



Chris Laszcz-Davis  
KASRA President

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

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### *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 voluntary opportunities. The economy continues to challenge many of us!

There are several areas to cover in this letter.

**Sally Hogarty—KASRA Newsletter's "Voice."** Communications are one of KASRA's most valued services these days, keeping us all informed on important issues and allowing us to keep up with friends and former colleagues. Keep those pictures and stories about your family and retiree goings on coming in! We love them, as do you!

We'd like to extend a special thank you to **Sally Hogarty**, our Editor, for the excellent work she's done over the past several years. Originally from Pennsylvania, Sally has been involved in writing and public relations since she moved to Northern California in 1975. By way of background, she has served as the Associate Dean of Admissions at the local St. Mary's College for eight years, producing the institution's monthly newsletters and various brochures before moving on to Catholic Charities in San Francisco as the Director of Public Relations. For three years following, Sally oversaw the writing and layout of that agency's numerous newsletters and publications for its programs in San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin counties. Upon the opening of

her own public relations company, Sally handled the press coverage, photography and publication needs of a wide variety of non-profit organizations.

Sally is currently the editor of The Orinda News, a monthly community newspaper. She also writes a theater column for Walnut Creek Magazine and is a theater columnist/critic for several Bay Area publications, including The Contra Costa Times and The Alameda Journal. She continues her 20-plus year association with the City of Walnut Creek as the writer/photographer for the city's monthly E-News publication.

And if that's not enough talent, Sally has been involved in Bay Area theater for over 35 years as an actress, producer, publicist, photographer and writer. She has over 200 commercials to her credit and continues to appear in numerous industrial and independent films. Recent stage credits include "Vaudeville", the Irish musical "Brimstone" and "Barefoot in the Park" at the Willows Theatre, "Bound By Blood" at San Francisco's Boxcar Playhouse, and "Anna Christie" and "Cris Christopherson" for the Eugene O'Neill Festival/Role Players Ensemble. She is currently touring the Bay Area in a children's theater production of "Mercy Watson to the Rescue."

In Sally's own words, "I love meeting the KASRA retirees, interviewing them and learning about their lives. I am impressed and amazed by the skill, talent and enthusiastic lives of many of our retirees."

**Website.** This resource gives us greater flexibility in providing news and information to our members since we are not

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Chris Laszcz-Davis** (Orinda, CA), who recently received the George and Florence Clayton Award, given to an individual who has made notable achievements to the environmental and occupational health profession. Chris was also elected to the profession's national Board of Directors. The busy KASRA President also recently co-chaired a West Coast conference titled "Connecting Sound Science and EHS Solutions." One of the featured speakers was former Kaiser Executive VP, **Dick Evans**, who spoke to the audience about "The Link Between Enterprise Value and EHS."

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

**Evelyn (Paul) Vogt** (Papillion, NE) still enjoys living in an independent living complex and "hanging out with the senior citizens" while **Aprina Leavy** (Oakland, CA) continues her fitness routine. **Harold Fussell** (Baton Rouge, LA) sends his thanks for the KASRA newsletter and

says he's going strong at 89 years young.

Reading to six classes of children at Glenoak Elementary School and at Glendale's main library keeps **Fran Quick** (Glendale, CA) young at heart. The surviving spouse of **Bill Quick**, Fran has been reading to the children for the past 21 years. She is also the Scholarship Chair for Sons of Norway and used her sewing talents to knit 84 caps for pre-mature babies at the local hospital. "I have, over the years, managed to visit five of the six continents, but now that I'm 85, I think my travel days are over," she says.

Sharing her home with Molly, her Shih Tzu dog, **Virginia Henderson** (Bloomington, IN) volunteers at the Bloomington Hospital in the Home Health Pharmacy. She is the surviving spouse of **James (Bob) Henderson**, who worked for Kaiser in Belpre, OH, Wanatah, IN, and Toledo, OH. When not volunteering, Virginia enjoys playing duplicate



Ravenswood, WV, Kaiser Retirees held their annual Christmas dinner at Greenhills Country Club on December 5. "We had 56 people in attendance and enjoyed a beautiful evening," says Hazel Parsons. retiree board members L-R (1st row) Keith Morgan, Don Skeens, Gail Hall, Barbara Finney, Ruth Mick, Dottie Whitman, Hazel Parsons and Lee Corder. (back row) Pete Westenhaver, Harold Osborne, Richard Galloway, Martin Gerwig, Dave Whitman and Don Waldie.

*(What's Going On, from Page 2)*

bridge, golf and cooking. **Earline Clark** (Covington, LA) sends her love to all. "I have my health and everything is great," she enthuses.

### Traveling Near and Far

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**Donald Waldie** (Point Pleasant, WV) spent Thanksgiving week at Deep Creek Lake Resort in Maryland with 19 members of his family. "We had a great time and saw the first deep snow of the year," he says. The former sales and marketing employee at Ravenswood, WV, is president of the Point Pleasant River Museum Foundation and an active volunteer at the church-sponsored Upward Sports Program for boys and girls in grades kindergarten thru 6th grade. He is also vice-president of the Point Pleasant High School Alumni Association and finds time for golf and gardening.

A trip to Wendover, UT, allowed **Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucca, NV) to visit

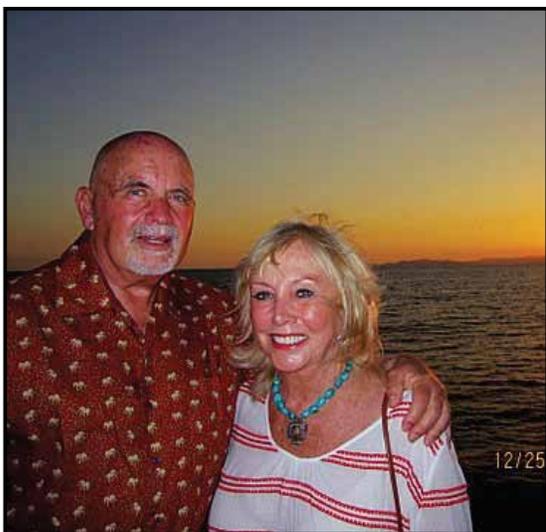


**Kaiser retirees enjoy a winter outing to Mt. Spokane, WA, ski resort. L-R: John Dorosh, Joe Roberts, Bette Brattebo, Tom Brattebo and Les Stone.**

with old friends. She and her husband and four daughters had lived there for 46 years before Betty moved out west.

A group of Kaiser retirees got together in January at the ski lodge at Mt. Spokane, WA. "John Dorosh, Les Stone and I are all Trentwood, WA, retirees," says Tom Brattebo. Joe Roberts retired from Newark, NJ, and my wife Bette worked at Trentwood, WA, for several years, and then hung on to me until I retired." Tom says they are all "Prime Timers" at Mt. Spokane, getting together several times through the ski season. "We do whatever Prime Timers might do, and ski, too," adds Tom.

A cruise to South America made for a delightful December for **Thomas Franklin** (Slidell, LA) and his wife Catherine. "We flew to Rio de Janeiro and cruised down the east side of South America and then flew home from Buenos Aires, Argentina," says the former Reduction/Mead Works employee. When not cruising to such exotic locations, Thomas likes to golf and garden.



**Tony and Kathy Procanik enjoy a beautiful sunset over the Christmas holidays in Costa Rica.**

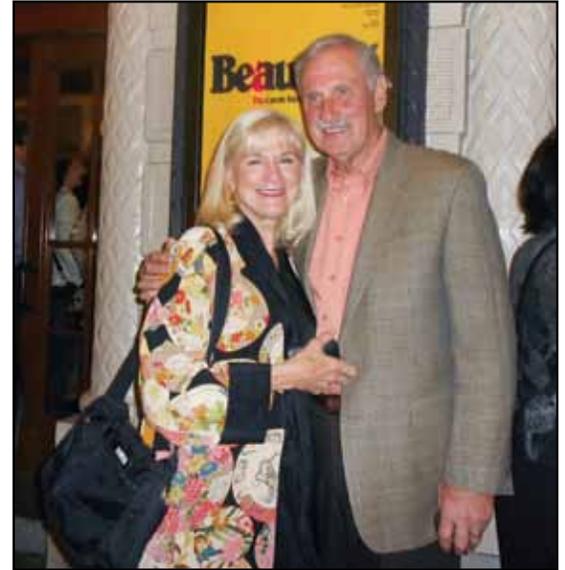
*(What's Going On, continued Page 4)*

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Also traveling to South America, **Tony Procanik** (The Woodlands, TX) and his wife Kathy spent the Christmas holiday in Costa Rica with one of their sons and family. "We enjoyed a split time," says Tony. "First in the Cloud Forests of Costa Rica, followed by time on the Pacific Coast beaches. The country and its peoples are fantastic. No wonder there are so many American retirees there." When not traveling, Tony does voiceover work, including volunteering to record books for the blind.

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

**Chris Laszcz-Davis** (Orinda, CA) and husband Steve celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary recently.



**Chris Laszcz-Davis and husband Steve celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary in San Francisco, CA at the Broadway musical "Beautiful."**

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restrained by space or cost. We try to provide current news and articles as we receive them. You can read more on the website [www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com). Our webmaster, **Steve Abernathy**, will be happy to receive your feedback at [web@e-kasra.com](mailto:web@e-kasra.com).

**Email.** This is the fastest and most economical way for KASRA to communicate information with all of our "connected" 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. For those who do not use email, we will be happy to hear from you through regular mail as well.

**VEBA.** If you are aware of anyone who has not yet applied for the VEBA benefits to which they are entitled, please contact us at [kasra@e-kasra.com](mailto: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 VEBA Third Party Administrator for reimbursement. Application forms are available on our website or on request to us. KASRA provides copies of all VEBA Benefit Program materials on our website.

Someone once said, "that in your first 30 years, you learn what you need to know; during the next 30 years, you do what you're good at; and the rest of your life, you do what you love." Hope you're getting a chance to do what you love!

I again want to thank you for your past and continuing contribution to making the KASRA News such an enjoyable paper for its many readers around the country.

*Chris*

Chris Laszcz-Davis  
President, KASRA

## MEMBER PROFILE: Tom (TJ) and Sue Summerson

Long-time Kaiser employees, Tom and Sue Summerson, live in Spokane, WA. Married 60 years this coming September, the two met while working for Kaiser in Trentwood, WA. They have two children (Lynda and Mark) and two adult grandchildren (Paul and John). Lyn is a retired educator and Mark is a clinical psychologist. Paul and his wife Rita live in San Francisco. Paul is a design engineer and Rita teaches piano and flute. Grandson John is a musician, glass blower and currently studies animation at an art school in Portland, OR.



While attending Steve and Wendy Ping's annual Ping Fling for CFT retirees, TJ and Sue had a surprise celebration to honor their 58th wedding anniversary. Our daughter Lynda set the whole thing up," says TJ.

### How did the two of you meet?

TJ: I started in the Department of Metallurgy Research (DMR) at Trentwood, WA, in 1951, and Sue started in 1953. She first worked in the technical writing group before becoming the switchboard operator for DMR.

Sue: I thought that TJ was pretty nice, but I wasn't interested in getting married. We took dancing lessons together and on the way home, he'd always ask if I wanted to stop for a hamburger. I thought 'No way. I'm not getting involved.' But, we ended up getting married after about six months. Guess I missed out on a lot of hamburgers.

### Tell us a little about your careers with Kaiser?

TJ: It was the beginning of the golden years of the aluminum industry when we started. Being in the corrosion section, I got to interface with all of the fabricating plants and their customers. Corrosion resistance is a major factor in the use of aluminum, so there were lots of challenges and exciting things to work on - from electrical conductor, geodesic domes, culvert/storm drains, radiators, hot water tank anodes, tankers, boats to

aircraft components.

Then in 1969, DMR moved to Pleasanton, CA, and we became part of the Center for Technology (CFT). One hundred and twenty-five families from Trentwood, WA, moved there, joining others from the Chemical, Refractories and Reduction Divisions.

Sue: There was nothing in Pleasanton, CA, at that time. You could shoot a cannon down Hwy. 680. Now, there are so many homes and lots of traffic.

I didn't work when we first moved to California. But, after a few years, I got restless. Our daughter was away at college by then, and our son was in middle school. I went over to Kaiser Sand and Gravel and offered to work for free if they'd teach me about their switchboard. They let me spell the secretaries. Then, one of the girls quit, and there I was all trained and ready. After a while, there was an opening at CFT and, since I had also worked there when they needed

### 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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extra help, they hired me. I was the receptionist, ran the switchboard and booked the travel for all of CFT.

### **What were the highlights of your career?**

Tom: There were many but some that stand out include DMR development of a new set of aluminum magnesium alloys that were weldable, strong and corrosion resistant. They are still widely used today by the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and private boat builders. Ferry boats in CA and NY are made of aluminum our corrosion section also developed 7049-T7XX alloy for aerospace forgings. I travelled with our forging metallurgists to aircraft companies and suppliers, and Larry Barker convinced the U.S. Air Force to replace the main gear on the B52 with 7049-T73 forgings.

I was also fortunate to work with the Coast Guard and to convince a USCG admiral that our large aluminum tanks (60x60x120) could be used to transport natural gas and that the water would not cause corrosion problems. He joked that 'if you were a used car salesman, I'd buy a car from you.' Convincing Dick Evans to provide financial support for the long-term corrosion testing we were doing at CFT was another highlight. With Steve Hutchcraft and Tex Pritchett, we were able to get Armco Steel's President to re-instate Kaiser Refractories as a supplier of refractory products. That was truly a highlight!

**Sue:** I remember one

time at CFT when I got a call from this man back east in the middle of an earthquake. I told him what was going on and asked if he could call back a little later. He apologized for calling! I guess I sounded pretty calm, but I was watching these giant plates of glass in our lobby flexing in and out. They were set in rubber or something and made to flex during quakes. But it was pretty weird. Another time, we had a major fire when they were casting a lithium-containing alloy, and I had to alert all the emergency crews, fire and police and take messages back and forth.

**TJ:** Tex Pritchett, our VP of Research at the time, recognized Sue for doing a great job and remaining professional and calm during emergencies. She received a citation from management. She was also great at recognizing voices. Twenty years after she retired, we got a call in Spokane, WA, from George Binczewski, and she called him by name before he identified himself. He was amazed!

### **Are either of you still involved in the aluminum industry?**



**Flight - TJ enjoys a flight in a North American T6 trainer owned by Jeff Hamilton. "It's in pristine condition and I got to fly if for about 30 minutes during the flight around Spokane and over in Idaho. What a thrill," says TJ.**

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**Sue:** I retired in 1990 when TJ transferred back to Trentwood, WA, to become technical coordinator on the new high-speed coater line. He retired again at the end of 1995, was re-hired again in 1996 for three months to work on special projects, and then rehired again for two months in 1998 during the Trentwood strike. He ended up working for Kaiser for over 45 years. I took my retirement more seriously.

**TJ:** Although I'm finally done being rehired, I still do consulting work, and I'm active with several technical societies: American Society for Testing Materials, International, where I was fortunate to receive both the Award of Merit in 1989 and the F.L. LaQue Award in 2007; American Society for Metals; and the National Association of Corrosion Engineers.

#### **Do you still see other Kaiser retirees?**

**TJ:** Kaiser really was a family. We have so many friends through Kaiser that we're still in touch with. We go to the Ping Fling, a party for former CFT employees, at Steve and Wendy Ping's home in Pleasanton, CA, each year.

**Sue:** We've both been active in KASRA-Trentwood since 1996. I've served on the telephone calling committee locally. TJ has been a board member for the past five years and, more recently, became a regional member reporting to the main KASRA board.

#### **Do you volunteer in your community as well?**

**Sue:** For the past 10 years, we've both volunteered at the Information Booth at Spokane International Airport. We have so many stories from working there. I remember this young Korean man



**TJ Summerson snapped this photo at the November luncheon for Trentwood, WA, retirees. (L-R) Rick Neubauer, Mary McKinley, Cliff Halstead and wife Fern.**

who came to study English at WA State University in Pullman, WA, but when he got to Spokane, he had missed the last bus to Pullman. We invited him to stay overnight with us. He was a wonderful house guest and even slept on top of the covers so as not to dirty our sheets. Rather than have him wait for the next bus to Pullman, WA, the next day, we decided to drive him ourselves.

**Tom:** I'm also a volunteer with the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program. Kids from 8 – 18 get a free ride in a light airplane. Local pilots volunteer their time and planes. I'm part of the ground crew. It's great to see the smiles on the kids' faces when they come back after their flight. I still have a private pilot's license, but haven't flown for the past five years, except as a passenger in the B17 and a –T6 trainer.

**Sue:** We also play bridge two or three times a week, and we've been "volunteering" to do aerobics three times a week for almost 30 years. I still make wine bags out of cloth with various logos, airplanes, sports teams, and sell some of them to local wineries

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### KASRA Board of Directors

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**Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5 Los Angeles**  
Lunch is usually held at noon on the first Monday of each month at The Elephant Bar, 1403 Firestone Ave. La Mirada. Contact: Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463 to confirm time and location.

**Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8 Mead**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. Contact: Danny Petrus (509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

**Apr 8, Jun 10 Newark**  
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Home-town Buffet, Heath. Note: Lunch is paid for by the Newark plant. Contact: Bill Snider (740) 403-8328 or colbill44@roadrunner.com.

**Mar 18, Apr 15 Trentwood**  
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Valley Eagles, 16801 E. Sprague Ave., Hot lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Note: Mead Retirees are always welcome. Contact: Steve Harvey (509) 924-1132 or slharv3y@comcast.net.

**Mar 12, Jun (open date) Chalmette**  
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at La Rosetta Trattoria, 348 Robert Blvd., Slidel, Cost is \$20.00. Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643- 0437 or schimcol@aol.com.

**Mar (open date), May 21 Baton Rouge**  
At Oak Lodge. Contact Bob Eisenbach at (225) 926-1334 or bobeisenbach@att.net for specifics. Contact Bob as well regarding the Nov. 19 gathering.

**Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17 Erie**  
Breakfast 8:30 a.m. at Shirley's Country Kitchen, Wattsburg Rd., Erie. Contact: Tim Healy at (814) 474-3536 to confirm.

**Apr 25 Belpre**  
Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Shoney's Restaurant, Garfield Ave., Parkersburg. Note: Visitors are always welcome. Contact: Betty Blair (304) 489-1337 or bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

**Apr 26 Bay Minette**  
Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Street's Restaurant,

Bay Minette. Contact: Betty Wilson at (251) 610-5611.

**May 12 Bay Area (KARLA)**  
Social hour at 11 a.m., lunch at noon at San Ramon Golf Club. The speaker will be Tinrin Chew discussing "Nutrition for Optimal Aging." Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 934-4334 or lafnatv@silcon.com.com.

### *In Memoriam*

*Charles Andrade - Rehoboth, MA*

*Rose Campagna - Bristol, RI*

*Anthony (Tony), J. Chetta*

*Baton Rouge, LA*

*David L. Craig - Newark, OH*

*Michael R. Cuccia - Metairie, LA\**

*Charles F. Dolan Jr. - Newark, OH*

*Raymond H. Grist - Ravenswood, WV\**

*Grade M. Harrison - Occidental, CA*

*Ruth L. Heistad - Salida, CA*

*Charles R. Horn - Burrows, IN*

*Jim A. Jackson - Struthers, OH*

*Alexander Parisi - Grants Pass, OR*

*Frank J. Papso - Lancaster, PA*

*George D. Probst Sr. - Mandeville, LA*

*Joseph A. Rudischum - Newark, OH*

*William W. Snow - North Lima, OH*

*John R. Stevens - Lavale, MA*

*Robert H. Stevens - Rochepport, MO*

*Elizabeth (Bettye) Trumbower*

*Santa Rosa, CA*

\* Not a KASRA member

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.