



# AUSTIN HIGH 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2019

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



## **SPRING 2019 DRURY LANE EVENT on WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 2019:**

**Register now** for the best seats for Mamma Mia! Our special discount price for the lunch and show is \$57 per person. This includes almost everything! Parking, taxes, and gratuities are included. Lunch will include a salad, choice of entrée, dessert, rolls and butter, and one non-alcoholic beverage. 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. **Reservations and payments MUST be in by March 20, 2019.**



**DRURY LANE SPRING EVENT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019**

Runtime: 2 hours with a 15-minute intermission

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

**Payment due by Thursday, MARCH 20, 2019**  
**Make check payable to: “Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.”**



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

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

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ X \$57 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

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

Entree choices (check one per person): Fish: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Crepes \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form and your check before March 20, 2019 to:**

**Irwin Magad, Austin High 1950s Alumni  
3714 Monticeto circle, Mundelein, IL 60060**

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

We are very grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Carol (Anselmo) Wolf, Edward Bisso, Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Regina (Daniel) Katz, Joseph DeRosa, Clifford Dorn, Yvonne (Forsland) Alton, Ronald Gibbons, Edward Hoffman, Wesley Kortanek, and Vito Martino.

**Special Thanks** for their extra generous donations to: *Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli*, Raymond Charlette, Burt Fischer, *Connie (Tosto) & Art Fumarolo*, Patricia (Giuffre) Peterson, Donald Gurney, Evelyn (Karger) Lyons, *Irwin Magad*, Robert Mintz, Peter Markos, James McCarthy, *Ken Rosko, John Rozinsky*, Paul Sengpiehl, John Ward, Louis Weber, and Lawrence Zolkewitz.

Due to the recent increase in the cost of first-class postage to **\$.55**, please make an **annual \$6 (or more)** donation to keep this newsletter coming. Make donation **checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."** and **mail them to our Treasurer, Irwin Magad at 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060.**

PLEASE NOTE YOUR CLASS YEAR ('55, '56, '57, etc.) ON YOUR CHECK, and **LADIES**, PLEASE **ALSO NOTE YOUR MAIDEN NAME**.

## **VALENTINE'S DAY:**

- Celebrating love in February goes back to Roman times, with the Feb. 15 Feast of Lupercalia, the goddess of fertility.
- Two saints are named Valentine; one is said to have performed secret marriages for Roman soldiers, who were forbidden to marry. He was beheaded in the third century.
- Esther Howland, a student at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, started the New England Valentine Co. in 1849, and is known as the "Mother of the American Valentine." Today, approximately 114 million cards are sent out each Valentine's Day.
- Chocolate treats for Valentine's Day started as a marketing venture in 1868 by Richard Cadbury, who developed "eating chocolates" packaged in beautiful boxes. [Oak Park River Forest Museum]

**NO SWEETHEARTS** for your sweethearts this Valentine's Day. The bankrupt 171-year-old **New England Candy Company (Necco)**, known for its Necco wafers and those little inscribed hearts that are everywhere on Valentine's Day, was acquired by Ohio-based Spangler Candy Co. for \$18.83 million at a federal bankruptcy auction in Boston. Necco, which calls itself the oldest continuously operating candy company in the U.S., couldn't keep pace with multinational competitors. Necco traces its roots to 1847, and says Union soldiers fighting in the Civil War carried Necco Wafers, as did GIs during World War II. The War Department bought them by the caseload and sent them to Europe and the Pacific because they didn't melt and seldom broke during shipping. In 1913, the Arctic explorer Donald Baxter MacMillan gave them to Eskimo children. In the 1930s, Adm. Richard Byrd included 2½ tons of wafers on a supply list for a two-year expedition in Antarctica. And Roman Catholics joke that they're the communion wafer of candy. [USA Today January 23, 2019]

## **ALUMNI NEWS:**

**Norma (Gisler) Gonzalez '56** wrote last quarter, "Although I only went to Austin a short time, it was my dream school at that time in my life. All the Sumner Elementary kids were going there and we were a tight group at that time. *John Rozinsky* was a class friend and we have stayed in touch. Best of Luck to all of you."

June and **Paul Sengpiehl '55** celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 28, 2018. Congratulations!

**Judy (Spero) Levin '56** reports: "I have a secret life that most people don't know about. For the third year, I have done a stand-up comedy routine at my congregation's variety show." Judy lives in Milwaukee and pointed out, "I am not available for private parties or America's Got Talent." Way to go, Judy!

**Don Gurney '55** writes, "We are enjoying ourselves in Greer, SC, and are in good health. Regards to All!"

## **THE WISDOM OF PHYLLIS DILLER:**

"As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight. Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance? The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public. I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."

## **DID YOU KNOW:**

- **Popcorn is the Official State Snack Food of Illinois?** The General Assembly made that designation official in 2003, following a project by 2nd and 3rd graders from Cunningham Elementary School in Joliet that pushed to make popcorn the state's official snack food. Illinois is the third largest producer of popcorn nationwide. Sweet or savory, caramelized, buttered or plain -- any way you pop it, popcorn keeps Illinoisans coming back for more. **January 19th was National Popcorn Day.** Americans consume 14 billion quarts of popcorn each year.
- **Walgreen's opened its only store in Chicago without a pharmacy in October 2018.** The new store is at 1051 W. Randolph, in the building that houses McDonald's new corporate headquarters. A sign in front of the store directs customers needing a pharmacy to the Walgreens at Halsted and Monroe. Charles R. Walgreen Sr. purchased the pharmacy where he was employed in 1901. Always an innovator, to bring people into his store in the winter, in 1910, Walgreen began selling hot food prepared by his wife, Myrtle. In 1922, **the first malted milkshakes** were invented at Walgreens by Ivar "Pop" Coulson, and were first sold for 20 cents each. He used ice cream made in Walgreen's Chicago factory. The new store employs about 20 workers – but no pharmacist. [*Chicago Sun-Times*, 11-19-18]

**AUSTIN IN THE NEWS:** It's a common refrain on Chicago's West and South sides: There aren't enough jobs for young people, especially males ages 16 to 24. A new retail cooperative launched last month in Austin aims to change that. Eight young adults — supported by the Westside Health Authority — are the first members of the newly formed **Young Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (Y.E.T.)**. Their goal isn't just creating more jobs but also empowering their community, reducing crime, and providing a safe environment for shoppers.

Y.E.T. held the first in a series of pop-up markets on Jan. 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westside Health Authority's youth development center, 5437 W. Division St. The cooperative also will be organizing and managing mobile retail carts at key West Side locations, and representing local businesses at various community events. "A lot of people want to give back to the community but don't really know how," said Micheal Clark, 22, one of eight participants in the just launched Young Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program in Austin. And local businesses need more support to thrive. "We can help fill that void by working with business owners in Austin."

Clark has his own clothing line, Fla\$h Mobb Apparel. He and the seven other Village Fellows, as they're called, just completed 12 weeks of training, during which they learned business basics such as how to network, as well as life lessons like there's more power in working together than alone. It was during the training that Laurentio Howard Jr., 26, realized "this could be really big." That's what Westside Health Authority COO Quiwana Bell believes. "Everything we do here is about building capacity," Bell said. "It's not just about offering services, but allowing people in the community to offer their gifts and take advantage of the assets already here. There's a great deal of disposable income in Austin that gets spent elsewhere every day," Bell said. "They're not spending it here; they're spending it in Oak Park, in Oak Brook and in North Riverside. That's why the young entrepreneur program is needed." Bell said. See more at: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/author/smcbridecst/>.

## **The 50 + 1 greatest NFL players from the Chicago area:**

The Chicago Tribune named the top 50 players; Austin tied with Mount Carmel and New Trier with three. Our heroes and their place in the top 50 are: **#6 Pete Pihos** played at Indiana and for the Philadelphia Eagles. Dennis Pihos, a June '56 graduate, was a cousin of Pete. **#22 Abe Woodson** played for Illinois and the San Francisco 49ers. **#27 George Wilson** played for the Chicago Bears, winning 4 NFL titles in the 40s. Wilson was a cousin of **Bill DeCorrevont** (not included in the top 50), who played for Austin in the late 30s, drawing over 100,000 fans to Soldier Field in 1937 when Austin defeated Leo High School 26-0 in the Charity Bowl. **DeCorrevont** played for the Chicago Cardinals and the Chicago Bears along with **Alf Bauman**, another Austin player. See <https://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/football/ct-greatest-nfl-players-chicago-area-2...>

**ANCIENT? WORDS:** One day a not so elderly (say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy. He looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He never heard of the word. She knew she was old... But not *that* old. Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth.

Dorcas Reilly, who created the Green Bean Casserole in the Campbell's Soup test kitchens in 1955, passed away on October 15, 2018. According to Bill Linden of the Chicago Sun-Times, the word casserole comes from the French, meaning "Once we shove this in a preheated oven, we'll have 30 extra minutes to drink."

#### **IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1954:**

Belated condolences to '57 classmate (**Yvonne Forsland**) **Alton** on the passing on January 18, 2011, of her husband, '54 classmate **Howard Paul "Howie" Alton** of McHenry. Howie enjoyed a career for over 30 years at UPS in Franklin Park, where he was a package driver. Prior to working at UPS, he was employed as a full journeyman bricklayer. Talented in construction and with an interest in theatre, he lent his talents to area community theatres in master set design and construction. Over the years, he was associated with Town Square Players and Woodstock Musical Theatre Company at the Woodstock Opera House and the PM&L Theatre of Antioch. Howie also volunteered for the McHenry County Conservation District, and enjoyed volunteering for the annual Trail of History for over 10 years. He was active on the Restoration Committee for the Powers-Walker House in Glacial Park, and was a longtime member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. He was a doting grandfather, and enjoyed the companionship of his dogs, golden retriever, Trinity, and his mixed lab, Missy. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Yvonne, three children, and six grandchildren.

#### **MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1955:**

**Helen (Koehler) Brady** died on November 14, 2009. Helen retired from Victory Memorial Hospital after 33 years of service, and then worked for the Illinois Bone and Joint Institute in Gurnee. Condolences to her husband of 53 years, Edward Sr., her five children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Charles J. Cimaglia** passed away March 2, 2018, in Scottsdale, AZ. Charles was retired from Motorola. Our sympathy goes to his wife Camille, 2 children, 2 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

**Eileen (Iverson) Aasen** of Rockton, Illinois, passed away on Sunday, November 25, 2018, after a long illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband Paul and the Aasen family.

#### **IN MEMORIAM – CLASS OF 1956:**

**Patricia A. Heneghan**, nee DelPrincipe, passed away on January 11, 2019, preceded in death by her husband Michael. Survivors include daughters Rosemary (Brendan) Sheehan, Susan Marie (Robert) Floress, and Peggy (William) Gernady; and eight grandchildren. Our sympathy goes to the Heneghan family.

**Alyce (Petersen) Kowal** passed away in May, 2018. Our sympathy goes to her husband, Robert and family.

**Earl "Bud" Kaiser** of Traverse City, MI passed away on November 9, 2017. He is survived by wife, Mary Ann; children, Dawn (Chris) Baddeley, and Jim (Mary) Kaiser; and five grandchildren. Our sympathy goes to Mary Ann and the Kaiser family.

**Patricia Ann (Beck) Poff** of Vallonia, Indiana, passed away on November 16, 2016. We have no other information.

**Betty (Nasca) Mijatov** passed away on September 12, 2016. Sincere sympathy to her many loving nieces and nephews who mourn her passing.

**Lewis J. Myles**, late of Highlands Ranch, CO, passed away on January 9, 2016. Lewis worked as a Chief of Pharmacy in several posts throughout the U.S. Condolences to his wife Geri, sons Seth and Rand, daughter Laura, and four grandchildren.

We learned just recently that **Lawrence Esposito**, 72, of Streamwood, passed away on Feb. 24, 2011.

"Don't cry because it is over – smile because it happened." [Dr. Seuss]

"Therapists are friends you can drink with." [Hallmark]

## MILESTONES:

**130 Years ago, Lyon & Healy** completed its first harp. George W. Lyon, a native of Northborough, MA, and Patrick J. Healy, born in Mallow, Ireland, were dispatched to Chicago by Boston music publisher Oliver Ditson to start a sheet music shop as an outlet for his publications. On October 14, 1864, the partners opened a store at the corner of Washington and Clark Streets. Lyon & Healy survived the Great Fire of 1871, and while rebuilding, acquired the piano business of Steinway & Sons pianos. Around this time, Healy decided to build “the finest harp the world had ever seen.” The first harp, completed in 1889, was played daily at Morgan Park High School in Chicago until it was returned to Lyon & Healy in 1979. It is currently on display at the Museo Dell’Arpa Victor Salvi in Piasco, Italy. Lyon & Healy harps are recognized as the standard harp in great symphony orchestras. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s two concert grand harps are valued at \$93,000 each.

**110 Years ago**, on January 7, 1909, **Theodore Roosevelt** died. He said much that bears remembering, such as: “It is hard to fail, but worse never to have tried.” “When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on.” “The only man who never makes mistakes is the man who never does anything.” “To educate a person in the mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society.” “To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.” “If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.” “In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.” “Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.”

**100 Years ago**, on January 19, 1809, **Edgar Allan Poe** was born in Boston, MA. By the time he was three, he, his older brother, and his sister were orphans. Poe was taken in by the wealthy tobacco merchant John Allan and his wife in Richmond, Virginia, while his brother and sister went to live with other families. In 1826, Poe left Richmond to attend the University of Virginia, where he excelled in his classes but accumulated considerable debt. He soon took up gambling to raise money to pay his expenses. By the end of his first term Poe was so desperately poor that he burned his furniture to keep warm. He dropped out of school and returned to Richmond, only to discover that his fiancée had become engaged to another man.

Poe was determined to become a great poet and to find adventure. He accomplished the former with his first book *Tamerlane* when he was only 18, and for the latter, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, but was thrown out after eight months. Broke and alone, Poe went to Baltimore—his late father’s home—and visited relatives in the city. One of Poe’s cousins robbed him, but another relative, his aunt Maria Clemm, became a new mother to him and welcomed him into her home.

While Poe was in Baltimore, John Allan died, leaving Poe out of his will. Poe had started publishing his short stories, one of which won a contest. The connections Poe made through the contest allowed him to publish more stories and eventually gain an editorial position at the *Southern Literary Messenger* in Richmond. At the age of 27, Poe brought Maria and Virginia Clemm to Richmond and married Virginia, age 13. The marriage was happy, but money was always tight. Dissatisfied with his low pay and lack of editorial control at the *Messenger*, Poe moved to New York City and to Philadelphia a year later, where he wrote for a number of magazines. In spite of his growing fame, he still barely made a living. He was paid for his first book with 25 copies of it.

The January 1845 publication of “The Raven” made Poe famous. He was again living in New York City and able to draw large crowds to his lectures. He published two books that year, and briefly lived his dream of running his own magazine when he bought *Broadway Journal*. The failure of the venture, his wife’s failing health, and rumors about his relationship with a married woman, drove him from the city in 1846. He moved to a tiny cottage in the country. There, in 1847, Virginia died of tuberculosis at age 24. Her death devastated Poe.

He returned to Richmond in 1849 and reconnected with his first fiancée, Elmira Royster Shelton, now a widow. They became engaged and intended to marry after Poe’s return from a trip to Philadelphia and New York. However, on the way to Philadelphia, Poe stopped in Baltimore and disappeared for five days. He was found on October 3, 1849, near a saloon, unconscious. Neither Poe’s mother-in-law nor his fiancée knew what had become of him until they read about it in the newspapers. Poe died in a hospital on October 7, 1849, at the age of forty. The exact cause of Poe’s death remains a mystery.

**100 Years ago, *Gasoline Alley***, a comic strip created by Frank King, debuted on November 24, 1918; it is currently the longest-running strip in the United States, and the second-longest-running strip of all time in the United States, after *The Katzenjammer Kids*. The strip has received critical accolades for its influential innovations. In addition to new color and page design concepts, King introduced real-time continuity to comic strips by depicting his characters aging over generations.

**100 Years ago**, on January 1, 1919, **Jerome David (J. D.) Salinger**, an American writer known for his widely read novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, was born. Following his early success publishing short stories and *The Catcher in the Rye*, Salinger led a very private life for more than a half-century. He did not publish any more work in his lifetime since 1965, and gave his last interview in 1980. He died on January 27, 2010.

**100 Years ago, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago** was founded. Since 1919, young artists have sought membership in the orchestra to develop their talents and to further prepare for careers as professional musicians. Founded by Frederick Stock, second music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra is the only season-long training orchestra of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

**100 Years ago**, in 1919, E. C. Segar created **Olive Oyl** for his comic strip *Thimble Theatre*. Ten years later, on January 17, 1929, **Popeye the Sailor**, appeared, and the strip was renamed *Popeye* after the sailor character became the most popular member of the cast. In 1933, Max Fleischer adapted the *Thimble Theatre* characters into a series of *Popeye the Sailor* theatrical cartoon shorts for Paramount Pictures. These were among the most popular of the 1930s, and production continued through 1957. Over the years, Popeye has appeared in comic books, TV cartoons, arcade and video games, advertisements, products ranging from spinach to candy cigarettes, and the 1980 live-action film starring Robin Williams as **Popeye**. Charles M. Schulz, creator of the long-running comic strip *Peanuts*, said, "I think *Popeye* was a perfect comic strip, consistent in drawing and humor." In 2002, *TV Guide* ranked *Popeye* number 20 on its "50 Greatest Cartoon Characters of All Time" list.

**90 years ago, Michael King**, later known as **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, was born at 501 Auburn Ave., Atlanta, Georgia. He began his freshman year at Morehouse College on September 20, 1944, and on August 6, 1946, *The Atlanta Constitution* published King's letter to the editor stating that black people "are entitled to the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens." For an excellent chronology of Dr. King's life, see: <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-resources/major-king-events-chronology-1929-1968> And the rest, as they say, is History.

**20 Years ago, American Girl Place**, the 1980s brainchild of Chicago-born teacher and writer, Pleasant Rowland, opened in Chicago. The upscale American Girl doll company sold a series of dolls based on historical figures intended to promote girls' interest in American history. By the late 1990s, American Girl was hugely profitable. Rowland then conceived American Girl Place, a combination retail store, destination, restaurant, and theater. The 35,000-square-foot American Girl Place on Chicago Avenue, west of Michigan Avenue was a huge tourist draw. In the basement was a full-blown show in a 150-seat theater, "The American Girl Revue," performed several times a day with a live band. By 2001, the store had a second, high-quality show called "Circle of Friends: An American Girls Musical." It had a modern, birthday-party setting and was designed to offer tools to help girls resolve the conflict in their lives by looking at the struggles and achievement of girls in various periods of American history. Then, things changed.

Rowland sold her brand to Mattel for \$700 million. For several years, it did well, but in 2008, American Girl Place in Chicago moved to Water Tower Place, a smaller space with no theater, so, the shows ended. The focus on history was becoming lost as Mattel contemporized the brand. There was even a new boy doll, named Logan Everett. "American Girl dolls are dying, and taking Mattel with them," read an apocalyptic 2017 headline in *Market Watch*. Too many girls now were more interested in Snapchat and Instagram.

[Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*]

**15 Years ago**, in 2004, **Dick Van Dyke** received his high school diploma at the age of 78. He had left high school in 1944, intending to join the United States Army Air Forces for pilot training during World War II. Denied enlistment several times for being underweight, he was eventually accepted for service as a radio announcer before transferring to the Special Services and entertaining troops in the continental United States.

## **FAREWELL, ORIENTAL – HELLO NEDERLANDER:**

It lit up the night sky along Randolph Street between State and Dearborn for 93 years, and now the iconic Oriental Theatre marquee is no more. Workers carefully removed the letters that once spelled “Oriental” and installed the letters that now spell “Nederlander,” the theater’s new moniker in honor of the late theater impresario, James M. Nederlander, who passed away in 2016. The 3,200-seat Oriental Theatre, designed by the legendary architecture firm of Rapp and Rapp, once operated as a grand movie palace for Balaban and Katz, and also featured live entertainment. In a statement last November announcing the name change, Broadway in Chicago president Lou Raizin praised the late Nederlander for his commitment to Chicago’s entertainment scene: “Renaming the theater gives us a way to say thank you and to acknowledge the extraordinary difference he made for Chicago in his lifetime,” he said. The new marquee was officially lit February 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. The Tony Award-winning musical “Dear Evan Hansen” was the first Broadway show to play the newly named venue when it opened Feb. 13. [*Chicago Sun-Times* February 5, 2019]

**"SPECIAL EVENT" → REUNION 2020 → SHARE THE VISION**

**SAVE THE DATES!!** The Austin Classes of the 50s Reunion Committee is planning a "Special Reunion" in **early October, 2020**. The three-day event will be open to all Austin alumni who attended during the 1950s. **Note the Month and Year**, and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, cousins, and siblings. Look for more specific information in upcoming newsletters.

**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 Chris Padar at **cpadar@gmail.com**.

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to **reunion@austin1955.org** OR, mail to: **Art Fumarolo, Austin High 1950s Alumni; 5365 Fox Path Lane; Hoffman Estates, IL 60192.**

NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_  
(First, maiden, last, and Class Year)

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