmental affairs for Kaiser and had worked closely with many organizations in Oakland, CA. Cornell Maier was very supportive of my running for office, but Edgar Kaiser was not so sure about a Kaiser employee getting involved with politics. But later, he ended up supporting my campaign.

I'm very proud of the projects I was involved with during my nearly 24

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years on the Oakland City Council. What stands out the most for me is bringing together the Oakland public schools, the City of Oakland and the East Bay Regional Parks to build the \$80 million, world-class Chabot Space and Science Center. My son Rick, who had been on the Senate Appropriations Committee in D.C., suggested we try and get the project earmarked for funds in the Defense Budget. We convinced Congressman Ron Dellums to push it through, and after a lot of ups and downs, we ended up with \$22 million. With additional funds from lots of bond measures, businesses and individuals, we opened up on Skyline Blvd. in Oakland, CA, in 2000. It's a spectacular place – a place where kids can come to imagine, dream and maybe become America's next astronaut.



Dick Spees (R) shown here with President George Bush.

citizens of West Virginia and how they worked with us to build a community. When we produced the first aluminum at the plant, we cast little ingots and handed them out as souvenirs. The second highlight would be Chicago. What a wonderful city, but I can totally understand why they put up ropes in the winter – that wind coming off the lake is strong.

What are the highlights of your career with Kaiser?

Number one would be starting the plant at Ravenswood. I'll never forget the good

Of course, moving into the Kaiser Building in Oakland, CA, was extremely exciting, and I loved working with Cornell Maier and all of our management

over so many years. I was also very proud to work for a company that had a code of honesty, integrity and forthrightness. Another highlight was going to Ghana, West Africa, and seeing the plant and dam, plus traveling throughout the country and meeting the various tribal chiefs. It's something I'll never forget.



Dick Spees (L) with Cornell Maier at the Kaiser building in Oakland, CA.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.e-kasra.com

May 9, June 13 Mead
Lunch 11:30 a.m. at Cathy Inn, North Division St. Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 483-2171 or dpir70@comcast.net.

May 13 KARLA (Bay Area)
11:00 a.m. social hour, Lunch at noon followed by speaker on the Bay Bridge Retrofit. Wedgewood Banquet Center, San Ramon Golf Club. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 934-4334 or lafnaty@silcon.com.

June 3 Los Angeles
Lunch is usually held at noon on the first Monday of each month and is normally held at The Elephant Bar, 1403 Firestone Ave, La Mirada. Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 to confirm.

June 5 Chalmette
11:30 a.m. Lunch at La Rosetta Tratoria, 348 Robert Blvd, Slidell. Cost \$20.00 Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or schimcol@aol.com.

June 11 Newark
Meet at 11:00 a.m. Stacy's Hometown Buffet, Heath. Meal is paid for by the Newark plant. Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403- 8327 or colbill44@roadrunner.com.



Author Larry Whitesitt (seated) signs a book for Jim and Norma Crull at Trentwood's March luncheon. Behind Larry is Norm Whitford. With her back to the camera is Helen Shogren and Steve Harvey is on the right.

June 22 Ravenswood
Summer Picnic at Riverfront Park in Ravenswood. Contact Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457 or Dave Whitman at (304) 273-5548 or dwhitman@firefox.com for timing.

In Memoriam

John A. Carre - Bristol, RI
Ruthann Critchfield - Saratoga, CA
Herbert P. (Pat) Dillon - Savannah, GA
Mary Jane Dunn - Watsonville, CA
John Alloy Fitzgerald - Slidell, LA
E. Loraine Gilmore - Spokane, WA
Richard V. Jilbert - Spokane, WA
Dwight B. Kidd - Millwood, WV
Martin J. Kirlin - Spokane Valley, WA
William (Bill) R. La Force - San Pablo, CA
Dominic N. Lazzarino - San Jose, CA
Bernard D. McKenna - San Jose, CA
Lawrence (Ben) G. McKenzie - Spokane, WA
Elton R. McVaney - Ravenswood, WV
Marion L. Miller - West Chester, PA
Guenter Neumann - Sioux Falls, SD
Richard L. Pfiffner - Santa Barbara, CA
Merton L. Van Dreser - Pleasanton, CA
Otto J. Vondrak - Bend, OR
William F. Walker - Mexico, MO
Charles F. Williams - Newark, OH

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.

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