



# AUSTIN HIGH 1950's ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2017

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

# SUMMER

## **LAST CALL TO REGISTER FOR OUR ARLINGTON PARK EVENT!**

Plan to join your fellow Austin alumni for a Day at the Races at Arlington Park on Thursday, August 17. Our group (Austin High 1950's Alumni) will even be greeted on the Big Board. Please see the last page of this newsletter for a Registration Form with price, what's included, and registration deadline (**August 10**). Here are the details: Enter at the Wilke Road Entrance through Gate 1, park in LOT E, and proceed to the Grandstand Gate. Tell the WILL CALL attendant you are with the Austin High School 1955 group, and you will be given a box seat ticket and racing form. Once inside, turn right and proceed to the first set of escalators and take them to the third floor, where representatives of the Austin 1950's Alumni Reunion Committee will be on hand to greet you and distribute name tags and lunch wrist bands. Gates Open 12 Noon. Event Time: 12:30 - 5:30 PM. Lunch Pick Up: 1 PM- 3 PM. Post Time: 1:25 PM. (**Please copy these instructions, so you don't get lost.**)

**Sign up now, and avoid the last-minute rush!**

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

We are grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Carol (Abramson) Didrichsons, Beatrice (Bartolucci) Marchese, Beverly Bednarski, Edward Bisso, Sandra (Brown) Kambourian, James Connelly, Susan (Ferrari) Block, Jordan Fields, Sandra (Gold) Greene, Patricia (Gordon) Jones, Shirley (Harvey) Dane, Glen Heinemann, Carolyn (Hering) Atchison, Richard Holman, Angie Jehlik, Larry Karlson, Marshall Levin, James Lupo, Angel (Plotkin) Newman, and Lee Stone.

**Special Thanks** to Peter Chelepis, Ronald Erhardt, Marvin Glick, James Herrero, Peter Markos, Al Meyer and Susan Synoracki Meyer, Harriet (Michaels) Schab, and Louis Weber, for their extra generous donations.

**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. PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTE YOUR CLASS ('55, '56, '57, etc.) ON YOUR CHECK, AND LADIES, PLEASE ALSO NOTE YOUR MAIDEN NAME.

**A SPECIAL "THANK YOU":** Many thanks to all who provided email addresses last quarter. This will reduce the labor and cost of producing the quarterly newsletter. Your reunion committee appreciates your cooperation. If you haven't already done so, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, send us your email address** on the CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE form on page 3 of this newsletter.

## **IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1956:**

Everyone who ever met **Richard Balash** will find a hole in their lives with his passing on September 1, 2016. His concern and commitment to helping young people get a higher education will continue on through the scholarship program that he and his wife Ina established. Richard was a resident of Kent, Washington at the time of his passing. He graduated from the University of Illinois with an electrical engineering degree.

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

**END OF AN ERA; RINGLING BROS. and BARNUM & BAILEY:** The iconic 146-year-old circus held its final performances at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, R.I., on May 7, and at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y., on May 21, 2017. The decision to end the circus tours was made as a result of high costs coupled with a decline in ticket sales following the transition of the elephants off the circus. Read more at:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/ct-ringling-bros-circus-closing-20170115-story.html>

### **2017 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

**200 years ago, on June 12, 1817**, Baron Karl von Drais first took his two-wheeled contraption for a spin in the suburbs of Mannheim, Germany. It was made of wood and had a steering mechanism, but no pedals, so the rider had to push his feet against the ground to propel the machine. This was the first bicycle.

On **July 12, 1817**, Henry David Thoreau was born in Concord, MA to the owner of a pencil factory, where he worked after studying at Harvard. His work led him to devise a formula to make a pencil rivaling that made in Europe. Soon, Thoreau pencils were taking over the market. In 1845, Henry moved to Walden Pond and built a small house there on land owned by his friend Ralph Waldo Emerson. While there, he wrote *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* (1849) and *Walden* (1854). Thoreau died at age 44 of tuberculosis on May 6, 1862. [Various sources]

**170 years ago, on June 10, 1847**, the *Chicago Daily Tribune* was founded. The paper was transformed by the arrival in 1855 of editor and co-owner Joseph Medill, who turned the paper into one of the leading voices of the new Republican Party. Daily circulation grew from about 1,400 copies in 1855 to as high as 40,000 during the Civil War, when the paper was a strong supporter of President Lincoln and emancipation.

**150 years ago**, Frank Lloyd Wright was born on **June 8, 1867** in Richland Center, WI. Wright was an American architect, interior designer, writer, and educator, who designed more than 1,000 structures, 532 of which were completed. Quotes: *A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines. Early in life I had to choose between honest arrogance and hypocritical humility. I chose honest arrogance and have seen no occasion to change. I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.* [Wikipedia]

On **July 1, 2017**, Canada turned **150 years old**. Winston Churchill said, "That long frontier from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, guarded only by neighborly respect and honorable obligations, is an example to every country and a pattern for the future of the world." 22 years later, John F. Kennedy said, "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends." George H. W. Bush wrote about Canada, "We trust each other. We work together. We root for each other. We breathe the same air and share the same values." [Chicago Sun-Times, June 26, 2017.]

**125 years ago, on June 6, 1892**, the first trains started running on Chicago's first elevated railway, commonly known as the "Alley 'L'". The CTA commemorated this historic event with goodies and rides around the Loop on historic train cars in their Heritage Fleet. See more details at <http://www.transitchicago.com/125/>

**100 years ago, on June 7, 1917**, an organizational meeting was held in Chicago to form the Lions Club. The club's early focus on helping the blind and visually impaired developed after the organization's 1925 convention featured a visit from Helen Keller, who challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind, and crusade against darkness." There are now more than 47,000 clubs worldwide, with about 1.4 million members.

**100 years ago, on July 13, 1917**, Antonio Pasin, a 19-year-old Italian immigrant, launched Liberty Coaster Company at 6041 W. Grand Ave. in Chicago. Antonio's grandson Robert hosted a birthday party at Pioneer Court on Michigan Avenue, showcasing the world's largest wagon. According to Guinness World Records, it measures 27 feet long, 13 feet wide and weighs over 15,000 pounds. It is transported on a large flatbed truck and, once assembled, the 8-foot wheels actually roll. "We wanted to roll out our wagon and say thank you to Chicagoans for supporting us for the last 100 years," said Rober Pasin, chief wagon officer of Radio Flyer.

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** "Enjoy the good times and walk away from the bumps. [Carl Reiner]"

**80 years ago**, the nation's first blood bank opened at Cook County Hospital on **March 15, 1937** at a cost of \$1,500, and is now housed at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital. It was founded by Dr. Bernard Fantus, an inventive Hungarian American physician. The new blood bank helped facilitate 1,354 blood transfusions in its first year.

On **May 6, 1937**, the airship *Hindenburg*, the largest dirigible ever built and the pride of Nazi Germany, burst into flames upon touching its mooring mast in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 36 passengers and crewmembers, bringing an end to the age of the rigid airship. Miraculously, 62 of the 97 passengers and crew survived.

On **July 2, 1937**, [Amelia Earhart](#) vanished somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. No trace of her, navigator Fred Noonan, or her airplane were ever found. Now, a formerly unknown photograph, was found in the National Archives by former Federal Agent Les Kinney. The photo shows several people on a dock, two of whom might be Earhart and Noonan, and a ship towing a barge with an airplane on the back, suggesting she might have crash-landed in the Marshall Islands, been captured by the Japanese, and died while being held prisoner on the island of Saipan. The History channel aired a special, "[Amelia Earhart: The Lost Evidence](#)," on Sunday, July 9, detailing Kinney's search and explaining his findings. The mystery lives on.

**75 years ago**, on **June 17, 1942**, the radio program *Suspense* aired its first episode, *The Burning Court*, with Charles Ruggles narrating, and ran for 20 years. The final broadcasts of *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar* and *Suspense*, ending at 7:00 pm Eastern Time on September 30, 1962, are often cited as the end of the [Golden Age of Radio](#).

Walt Disney's fifth animated feature film, *Bambi*, was released on **August 13 1942**. The film was based on the book [Bambi, A Life in the Woods](#) by Austrian author Felix Salten. The main characters are Bambi, a white-tailed deer; his parents (the Great Prince of the forest and his unnamed mother); his friends Thumper (a pink-nosed rabbit); and Flower (a skunk); and his childhood friend and future mate, Faline.

**50 years ago, on August 15, 1967**, Mayor Richard J. Daley pulled a cord attached to 1,200 square feet of blue-green fabric, unwrapping a gift "to the people of Chicago" from an artist (Pablo Picasso) who had never visited and had shown no previous interest in the city, "with the belief that what is strange to us today will be familiar tomorrow." The sculpture is 50 feet (15.2 m) tall and weighs 162 short tons (147 tons). [Chicago Tribune]

The 6-Day War, also known as the June War, 1967 Arab–Israeli War, or 3rd Arab–Israeli War, was fought between **June 5 and 10, 1967** by Israel and the states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Result: Israeli victory.

It's hard to believe 50 years have passed since the Supreme Court legalized interracial marriage in the United States. That unanimous decision, handed down on **June 12, 1967**, is known as *Loving v. Virginia*.

**FLAG DAY FACTS:** Only one state, Pennsylvania, observes Flag Day, June 14, as a legal holiday. The colors were chosen intentionally: red for valor, white for purity, and blue for justice. Betsy Ross didn't receive credit for sewing the first American flag in 1776 until almost 40 years after her death. [Parade 6-11-17]

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org) OR, mail to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin 1950's Alumni; 5800 St. Croix Ave. N – Apt. C610; Golden Valley, MN 55422.**

(print) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (1st, maiden, last) and Class Year:

\_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (Required):

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL:

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This newsletter was printed by Minute Man Press of Westchester on behalf of the Austin 1950's Alumni

**ARLINGTON PARK SPECIAL EVENT**  
**(1955 ALUMNI 80<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY)**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017**  
**Gates Open 12:00 PM -- Lunch -- First Race 1:25 PM**



**Payment due by Thursday, AUGUST 10, 2017 (no refunds)**  
**Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Price includes Admission, Racing Form, Reserved Seats, and a "Grab 'n Go Lunch, including choice of Sandwich (BBQ Chicken, Beer-Soaked Bratwurst, or Black Bean Burger), Assorted Chips, Seasonal Fruit, Chocolate Chip Cookie, and Soft Drinks. Cash Bar: 1 PM- 5 PM

**This form and your check payable to Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd. must be received by August 10, or call Irwin at 847-630-6990 by August 10 and follow with this form and your check.**

**Irwin Magad,  
Austin Class of 1955 Reunion  
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