

snap shots

Volume 20 Number 6

February 2015

Vivian Maier: Photographs by a Mysterious Nanny Program by Karin Rosenthal, Sunday, February 8, 2015, 1:30 P.M. Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands, MA



Photo by Robert Four

Karin Rosenthal will present *Unearthed Treasures: The Street Photography of Vivian Maier* at the February PHSNE meeting. Vivian Maier's remarkable street photography took the world by storm in 2010 when a YouTube video went viral on the Internet.

Maier herself never showed her work to anyone, but a storage locker default put it in the hands of others two years before her death. After she died, prints were produced and sold by two New York galleries. Books and videos have been created and Maier has become an international phenomenon.

Many complex issues have arisen in regard to the production and sale of her work, as well as her place in photographic history. Karin will discuss Maier's style and vision, placing her in the context of other photographers of her era, while also discussing some of the difficult issues that surround her life and work.



Man with Pigeons, N.Y., Vivian Maier, 1954

Karin Rosenthal is a fine art photographer and Resident Scholar at the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center (WSRC). She initiated, co-curated, and did the programming for the exhibition *Vivian Maier: A Woman's Lens* at the WSRC in the fall of 2013. This presentation is based on the talk she gave in con-

junction with the show, updated with some issues that have arisen since the show ended.

Karin's prize-winning photography has been published and exhibited internationally and resides in 16 museum collections including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fogg Museum, the International Center of Photography, and the Brooklyn Museum. A book, *Karin Rosenthal: Twenty Years of Photographs*, was produced for a retrospective of her work at the Danforth Museum of Art in 2000. Recently, Boston's Photographic Resource Center co-sponsored a year-long exhibition of Karin's work at MIT's Center for Theoretical Physics. Her photograph in the exhibition *First Doubt: Optical Confusion in Modern Photography* at the Yale University Art Gallery was selected to represent the show of 100 images by 20th Century photographers and was featured in the *New York Times* review in 2009. Karin teaches workshops about the Nude in Nature and is looking forward to curating an exhibition of her students' work for the Griffin Museum in 2016.



Funny Feet, Karin Rosenthal, 1989

Important to Note . . .

The February meeting will be held on the second Sunday, instead of the usual first Sunday of the month, to avoid conflict with the Super Bowl. We hope to see you on February 8th.

PHSNE Thanks Ruth Thomasian



After twenty-five continuous years on PHSNE’s Board of Directors, including two terms as president, thirteen years as assistant show manager with Ed Shaw, co-editor with Adrian Levesque for four issues of *The Journal*, and co-organizer and leader of trips to foreign countries and Alaska, Ruth

Thomasian says she must focus on her work at Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives. In her letter of resignation to the Board, effective at the end of 2014, she states, “My wish is that PHSNE flourishes as younger generations continue the quest for photo history.”

In his letter acknowledging the resignation, PHSNE President Whitey Morange thanked Ruth for her long and distinguished service, noting in particular her efforts to enhance PHSNE’s diversity. He wrote, “As you have so often stated, we need to interest and engage women in the work of the group. Your efforts and ideas will continue to be valued in this and in any other project that you choose to take on.”

Though she has retired from the Board, we look forward to a continued and mutually rewarding association with Ruth.

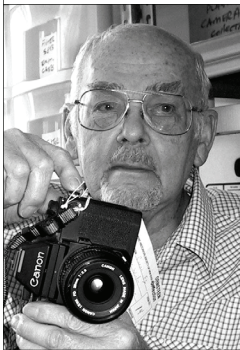
PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at phsne.org/join or phsne.org/renew, or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. It is available at phsne.org/snapshots within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to snapshots@phsne.org. Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to the PHSNE mailbox.

Remembering Bud Midgley



Anyone who has ever bought a camera at a PHSNE auction may well have an item that was carefully and lovingly restored by Bud Midgley. He was a regular at the weekly warehouse sessions until illness made it impossible to attend. His sense of humor made it a joy to work with Bud. We were deeply saddened

to learn of his passing on December 24th.

Bud was a long time PHSNE Board member. He served as chairman of the Nominating Committee and helped revitalize the *Journal* by pressing for and finding an outside professional editor.

A retired game warden, Bud, with his son Bruce, a PHSNE member and police officer, helped with security at *Photographica* events. Bud even stayed over some nights, along with show manager John Dockery, to safeguard the cameras and equipment that remained on tables throughout the two day shows.



Dockery shared reflections about his good friend Bud. “At one PHSNE meeting, Bud did an extended Show and Tell on his plastic cameras while wearing an aluminum foil hat. He said he wore it so Government radio waves could not penetrate and affect his mind. Several in the crowd hooted that it was already too late for that!

Bud often mentioned to me that he had tremendous respect for the PHSNE membership, felt privileged to know so many who were world class in their vocations, and was honored that they acknowledged his contributions to their shared avocation—photography and camera collecting.”



Working with the weekly warehouse crew John Dockery at left; Dick Koolish in the rear

PHSNE extends sincere condolences to the family and his many PHSNE friends. Bud will be dearly missed.

Negatives Frozen for a Century Survive in Antarctica

If you have ever had a freezer full of film, you know that you can stretch the life of film by keeping it at very low temperatures. It is still surprising, however, that 22 exposed, unprocessed negatives left by Ernest Shackleton and the Ross Sea Party between 1914 and 1917 survived the intervening century in a block of ice. Though damaged, a conservator in New Zealand was able to process the negatives and preserve some of the images.



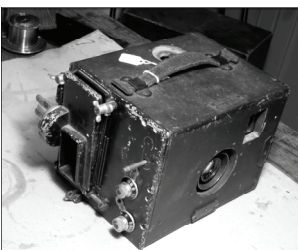
Cellulose nitrate images found clumped together, nzaht.org



Alexander Stevens, Shackleton's chief scientist, looks south from the deck of the Aurora. Hut Point Peninsula on Ross Island, Antarctica, can be seen in the background, nzaht.org

The negatives were found by members of the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust as they restored a supply hut set up by Robert Falcon Scott between 1910 and 1913. His expedition party died in the attempt to return home, and the Ross party used the hut a few years later. The photographer is believed to be Arnold Patrick Spencer-Smith, one of three expedition members who died while marooned and awaiting rescue.

Additional information and images can be found at petapixel.com/2013/12/27/100-year-old-box-exposed-negatives-discovered-conservators-antarctica (D.L. Cade, December 27, 2013).



Help Wanted

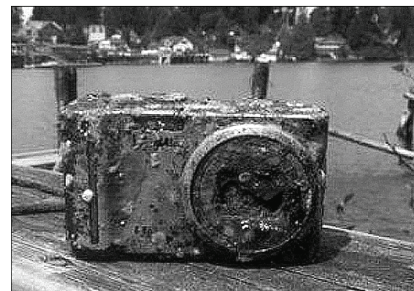
PHSNE member Steve Shohet was given a very rare 1922 Raylo Tricolor camera by the late Mike Kessler. It is in poor condition, and Steve needs photos, the plate magazine, mounting yoke, and other small bits to restore it. If you can help, contact sbshoet@gmail.com.

restore it. If you can help, contact sbshoet@gmail.com.

Photos Recovered After Two Years Under Water

Following a 2012 shipwreck, Paul Burgoyne was grateful to be alive. He had been stranded on rocks for hours and was suffering from hypothermia. He did not think about the digital camera that went down with the boat, nor the family photos it contained.

Fast-forward two years: two students diving around Vancouver in the area of the sunken vessel found the barnacle enrusted camera and brought it to shore. A team dismantled the camera and cleaned the Lexar 8GB SD memory card. Amazingly, the card was still functional.



The camera as it appeared when found

The photos were processed and posted online. A Coast Guard rescue crew member recognized Burgoyne, and the photographs were given to the family.



Retrieving the memory card

The pictures had particular sentimental value, and the effort to retrieve, process, and deliver the photos was greatly appreciated.

More photographs and additional information can be found at cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/shipwrecked-camera-found-underwater-after-2-years-with-photos-intact-1.2651173.

And the Winner Is . . .

Twenty PHSNE members entered the drawing for *Photographic Cases*, the book featured in the January issue of *snap shots*, that took place at the January Members' Auction. Congratulations to the winner, Ruth Thomasian.



Final Call for Regional Workshop

There may still be spots open for a workshop at Amherst College on February 16th—19th “to develop identification skills and knowledge about fine art and historic photographic processes, from the daguerreotype to digital prints. See gawainweaver.com/workshops for details.

Pohlads Acquire Polaroid



Land portrait camera #600

With a checkered history, following two bankruptcies and ownership by a man convicted of a ponzi scheme, the Polaroid Corporation was recently acquired by the Pohlads family of Minnetonka, Minnesota. In a \$70 million deal announced in December, 2014, the family, along with an undisclosed partner, acquired a majority share of the company.

Polaroid stopped producing its instant film-based cameras in 2007 and film in 2009. It currently has a wide array of licensed products including digital cameras, security webcams, and instant-print cameras using Zinc (zero ink) technology, along with headphones batteries, and other non-photographic items.

The Pohlads Companies consist of businesses in many fields including banking, commercial real estate, and auto sales, and the family owns the Minnesota Twins baseball franchise. Its new Polaroid acquisition consists of several dozen employees at the Minnetonka headquarters and a few other locations.

Explaining the business decision, chief investment officer Jann Ozello Wilcox of Pohlads' Marquette Companies, said, "We continue to seek good, strategic growth opportunities; we see Polaroid as an iconic brand with a licensing model that's working; and it's a local company with a solid management team."

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

March 1—Gordon Brown, *50+ Things That Photoshop Learned from the Darkroom*

April 11, 12—*Photographica 83*

Driving directions to Woman's Club Workshop:

From I-95/Rt-128 exit 20 take Rt-9 East toward Brookline/Boston. Turn left at Woodward St, right onto Lincoln St, and left onto Columbus St. WCW will be to your right. The WCW is about 1.4 miles inside 128.

Coming west on Rt-9 from Boston, turn right on Walnut St then left on to Lincoln St, then right onto Columbus St. The WCW (#72) will be to your right.

Limited time parking rules do not apply on Sundays. Park on Columbus or Lincoln. There is a public parking lot on the other side of Lincoln opposite the Church.

Public transportation:

MBTA, Newton Highland Station on the Green Line (Riverside Branch). Exit via Walnut Street exit. Go down Lincoln St (directly across Walnut) and turn right on to Columbus St.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at phsne.org. See [facebook.com/phsne](https://www.facebook.com/phsne) and the president's blog at phsne.org/presidentsblog for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit phsne.org/archive for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Requested
Address Service
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, February 8, 1:30 P.M.
Woman's Club Workshop, Newton Highlands MA
Karin Rosenthal on Vivian Maier



West Newton, MA 02465-0189
P.O. Box 650189

PHSNE

phsne.org

snap
shots