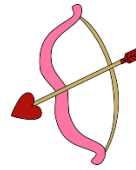
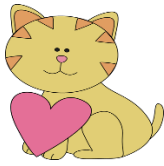




AUSTIN HIGH 1950's ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2018

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



APRIL 25, 2018 DRURY LANE EVENT: LAST CALL to Register for *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. 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 5. **Reservations and payments MUST be in by March 20.**

MEA CULPA!!

Your editor apologizes for not acknowledging the donations of the following classmates in the Autumn 2017 newsletter. The lists of donations got buried in one of the many heaps and piles of paper on her computer desk. We are very grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Dorothy (Carlson) Frischkorn, Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Marcia (Hoffenkamp) Barba, Carole (Jiroch) Mathes, Suzanne (Johnson) Peterson, Arlene (Kroll) Porys, Yolanda (Lopez) Mason, and Gail (Newman) Goldstein. **Special Thanks** for their extra generous donations to: Victoria (Dobryzinski) Petersen, Louise (Lyon) Tuchman, Robert Meyers, Robert Mintz, Roberta (Shane) Atlas, Louis Weber and Lawrence Zolkesitz.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the donations since the Autumn newsletter of these classmates: Caroline Anderson, Edward Bisso, Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Clifford Dorn, Robert Duffin, Raymond Hoffmann, Louis Kaufmann, Sandra Kirchhoff, Bonnie (Mills) Andrese, Helen Jean (Pearce) Burkhardt, Angel (Plotkin) Newman, Lee Stone, Josephine (Tavarone) Bax, Connie (Tosto) Fumarolo, and Frederick Uebel. **Special Thanks** for their extra generous donations to: Gene and Lee (Bandalin) Kout, Ervin Frejlach, Donald Gagliano, *Ed Horak* in memory of his beloved Geri (Harris), Richard Mitchell, Robert Mintz, Ruth Ann (Nordlof) Phillips, *Ken Rosko*, Paul Sengpiehl, Roberta (Shane) Atlas, Alvin and Susan (Synoracki) Meyer, and Louis Weber.

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.) and **LADIES, PLEASE ALSO NOTE YOUR MAIDEN NAME.**

REUNION COMMITTEE ELECTION OF 2018 OFFICERS:

At our Austin High 1950's Alumni reunion committee meeting on January 12, the following officers were elected: President, *Ken Rosko*; Vice President, *Sheldon Marcus*; Treasurer, *Irwin Magad*; and Secretary, *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma*. To ensure coverage in the event of resignations or inability to serve, we agreed that backup is needed for all committee officer positions. *Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli* is Assistant Vice President, and *John Rozinsky* is Assistant Treasurer. **We need someone from ANY of the 50's classes** to step up to serve as Assistant Secretary. Contact *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* to volunteer your services.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, August 15th is our summer outing – A tour of the Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington. www.sanfilippofoundation.org/. More information will be in the next newsletter.

FROM JIM DAYTON, JUNE 1955 CLASS PRESIDENT:

Jim wrote in May 2017 that although he did help plan the 10-year reunion in 1965, he's been in Cleveland on and off since 1967. Most of his career since he earned his doctorate in electrical engineering was at the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland. He spent three years at Hughes in Los Angeles after retiring from NASA, but has been working for the last 15 years at Teraphysics, a small company he co-founded. The vacuum tube technology that Jim and his colleague, Dr. Carol Kory developed is being used in the NASA Cassini spacecraft in its extended mission to Saturn. Dayton and Kory are advancing vacuum electronics technology into new and improved generations. Pretty heady stuff! Nice going Jim!

FROM RICHARD OTTO, CLASS OF 1955

I still enjoy going to work every day as President of the American Academy of Art, a four-year art college located on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Breeding racehorses is a special interest of mine, and not long ago one of them won at Arlington Park. Much to my surprise, I was greeted at the Winner's Circle by an old friend, Bill Siavelis. We were teammates on Austin's 1954 City Championship Bowling Team. This January, I had the good fortune to bowl a perfect 300 game. It was great fun. Staying active has been my goal. I do miss many of my Austin Classmates.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1955:

We were sorry to learn that classmate **Ronald Forman** passed away on April 16, 2017. We extend our sympathy to his daughter Terri (Foreman) Cassel and the rest of the Foreman family.

Ellen (Baker) Simek of Westchester, passed away in August 2014. Sincere sympathy to Kevin (Erica), Elizabeth "Betsy" (James) Linden and Wendy (Steve) Buzil; grandchildren Kevin Jr., Chloe, Evan, Harrison, Max and Olivia; and beloved grand dog Wrigley.

Muriel (Goldberg) Stillinger died on 12/06/2010. Our sympathies go to her children Ellen, Elizabeth Bedillion, David, and Daniel; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Helen (Koehler) Brady of Lake Villa, IL passed away on November 14, 2009. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Edward, Sr.; her children, Susan Balkom of Lake Villa, Barbara (Frank) Casper of Arkansas, Edward, Jr. (Tanya) of Racine, WI, Deborah Rivas of Ohio, Ronald of Lake Villa and Rebecca (Brian) Ferguson of Pennsylvania; her seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

We learned recently that **Joan Carol (Long) Fitzgerald** has died. We regret we have no other information. Longtime Alumni Committee member **Geraldine (Harris) Horak** bade us good-bye on December 8, 2017, surrounded by her family. She leaves her beloved husband Edwin; children Diane, Steven, and Tootsie; four grandchildren; and many friends to mourn her passing. Geri contributed her excellent collection of Austin memorabilia, chocolate-covered teaspoons, and the balloon-filling expertise of husband Ed to several of our class reunions. We will all miss you, Geri. Rest in Peace.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1956:

We were informed by **Ross Otter's** daughter, Dana Lynn Frank of Houston, TX, that he passed away on September 23, 2016.

Indra (Briedis) Rudzitis, who immigrated here from Latvia in 1944 to escape the Soviet Union, passed away on January 3, 2017 after living a full, fruitful, and fun-filled life. She is survived by her husband, Margers, two children, five grandchildren, three sisters, and her beloved dog Bourbie. Indra was an avid reader, a frugal and independent woman, who believed Zip-loc bags and aluminum foil were NOT single-use items, and would re-use them until they could no longer serve their original purpose. Her love, spirit, and wisdom will live in her family's hearts forever. Our sympathy goes to them.

Nick Pappas Pappadakis passed in December 2017. We regret we have no other information.

John Felcan, passed away in January 2018. John was predeceased on July 30, 2012 by his wife, **Rosejeanne (Gulino) Felcan**, also a June '56 grad. We extend our condolences to daughters Krista (Christopher) Karabin and Jennifer (Mark) Felcan Smith and grandchildren Lochlan, Mirin, Luke and Keegan.

INSTANT LEG CRAMP TREATMENT:

Stand on a plastic zip-loc bag containing ice cubes or frozen water in it until the cramp goes away. It has also been reported that swallowing a spoonful of yellow mustard or an ounce of pickle juice (containing vinegar) can quickly reverse muscle cramps. This may be accomplished by stimulating TRP (transient receptor potential) channels which are found on cell membranes throughout the body. [peoplespharmacy.com]

KENNETH E. IVERSEN:

It is with deep personal sorrow that your editor reports the passing on January 9, 2018, at age 95, of Mr. Iversen, WWII Veteran, Chicago Public Schools educator, Austin Choir and Boy's Glee Director, and beloved mentor to many. I was surprised (and pleased) to learn at the Class of 1955 50th reunion, which Mr. I attended with his lovely wife (the late Marie), that he and I share an August 11 birthday. Since then, I've had the opportunity to have many conversations with him and learn about his fascinating and productive life. Throughout his teaching career, he was a positive influence on many young lives, and was always willing to help further their music careers. *Irwin Magad* said recently, "If it was not for him, I would not appreciate music of all kinds as much as I do today." In retirement, Ken continued to bring joy to others by putting on music programs and conducting sing-a-longs for the residents of the senior village when he lived. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to daughter Diane (Michael) Smith; his grandchildren Jeffrey (Cary), Leslie (Jeremy) Senese, and Brian (Danielle); and great-grandchildren Brendan, Emma, Tyler, and Hailey. He and Marie lost daughter Linda at an early age. Ken Iversen was a very special person whose presence on this earth enriched many lives. I am grateful to have known him, and shall never forget him. Rest in Peace, Dear Ken.

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAYS TO THE CLASS OF 1956:

and to the 1938 over-achiever babies who graduated with the Class of '55. (You know who you are.)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

234 years ago, on December 23, 1783, George Washington retired. "Having now finished the work assigned to me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take any leave of all the employments of public life." He was unanimously elected to the first of two terms as president of the United States in 1788.

230 years ago: The first state to **ratify** the US Constitution was **Delaware**, on December 7, 1787, by a unanimous vote, 30 - 0. It took 10 months for the first nine states to approve the Constitution.

The State of Illinois will celebrate its **200th year** from December 3, 2017 to our official birthday on December 3, 2018. Look for special events on August 26, 2018, and December 3, 2018. Watch for Illinois quizzes in future newsletters.

170 years ago, on January 24, 1848, The *California Gold Rush* (1848–1855) began when gold was found by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California. The news of gold brought some 300,000 people to California from the rest of the United States and abroad. The *Gold Rush* undoubtedly sped up *California's* admission to the Union as the 31st state. [Wikipedia]

155 years ago on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the final Emancipation Proclamation.

90 years ago, Chicago leased the originally named **Chicago Air Park**, and named it **Chicago Municipal Airport** on December 12, 1927. By 1928, the airport had twelve hangars and four runways, lit for night operations. In July 1949 the airport was renamed after the [Battle of Midway](#). That year Midway saw 3.2 million passengers; passengers peaked at 10 million in 1959.

75 years ago, in December 1942, the Museum of Science & Industry opened the first Christmas tree exhibit. The United States was just about one year into World War II, and morale was low on the Homefront. So here in Chicago, the folks at the Museum of Science & Industry decided to lift spirits with a simple item: a Christmas tree. It started out as a tribute to our allied nations during the war with one tree with 12 different countries decorating it every night. That single tree has turned into a 75-year tradition, and includes one epic, 45-foot tree, plus 50 smaller trees that nod to holiday traditions from around the globe

INTERESTING TIDBIT:

Abraham Lincoln loved cats. He had two, Tabby and Dixie, in the White House. At one point during his first term, Lincoln was said to have observed in frustration, "Dixie is smarter than my whole cabinet! And furthermore she doesn't talk back!" Read more at <http://www.presidentialpetmuseum.com/pets/abraham-lincoln-cats/>

NEW MEDICARE I.D. CARDS: New cards for **new** Medicare beneficiaries will be issued in waves by geographic region, starting in June 2018, and then new cards will be issued to existing beneficiaries. Arizona, Florida, and Illinois cards will be issued after June 2018. The new cards will NOT show your social security number. **BEWARE OF SCAMS.** This change presents an opening to scammers. If you get a call claiming to be from Medicare asking you to confirm your Social Security number for the new card, this is a scam! It is also a scam if you get a call claiming you have to pay for your new card. **Hang up immediately. Report scams to local law enforcement. Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.** More information is available on the following websites; <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/> <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/new-medicare-card/nmc-home.html>

AUSTIN BOXING CLUB, ABC:

Started in September 2017, this non-profit boxing club is the dream of an Austin area businessman who had shown promise in the ring in his teen years, but traded the sport for a life of crime. Forty-one year old Salah Ahmed, who spent time behind bars, is trying to get the kids off the streets. Ahmed and his three brothers inherited Sunset Liquor at 5921 W. Division from their father, Mohamed, who had run it since 1983. He passed away in 2001. The boxing club, at 5915 W. Division, just east of Austin Blvd., is the siblings' effort to give back to the community.

The family's relationship with the community is notable, given some longstanding resentment in the black community over the proliferation of Arab-American-owned businesses and liquor stores and the dearth of businesses owned by African-Americans. Parent Andre Wilson says, "I really appreciate they're giving the kids something to do after school. We don't have a lot of positive things around here for the kids to get into." He let his son Kierre test it out, and "he liked it, so I keep bringing him back." Read the whole story in the Sun-Times at <https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/kids-flock-to-new-austin-boxing-club-gift-from-local-business-owners/>

HELP WANTED: ALL 1950's alumni are encouraged to submit personal news and articles of general interest for the newsletter. People with writing and technical skills to help with the design and maintenance of our database and website, as well as the writing of the newsletter, are welcome. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, please contact any member of the reunion committee.

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 or 5426 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago IL 60646

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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:

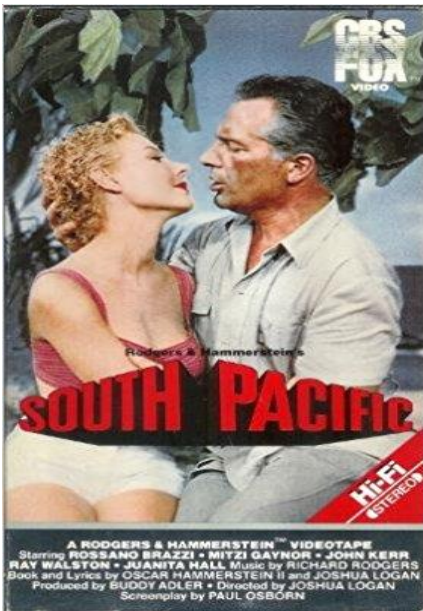
STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE (Required): _____

EMAIL: _____

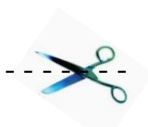
DRURY LANE SPRING EVENT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018



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 20, 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
3714 Monticeto Circle
Mundelein, IL 60060**