

1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2017

www.austin1955.org -- reunion@austin1955.org



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR OUR MARCH 15, 2017 DRURY LANE OUTING!!

Mark **Wednesday, March 15, 2017** on your calendars for **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, THE MUSICAL**. Music and Lyrics by: The Bee Gees. Grab your bell-bottoms and take a trip back in time with "Saturday Night Fever." Feel free to invite other Austin alums, family, friends, and neighbors. The more, the merrier! This is a nostalgic classic that will have you dancing in the aisles. (Well – maybe tapping your toes.) Join us for a delightful afternoon of good food, great entertainment, and friendly fun. And remember, parking is FREE! **Please note** that seats will be assigned in order of registration receipt, so, the early birds will get the best seats. Every effort will, of course, be made to accommodate special needs. **COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 5, AND MAIL TO IRWIN MAGAD BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 10th DEADLINE.**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Joyce Anderson, Susanne (Ferrari) Block, Fredell (Maranto) Covey, Herbert Spiwak, and Sandra (Stackpole) Kirchhoff. We also truly appreciate all your kind words about the newsletter. Special thanks to these classmates who made extra-generous donations: Carol (Ames) Rubin, Ervin Frejlach, Donald Heitzman, Lawrence Manelis, **Shel Marcus**, Robert Mintz, **Ken Rosko**, Gus Treslo, and Lou Weber. Thank you! And, a VERY belated "Thank You" to Joe DeRosa, who sent a donation that was not acknowledged in 2013. Please forgive us, Joe! And again, we extend our Special Thanks to the **Austin Class of 1956** who donated the balance in their treasury.

Please make your annual \$5 (or more) donation checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd." and **mail them to our Treasurer, Irwin Magad:** 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1956

Paula (Feinberg) Minevich, beloved wife of the late Jack; loving mother of Brian and Alan; sister of the late Deana (late Richard) Kaufman; dear sister-in-law of Sharon (Gene) Gutan passed away in December 2016. Paula attended William Penn elementary school. We extend our sympathies to the Feinberg and Minevich families.

Donald Kane, former member of the Austin Tiger Football Team and alumnus of Emmett Elementary School, passed away early in January 2017. A memorial gathering was held on Saturday, January 7th. Our condolences go to Mrs. Kane and the rest of Don's family.

Naomi (Shifrin) Goldwater, beloved wife and best friend of the late Jerome Goldwater; cherished mother of Robin Kaplan and Larry (Donna) Goldwater; adoring and devoted Nonny of four; treasured friend of many. Naomi's wonderful cooking will be missed by all. Services were held on January 16. Rest in Peace, Naomi.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1955:

We are sorry to report the passing of classmate **Diane Henderson** on February 20, 2015.

David Lanciotti wrote: “I regret to inform you that my mother, **Donnajean (Kay) Lanciotti**, passed away on February 12, 2016 after a long battle with cancer. She and my Dad, **Lawrence Lanciotti**, Austin Class of 1953, who passed away in 2008, met at Austin High and had extremely fond memories of the time and friends at the school. I also have fond feelings for Austin – if my Mom and Dad hadn’t met there, I would not be here, so Thanks – Austin High School!” [Thank YOU, David. You have our condolences.]

Your editor is truly sad to report the passing in November, 2016, of classmate **Anna (Montiforte) Mancini**. Anna was a valued contributor to this newsletter. In 2012, she sent your editor a complete *AUSTIN TIMES* dated June 14, 1957, from which I excerpted several articles. She also made other interesting contributions over the years. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Richard, their children and to the Montiforte and Mancini families. We will miss you, Anna.

Classmate **Nicholas Koutselas** of Bradenton, Florida, left us early in January. Our hearts go out to his wife, Radica, his sisters, Elaine and Sophie, and brother Gus. Rest in Peace, Nick.

We just learned recently that classmate **Robert Nardella** passed away on April 24, 2016. Rest in Peace, Bob.

Belated condolences to the family of **Alice (Scherdin) Feigt**, who passed away in Mountain Home, AR on December 21, 2012.

Phil Georgeff, age 85, the Voice of Chicago horse racing, passed away in November 2016 in Alabama. Young Phil grew up at 4628 W. Monroe and attended Austin High School.

CLASSMATE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Most members of the Austin Class of 1955 will be celebrating their big 8-0 birthdays this year. Watch future newsletters for an announcement of an 80th birthday celebration event. (1938 babies will be welcome, too!)

OTHER 2017 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

160 years ago, in 1857, a Nature Museum was founded by the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The museum occupied the Matthew Laflin Memorial Building in Lincoln Park until the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum opened in its present facility at Fullerton and Cannon Drive in October 1999. The Museum is still operated by the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The beautiful century old Matthew Laflin Memorial Building the museum previously occupied is now refurbished and available to rent for special events.

100 years ago, The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917.

75 years ago, on February 19, 1942, FDR signed Executive Order 9066, giving the military new powers that would allow it to relocate Japanese Americans. [Editor note: NOT a proud day in our history.]

20 years ago, on January 23, 1997, Madeleine Albright, the first woman to be U.S. Secretary of State, was sworn in to office.

THE PERFECT OCCUPATION:

Q. If you could choose your occupation, what would you do for a living?

A. I would be a Supreme Court Justice, and I have all the qualifications: There aren’t any! (No, one need not even be an attorney.) No occupation is more intellectual or influential. [Marilyn vos Savant – Parade Mag.]

NOTE: Marilyn vos Savant at one time had the highest IQ ever recorded.

PHONETIC DEFINITIONS:

Reveal: Make veal again; **Pointless:** Refrain from indicating things with finger; **Crooked:** Thief named Ed; **Forebear:** Intended to belong to a grizzly; **Bossy:** Chief Executive body of water; **Understands:** Situated below the Bleachers.

2016 ANNIVERSARIES OF NOTE:

65 years ago, radio station WFMT first went on the air on December 13, 1951. Over those 65 years, WFMT has occupied studios in the Guyon Hotel, at 4000 W. Washington in West Garfield Park, then in the LaSalle-Wacker Building, then at 3 Illinois Center, and in 1954 moved to its current location at 5400 N. St. Louis Avenue. This facility was renamed in 1995 the Renée Crown Public Media Center in honor of a major donor. On December 13, 1951, Bernard and Rita Jacobs put WFMT on the air at 105.9 FM with a classical music and fine arts radio format. They began with 8-hour-a-day broadcasts (3-11 PM), with Bernard serving as the station's engineer, and Rita as the station's announcer. The first words spoken when the station went on the air were, "Is anybody listening?"

By 1953, programming had expanded to 18 hours per day. WFMT won an Alfred I. DuPont Award in 1961, in addition to the station's first Peabody Award. The station quadrupled its broadcasting power the same year and offered its first multiplex stereo broadcast, which was tested the following year, presenting the first live concert series broadcast in stereo, with music by the Fine Arts Quartet. In 1964, Hi Fi/Stereo Review readers voted WFMT the highest-fidelity station in the US. The station's first series of Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts began in 1965. The station began distributing WFMT programming to other American and international radio stations in 1972. In 1973 it created the Fine Arts Network for broadcast syndication of Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera and BBC's My Word! and My Music panel game shows. The WFMT Fine Arts Circle, a member/listener support and funding group, was formed in 1991.

100 years ago, on July 15, 1916, **The Boeing Company** was founded by Bill Boeing in Seattle, WA. Since starting out as a builder of wood and fabric floatplanes in a Seattle boathouse, Boeing has become the world's largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners and defense, space and security systems. Boeing today represents a number of major companies that have merged over the past century, including McDonnell Aircraft, Douglas Aircraft, North American Aviation/Rockwell, Piasecki/Vertol, Howard Hughes' helicopter and space companies, Stearman and The Boeing Company.

The legacy of those great aerospace companies reflects products such as the 7-series jets, including the first successful commercial jetliner, the 707; the Douglas DC jets, Douglas World Cruiser, C-47 Skytrain and A-4 Skyhawk; the North American B-25 Mitchell, P-51 Mustang, F-86 Sabre Jet, F-100 Super Sabre, B-1B Lancer and X-15; the McDonnell F-4 Phantom II, McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle, C-17 Globemaster III and F/A-18 Hornet; the CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache and V-22 Osprey; the B-17 Flying Fortress, B-29 Superfortress, B-47 Stratojet, B-52 Stratofortress and KC-135 Stratotanker; the Saturn and Delta rockets and Gemini, Mercury, Apollo, Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. Not to be forgotten is the Douglas C-124 Globemaster II (Old Shaky), which was piloted by our own **Chuck Meyer**.

As the United States' biggest manufacturing exporter, Boeing supports customers in more than 150 countries. Boeing products and tailored services include commercial and military aircraft, satellites, weapons, electronic and defense systems, launch systems, advanced information and communication systems, and performance-based logistics and training. Headquartered in Chicago, Boeing employs approximately 160,000 people across the United States and in more than 65 countries. The company also leverages the talents of hundreds of thousands more skilled people working for Boeing suppliers worldwide. Total company revenues for 2015 were \$96 billion.

50 years ago, **The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**, was signed into law on July 4, 1966 by a reluctant President Lyndon Johnson. The FOIA has had a significant impact. Among other things, the law has been used to expose waste and mismanagement, unmask decisions on national security, and highlight threats to food safety. Records from the Food and Drug Administration, obtained by Bloomberg News under the FOIA, revealed that a product labelled "parmesan cheese" had no parmesan at all. On June 30, 2016, President Barack Obama signed a bill that significantly reforms and improves access to public records under the Freedom of Information Act. The signing marked the culmination of open government advocates' battle to reform part of FOIA ahead of the law's 50th anniversary on July 4, 2016.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER: "Think higher. Live deeper." – Elie Wiesel [TIME 7-25-16]
"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." – George Santana

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lemons ripen after you pick them; oranges do not. [Chicago Tribune Lifestyles June 12, 2016]
- The English language owes a great debt to William Shakespeare. He is thought to have invented about 1,700 of the 17,000 words he used by changing nouns into verbs, changing verbs into adjectives, connecting words never before used together, adding prefixes and suffixes, and devising words wholly original.

LOST WORDS AND PHRASES:

We are grateful to **Bernie Oppenheim**, who sent us an article by Richard Lederer, which highlights how our language has changed over the years. Following are excerpts from that article:

Some expressions have become obsolete because of technology. These include “Don’t touch that dial,” “Carbon copy,” “You sound like a broken record,” and “Hung out to dry.” Back in the olden days, we had a lot of moxie. We’d put on our best bib and tucker and straighten up and fly right. Hubba-hubba! We’d cut a rug in some juke joint and then go necking and petting and smooching and spooning and billing and cooing and pitching woo in hot rods and jalopies in some passion pit or lovers lane. Heavens to Betsy! Gee Whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley! We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley, and even a regular guy couldn’t accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when’s the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys, and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn’t anymore.

Like Washington Irving’s Rip Van Winkle and Kurt Vonnegut’s Billy Pilgrim, we have become unstuck in time. We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, “I’ll be a monkey’s uncle!” or “This is a fine kettle of fish!” we discover that the words we grew up with have vanished with scarcely a notice.

Poof, poof, poof go the words of our youth. We blink, and they’re gone, evanesced from the landscape and wordscape of our perception, like Mickey Mouse wristwatches, hula hoops, skate keys, candy cigarettes, little wax bottles of colored sugar water, and an organ grinder’s monkey.

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeful times. For a child, each new word is like a shiny toy that has no age. We, at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our memory. It’s one of the greatest advantage of aging. We can have archaic and eat it, too. See ya later, alligator!

TELL US YOUR NEWS: If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) to share, email *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* or write to 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021. Photos and other items for our website should be directed to Jim Padar at webmaster@austin1955.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: Please email changes to reunion@austin1955.org OR, mail to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 5800 St. Croix Ave. N – Apt. C610; Golden Valley, MN 55422.**

NAME (1st, maiden, last):

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

PHONE (Required): _____ EMAIL: _____

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**DRURY LANE LUNCHEON/THEATRE PARTY
MARCH 15, 2017**



Based on the 1977 hit film, the story follows Brooklyn teen, Tony Manero, in his attempt to escape his tribulations by spending weekends at the local discotheque. Watch as Tony tries to win the admiration of the crowd, as well as his heartthrob, Stephanie Mangano, with his electric moves.

Check-In 11:00 AM -- Lunch 11:30 AM -- Play 1:30 PM

Payment due by Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (no refunds)
Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."



Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Number of people _____ X \$47 = _____ Check # _____ is enclosed.

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Select Entrée(s): # ___ Lemon Sole # ___ Chicken Marsala # ___ Vegetarian

Wheelchair seating Y/N: ___ How Many? ___ Please mail to:

**Irwin Magad,
Austin Class of 1955 Reunion
3714 Monticeto Circle
Mundelein, IL 60060**

[Seats cannot be guaranteed if registration is received after February 10th.]