



# DECconnection

A professional association for working organization for former Digital Equipment Corporation employees

## July-August 2021

### Events

**Our MAJOR EVENT for 2021 - MAYNARD 150 BIRTHDAY and DINNER**  
MILL TOUR --DECcies in PARADE -- Maynard events -- DECconnection  
DINNER

Participation in Maynard's 150th Birthday Celebration - Founder's Day, Sept. 19, 2021 - We are offering a Mill Tour for paid-up, DEC Connection members who can climb stairs; March in parade with DECcies in afternoon (wearing your favorite DEC logo clothes if you still have some - if not go to [www.decs wag.com](http://www.decs wag.com)); followed by Town of Maynard ceremonies and displays, and then a private DEC Connection catered dinner at the Maynard Elks Club, with special guest speaker Ray Humphrey (VP of Corporate Security and part-time James Bond). [Photos of Mill Marker Dedication are on our website here.](#)

There is a LOT of information about these events so we've set up a special Events page. Click this blue link for details: [MAYNARD 150 EVENT PAGE](#) You can buy tickets for our dinner now. Thanks to those of you who registered early for our events - now please get your dinner tickets!

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### SUMMER GET-TOGETHER AT KIMBALL FARM

The DECconnection summer event at Kimball Farm was well-attended and lots of fun! [See the event wrap-up and Rod Sutherland's terrific photos on our website here.](#)



### Digital and the Industry

Maynard historian **David Mark** wrote to us: Access to DECconnection.org, and exchanging emails with members, was a tremendous help when I was writing my series of 12 columns for the Maynard newspaper (Nov 2020-March 2021). Those, and a recent "DEC Prequel" column are all posted at [www.maynardlifeoutdoors.com](http://www.maynardlifeoutdoors.com).

Thank you and DECconnection for making my talk available to readers.

**You may also want to share a link to a Youtube video of an hour-long talk Ken Olsen made to the Maynard Historical Society in 1998. The connection is Ken Olsen at Historical Society**

Frank Cassidy writes: recently I came across a publication summarizing the "Highlights from The 1987 Technology Exchange Institute for Engineering Deans" from DEC that was composed/organized by Jack McCredie of Sam Fuller's group (i.e., CRA – Computer Research & Architecture Group). Question – as this was a DEC publication, do you know if it is available as an electronic file, and if so – would you please offer input as to where the file may or can be accessed. Please reply to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org)

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## Lost and Found

Anker Berg-Sonne would appreciate help with this Lost and Found: John Ashton, a close friend and former DEC colleague in Australia has lost touch with one of his other close friends and also a former DECie, **Jim Miller, who was in LCG in the early 80s**. John and asked Anker if he can help track down Jim. Please send any hints to Anker at: [bostonsearover@gmail.com](mailto:bostonsearover@gmail.com)

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## DEC Connection Member News

Welcome to our new and renewing members during June and July:  
Bob Anundson (WA), Don Brouillet (TX), Luis Burgos (MA), Bob Carmichael (CA), Parmelee Eastman (MA), Edward Freedman (MA), Jeanne Gay (MA), Rose Ann Giordano (MA), Al Goldsworthy (MA), Diana Harotian (MA), Stephen Hazam (HI), Lyle Hughes (MA), Barrie Hunter (MA), Jan Kendall (MA), MaryEllen Kennedy (MA), Nancy Kilty (MA), Kevin Liston (FL), Jerry LoPorto (FL), Marie Mangus (MA), Terry Melle (NH), Ed Mierzwa (NJ), Aline Migrants (MA), Joanne Monaghan (MA), Gail Morello (NH), Laurie Neder (CA), Mike Nollet (MA), Scott O'Brien (MA), Noranne O'Connell (FL), Gloria Roe (MA), Janis Roth Cooper (MA), Deena Segal (NH), Mark Sorenson (NH), Caleb Paul Stewart (MA), Rod Sutherland (MA), Dave Velten (MA), Ed Vrablik (MA), Larry Wellington (MA), and George Whitehead (NH).



Please RENEW your membership if you're due - members check the Member Service Center (instructions below). Other readers, if you are enjoying our e-newsletters please consider joining and sending in a brief update on your activities for our newsletter. Here is how to join

or renew:

#### **Membership Renewal Procedure**

\* Click link to see if your membership is current in our [Member Service Center](#) and pay online with a credit card. If you have paid dues since 2010 you will be there - use the email address we have on file - no leading or trailing spaces - email [ava@deconnection.org](mailto:ava@deconnection.org) for help.

\* You can also join us (or renew) at [Join the DEC Connection online!](#)

\* You can send personal checks made out to DEC Connection to Nancy Kilty, 33 Forest St. Unit 416, Lexington MA 02421.

\* If you prefer to use your PayPal account directly (not via our website), use our payment address: [registrations@deconnection.org](mailto:registrations@deconnection.org) - do NOT use any Board member's personal email address.

**Member Newsbytes:** Please send your personal news updates to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org). We need your participation to provide an interesting and relevant newsletter for our readers. Thank you!

**Don Brouillet** writes: After a 47-year career with Digital, Compaq, HP, and others, I retired last year. We moved to Texas in 1998 and enjoy the warmer weather (except the 95/95 days). My wife Kathy and I are now in the process of building an organic farm in Navasota TX. [dbrouillet@yahoo.com](mailto:dbrouillet@yahoo.com)

**Mark Sorenson** has exciting news: Glad to have found this organization (thank

you Martin King!). I started work at DEC at Spitbrook Rd, Nashua in 1981, thru the CPQ and HPQ acquisition. I left HPQ after a year and worked at EMC for a decade until I retired about 7 years ago. My big "news" is that I just published my debut novel "A Restaurant in Jaffa." It is about "a brilliant computer entrepreneur who joins forces with a beautiful Israeli intelligence agent to battle hackers and revolutionaries who have infected critical computers in the United States, demanding a ransom that will change the entire landscape of the Middle East." More details can be found on my website [www.markesorenson.com](http://www.markesorenson.com). Relevant to the Digital alumni, a PDP-11 plays a critical role in the plot! Here's a fun 90 second video "trailer"; [Mark Sorenson book video](#)  
[Editor: Congratulations, Mark!] [marksorenson@outlook.com](mailto:marksorenson@outlook.com)

**Diana Harotian** reports: I am living in Ashland, MA and still working. I am currently at Cisco Systems in corporate information security compliance as Transformation Manager for x-org compliance initiatives. My daughter Liana lives in Los Angeles and will be having her wedding in Mendon, MA this autumn, rescheduled from 2020! [consultdia@aol.com](mailto:consultdia@aol.com)

**Liz Thibeault** writes: My husband and I are in Naples FL for about 6 months a year. Enjoying those warm winters. Sold our home of 38 years in Carlisle, MA and moved to a condo in Winchester, very convenient in the center of town. [thibeault\\_liz@comcast.net](mailto:thibeault_liz@comcast.net)

New member **Scott O'Brien** writes: I worked for Digital from 1984-1994. I worked in the US Customer Support Center of Massachusetts (affiliated with Colorado Springs and Alpharetta, Georgia) I started in a small building on Kane Drive in Hudson, the center then moved to Walkup Dive in Westborough and then on to the Shrewsbury, Massachusetts complex. I started in the Customer Service Call Center answering the phone lines. I then became a Computer Operator, then a Systems Manager and then a Systems Support Specialist. I briefly left the US Customer Support Center and worked for about a year in Marlborough (UPO) for CMAS, I think it was Central Mass Administrative Systems. I did System Management and All-in-1 support for facilities in Southborough and three in Marlborough. I returned to the US Customer Support as a Business Support Specialists, I had the great honor of working with Jay Inman on setting up the the video conferencing between CXO and SHR. I am sorry to see Jay has passed. My partner in doing this set up was Pam Caron, now Pam Hanna. Towards the end of my career at the Support Center I did phone support on various Digital software products. I must admit I left DEC reluctantly, figuring my position would soon be eliminated. I thought it best to leave and use what I learned elsewhere. It had been my sincere hope I could finish my career with DEC.

I have always felt grateful to Digital for hiring me, to the managers who

mentored me, and to the teammates I learned from over the years, They took a chance on a person with a retail background (Spag's Supply Inc.) with no technical training and hired me. After leaving DEC it was those folks that gave me the background to work for companies such as Raytheon, EMC, Allmerica (now Hanover), Bay Networks, all in technical positions. In the later half of my career I was lucky enough to become a Unit Manager for a twelve person Unix Systems and Storage group for Private Healthcare Systems (now Multiplan) and used a lot of the lessons and techniques I learned at Digital in communicating with folks, how to manage people and how to help them grow their careers. While at PHCS I met and worked with some ex-DEC employees and we all talked fondly of our DEC days. The folks from DEC at PHCS were Bud Gorman, now passed but in my mind a wonderful man, (learned a lot from him too) Greg White, Lou Tammarro and Guy Novello. and I am sure there were others. As fate would have it my last job was managing technical systems and managing doctor's office billing accounts for a medical billing company. My last job was some phone work and systems work just like my early Digital days. I have been retired for several years. obrien28@aol.com

**Rhoda Schwarz** writes: Too far from Maynard to attend any of the Sept 19 events - live in Austin, TX now. Enjoyed recent Zoom talk about the history of Digital Equipment sponsored by the Maynard Library.  
rhoda.g.schwarz@gmail.com

**Dave Price** of Public Relations writes: I've decided to sell my extensive Digital memorabilia, not piece-by-piece but as an entire collection.  
See it all at this website. [Dave's Digital Memorabilia Collection](#). Email me with any questions. davep116@gmail.com

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NOTE TO OUR READERS: Please do not be concerned if, when clicking on a link in this email, your browser or antivirus program tells you that you are attempting to visit a dangerous or unsafe web address. Many browsers now flag any site without an SSL certificate (i.e., encryption) as unsafe (it's not). When you purchase tickets through our website, we transfer you to the PayPal website, which DOES use SSL encryption software.

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## Sad News Department

Sadly, we were informed of these deaths of former Digital employees since last newsletter. Our condolences go out to friends and families of:

William (Bill) R. Demmer, 87, Bonita Springs FL, 5 August 2021

Pong Ok Chon, 70, Colorado Springs, 31 July 2021

Donald Stafford, 88, Colorado Springs, 13 July 2021

Jim Welch, 81, Colorado Springs, 16 June 2021

Rio Rita York, 89, Peoria AZ, 15 June 2021

Ellen Lary, 80, Colorado Springs, 9 June 2021

Karen W. Hamilton, 81, Clinton MA, 4 June 2021

Paul McGaunn, 83, N. Andover MA, 2 June 2021

Melissa Johns, 56, Colorado Springs, 30 May 2021

Ted (Edmund H.) Damon, 61, Gardner MA, 20 April 2021

Paul DeVivo, 79, of Grand Gorge, NY, 12 March 2021

Dawn Gilbert, 74, Santa Rosa CA, 8 March 2021

[Details are on our Memorial Page.](#)

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## Website Features and Updates

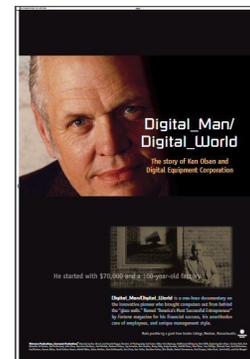
- **Topics of Interest** tab: We've added a button on the left-hand menu that takes you to articles that have appeared in past newsletters. Here are some sample topics: Medicare Seminar & Research - 6/20; AON Exchange Feedback from retirees - 10/18; Harvard Business School's Baker Library (Ken Olsen Collection); and, David Mark's series of 11 articles on Digital - 11/19-3/20
- [Where to Donate your Digital Equipment gear](#)

- The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, **Digital\_Man/Digital\_World**, is available online at

[Digital Man/Digital World](#)

It's a wonderful hour-long nostalgia trip. Enjoy!

- Another URL to watch same documentary on your computer is: <http://video.wfyi.org/video/2282149336/>



- **Use your MEMBER SERVICE CENTER!** Use the gold Member Login button if you have paid dues since 2010. There are queries to find members in your area, and forms to submit to update your profile, send your news, DEC stories, and business listings for our public online yellow pages. You can check your dues status and renew your membership online. You can email a small photo for your profile, and send info for articles such as Featured Entrepreneur.
  - **[DEC Stories]** submitted by our members and readers - We are still collecting your unusual, humorous or just favorite DEC stories. Email them to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org). [Click on this link](#).
  - **Featured Member Entrepreneur** - Email [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org) with details - 2-3 paragraphs about your business and your photo.
  - If you need info about your **Digital defined benefit plan/retirement**, start by calling the HP Retirement Services Center at Fidelity: 1- 800-457-4015
  - For **Stock plan** info, try Morgan Stanley: 1-210-677-3652 or [this website](#)
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