

The Nucleus 2005 –2020

By Michael P. Filosa, Nucleus Editor 2005-2020



Members of the NESACS Board of Publications with Harvey Steiner (Art Related Technology), recipient of the 2011 Arno Heyn Memorial Book Prize: (l-r) Mary Mahaney, Chair; Vivian Walworth, Past-chair; Mr. Steiner; Myron Simon, Associate Editor of the Nucleus; Michael Filosa, Editor of the Nucleus.

Early in my tenure as *Nucleus* editor I asked at a Board of Publications (BOP) meeting how I would ever get out of the job now that I had it? Vince Gale, Nucleus Ad Manager, quipped, “you either become ill like Arno, or you take a job out of state like Mark Spittler.” *the Nucleus* job in those days adhered to a tight production schedule for 10 issues per year. The issue had to be ready for the printer two weeks before the month of issue for third class mail to deliver it in time. Timely arrival of *the Nucleus* was a big issue in those days when third class mail could, unpredictably, sit in the post office for a few weeks before it was delivered. Now we have internet delivery of a pdf so the delivery issues have gone away and the issue can be more of a just-in-time publication.

I blundered into the job as Nucleus Editor. I had been recruited to run for Counselor for the 1998 NESACS Election by NESACS Archivist and colleague at Polaroid, Myke Simon. I was elected an alternate counselor for the term from 1999-2001. I attended Board Meetings but struggled to find a meaningful role in the Section. However, I always enjoyed the presence of Arno Heyn at those Board Meetings when he would proudly circulate the proof of the upcoming issue of *the Nucleus*.

Polaroid was going through upheaval in those days so I didn't run again for Counselor in 2001 and instead focused on work and creating a new printing technology which was the foundation for the formation of ZINK Imaging, which spun out of Polaroid in 2005. At the end of 2004 I was ready to reengage with NESACS so I attended the October Monthly Meeting where I sat with Vivian Walworth. Vivian was a very old friend of Arno Heyn going back to their days together at the University of Michigan. One of her favorite stories was how she introduced Arno to his future wife. Vivian had a long career at Polaroid working directly with Edwin Land starting in 1944 on 3-D battlefield photography (Vectograph). Vivian was an editor par excellence for the The Society of Imaging Science and Technology, a chair of the IS&T, and wrote and edited many seminal works on instant photography. After the death of her husband and retirement from her duties at the IS&T she engaged with NESACS as one of the three members (since expanded to five) of the Board of Publications.

After Arno's illness *the Nucleus* was in turmoil and Mukund Chorghade took on the editorship as a stop gap until Vivian found Mark Spitler to take the reins. Mark was also a former Polaroid colleague, but within six months of taking the editor's job, he was hired to be a government scientist in Washington, D.C. and Vivian again had to find an editor. Fortunately, I sat next to her at a very opportune time and within a few days, Myke Simon called me asking me to be editor of *the Nucleus*. I accepted and Myke took me to see Arno at his house in Newton. Arno was within two weeks of his death, but he was very pleased that I was taking on the job. Perhaps editing a newsletter was in my blood. My paternal grandfather edited and published an Italian-English newspaper, *L'Informatore*, in White River Junction, Vermont and my maternal grandfather edited the Swedish Art Magazine *Paletten* from 1951 until his death in 1966. *Paletten* is still published today in Goteborg, Sweden.

I quickly took the reins from Mark Spitler and helped complete the February 2005 issue, which was in progress, and the March 2005 issue was my first as Editor. Under Mark Spitler and the BOP it had been imagined that a sustainable model for producing *the Nucleus* would be a team model where the work was divided up between several people: content acquisition, copy editing, layout, final editing, proofreading, printing, and mailing. The issue would be produced on a tight production schedule with handoffs every

few days. This may work when all the people are employed under one roof and it is their primary job, but it fell apart quickly when I became editor and *the Nucleus* became an effort where the editor acquired content and then worked closely with Harvey Steiner of ART Related Technology to put together *the Nucleus* into a publishable form. It would then be proofread and when corrections were completed sent to the printer for printing and mailing. We changed printers three times in 14 years before ceasing the printing of hard copy in May of 2019.



James Piper, Karen Piper, Michael Filosa and Mary Mahaney

Harvey Steiner has been an invaluable help in producing *the Nucleus*. It helped greatly having a professional to work with, and Harvey had worked closely with previous editors, especially Arno, and had no problem bringing me up to speed and helping me put out a quality product on time. Harvey also worked closely with Vince Gale, Karen Piper and the printing companies. Whereas; Arno and his “posse” would descend on Harvey’s office in Harvard Square to produce *the Nucleus*, Harvey and I made great use of

electronic communication and were able to work remotely. I would send formatted electronic files to Harvey with tentative page placements and Harvey would fit them into the historic *Nucleus* format using Quark Express. A final pdf was produced which was suitable for either printing or mailing.

Acquiring content and not missing any timebound announcements, has been the most challenging part of putting together each issue of *the Nucleus*. I have been blessed with some very conscientious and talented contributors. At the start I had Martin Freier writing articles. He was a retired technical writer who wanted to stay in the game interviewing people doing cutting edge chemistry and writing about those topics. His byline was omnipresent in 2005 on a number of interesting topics such as stem cells, genomics, obesity, homeland security, fuel cells, nanotechnology and alternative fuels. (Martin's first article in *the Nucleus* appeared in Vol 83, Issue 3 and his final article appeared posthumously in Vol. 84, Issue 6). It was a great shock to me on January 7, 2006 when I received a call in San Francisco, while on the way to China for the first time, from his daughter, Pearl Freier. Pearl informed me that her father had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a few weeks before and had passed away very suddenly. Martin's obituary is in Vol. 84, Issue 9.

In more recent years, Mindy Levine and Katie Rubino made many contributions. Mindy while a post-doc for Tim Swager at MIT did interviews of great interest of NESACS stalwarts such as Vivian Walworth and Arthur Obermayer as well as chemistry luminaries such as Jack Szostak and George Whitesides. She also wrote about girls and women in science including her experiences as a young assistant professor juggling her scientific career and her family. Katie recently joined the Board of Publications and has generously shared her legal writings on current issues involving patent law and chemistry.

While first serving as an alternate counselor in 1999 I was able to attend the Anaheim ACS Meeting as a substitute for John Neumeyer. I attended the Award Banquet and sat next to Mort Hoffman. Mort has been a great friend and supporter ever since. Mort has contributed innumerable articles and photographs to *the Nucleus* and I am forever indebted to him for his support and his contributions.

Various chairs and members of the YCC have contributed many articles over the years and announcements of events. The German Exchange has been a major impetus for featured articles and cover photographs in *the Nucleus*. YCC content has been a valued component of *the Nucleus*. I have long felt that the main mission of *the Nucleus* is to announce upcoming NESACS events such as those by the YCC and to report on them.



From L-R: Evan Heyn, Mary Mahaney, Chair of the NESACS Board of Publications, Vincent Gale, Advertising Manager of the *Nucleus* and recipient of the second Arno Heyn Memorial Book Award, Michael P. Filosa, Editor of the *Nucleus*, Vivian Walworth, Board of Publications, Robert Heyn and Janice Heyn.

Scientific content such as the Esselen and Richard Award Addresses and the Summer Scholar Reports are an added bonus, which enriches *the Nucleus*. I miss the book reviews of Dennis Sardella of Boston College. They were a key part of *the Nucleus* when I was first editor and Dennis was the Book Review Editor. Others have submitted book reviews to *the Nucleus* and all are appreciated. Some of the most downloaded content from the NESACS website are book reviews written many years ago.

I also think it important to remember our stalwart members in *the Nucleus* when we lose them. Myke Simon as archivist was a key in writing and acquiring these “Historical Notes” over the years. With his retirement as archivist I took up this duty myself. They are all favorites, but I particularly was touched by the passing of Christine Jaworek-Lopez (Vol 95, Issue 2). Chris was a major contributor and user of *the Nucleus* with her flyers promoting National Chemistry Week and her reports of the NCW events. In recently looking at content on the NESACS website, I realized I had done many similar remembrances starting with the Arno Heyn memorial issue back in 2005. Remembering our NESACS losses has been a constant theme whether it be Arno Heyn, Vivian Walworth, James Phillips, Arthur Obermayer, Karen Piper, Chuck Kolb, or most recently, Al Viola (Vol 99, No. 1).

A number of years ago I expressed as a goal publishing volume 100 of *the Nucleus*. Times have changed and *the Nucleus* is evolving. This issue will be Vol. 99, No. 2. I fell a bit short of that 100-year goal although I feel the Section leadership would have supported me if I wanted to continue through Vol. 100 before giving up the editorship. I am appreciative of the BOP for all their support over the years starting with Vivian Walworth, Mary Mahaney, and James Phillips and extending into current times with Kathy Lee, Ajay Purohit, Ken Drew and Katie Rubino. I have a great appreciation of the contributions over the years of Myke Simon and Don Rickter. The NESACS calendar has always been a popular part of *the Nucleus* and I thank my calendar editors: Don Rickter, Sheila Rodman, Xavier Herault and Samurdhi Wijesundera. The chairs I have worked with starting with Amy Tapper up to our current chair, Raj Rajur, have been nothing but supportive of my efforts. This also applies to the entire NESACS Board. The help and support over the years is all appreciated.

I wish the new editor, Craig Sergeant, great success as editor and will support him as best I can during the transition. May *the Nucleus* be here in another 100 years, but this year is a critical one. *the Nucleus* and its new editor need support. If the content is there, producing *the Nucleus* will be much easier whatever its final form may be.