



AUSTIN HIGH 1950's ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2018

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



SIGN UP EARLY FOR OUR SUMMER OUTING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th:

Lunch at the **Onion Pub**, 22221 N. Pepper Rd, Lake Barrington, IL 60010, Phone: 847-381-7308, and a guided tour of the Spectacular Sanfilippo Estate. We have only 40 reserved slots, so reserve your spot early. See detailed description of the estate and tour on next page.



Check In @ 11 AM – Lunch Seating @ 11:30 – 3-Hour Tour Begins @ 1:30 PM

Payment due by JULY 15, 2018



Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

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

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entree (check one per person):

Pub Burger: ___ Chicken Penne Pasta: ___ Reuben: ___ Black Bean Burger: ___

Make check Payable to: “Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.” and MAIL this Form & Check to:

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

SANFILIPPO ESTATE TOUR:

It all starts at the Onion Pub restaurant, 22221 N. Pepper Rd, Lake Barrington, IL 60010. We meet there, park in the free restaurant lot, enjoy a great lunch, and form carpools to the Estate, as parking is limited at the Estate. The Sanfilippo Estate features a world class collection of automated music machines, Barrel Organs, Disk Players, Violin Machines, such as the 1922 Hufeld Phonoliszt-Violina which plays the piano and three violins. You'll see a machine that plays music and is designed to sound like an orchestra or band. A group of Tiffany and other art glass lamps and a large collection of Victorian chandeliers add to the color of the room. Thrill to the mini-concert in the Sanfilippo mansion's *Music Theater* with the world's largest theater pipe organ in an auditorium specially built for this instrument. Our Docent-Guided Tour lasts approximately 3 hours, so wear your walking shoes; it continues in the *Carousel Pavilion*, where you will see the Eden Palais Carousel, the most complete example of a European salon carousel in existence. Sign up now for an experience you will long remember. Email Marshall Hechter with questions. marshech@comcast.net.

HAPPY SPRING, PASSOVER, & EASTER!! Here's the latest news from and about our classmates. Be sure to send us yours.

From **Janet (Westergren) Johnson ('55)**: When the Cubs won the World Series in 2016, **Ben (Buddy) Weinberg ('55)**, was the only Chicagoan in the sports bar in Henderson, NV where he lives, so he was interviewed on live TV when the pub went wild. Buddy and wife Sandy will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on April 20, 2018. Congratulations to the Weinbergs!

Murray Simpson ('55) began his career in financial services in 1961 as a staff attorney at the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, and then in the private practice of law in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. For the majority of his career, he was principal outside counsel to Franklin Templeton Investments. He then served Franklin Templeton in various other capacities, including Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of its Hong Kong subsidiary, where he was involved in the formation of various joint ventures and the opening of several offices throughout Asia. 'Way to go, Murray!!

THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS:

We gratefully acknowledge the donations of the following classmates: Sandra (Brown) Kambourian, Vera (Feigenbaum) Post, Dr. Ronald Gibbons, Sandra Gnippe, Phyllis (Grebel) Wehrs, Marilyn (Hellyer) Morrison, Lois (Horwitz) Silverman, David Israelstam, Goldie (Kout) Soukos, Arlene (Kroll) Porys, Sophia (Maduros) Simios, John and Wanda (Myers) Smith, Patricia Pecoraro, Mary Ann (Russo) May, Toby (Speck) Gordon, Angie (Triolo) Jehlek, and William Wire.

Special Thanks to these extra generous donors: Susan (Ferrari) Block, Patricia (Gordon) Jones, Gerald Wollard, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, Marilyn (Spink) Poole, and Louis Weber.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1955:

Donald LaFauce, 80, of Danforth, IL passed away Sunday (July 30, 2017) at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, IL. Please sign his online guestbook at schrefflerfuneralhomes.com.

It is with great sadness that I, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, class of '55, share the passing of my brother, **Ralph Pedersen**, who passed away peacefully on Feb. 8, 2018. He will join his wife Marlene (Wursch) and my husband Richard, all Austin class of 1952 alumni. Our sympathy goes out to his children, Ruth Ann, Drew, Erika and Ryan and their families.

We are sorry to report the passing in February 2018 of **Joel Chemers**. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Tyra, nee Mann; children Marla (Brian) Doner, Harlan (Beth) Chemers, and Susan (Andrew) Mall; 8 grandchildren; brother Dr. Martin (Dr. Barbara) Chemers; and sister-in-law Carole (late Jack) Zavatt. Our sympathy goes to Tyra and the rest of the Chemers family.

Classmate **Neal C. Guenther**, 81, passed away on March 6, 2018 in Elgin, IL. Neal was a graduate of Northwestern University and served in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1962. He had been a longtime resident of Stickney before moving to Hampshire. Surviving are many cousins and extended families. Burial with Military Honors was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.

IN MEMORIAM – CLASSES OF 1956 & 1957:

We learned recently from Demetra Joyce that **Elizabeth Lattos McDonald ('56)** passed away suddenly on December 31, 2017. Elizabeth was a resident of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin at the time of passing.

Demetra wrote, "I know she always looked forward to attending the class reunions, and I thought you would want to know. Please share this information with those who it may concern." We extend our condolences to Demetra and the Lattos and McDonald families.

Nunzio J. Padovano ('56), age 80, passed at his second home in Canton, GA in January 2018. He is survived by daughters Janet Padovano and Laura Thompson; 5 grandchildren; brother Anthony; sister Josephine Rago; and many nieces and nephews. Nunzio was a longtime member of the Punisher Harley Davidson Motor Cycle Club. Known as "The Fonz," he enjoyed dancing at Studebakers, The Wellington and Dover Straights. Nunzio mastered the slopes as a longtime member of the Hustler Ski Club. GBNF (GoneButNotForgotten), Fonz!

James Bokios ('56), age 79, passed away in February 2018. James was a U.S. Army Veteran. Survivors include his wife Nicky (nee Toullos); children Steven, Helena (Jerry) McGuire and Theodore; 4 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; siblings Caroline, George and Michael; and many nieces and nephews. Our sympathy goes to the Bokios family.

Richard J. Guelfi ('56), age 79, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 31, 2018. He was a 1965 graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology with a master's degree in Chemical Engineering. During his career, he was the Director of Quality Assurance and Product Development for M&M Mars, Inc. and Keebler, Inc. He was active at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Elmhurst, Illinois and a longtime volunteer at The Pink Elephant Resale Shop benefiting Elmhurst Memorial Hospital and the Morton Arboretum. Richard will be dearly missed by his wife of 57 years, Janet Guelfi; children, Susan Beckman, Barbara (Robert) Early and Jay (Julia) Guelfi; 6 grandchildren; and sisters, Marianne (William) Wallace and Sandra (Ed) Krzyzanowski. Our sincere condolences go to Janet and the Guelfi family.

Jerry Geren ('57) age 78, passed away early April 2018. Jerry was a long time Chicago patent attorney. He is survived by his wife and best friend Phyllis (nee Freeman); children Suzy (Adam) Schecter, Greg (Yifat) Geren, and Brad (Kara) Geren; 5 grandchildren; brother Don (Evie) Geren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Rest in Peace, Jerry.

ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL NEWS: Bicentennial Craft Beer '1818 Prairie State Farmhouse Ale' is now available at most Binny's, Jewel-Osco's, HyVee's and other select retailers statewide. Hand of Fate Brewing Co. of Petersburg was chosen to create the special birthday brew after winning the Bicentennial craft beer contest at the Illinois State Fair in August 2017. The beer features staple Illinois crops including corn, wheat and oats. The crystal hops are grown by Hallowed Hops of Lewistown and fermented with a hybrid saison yeast developed by Omega Yeast Labs of Chicago. "1818" will be available throughout Illinois on tap and in cans.

2018 BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES:

LINCOLN'S 209th BIRTHDAY:

Historic sites across Illinois celebrated the 209th birthday of America's greatest president with a weekend of music, dance, educational programming and, of course, cake. Among them are the **Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site**, Springfield, where Springfield American Legion Post 32 and its auxiliaries sponsored the Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln. The pilgrimage is the longest running Lincoln birthday event in the country; the **Mount Pulaski Courthouse State Historic Site**, Mount Pulaski, where historic interpreters portraying Lincoln and his friend and teacher Mentor Graham were on hand ; Visitors sampled one of Lincoln's favorite desserts, apple pie with rum sauce, and kids got to see what it was like to learn in a frontier "blab" school; **Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site**, Vandalia, celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday with birthday cake, music and a historian's presentation on Lincoln's relatives by marriage who supported the Confederacy. Vandalia Statehouse is Illinois' oldest surviving capitol building.

104 YEARS AGO:

On April 22, 1914, Babe Ruth made his professional pitching debut for the then-minor league Baltimore Orioles. "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." [Babe Ruth]

50 YEARS AGO (1968): [Taken from <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/timeline-seismic>]

January 22: “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In” debuts as an NBC-TV series and, over six seasons, sets a standard for sketch comedy unmatched until NBC’s “Saturday Night Live” launches in 1975.

January 23: North Korea seizes the USS *Pueblo*, claiming the surveillance ship strayed into its waters. One U.S. crewman is killed and 82 others are imprisoned; an 11-month standoff with the United States follows.

January 30: North Vietnamese communists launch the Tet Offensive.

February 1: Two Memphis sanitation workers are crushed to death by a malfunctioning garbage truck. Their deaths lead to a strike that becomes a civil rights movement.

March 6: Some 500 New York University students picket a university-sponsored recruiting event for the Dow Chemical Company, the principal manufacturer of napalm.

March 12: Richard Nixon wins 78 percent of the vote in New Hampshire’s GOP primary. Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota’s antiwar senator, takes a shocking 42 percent of the Democratic vote.

March 13: Atlantic Richfield and Humble Oil (now ExxonMobil) announce the discovery of an oil field beneath Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, the largest oil and natural-gas discovery in North American history.

March 16: New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy enters the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

March 19: Hundreds of students take over the administration building at Howard University in Washington, D.C., seeking a greater voice in student discipline and the curriculum.

March 31: President Lyndon B. Johnson announces he is not running for re-election.

April 3: Some 1,000 men return their draft cards to government offices all over the country.

April 4: Martin Luther King Jr., is fatally shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. In the next week, riots in more cities nationwide leave 39 people dead, more than 2,600 injured and 21,000 arrested.

April 11: Johnson signs the Fair Housing Act, banning discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. It is the last of the landmark civil rights laws he signed.

April 23: Students take over five buildings on Columbia University’s campus, calling for the university to cut its ties to military research. Before dawn on April 30 administrators call in the police, who respond with about 1,000 officers. More than 700 people are arrested, and 132 students, four faculty, and 12 officers are injured.

April 29: *Hair* opens on Broadway and runs for more than 1,700 performances, introducing mainstream theatergoers to sex, drugs, rock ’n’ roll and draft resistance.

DID YOU KNOW?

The bottom, or “stump,” of a head of **romaine lettuce** can be used to grow another head of lettuce. Save the bottom inch or so of the heart, cut a thin slice off the bottom and then place the stump upright in a shallow pan with a half-inch of water. If you keep it in a sunny location and add more water as needed, new leaves will sprout in a couple of weeks for a future round of salads. [gettystuart.com]

HEALTH NEWS:

Fish eases arthritis. In a study of the diets of 176 patients with rheumatoid arthritis, those who ate non-fried fish two or more times a week had less rheumatoid arthritis activity – as measured by a combination of swollen and tender joints and a blood marker for inflammation – than those who ate fish once a month or never.

Good news for chocolate lovers: In a study of 55,000 people, those who ate two to six one-ounce servings of chocolate per week had a 20% lower risk for atrial fibrillation (AFib), an irregular heartbeat that raises risk for stroke, heart attack, and dementia, than those who ate it only once a month. [Bottom Line Health, Dec. 2017]

PLACE YOUR BETS: The 144th Kentucky Derby, “the most exciting 2 minutes in sports” will run on Saturday, May 5. The Derby is referred to as “The Run for the Roses” due to the garland of 554 red roses draped over the winner. The first Kentucky Derby was held on May 17, 1875. The maximum age for a competing horse is three years. The mint julep is the traditional beverage of Churchill Downs and the Derby. Secretariat won in 1973 with a record time of 1:59 minutes that no other horse has ever beaten. Ladies are encouraged to wear huge, fancy hats to the Derby. Steve Buttleman has been the Churchill Downs bugler for 23 years. He’s played at 60,000+ races, including at other tracks. His herald trumpet is 32 inches long.

TREE PUNS: We were going to pick the red oak as Tree-of-the-Month, but the aspen was more popular. When trees start turning green again each spring, it’s a big releaf.

OLD-TIME RADIO: Every Saturday, from 1 to 5 PM, College of DuPage station WDCB (90.9 FM) re-broadcasts old radio shows on Those Were the Days, hosted by Steve Darnall. Chuck Schaden, former host of the show, who entertained at the Class of '55's last reunion, gives an audio peek at the past for about an hour every month at www.speakingofradio.com. WDCB is also Chicago's home for jazz, blues, news, and more. Check it out at 90.9FM. GOOD STUFF!

PLEASE TELL US: How did your years at Austin affect your life? What/who do you recall? We'll be happy to publish your memories for all to share, because it is so much fun to reminisce! Also, if you are not interested in receiving this newsletter, please tell us, so we can remove you from the mailing list.

WISE THOUGHTS:

“Life is a Great Big canvas – Throw all the paint at it you can.” [Danny Kaye, 1911-1987]

“Love cures people – both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it.” [Karl A. Menninger MD, American psychiatrist (1893-1990)]

“Happiness is like Jam... You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself!” [Unknown]

HELP STILL WANTED: 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

Austin 1950's Alumni Committee

Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli
Npasq@comcast.net
847-991-5656

Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma
kaurige1@att.net
708-562-6642

Phil Grossman
phillipgrossman@pgrossman.com
847-673-4555

Marshall Hechter
marshch@comcast.net
847-903-4221

Ed Horak
Emhorak@aol.com
847-910-9553

Harry G. Kappos
hgk1937@comcast.net
847-515-8693

Charles Larsen
CWLarsen@earthlink.net
708-485-8328

Genny (Luisi) Schroeder
gennyluisi@yahoo.com
847-824-5615

Irwin A. Magad
Imagad@comcast.net
847-630-6990

Shel Marcus
Shelmarcus@yahoo.com
847-966-5862

Joan (McConville) Leander
TennisGal102@yahoo.com
630-476-0193

Chuck Meyer
C124@illinoisalumni.org
763-541-0088

Jim Padar
webmaster@austin1955.org
773-763-5078

Mike Pasquerelli
mjp1937@comcast.net
847-991-5656

John Rozinsky
jrozcpa@aol.com
630-707-6508

Ken Rosko
jkr.financial@gmail.com
847-623-5800

John Spinello
j.spinello@yahoo.com
630-980-7801

Josephine (Tavarone) Bax
joalbax@juno.com
847-823-8984

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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:

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EMAIL: _____