



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH ALUMNI

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[www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) -- [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)



**SAVE THE DATE FOR SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017!!**

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

We are grateful to the following classmates for their generous donations in support of this newsletter: Paul Abramchik, Walter Beckstrom, James Courtney, Clifford Dorn, Sandra Gnippe, Donald Gurney, Robert Hedlund, Carolyn (Hering) Atchison, Biaggio Imperiale, Ronald Kenyeri, Donald Knuth, Gene Kout, Bonnie (Mills) Andrise, Patricia Pecoraro, Jacqueline (Pedjas) Jones, Angel (Plotkin) Newman, Fred Scheaffer, Toby (Speck) Gordon, William Wire, Janet (Westergren) Johnson, and Sandra (Youngerman) Feiler. We also appreciate your kind words about the newsletter.

REMINDER: If you enjoy and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, we ask that you make a \$5 donation each year to defray the cost of paper, envelopes, stamps, and database and website maintenance.

**Please make donation checks payable to “Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.”**, and mail them to our Treasurer, *Irwin Magad*: 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060.

**Thank you, Ladies, for writing your maiden name on your checks.** It saves your editor lots of time.

## **CLASSMATE NEWS:**

- Don Gurney writes: “Enjoying life in South Carolina!”
- From Bill Wire: “Sorry my wife and I missed the reunion. We were in Italy at that time.”
- Marilyn White Rosenthal arrived in town from Israel on July 6 for 11 days to celebrate her sister’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 10.
- Mike Pasquerelli is recovering nicely from his double-bypass surgery on April 1. He is doing cardiac rehab now. Atta-Boy, Mike!
- Ed and Geri (Harris) Horak are staying in Arizona until her chemo treatments are complete. We all send our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Geri.

## **THE END OF AN ERA:**

**Ringling Bros.’** final 11 performing elephants marched into arenas for the last time on **Sunday, May 1, 2016** in Wilkes-Barre, PA and Providence, RI, ending a 145-year-old tradition in the big top. [Chicago Sun-Times] **Cracker Jack** is replacing the little prizes in its boxes with **QR** (Quick Response) codes that link to baseball-themed “mobile experiences.” [[Katie Mettler](#), Washington Post 4-29-16] Editor’s Note: **QR** codes are a type of two-dimensional barcode that can be read using smartphones.

## **CLASS OF 1956 60-YEAR REUNION REMINDER:**

The Austin Class of 1956 will hold its 60 Year Reunion the weekend of September 15-17, 2016, culminating with the reunion dinner at the Belvedere Event-Banquets in Elk Grove Village. Multiple events are planned, including a bus trip to Arlington Park Racetrack, a tour and wine tasting at Lynfred Winery in Roselle, IL, a casual get-together at the RealTime Sports Bar in Elk Grove, and bus trips to Rivers Casino and Fashion Outlets of Chicago Mall in Rosemont. For more information and a Registration Form, contact John Rozinsky at 708-492-0216 or [jrozcpa@aol.com](mailto:jrozcpa@aol.com) or Marshall Hechter at 847-383-6470 or [marshech@comcast.net](http://marshech@comcast.net).

### **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**

A little bird named **Janet (Westergren) Johnson** told us classmate **Ben Wineberg** and his wife Sandy (Class of '57) celebrated their **48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** last year – just two more years to go to be Golden!

**September 8** marks the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the television debut of “**Star Trek**”. Although never too popular with critics or the general public, what set it apart from other sci-fi programs was creator Gene Roddenberry’s plots cloned to larger issues, like racism, and militarism. This anniversary – plus a new movie in July and a TV series in 2017 – make this a banner year for all generations of “Star Trek” fans. [Chicago Tribune 6-19-16]

**Jimmy & Roslyn Carter** celebrated their **70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on **July 7, 2016**. And, they can still dance!

**The Field Museum** opened on **May 2, 1921**. It is **95 years old** this year.

### **NAVY PIER CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL:**

To celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening to the public on July 15, 1916**, **Navy Pier** is showing off many new features, but the biggest, and some say the best, is The Centennial Wheel. At 196 feet, this Ferris Wheel is about 50 feet taller than its predecessor, and has 42 fully enclosed, temperature controlled gondolas with comfortable seating and two small video screens with information about the Pier. Unless you’re taking a helicopter ride that skirts along Lake Michigan, you’ll not find a more amazing view of the Chicago skyline facing west. Unless you opt for the \$50 per person fee for the private, four-person gondola, the cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for military and children. Your editor can’t wait to take a ride. The old wheel, which lasted 20 years, has found a new home in Branson, Missouri. [Richard Roeper, Chicago Sun-times, May 27, 2016.]

### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL:**

**August 25, 2016** marks the official **100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Park Service**. Do you have a Senior Pass? It’s a lifetime pass available to United States citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older, and can be used at over 2,000 Federal recreation sites, including National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and many National Forest lands. The Senior Pass admits the owner and any passengers traveling with him/her in a non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas or the owner and three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. Discounts offered by the Pass vary widely across the many different types of recreation sites. Pass owners are encouraged to check with sites they plan to visit to verify that their Pass will be accepted. Whenever a Pass is used, photo ID will be requested to verify ownership. Valid photo ID can be: a US State or Territory issued Driver’s License or State ID, a US Passport or Passport Card, or a Permanent Resident Card (Green card).

You can buy a Senior Pass in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office. See [Site Locations](#) that issue the Senior Pass, or you can buy a Senior Pass using the USGS online store. Applicants must fill out the [Online Application](#) and upload proof of residency and age. A credit card payment of \$20.00 (\$10.00 fee for the Senior Pass, and an additional \$10.00 document processing fee) is required. Once the documentation is verified and payment is received, a pass with the owner’s name pre-printed on it will be issued to the applicant.

If you are unable to order a Senior Pass online, you can submit a [Paper Application](#) by mail to the USGS, using the paper application form and enclosing copies of the same ID documents and \$20 fee. Call (1-888-275-8747) if you have questions or need a paper application.

### **DEATHTRAP REVIEW:**

On June 22, 2016, forty classmates, spouses, and friends gathered once again at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace for a delightful luncheon and a funny, scary, surprising play. We had very good seats, and this writer confesses to almost jumping out of hers a few times. We really had to pay close attention to follow the plot twists and turns. Watch for the [Saturday Night Fever](#) Registration Form in the October newsletter.

### **UNWANTED ANNUALS:**

If you are down-sizing or otherwise wish to dispose of your old Maroon & Whites, they may be sent to: **Ken Rosko** at JKR Financial Consultants, Ltd., 1790 Nations Drive, Suite 216, Gurnee, IL 60031, where they will be stored for free distribution to anyone who wants them. Contact Ken if you want any.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

- “Life isn’t about getting and having – it’s about giving and being.” [Kevin Kruse, American author and speaker]
- “Don’t wait. The time will never be just right.” [Napoleon Hill – American Author 1883-1970]
- “A neurotic builds castles in the air; a psychotic moves into them.” [Alex Dryer – former ABC/WBKB commentator]
- "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." - Albert Einstein
- “One good thing about being human is that it’s something so many of us have in common.” [Unknown]
- “No one can put words in my mouth. That’s where I keep my foot.” [Anon]
- "Be kind to unkind people. They probably need it the most." [Anon.]
- “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” - Muhammad Ali
- “We live in this world where beautiful and horrible things exist at the same time. And sometimes on the same days.”  
- Lin-Manuel Miranda
- The Old Ones are still the best: Old Jeans, Old Boots, Old Movies, Old Tunes, Old Times, and Old Friends. [Anon]

## **CHILDREN of the 30's & 40's - THE LAST ONES (A Short Memoir) [Author unknown]:**

Born in the 1930's and early 40's, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the last ones. We are the last, climbing out of the Depression, who can remember the winds of war and the war itself with fathers and uncles going off. We are the last to remember ration books for everything from sugar to shoes to stoves. We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. We saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available. My mother delivered milk in a horse drawn cart. We are the last to hear Roosevelt's radio assurances and to see gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors. We can also remember the parades on August 15, 1945, VJ Day. We saw the boys home from the war, build their Cape Cod style houses, pouring the cellar, tar-papering it over, and living there until they could afford the time and money to build it out.

We are the last who spent childhood without television, instead imagining what we heard on the radio. As we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood playing outside until the street lights came on. We did play outside and we did play on our own. There was no Little League. The lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like. Our Saturday afternoons, if at the movies, gave us newsreels of the war and the holocaust sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults. We are the last who had to find out for ourselves. As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth. The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. VA loans fanned a housing boom. Pent-up demand, coupled with new installment payment plans, put factories to work. New highways would bring jobs and mobility. The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics. In the late 40's and early 50's the country seemed to lie in the embrace of brisk but quiet order as it gave birth to its new middle class. Our parents understandably became absorbed with their own new lives. They were free from the confines of the Depression and the war. They threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined. We weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad we played by ourselves until the street lights came on. They were busy discovering the postwar world. Most of us had no life plan, but with the unexpected virtue of ignorance and an economic rising tide we simply stepped into the world and went to find out. We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity, a world where we were welcomed. Based on our naive belief that there was more where this came from, we shaped life as we went. We enjoyed a luxury, we felt secure in our future. Of course, just as today, not all Americans shared in this experience.

Depression poverty was deep rooted. Polio was still a crippler. The Korean War was a dark presage in the early 50's and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks. China became Red China. Eisenhower sent the first "advisers" to Vietnam. Castro set up camp in Cuba and Khrushchev came to power. We are the last to experience an interlude when there were no existential threats to our homeland. We came of age in

the late 40's and early 50's. The war was over and the Cold War, terrorism, climate change, technological upheaval, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with insistent unease. Only *we* can remember both a time of apocalyptic war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We experienced both. We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better not worse.

We are "The Last Ones."

**IN MEMORIAM:**

We learned recently that Classmate **Harold R. Brown** passed away on October 26, 2015. Our sincere condolences go to his widow Sandy and family.

Classmate **Hinda (Wilens) Shamberg**, sister of classmate **Larry Wilens** died in May 2016. She is survived by her husband Richard; children David (Laura), and Julie (Steve) Spencer; and her grandchildren Lewis, Marcus and Justin Shamberg, Blake Reback, and Sela Spencer. We extend our sympathy to the Shamberg and Wilens families.

We were sorry to learn of the recent passing of Nick Dalesandro, devoted husband of classmate **Beverly nee Morreale**. Other survivors include children Lori Ann Dalesandro, Vito David (Michelle) Dalesandro and Jean Nicole (Anthony) Barbanente; grand-children Jordan (Camila), Nicolas, Korryn, Benjamin and Rachel; and siblings Marie (the late Jim) Madormo, Rita (the late Len) Madormo, Roseann (Frank) Napolitano, and Ruth Arlene (Mike) Hamilton. Our condolences go to the Dalesandro and Morreale families.

Is it with deep personal sadness your editor must report the early July passing of classmate **Reverend Louis P. Haase**. Louis was in your editor's division. You may recall that Louis gave the invocation at our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2005. Louis was the son of a Presbyterian Elder and was ordained by the Chicago Presbytery on July 8, 1962. He served as pastor in several Presbyterian churches in Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. He retired in 2003 after 41 years of ministry and became active at First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, IL. He was also active in many railroad associations. Louis leaves Marilyn, his beloved wife of 55 years; children Lynn and Louis Paul (Melissa) Haase; grandchildren Harper and Poppy; sister Mary Lou Hake; and many nieces and nephews. Rest in Peace, Dear Louis.

**TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU:** Photos and items of general class interest should be directed to [webmaster@austin1955.org](mailto:webmaster@austin1955.org). If you have any news, questions, special trips, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc. to share, email *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org) OR, mail to: *Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 3800 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue N #103; Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2972*

NAME (1st, maiden, last):

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