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KASRA  
Co-Presidents

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 the Delta Fund Administrators toll-free at (888) 344-8322 or email [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

## *Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees / Surviving Spouses:

We hope that this newsletter finds everyone paying attention to the CDC guidelines and staying well. We have six months of this pandemic behind us and, with any luck, we will have a vaccine available before the next six months have passed. That would make it the fastest vaccine development effort in history! The public health folks have also learned a great deal about what we should and should not be doing to keep ourselves safe. Wearing a mask, washing our hands and staying six feet away from others when we are outside, seem to be the simplest ways to reduce our risk of catching the virus.

Since we are the most vulnerable age group, many of us have retreated into our homes to ride this out. We encourage everyone to think creatively about ways to reduce the isolation this may cause. Talk to your friends on the phone. If you are tech savvy, you can “get together” with friends over Zoom. Many community centers have started to offer interesting classes over Zoom. This may actually make it easier to attend a class. Distance is no longer a limitation. Netflix and video streaming services also help to keep us entertained. Send an email to someone you have not been in touch with for awhile. People who enjoy gardening have it good. There is more time to spend in the garden, where there is always something going on. A friend has made more than 500 masks to give to

medical staff. We encourage you to share your “what I did during the pandemic that I would not otherwise have done” stories with us via “What’s Going On.”

VEBA ... if you have not already filed, there is still time to secure your maximum benefit of \$4,900 for 2019 and \$4,000 for 2020. It should be noted that if you do not file in a timely manner, all your rights to receive a Qualified Benefit will expire and be forfeited. The expiration dates for the 2019 reimbursement and 2020 reimbursement are December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021 respectively. We encourage you to take advantage of this benefit, if you are enrolled in the VEBA, as it can go a long way towards defraying your costs of medical care in retirement. In addition, if you know of someone who may be eligible but has not yet signed up, please encourage them to contact the VEBA and find out if they might be eligible for benefits. VEBA enrollment and reimbursement request forms are available by contacting the VEBA plan administrator, Delta Fund, at 888-344-8322 (toll free), or through their website at [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

We wish everyone good health and look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible with “What’s Going On.”

All the best!

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and Steve Ping  
Co-Presidents, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Gerry Carothers** (San Ramon, CA), surviving spouse of **Theron L. Carothers**. She just received her pin for 3,000 hours of volunteer work at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek. Gerry certainly keeps busy. In addition to volunteering at Kaiser Hospital, she also proctors the California State Bar Exam, works the polls on election day (although no polls this year because of COVID-19) and is active in her church and several local women's organizations. "I also love dancing, reading and playing dominoes – the old fashioned way not Mexican Train," she said. Gerry has also been to all 50 states and 40 foreign countries. "I'm blessed to have a wonderful extended family that I see quite often."

Ohio's Historic Family Farms program honored **Paul Mestemaker** (New Weston, OH) and his family for owning and farming their rural property for the past 100 years. Paul's parents, Julius and Amelia, purchased the farm in 1919. "I was born and raised in the brick house on the next lot and have been here all my life," Paul said. "I will probably



**Paul Mestemaker standing next to the sign designating his family's farm as one of Ohio's Historic Family Farms.**

die here." Paul did leave the farm for two years in the Army and was sent to Germany at the end of the Korean War. He also supplemented the family income for 19 years when he worked at Kaiser's Fertilizer plant near Burkettsville, OH. Paul, who turned 88 in March and his wife Mary have nine children, 22 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

COVID restrictions may have actually helped **Bob Irelan** (Rancho Murieta, CA). The former Vice President of Corporate Public Relations just finished his second novel "Justifiable – Murder in the Mountain State" due to be published in September 2020. "My annual trip to Maui was cancelled and going out for live entertainment and dining wasn't really possible either," Bob said. When not under COVID restrictions,



**Tony Hodge (L) and Bob Irelan at the 2019 Bay Area Holiday luncheon.**

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Bob is involved with the South County Democratic Party in Elk Grove, CA, board member of the Rancho Murieta Sr. Men's Golf Club and several writing/publishing organizations.

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

"I enjoy sewing, cooking and volunteering," writes **Carolyn Waybright** (Ripley, WV). "I volunteer for our church, Ripley Tabernacle Baptist Church, and the City of Ripley Beautification Committee, which has been extremely busy this year watering flowers downtown due to the hot and dry weather," she adds. Full of energy, Carolyn also volunteers at the Ripley Convention & Business Bureau and just completed her ninth year serving on the City of Ripley Council, where, in addition to the Beautification Committee, she serves on the Utility Board, Park Committee and Planning and Zoning Board. Somehow, she also finds time to help with the different parades throughout the year. "This had been a very different year, as you know, due to the virus. No travel except to see family. I pray that it ends soon, and we can get back to the norm if that is possible."

Suzanne Roth (Modesto, CA), widow of Harvey W. Roth, spends time with Zoom meetings while she shelters-in-place. She also belongs to a book club with the clever name, Knee Deep in Books. "Harvey worked for Kaiser Aluminum in Oakland, CA, from 1958 - 1993. I would love to hear from people who knew Harvey," she said. You can email Suzanne

at [susibroth@gmail.com](mailto:susibroth@gmail.com).

Formerly with Industrial Chemicals in Oakland, CA, **Anita Parker** (Fairfield, CA) lost her husband Harry in June of 2019. "I had my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday April 1 this year. "I'm working on a 100 and I'm still driving," said Anita. **Steve Harvey** (Spokane Valley, WA) sings the praises of his wife Gertrude, who is the executive director for Connoisseur Concerts.

"Before COVID restrictions, more than 2,000 chamber music enthusiasts attended concerts in 2019 and early 2020," he said.

**John Miller** (Spokane Valley, WA) has been flying for 54 years – privately, commercially and as an instructor. On July 10, he had the treat of a lifetime. "A fellow pilot, Mark Schaufhausen, who owns a classic antique Bucker Jungmann built in 1937, took me up for a very special flight," said John. "This aircraft is very aerobatic, and, in the space of an hour, we did aileron rolls, loops, split S's, Immelman's, Cuban 8's, Hammerhead stalls and snap rolls. I grinned from ear to ear and no, I did not lose my



**John Miller (L) and fellow pilot, Mark Schaufhausen, stand in front of Mark's antique 1937 Bucker Jungmann after taking it for a ride.**

## MEMBER PROFILE: WILLEM KEGGE

**You had a very interesting childhood. Tell us about it.**

I was born in 1941 in Holland. I grew up with my father away, first having to do forced labor in Germany until 1945 and then posted to Aruba in the Dutch army. My mother and I joined him in 1948, finally returning to Holland in 1950.

I did okay at school, but I was bored and much preferred to spend my time roaming the many museums in the Hague in the winter and spending the summer at the beach. My parents finally decided I might as well go to work instead of playing hooky. I joined the Merchant Marine and sailed around Europe working on coasters as part of a seven-man crew. After being a sailor for 12 months, I realized it wasn't the occupation to have if I ever wanted to get married, so I went back and finished high school. When my parents migrated to Australia in 1959, I went with them instead of pursuing a maritime career.

**Did you meet your wife in Australia?**

Yes, I married Cornelia in Australia, but she had been born in the same town



**In 1999, Ray Milkovich congratulated Willem on his 32 years of Kaiser service.**

in Holland that I was and in the same year. We were married in 1961 and had Yvonne, our first child, in 1963 followed by Diane in 1964 and Ronald in 1968. Although we had a very nice house in Gladstone Queensland and I had an excellent job with Kaiser Aluminum, we worried our children wouldn't get to know the world or our family in Holland. Fortunately, my career with Kaiser helped us expose our children to other cultures.



**Willem Kegge and his family in 1969 at a QAL Australia picnic. (L-R) children Yvonne, Diane and Ronald with Willem and Cornelia.**

**Tell us about your history with Kaiser and how that helped you see the world.**

In 1966, I joined Kaiser Aluminum to work in the largest alumina refinery in the world. This was quite an accomplishment for me since I started as a laborer in the chemical industry in Sydney, Australia. I learned and got as much training as possible and worked as a time and motion engineer before landing a position as an

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industrial engineer with Kaiser.

At the Kaiser refinery, I had the opportunity to make very innovative changes and eventually became Chief Industrial Engineer. But, again, we wanted our children to see more of the world, so we made a drastic change.



**A 2016 photo of Willem working on the “ruffled red poppies” in the Esplanade across from his home in Houston, TX.**

In 1971, we sold everything and moved to Germany where I worked for Kaiser in maintenance systems. Then in 1974, we moved to New Zealand and I went to work for Comalco in project management before going back to Holland a year later and working for Rontgen Technical Services. In 1977, I was back with Kaiser in maintenance systems, but this time at the Valco Smelter in Ghana, West Africa. Here I was able to combine my knowledge of industrial engineering and maintenance with computer programs that I wrote.

The big move came in 1981 when Kaiser transferred me to the Baton Rouge and

Gramercy Alumina plants in Louisiana, USA. During my 32-year career with Kaiser, I also worked at their Oxnard Forging Plant in Oxnard, CA, in Oakland and Pleasanton, CA, as Systems Manager for the Primary Aluminum Business Unit and finally at the Mead Smelter in Spokane, WA.



**Willem Kegge (2nd from left) with Sandy Knudson, Linda Goulson, Ray Lanouette and Karen Campbell at a 1991 Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Oxnard Order Entry.**

**Anything especially challenging or rewarding during your career with Kaiser?**

I really liked being moved around the world and working at various Kaiser Aluminum plants before boredom could set in. The projects I enjoyed the most were the

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ones making a real breakthrough. In the '70s and '80s, most plant computers were just used for accounting. So engineering, maintenance and technical systems were manual or nonexistent. Those areas were the ones I improved easily with a little programming.

### **What did you do when you retired from Kaiser?**

We had to stay put in Washington state because the medical insurance in those days would not cover pre-existing conditions, and we had to wait until we qualified for Medicare. I used that time to research and write my Ancestry, as well as scanning all pictures we ever took and organizing my large music collection. We also started gardening projects in the neighborhood.

We moved to Chico in 2006. It's a great little town with history, a real heart and a university. Our first grandson

grew up there with us. Now, I have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

### **Tell us about the little Garden of Eden you created in your Texas neighborhood?**

In July 2012, Cornelia and I moved from Chico, CA, to Houston, TX, and bought a townhouse in Bonnie Brae Street. Cornelia had advanced cancer and the MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, offered the best treatment. Unfortunately, it was too late, and Cornelia passed away in February 2013.

In May 2013, I started improving my 25 ft. of Esplanade up to the middle of the median. The City of Houston encouraged people to adopt an Esplanade, so I did. My neighbors liked it so much they asked me to expand to the full width of the median for the areas in front of their lots. Building a 10,000 sq. feet garden in the Esplanade helped me deal with Cornelia's loss.

Now, people from all over drive by to take a look. None of this would have been possible without the generous support from my neighbors who gave money for plants and soil improvements, paid for tree removal and maintenance and so much more. When I can, I often rescue plants from places about to be demolished. It doesn't cost anything but my sweat and it keeps good plants from being thrown away.

### **What other hobbies do you have?**

I love all genres of music and



**Ineke and Willem biking on Galveston beach**

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have quite a collection. I like listening to it, sharing it and organizing it all. I also really enjoy going to Jones Hall here in Houston for live classical concerts and can't wait until it's safe to do that again.



**Willem and Ineke at Riverwalk in New Orleans.**

I'm very involved with researching our ancestry and have 560 pages devoted to it on my website. Since that created more than a few spacing issues, I've started rebuilding it at [www.family.kegge.org](http://www.family.kegge.org). In the process, I discovered quite a few skeletons in the closet!

Maintaining a 17 PC computer facility for teaching PC use takes up a lot of my time as well. I fix PC problems for family

and friends and build and maintain websites for non-profits.

But, somehow, I find time to spend with my youngest grandchildren who live just a few blocks away and my partner Ineke Watt. We always find time to go to the beach in Galveston which is a pleasure.

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cookies!" John last worked for Kaiser at Trentwood.

Vietnam Vet and former Maintenance Supervisor at Kaiser's Erie Forging Plant, **Ronald J. Morris** (North East, PA) keeps very busy. Retired from Kaiser in 1995, Ron owned and operated Concord Grape Vineyard, a 50-acre vineyard that he sold in 2008. Currently, he shuttles cars from auction to dealer and drives shuttle for Peak N' Peak Ski Resort. He has also been with the American Legion for 52 years! Ron enjoys hunting, gardening, numismatics (study of coins), casinos and antique cars.

**Harry Wenberg** (Saratoga, CA) enjoys bird watching and, with the aid of his walker, strolling around the neighborhood. The former Kaiser Permanente Foil Plant worker turned 95 last October. Unfortunately, he also lost his wife of 55 years in 2019. Harry enjoys going to Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos, CA, where he often sees Canadian Geese.

Although he gave up golf last Christmas, **Bernard "Butch" Lowenthal** (Savannah, GA) continued going to the YMCA, at least until the coronavirus hit. "I wish this pandemic would stop," said the former Kaiser AG Chemical worker. **Gene Melanson** (Newman Lake, WA)

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### 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.

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said he's "97 years along his journey" and looking forward to making it to 100. "I'm homebound during this pandemic, so I can reach 100 and thank my doctor for my triple surgery heart operation and the extra years he gave me," said Gene, who still enjoys golfing, gardening and surfing the Internet. **Howard Nelson** (Alamo, CA), who enjoys playing golf, has also limited his activities to seeing his children and grandchildren when possible.

**Naomi Chamberlain-Harris** (Concord, CA) and her husband Paul enjoyed seeing fellow retirees at the Bay Area Holiday Luncheon in December. Formerly with Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek, CA, Naomi enjoys reading, gardening and her grandchildren. While traveling has been out of the question, she stays busy as an ordained deacon at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette, CA. She is also chaplain at Crestwood Behavior Center in Pleasant Hill, CA.



**Ursula and her husband celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Lake Tahoe.**



**Paul Weller, taken in 2018 when he was a spry 105 year old, tinkering in his workshop.**

Looking forward to life returning to normal is **Barbara N. Hebert** (Baton Rouge, LA). The surviving spouse of **Donald F. Hebert**, Barbara moved to St. James Place Retirement Community in Baton Rouge following Donald's death. She moved in March 1 and they went into lockdown March 15. "It's a very lovely place, and I look forward to my new life when things return to normal – when, of course, no one knows."

**Joe Lafond** (Centennial, CO) also moved following the death of his wife, Dot. "We were marriage for 69 years," he said. "I'm now living in the Denver area and am closer to many of my six kids, 16 grand kids and nine great grand kids. I look forward to KASRA's newsletter to keep tabs on my co-workers."

**Harley Marcum** (Sebring, FL) also enjoys the KASRA newsletter. "I have the fondest memories of my work experiences with Kaiser for the 32 years I was there," he adds. Harley enjoys reading, hiking and socializing, which he hopes to be able to return to soon. He was a training coordinator for Kaiser at Ravenswood, WV, from 1965-1998.

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .**

A very special Happy Birthday to **Paul L.**

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**Weller** (Savannah, GA) who turned 107 on July 1, 2020. Although he says he's too old to travel, the former physicist does "travel" up and down with the stock market!

This summer has featured several milestones for **Ursula Seifert** (Castro Valley, CA). She and her husband celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 18 and on July 7, Ursula turned 80 years old. "In July, my entire family went up to Lake Tahoe to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary and my 80th birthday. This included my two daughters with husbands and three beautiful granddaughters," said Ursula.

A slightly early happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Harold V. Rosselli, Sr.** (Madisonville, LA) who has his birthday Oct. 9. "I hope I will be here for many more years," he says. The former Chalmette, LA, worker enjoys growing vegetables in his garden and volunteering at his church when not celebrating birthdays!

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

At 96-years-of-age, **Clifford Halstead** (Greenacres, WA) is having memory and health issues. His son says he would love to hear from any former Kaiser employees. You can reach his son at 509-270-1872 or CDH520@yahoo.com.

Condolences to the family of surviving spouse **Katherine Anderson**, who passed away March 2, 2020. She was the widow of **Jack Andersen**. Our sympathies also go to the family of surviving spouse **Guyla Cashel**, who died on June 3, 2020. Guyla was the widow of **John Cashel**.

## *In Memoriam*



*Joseph "Joe" L. Anjier  
Baton Rouge, LA*

*Dr. Bernard DeHovitz  
San Francisco, CA*

*Robert S. Dumper  
Oakland, CA*

*John Gormanos  
Spokane, WA*

*Jackie "Jack" Wayne Harrison  
Heath, OH*

*Elizabeth "Betty" Lynch  
Otis Orchards, WA*

*Michael J. McGroarty  
Pinehurst, NC*

*David Lee Monnastes  
Spokane, WA*

*Jerry Mullett  
Slidell, LA*

*John "Sandy" Nosler  
Lake Oswego, OR*

*Paul Pierre Petit, Jr.  
Baton Rouge, LA*

*James Scott  
Spokane Valley, WA*

*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.*

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*Due to the ever-changing restrictions resulting from the coronavirus, lunch meetings for the various KASRA groups have been postponed. They will be back as soon as it is safe for all our members. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, in the December issue of the KASRA Newsletter, we will have a full listing of meetings!*

#### Baton Rouge

Email Bob Presson at leilap3@cox.net, or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net, or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

#### Bay Area, KARLA

Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email lafnatv@gmail.com.

#### Belpre

Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

#### Chalmette

Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

#### Erie

Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email thealy1931@gmail.com.

#### Los Angeles

Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 or email robemmet39@gmail.com

#### Mead

Contact Dan Coe at (509) 944-7264 or email dancoe33@comcast.net.

#### Newark

Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403-8328 or email colbill44@roadrunner.com

#### Ravenswood

Contact Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

#### Tacoma

Contact Bob Mohr at 253 820 6569 or bobmohr1942@gmail.com.

#### Trentwood

Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.



Kaiser retirees in the Los Angeles area get together before COVID-19 made such contact impossible. (L-R) Al Bhatt, Jack Yraceburn, Joe Lafond, Bob and Connie O'Leary