



AUSTIN HIGH 1950's ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2017

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



APRIL 25, 2018 DRURY LANE EVENT:

Register now for the best seats at *South Pacific*. The first 50 reservations are guaranteed seats. Our special discount price for the lunch and show is \$50 per person. This includes almost everything! Free parking, easy access with a minimum of stairs, beautiful surroundings, congenial company, all taxes and gratuities (but a little extra never hurt for great service). Lunch will include a salad, choice of entrée, dessert, rolls and butter, and coffee or hot or iced tea. Soft drinks and adult beverages are extra. Wheelchairs are available upon request. Friends, family, and other Austin alumni are welcome to join us. The more, the merrier! Sign up now with the form at the bottom of Page 6. **Reservations and payments MUST be in by March 25.**

NEWSLETTER DELAY:

Your editor apologizes for the tardiness of this Autumn newsletter. On the day we published the Summer newsletter, July 28, after she and her good stuffing and fluffing crew (Donna (Mayfield) Harder, *Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli*, and *Genny (Luisi) Schroeder*, she found herself in the LaGrange Memorial ER, unable to walk. Earlier in July, she cracked her sacrum, trying to lug two VERY heavy yard waste containers from the back of the house to the curb for pickup. She learned the hard way that she isn't Wonder Woman anymore. The sacrum was repaired, she spent a month in rehab, but now she has a fractured pelvis that only time will heal. LESSON: Remember your physical limitations, and respect them.

REPORT ON THE "DAY at the RACES"

This is your fellow Austin alumni and race track tout, *Shel Marcus*, bringing you a review of our Austin High 1950's Alumni event on August 17th, 2017 at Arlington Park Race Track. Over 27 Austin classmates and friends attended, and I believe we all had a great time. Although the weather started out windy and cloudy, by race time the sun broke through the clouds and the entire afternoon turned out just beautiful. Many thanks to Harry Kappos' niece, Patti Beauvais, a horse owner and trainer, who offered to personally conduct a back stable tour for a few of us before the races started. Seeing the horses up close and feeding them candy was a real treat. Thanks, too, to *Mike Pasquerelli*, our unofficial, official photographer for taking pictures for our archives. We are also grateful to the Arlington Park staff who were so generous with their time in making sure we had a wonderful afternoon. They even walked one of our classmates across the park to join our group after they entered the wrong gate. A welcome to Austin High Alumni 1955-56 was displayed on the big jumbo sign for all to see. Included in our package was a box lunch to be eaten in the clubhouse or at your reserved grandstand seat. The real fun was trying to see which horse, based on name, number, color, jockey's name, or some other scientific system, would tell you which horse would come in first, second, or a variety of ways in which to win, and placing a wager on that horse. You didn't have to bet at all, but it was fun trying to outguess the professionals, like *Harry Kappos*, *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma*, *Nancy Pasquerelli* and *Sue & Ken Rosko*, to name a few, who a little bird told me did OK. I personally had an entertaining afternoon. Enough said.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are very grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Patricia (Callahan) D'Amato, Biagio Imperiale, Adreianne (Lieberman) Reimer, Joan (Parsons) Anderskow, *John Rozinsky*, Leslie Sigale, William Simios, *Josephine (Tavarone)Bax*, and Gus Treslo.

Special Thanks for their extra generous donations to: *Mike and Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli*, Carol (Beth) Ritter, Raymond Charlette, and Geraldine (Erdmann) O'Rourke.

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.**

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1955:

We learned recently from his wife, that classmate **Jerry Miller** died in June 2017.

Classmate **Pastor Earl H. Lassen** passed away peacefully surrounded by family in the early morning of Monday, October 23, 2017 at his home in Cottage Grove, MN. Earl is survived by Joan, his loving wife of 57 years; daughter Adele (Dr. Mark) Lindstrom of Muskego, WI; son John (Linda) of Slayton, MN; and son David (Laurie) of Cottage Grove, MN; ten grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren: Earl is also survived by two siblings, and numerous nieces, nephews and grandnieces/nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Hope Academy (2300 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404) (hopeschool.org) or Allina Hospice Foundation (3915 Golden Valley Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55422) (allinahealth.org/medical...hospice/...) in memory of Pastor Earl Lassen.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1956:

We were sorry to learn that classmate **Martin R. Fawell** passed away in October 2007. We were notified by his wife, **Marilyn (Guest) Fawell**, Class of '57, in June 2017.

Also, classmate **William Thomas McNulty** was reported as deceased, and **Gloria (Schultz) Nagl** passed away in April 2013

Mary (Vroustouris) Hanson, an artist, designer, and teacher, passed away April 12, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband George, parents Stella and Peter brother Alexander, and nephews, Steven and Nicholas Banas. She is survived by her brother George (Jayne) Vroustouri,; sister-in-law Diana (Warren) Banas, and many nieces and nephews.

Patricia (Tatera) Zerbs, beloved wife of John, loving mother of Dawn (Raymond) Grzymek, grandmother of Jacqueline and Edward Grzymek, sister of Dolores (Lee) Page and Peter (Arlene) Tatera, niece of Dorothy Kryzsko, and aunt of many nieces and nephews passed away on January 31, 2010.

We were saddened to learn that classmate **John Godar** died in December 2016. His wife Judy told us John loved to talk about Austin High and that she and his family have pictures and yearbooks to look over from time to time. These mementos are helping keep his memory alive. Rest in Peace, John.

2017 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

500 years ago, in a letter dated October 31, 1517, an Augustine monk name Martin Luther distributed his 95 criticisms about the enthusiasm with which the Catholic Church was selling indulgences. An indulgence was a piece of paper that, for instance, shortened the time that had to be spent in purgatory. The church had been selling them to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This bothered Luther a lot, not because he was so liberal, but because he was so pious. He prayed, he fasted, he flagellated himself. Luther was getting to heaven the hard way, and it galled him that a rich man could just loosen his purse strings, dig out a few coins, and cut in line. You can see an actual indulgence- from Pope Sixtus IV, raising money for an expedition against the Turks – on display at the Newberry Library (Chicago) in a fascinating exhibit, "Religious Change and Print: 1450-1700," that runs through December 27. The Reformation, as Luther's protest became known, was not the first break in the Catholic Church – branches had been sheering off since the 1st century, with the Great Schism of 1054 perhaps even more significant, leading to the East and West divisions. Protestantism became important in the march toward modernity, a journey that saw God move from living in the Church to living in your heart. [Neil Steinberg, Chicago Sun-Times, October 29, 2017] <https://chicago.suntimes.com/chicago-politics/luther-reformation-protestant-95-theses-500th-anniversary-luther-steinberg/>

225 years ago, on October 13, 1892, the cornerstone was laid for the new presidential residence in the newly-designated capital city of Washington, D.C. John Adams was the first president to reside in the mansion. [History.com]

150 years ago, on October 18, 1867, the USA formally took possession of Alaska after buying it from Russia for \$7.2 million. [History.com]

150 years ago, son of a brewer and innkeeper from Meckenheim, Germany, Jacob **Leinenkugel** founded the family brewery in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin in May of 1867. In those days, Chippewa Falls was a tiny logging town, but Leinenkugel's quickly became the preferred beer of the lumberjacks who lived and worked there. And for six generations Leinie's has been crafted with the same North Woods spirit while staying true to its German heritage. <http://beerfrontier.meijer.com/celebrate-150-years-with-leinies-anniversary-lager/>

100 years ago on July 17, 1917, Phyllis Ada Driver (Phyllis Diller) was born in [Lima, Ohio](#). She had German and Irish ancestry (the surname "Driver" had been changed from "Treiber" several generations earlier), and was raised [Methodist](#) but later became an atheist. She attended Lima's Central High School and discovered she had the gift of humor early on. Although she wasn't a class clown, calling herself a "quiet and dedicated" student, she enjoyed making people laugh once school was out.^[11] Diller studied piano for three years at the Sherwood Music Conservatory of [Columbia College Chicago](#) but decided against a music career and transferred to [Bluffton College](#) where she studied literature, history, psychology, and philosophy. She met Sherwood Diller at Bluffton and they married in 1939. With the encouragement of her husband, Diller made her debut as a stand-up comedian at age 37 in the basement of the San Francisco North Beach club, [The Purple Onion](#), on March 7, 1955. Up until then, she had only tried out her jokes for fellow PTA moms at nearby Edison Elementary School.^[18] Her first professional show was a success and the two-week booking stretched out to 89 consecutive weeks.^[19] Diller had found her calling and eventual financial success while her husband's business career failed. She explained, "I became a stand-up comedienne because I had a sit-down husband." After a successful career as a stand-up comedian, actress, author, recording artist, and piano soloist with symphony orchestras across the country under the stage name Dame Illya Dillya, she died on August 20, 2012 at age 95 of heart failure. Diller's words of wisdom: "What ever you look like, marry a man your own age. As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight." "Cleaning you house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing." "The best way to get rid of kitchen odors: Eat out." The word: bigot" is a contraction for "big idiot." [Wikipedia and IMDb]

90 years ago, the Italian Village opened on September 20, 1927. when Alfredo Capitanini opened the doors to what would soon become a Chicago landmark. Alfredo worked hard washing dishes and cooking in other restaurants for three years, saving his money so he could open his own restaurant. His new restaurant would boast the most comprehensive Italian menu in Chicago, with many dishes such as: cannelloni, saltimbocca ala romana, fettuccini alfredo and so much more. Alfredo designed the restaurant to give guests a "tour" of Italy with different themes throughout the restaurant, as well as dishes from those regions to match the decor. It gave Chicagoans a true Italian experience right in their own back yard.

Keeping with true Italian tradition, Italian Village was kept in the Capitanini family, and in 1955, the second generation of Capitaninis opened the doors to their second restaurant, [La Cantina](#), in the lower floor of the Italian Village building. This restaurant possessed many delicious Italian dishes served with a variety of premier wines. *La Cantina* was beautifully decorated with wrought iron gates, decades-old wine bottles and wooden wine crates to take you back to a historic time in Italy, where only the best food and wine were served to friends and family alike.

With business doing so well for the Capitaninis they decided to open one more restaurant in their Italian Village building. The grand opening of *The Florentine Room* in was on St. Patrick's Day 1961, and your editor was there! This room became Chicago's first gourmet Italian restaurant, being named by the Chicago Tribune "Chicago's Best Italian Restaurant." Several years later, *The Florentine Room* was remodeled with a new architectural and theatrical decor, and its name changed to [Vivere](#). *Vivere* is located between *La Cantina* and *The Village*, with all three restaurants in one convenient location. <https://italianvillage-chicago.com/about/>

80 years ago, as **Maxine Jaffee** reminds us, two significant events took place in 1937. Most of the members of the class of 1955 were born and Social Security began on January 1, so let us wish each other a Happy and Healthy 80th birthday. To the generations after ours, we are OLD, but to us, we are only as old as we feel.

Social Security was conceived by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who announced his intention to Congress on June 8, 1934, that he would address the problem of economic security for workers over the age of 65 by creating a work contributory system in which workers would provide for their own future economic security through taxes while employed. By Executive Order, he created the Committee on Economic Security (CES).

In early January 1935 the CES made its report to the President and on Jan 17th the President introduced the report to both Houses of Congress. This bill passed both Houses in July, 1935 and the President signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. This Act created a social insurance program to pay retired workers age 65 and older. It also included unemployment insurance, old-age assistance, and aid to dependent children and grants to the states to provide medical care. Taxes from employed people were deducted from their pay, effective Jan. 1, 1937. Also, effective on this date, people were eligible for social security payments.

The first task was to register employers and employees by Jan. 1, 1937. The social security numbers were assigned by the local post offices. The first field office opened October 14, 1936 in Austin, Texas. By June, 1937 the Social Security Board had established 151 field offices and had issued 30 million social security cards. Social security payments from 1937 through 1939 were a one-time lump payment. The average lump payment was \$58.06. On January, 1940 regular monthly benefits started.

Three cases went to the Supreme Court in October, 1936 to challenge the legality of the Social Security Act. These cases are 1. *Helvering vs. Davis*, 2. *the Steward Machine Co.*, and 3. *the Carmichael vs. Southern Coal and Coke Co.* On May 24, 1937, the Supreme Court handed down its decision on all three cases that said the Social Security Act was legal. (I'm sure a lot of Americans were celebrating on this day.) The original Act provided only retirement benefits, and only to the worker. The 1939 Amendments made a fundamental change in the Social Security program. The Amendments added two new categories of benefits: payments to the spouse and minor children of a retired worker (so-called dependents benefits) and survivors benefits paid to the family in the event of the premature death of a covered worker. This change transformed Social Security from a retirement program for workers into a *family-based* economic security program. The 1939 Amendments also increased benefit amounts and accelerated the start of monthly benefit payments to 1940.

[\[http://www.socialsecurity.gov/history/35actinx.html\]](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/history/35actinx.html)

75 years ago, on 9-21-42, the B-29 Superfortress, the largest bomber used in WWII, made its debut flight in Seattle, WA. [HISTORY.COM]

70 years ago, on October 14, 1947, Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound. [History.com]

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*.

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.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

- There are times when my greatest accomplishment is just keeping my mouth shut. [Unknown]
- "Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, only one thing endures, and that is character."
[Horace Greeley]
- "Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up." [Maxine]

FUTURE 2018/19 EVENTS:

At our last meeting, your reunion committee discussed possible future Alumni events, and we agreed to solicit your ideas. Please give us your opinion of some that we are already considering, and feel free to offer suggestions of your own. Return your preferences to your editor, Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma, either by email or snail mail.

1. 1956 Classmate Art Rubin has offered to assist in organizing a “destination reunion” in Las Vegas, where he lives. (Would you attend?)
2. Drury Lane Lunch and: A. Musical? B. Play? C. Spring? D. Summer? D. Autumn? F. Winter? (Circle season and type of show.)
3. Tour of Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington and Lunch at Russell’s in Elmwood Park (bus transportation between the two locations).
4. Your Suggestions: _____

HELP WANTED: Writing and Technical backup to assist in the design and maintenance of our database and website and in the preparation and production of the newsletter is welcome. Recent illnesses have shown that we are not indestructible, and writing and technical backup would ensure the continuation of alumni communications. If you would like to help, please contact any member of the reunion committee.

INTERESTING TIDBITS:

SOLAR ECLIPSE ON AUGUST 21, 2017 <http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/the-twirling-solar-system-turns-the-worlds-attention-to-carbondale/>

A report in *Personal Relationships* that included 270,000 people worldwide found that having close friends in old age was a stronger predictor of physical and emotional well-being than close family connections. [TIME 6-26-17]

Proof there’s a holiday for everything: June 12 is Different Colored Eyes Day. This condition is called heterochromia. [*Parade* 7-9-17]

SURPRISING SCIENCE ABOUT FOOD: Salt makes people overeat. People took in more calories and ate 11% more pasta when it had lots of salt. Salt may dull the fullness signals the body is supposed to feel, the study authors speculate. [*Time* March 2016]

CHOCOLATE MILK: 7% of Americans responded that they think brown cows produce chocolate milk, according to a survey from the Innovation Center of U.S. Dairy. [TIME July 3, 2017]

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CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: Please email changes to 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: _____

DRURY LANE SPRING EVENT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018



More timely than ever, this Rodgers & Hammerstein landmark musical proves that even the backdrop of a tropical paradise cannot shelter its residents from the prejudices of World War II. South Pacific is the winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and ten Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Runtime: 2 hours and 25 minutes with a 15-minute intermission

Check In @ 11 AM – Lunch Seating @ 11:30 – Play Begins @ 1:30 PM



Payment due by Thursday, MARCH 25, 2018
Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Number of people _____ X \$50 = \$ _____ Check # _____ is enclosed.

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entree choices (check one): Fish: _____ Chicken: _____ Beef _____

**Irwin Magad,
Austin Class of 1955 Reunion
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