



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:

Every year in July, we hold our annual membership drive. Each of you will have received a letter from me accompanying the hard copy of the July newsletter. For those who already are KASRA members, we thank you for your support.

Please remember to indicate any change of contact information on the green “dues renewal” form provided. In this way, we can keep you posted on any matters arising on both KASRA and the VEBA. We invite those of you who have allowed your membership to lapse and those who are not presently members to join.

The Board Members and Regional Directors of the Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association (KASRA) are all volunteers. I’d like to thank them for their time, skill and enthusiasm in keeping things moving and interesting. Our Board Members include the following: **Carlos Xavier, Doug Mann, Mert Van Dreser, Klaus Adler, Blanca Ostrovsky, Steve Abernathy, Ed Quinnan, Will Schnieder and Ed Westerman.** Without their help, none of our objectives this past year could have been met.

Others who directly assist the KASRA efforts in a number of ways include: **Dick Kauffman, Joanne Gutierrez, Bill Alsup, Joanne Cunningham, Sally Hogarty, Carol Brown, Sharon Fraetis and Michelle Alviso** of A-Mailing. **Sharon Fraetis** will be moving on to other things after many years of supporting the KASRA membership database. We thank **Sharon** for her dedication and service!

I would be remiss if I did not also mention and thank the regional directors and reporters – **John Billips, Norm Manger, Bob Eisenbach, Bob Mohr, Dave Whitman, Tim Healy, Charlie Alexandre, Chuck Schimmel, Bob Abel and Dan Petrus** --for keeping the Board informed of news in their respective regions. And finally, thank you to the many KASRA members who have shared their lives with us in the “What’s Going On” section of the newsletter.

By now, all eligible and enrolled members of the Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees VEBA will have received a letter from the VEBA Board of Trustees advising them of the \$2,100 maximum qualified benefit for the year 2011. We thank the volunteer VEBA Trustees **Art Donaldson, Jed Daniel, and Doug Allen.** You have until December 31, 2012 to file your claim for the 2011 benefit. Please also remember you have until December 31, 2011 to file your claim for the 2010 benefit of \$2,000. If you have a change in your mailing information, please advise the VEBA administration, as this is key to ensuring you are kept informed of VEBA matters. Their address is as follows: VEBA Administrator, Allied Delta Fund, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201 – 2308, Telephone: (Toll Free) (888) 344-8322, Email: dfs.veba@delapro.com.

We love to hear how and what you are doing. You can do this by completing the enclosed “What’s Going On Form” and returning it to us. You should note that this and other forms can be downloaded from our website (www.e-kasra.com). We encourage you all to visit this website

KASRA SALUTES OUR VETERANS

We received these responses from retirees who had served after our May Newsletter was printed. We are happy to share their experiences and applaud their contributions now.



Seaman First Class
Allen Lightner



Allen Lightner

Seaman First Class Allen Lightner ((Ponchatoula, LA) entered the United States Navy on September 21, 1944 at the age of 17. After being trained at the Armed Guard Center (PAC), he was assigned as a gunner on troop transport ships. The crew made trips to the islands in the Pacific to drop off troops and to transport mail back to the States. They often washed clothes by hanging them on a rope overboard. One time, when Allen went to put on his clean pants, he found that one pants leg had been chewed off! After dropping off troops on Layte Island, Allen transported mail back to San Francisco, CA. Once, a fellow soldier decided he wanted to bring several monkeys back home from the island. He tied ropes around their necks and fed them fruit while on board, but he knew he would have a problem getting them off the ship. Knowing that Allen carried the mail sacks off the ship, he asked him to put the monkeys in a mail sack to get them off. In they went, and Allen car-



Hilda Sayre

ried a very squirming mail sack to shore. Allen was Honorably Discharged on March 4, 1946.

Hilda Sayre (deceased) served as a Navy nurse during WWII stationed in England and France. Many years after the war, she attended a reunion with other nurses who had served, and they visited several of the battlefields and graveyards in England and France, where once they had steadfastly cared for the wounded. She retired from Ravenswood, WV, following a loyal and dedicated career as the Director of Nursing. Her colleagues remember Hilda as a very giving person who was always ready to help others in need. She worked with Kaiser Management to ensure the health and well being of all Kaiser employees.

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which contains much useful information, including past newsletters and photos of your fellow retirees and their spouses.

Our country has seen several major natural disasters in the last few months—flooding of the Mississippi River, hurricanes in the lower Midwest, and an uncontrollable fire in Arizona. It's our sincere hope that you and your families have not been impacted by these disas-

ters, but if you have, you remain in our thoughts and prayers. If you feel up to it, please share your experiences with us. Until our next newsletter, stay active and healthy!

Chris

Chris Laszcz-Davis
President, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

Accomplishments...

Congratulations to **Olga Essex** (Paso Robles, CA) who has one novel published (*Delia's Way* – University of Houston's Arte Publico Press) and two more in the works. Olga worked at the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation's Center for Technology (CFT) in Pleasanton, CA, from 1975 to 1988. Upon retirement to beautiful Paso Robles, CA, with her husband, Olga began freelance writing. In addition to her novels, the native of Panama recently had several short fiction pieces published by *The Panama News* online newspaper. **Sue and T.J. Summerson** (Spokane, WA) enjoyed some 80-degree weather in Houston this March while T.J. presented a paper on developing a stress corrosion test specimen for aluminum marine alloys at the National Association of Corrosion Engineers Conference. When not presenting papers, T. J. enjoys flying with the Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 79 in Spokane. Recently, he flew as one of several "co-pilots" on the group's B-17 Flying Fortress bomber in a flight from Spokane WA, to Nampa, ID. **Sue** retired from CFT (where T.J. also worked), whereas T.J. officially retired from Trentwood, WA. Proud father **Neal Person** (Ellensburg, WA) can't help but brag about his son Kevin. A 20-year employee of Kaiser, **Kevin Person** was recently appointed CEO of Wagstaff Inc, a casting equipment company in Spokane, WA. While Kevin worked at various Kaiser plants, Neal made CFT in Pleasanton his home.

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

Forever young, **Al Trommershausen** (Walnut Creek, CA) recently celebrated his 95th birthday. Currently living at the Waterford senior complex in the Rossmoor retirement community, Al

joined Permanente Metals in Tacoma, WA, in 1947. He later transferred to Kaiser Industries where he became Manager of Industrial Hygiene and Safety. **Helen Riordan** (Livermore, CA) is happy to announce the birth of her latest grandchild, Chase Anthony. Chase is number six for the surviving spouse of **John Riordan**, who worked at the research facility in Pleasanton, CA.



T.J. Summerson recently co-piloted a B-17 Bomber with his aviation group.

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

Bill Reeve (Troutdale, OR) and his wife Carol are cutting back some on their traveling and concentrating on gardening, picture puzzles, and volunteering at their local agency that provides food and clothing for those in need. The former employee at the Reduction Division of Tacoma Works and his wife were featured in the Valentine's Day edition of their local paper. **Harold Defibaugh** (Hollansburg, OH) also likes to garden as



Al Trommershausen celebrated his 95th birthday in style.

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well as fish, hunt and go for bicycle rides. Harold is now a trustee for Harrison Township and an auxiliary sheriff as well. **Eva Torrice** (Paradise, CA) had no problem leaving her position at Kaiser in Salinas, CA to move to Paradise, literally! She now enjoys the Ladies Bible Class at the Church of Christ and attends potluck dinners in the picturesque town of Paradise, CA. **Willodean (Deanie) Beier** (Zachary, LA), surviving spouse of **Ernie Beir** who worked in the Power Division of the Chalmette, LA plant, loves the small town atmosphere of her home and currently teaches a needlecraft class at the Zachary Senior Center.

Traveling Near and Far ...

Carol Cunnius (Lehigh Acres, FL) and her husband Frank enjoyed great food, service and lots of interesting activities and entertainment as they cruised through the Panama Canal on Holland America. The former credit department worker at Oakbrook, IL, and her husband also toured Aruba, Costa Rico, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas. **Reldon J. Barré** (Washington, WV) agrees that a lovely cruise is the way to go. He and 15 members of his family had a very special time on their 7-day Disney Caribbean Cruise. Formerly employed at Chalmette,

LA (1973-1981) and Belpre, OH (1981-1989), Reldon now enjoys traveling, reading, and singing in his local choir. While **James Mire** (Baton Rouge, LA) and his wife loved vacationing at South Lake Tahoe, CA, with their family (including four great grandchildren!) and cruising the Eastern



Reldon Barre and his family went on a Disney Caribbean Cruise.

Caribbean with his sister and her husband, what they really enjoy is following their granddaughter (a state champion) to her track and cross-country meets. Previously employed at Kaiser in Baton Rouge, LA, and then Alpart on the island of Jamaica until 1989, James says he's currently unemployed except for volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul lunchroom and an exceptionally long "honey-do" list. **Tony Procanik** (The Woodlands, TX) and his family certainly saw their quota of wild animals during a three-week tour of Southern Africa that included Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Victoria Falls, and Cape Town. The former Springfield, NJ, employee even got a wave from Nelson Mandela outside of his home in Johannesburg, South Africa! **Chet Ferdun** (Lafayette, CA) and his wife had two beautiful weeks in Switzerland where the weather was unusually good and the Alps and farmland gorgeous to behold. Not quite so gorgeous was the price of just about everything as the Swiss Franc remained stable and the dollar continued to decline. Former employee **Lee Corder** (Ravenswood, WV) and his wife Sue Ann enjoyed visiting granddaughters Molly and Sally in Silverdale, WA, where Lee and his son Jeff managed to find some time to fish the Sol Duc River.



Mr. & Mrs. Chet Ferdun in Switzerland

MEMBER PROFILE: Blanca Ostrovsky

Blanca Ostrovsky, a native of Argentina, has had a long and varied career with Kaiser Aluminum during her 38 years with the company. Fluent in Spanish, English and French, she began working for Industrias Kaiser Argentina in the early 1960s as a translator. She helped Kaiser management communicate with their new partner, the French car manufacturer Renault, before moving to the United States with her husband Moises. The Ostrovskys fell in love with Northern California and Blanca was especially impressed with the beauty of Oakland's Lake Merritt and the majestic Kaiser building which dominated the landscape at that time. "I was so lucky to work for such a great company," says Blanca. "It was like a big family."

What made you decide to move to come to the U.S. and stay with Kaiser?

Both my husband and I worked for Industrias Kaiser Argentina, an automobile factory, after we were married. We enjoyed our jobs there, but with



Blanca & Moises Ostrovsky

continuing changes and unrest in the country, Moises had trouble completing his education at the university. We met some of the American expatriates who worked for Kaiser in Argentina, and they suggested we come to the U.S. There were no transfers available, but they gave us good reference letters. We arrived in San Francisco in July of 1963, and applied at Kaiser Industries in Oakland, CA. My husband was encouraged to become proficient in English and come back, and I was told to wait a few weeks and return, as there were no openings in accounting. We chose to stay and work in San Francisco while Moises went to SF City College and held some part time positions, first as a busboy at a cafeteria chain, and later selling ladies shoes at Macy's. In the meantime, I worked as an Accounts Payable clerk at Blum's, a pastry shop and teahouse chain. After six months, Moises had learned English, and we went back to Kaiser Industries in Oakland. This time, Moises was hired as a draftsman with Kaiser Engineers and went back to evening school to complete his Electrical Engineering degree, while I started as a payroll clerk in Kaiser Aluminum.

What was the most memorable/challenging experience working for the company?

There are several that come to mind such as:

- Meeting Henry J. Kaiser and sharing a few moments with him while having a cup of coffee at the Kaiser Center cafeteria in Oakland. I always considered him a legend and was impressed by his warmth and simplicity.
- Having started to work in the 1960's,

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

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I lived through women's initial efforts to achieve meaningful and responsible positions in management. I always considered myself fortunate to work for a company where management was open and ready to help women achieve their potential. Certainly in those days women had to start from the bottom, and prove themselves to be as good or better than their male counterparts in order to advance. At Kaiser headquarters, we were encouraged and mentored by great role models. For instance, with their support, we formed a group of women who wanted to learn about the company and the industry. And we started recruiting members of management who would talk to us about what made our industry tick, and what it took to succeed in managing it. It was not long before the men asked if they could participate in those sessions as well, and pretty soon, everybody shared the opportunity to learn from the high achievers in the company.

- As Manager of Capital Spending Control, I had the opportunity to visit many of our locations throughout the U.S. It was a tremendous learning experience for me. My challenge was to convince them that working with the folks at headquarters would help move their projects faster through the review and approval process.
- Meeting Prince Charles in person in 1975, during his visit to the VALCO plant in Ghana was quite an experience. I was there at the time to see my husband, who was working for Kaiser Engineers during the plant potlines expansion.
- Being nominated and selected in 1986 as an Honoree for the YWCA Tribute to Women In International Industry (TWIN), in Boston, MA, was one of my proudest achievements.



Blanca (R) with her mother Rafaela Segal.

Describe your KASRA involvement.

After I retired both as an employee and later as a consultant for Kaiser Aluminum, I was asked to be a member of the Board and Treasurer of the organization. I accepted, as I saw an opportunity to remain close to the people that were such an important part of my life for so many years.

How did you meet your husband, Moises?

We met at a party in Cordoba, Argentina, where I was born. He was a student at the university, and I was about to graduate from high school. I was working for a concert organization and musical instruments store. I was a piano professor, so I would demonstrate the pianos and also keep the books. Moises and I were very different. I loved everything about the arts, particularly music and ballet, and he was into science and sports. But we learned from each other, and as a result, Moises enjoys concerts, and I became passionate about soccer.

Tell us about your family.

We have no children, but we like to say that in our old age, we gave birth to our two mothers. We brought them to the U.S.

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after they lost their husbands, and they have kept us busy for the last 15 years. My mother-in-law passed away at 93, and we are lucky that my mother is still with us at 99. My husband's brother lives in the Bay Area, and my brother and extended family are mostly in Miami, Argentina and Israel. We like to travel and visit them as often as we can.



Moises and Blanca Ostrovsky at the 2006 Soccer World Cup in Germany.

Soccer is an important part of your life, isn't it?

We both love the sport. My husband has played since he was a child in Argentina and has been involved in playing and coaching since we arrived in this country. In the '60s and '70s, we spent many hours training kids, traveling with them from city to city, and fighting to get the schools to incorporate the sport in their curriculum. As a result, the Youth Soccer Leagues were born and developed in the Bay Area. The next effort was to train the parents, and the best way to do it was to teach them to play, and so the co-ed league was born. Moms and Pops and coaches' wives (me included) decided to join. Moises and I played in that league for 25 years. By this time, professional soccer had established itself in the U.S. We felt, however, that there was a lot still to be learned, which also applied to the

the Honda Player of the Year Award, in which the best player of the U.S. National Team was rewarded with a brand new car, and the Honda Symposium, which attracted notable members of the sport from all over the world who came to share their knowledge and contribute to the development of the sport in the U.S. After that, we got involved in an organization that helps children in under-developed countries, by providing education on the sport, and through talks after the games, teaching youngsters how to better integrate themselves with their families and their communities. In addition, Moises gives some individual coaching and guidance to young talented and dedicated U.S. players who show the potential to become professional players.

What are your hobbies?

I've always loved photography, soccer, travel, music and hiking. When we were younger, Moises and I climbed every mountain we could that was over 10,000 feet in California, including Mt. Whitney. We don't do that anymore, but I recently joined a women's hiking club for those 50 years and older called "Babes in Boots."



Blanca with U.S. National Soccer star Landon Donovan.

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

July 14 Mead

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

August 8 KARLA (Bay Area)

Lunch at noon at the Wedgewood Banquet Center located at the San Ramon Golf Club. Guest speaker's topic will be "An Insider's Guide to Drug Names." Social hour starts at 11:00 a.m. Contact Sharon Fraetis (925) 934-4334 / lafnatv@silcon.com.

August 9 Newark

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Home-town Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Contact: Jim Bope (740) 601-7045 / jbopeky@yahoo.com.

August 11 Mead

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

August 13 Mead

Plant Reunion at Lake Pend Oreille. Contact Kathy Stromberger at (509) 937-4819 / kaiserbrat@yahoo.com. Rob Matthew will be hosting the event at his lake cabin. Details available to anyone interested in attending.

August 27 Belpre Annual Picnic

12:00 noon at Howe's Grove Park, Belpre, Ohio. Bring a covered dish or two – table service provided. Any questions, please contact Betty Blair (304) 489-1337/ bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

September 1 Ravenswood

Lunch at noon at Cedar Lakes. Cost is \$10 per person. For information, call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email dwhitman@wirefire.com.

September 8 Mead

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on

North Division. Contact Danny Petruss at (509) 924-5838 / dpjr70@comcast.net. Mead meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

September 13 Chalmette

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Todd Schaeffer's Original Family Restaurant, 348 Robert Boulevard, Slidell, LA 70458. RSVP by August 30th. Contact: Sherman Faught (985) 690-4942 / shermarmy@bellsouth.net or Chuck Schimmel (985) 643-0437 / schimcol@aol.com.

In Memoriam

*Richard J. D'Arensbourg -
Gramercy, LA*

*Charles William Diehl, Sr. -
Bay Minette, AL*

Audrey Lambert Eskew - Kingwood, TX

George Fennen - Rochester, WA

Donald G. Harrington - Danville, CA

William E. Herrold - Pebble Beach, CA

Richard F. Hupp - Zanesville, OH

Wilford L. Larson - Sun City West, AZ

Donald G. Lees - Mesa AZ

Marvin A. Ring - Corvallis, OR

Jack Turner Sargent - Linn Creek, MO

Jack Saucer - Ponchatoula, LA

Lonnie D. Sawyer - Spokane, WA

Dona Speakman Hunn - Berkeley, CA

Victor F. Schuler - Arnold, MD

Everett D. Sterrenberg - Nashville, TN

*Ayward D. (Abe) Westfall -
Ravenswood, WV*

*Please inform us of a loved one's
passing by contacting Klaus Adler at
1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA
94597, (925) 935-2938, kcharlie34@
comcast.net.*

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