



AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 13 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2019

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the gala All 1950s Alumni reunion on October 9, 10, and 11 at the Drury Lane Theatre Complex and Oakbrook Hilton Suites in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. This event promises to be a wonderful celebration of those fabulous fifties we enjoyed at Austin High. In addition to other goodies, each alumni attendee will receive a Memory Book and personalized name badge. If you are a 1950, 1951, 1957, 1958, or 1959 alum, we need to borrow your senior year annual ASAP for the name badge photos. Contact Shel Marcus (see last page for contact info.) for instructions for pickup or mailing.

There will be an elegant sit-down dinner on Friday night, a casual '50s-style party on Saturday night, optional daytime activities, and a farewell breakfast Sunday morning. You will receive a special mailing early next year with all the event details and a Registration Form. Watch for it. But first, plan to join us in March.

SPRING 2020 DRURY LANE LUNCH & PLAY on WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2020:

Register now for the best seats for *An American in Paris*! **Only the first 42 to register** are guaranteed the special discount price of \$65 each. This includes almost everything! Free parking, easy access with a minimum of stairs, and all taxes and gratuities. Wheelchair seating is limited. Lunch will include a salad, choice of entrée, dessert, rolls and butter, and coffee or tea. Adult beverages are extra. 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 February 25, 2020.



**DRURY LANE SPRING EVENT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020**

Runtime: *2 hours with a 15-minute intermission*

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



Payment due by Tuesday, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."

Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Number of people _____ X \$65 = \$ _____ Check # _____ is enclosed.

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Entrees (number of each): Fish: _____ Chicken: _____ Pasta: _____ Vegan: _____

(Parmesan-crusted Tilapia, Grilled Breast of Chicken, Finger Cavatelli, Veggie Kebab)

**Mail your check by February 25, 2020 to:
Irwin Magad, Austin High [Chicago] 1950s Alumni
3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060**

ALUMNI NEWS:

A Very Belated Happy 60th Anniversary to **Mary Ann D' Amato ('57)** and **Jim Vail ('55)**, who tied the knot at St. Peter Canisius Church on North Avenue on April 11, 1959. **John Ruckrich ('55)** was their Best Man. See them all in the "Latest Photos!" section of our website <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austin1955/sets/>. See also the **Summer 2009** newsletter in the Archives for their wedding and 50th anniversary photos. 'Lookin' GOOD!

An even more belated THANK YOU to **Clifford Dorn ('55)** for the photo of the Orr School 8th grade class. See it in the "Latest Photos!" section of our website <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austin1955/sets/>.

Sheldon Marcus ('55) was honored recently with the President's Award at B'nai B'rith's Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. for work he did on B'nai B'rith International's (BBI's) 175th Anniversary Membership campaign. Shel has been a member of B'nai B'rith for many years, serving as BBI's Midwest Region President, BBI's Senior Vice President, and presently sits on their Executive Board and is BBI's National Membership Chairman.

Jerrold Schulkin ('54) writes that he is an architectural interpreter and historian for the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, where Henry Warren Austin had his estate, now Austin Gardens. Jerrold is also a sidewalk interpreter for the annual May Wright Plus house walk, and volunteers for the Oak Park-River Forest Historical Society's annual October Cemetery Walk in Forest Home. He also served for six years as president of the Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society and the Northeastern Illinois Historical Council. During the years in which he gave tours at the Great Lakes Naval Museum, he won the President's Volunteer of the Year award three times. Jerrold also sent us the obituary for Pete Pihos (1923-2011), one of several former Austin football players who were inducted in the Football Hall of Fame. Thanks, Jerrold!

Bruce Powers ('56) writes, "I graduated Austin June '56 and went on to U. of Illinois and U. of Chicago in chemistry. I met my wife, Phyllis McCuen (Lucy Flower HS, Jan '57), at Navy Pier.

My career was with the US Navy as a civilian, and we lived mostly near Washington DC and still do. Along the way, we lived overseas 3 times and I spent 2 years working aboard warships. We had 2 children (one born in Hawaii), and they also live near DC. That has permitted us to be part of our grandchildren's lives; they are now young adults.

I was in the Pentagon on 9/11/2001 when the airliner hit it, but was unhurt -- although my office was destroyed in the ensuing firefighting. I walked home 7 miles that day, and repeat that walk each year on 9/11 to remember the 10 friends lost at the Pentagon. This month will mark the 19th such walk. For a dozen years, I have given monthly walking tours in NYC at its 9/11 Memorial where I describe events at the Pentagon 9/11/2001. About half of the visitors are from overseas. I still teach a graduate course at George Washington University in DC My time at Austin served as a springboard for a life I treasure. (Since 1982, we have shared annual vacations with a handful of Austin classmates. Sadly, the group is dwindling.)"

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are very grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter:

John Baron, '55; Rita (Cimino) Reczek, '55; Barbara (Clancy) Maginnis, '54; Ronald Ebbole, '56; Carol (Felt) Benande, '54; Bruce Harmel, '56; Judith (Hemwall) Swanson, '56; Arlene (Kahn) Abrams, '56; Arlene (Kroll) Porys, '56; Eleanore (Maggiore) Gercone, '54; Louise (Marganti) Lutzow, '54; Grace (Morra) Trp, '55; Angel (Plotkin) Newman, '55; Jerrold Schulkin, '54; Angie (Triolo) Jehlik, '55; and Ben Weinberg, '55.

Special thanks to these who made extra-generous donations: Arlene (Behr) Harris, '56; Myron Cohen, '55; Charles Glickman, '54; Edwin Horak in Memory of Geri (Harris) Horak, '55; Barbara (Jarm) Baker, '55; Martin Jacobson, '55; Sandra Kuzlik, '55; Charles Larsen, '55; John Loving, '56; Harriet (Michaels) Schab, '56; Roberta (Shane) Atlas, '55; and Louis Weber, '55.

"Christmas magic is silent. You don't hear it---you feel it, you know it, you believe it."

Kevin Alan Milne, *The Paper Bag Christmas*

WEBSITE UPDATE:

The "Graduate List" on our website has been updated to reflect the status of all 1955 and 1956 alumni as of October 17, 2019. Take some time to browse the list to rekindle some old memories. If you find any inaccuracies or if you know how to contact someone who is listed as "Not Located" or "Addr Unknown," please communicate that to us by email to: reunion@austin1955.org. We will send new members details about our organization and our upcoming all 50s classes reunion.

AUSTIN NEWS:

Barbers and stylists donated their time on August 26 in Austin to make sure kids in the neighborhood were looking fresh for their first day of school. The back-to-school event was hosted by the Chicago Police Department's Austin (15th) District. Pediatricians from Loyola University Medical Center also offered free checkups at a healthcare van outside the police station. Officer Edgar Brown, a 10-year veteran from Memphis, Tennessee, said he came up with the idea for a haircut and health care day two weeks ago, when his partner came in one day talking about getting a haircut, and that's when it clicked," he said. "This is part of policing, too. It's a way for us to give kids in the neighborhood a clean start to a fresh new school year."

Austin has an estimated 95,000 residents, 81% of which identify as black. The median income in Austin is just under \$33,000 a year — nearly \$20,000 less than the median income citywide — and families occupy two-thirds of households in the neighborhood. Kids' haircuts in the area range from \$10 to \$20, without tip. Many parents said having a free haircut for their kids was a nice sigh of relief.

The demand was high: Parents and their kids started lining up outside the police station at 1 p.m. even though the event didn't start for another hour. By 3 p.m., more than 50 kids had been served and more were coming through the door. Shirley Mitchell, a hair braider who lives in nearby suburban Berkeley, said it was a no-brainer to help out on Monday. "I like kids and I like hair, so it's a good fit," she said.

[Written by *Carlos Ballesteros*, a corps members of Report for America, a not-for-profit journalism program that aims to bolster Sun-Times coverage of Chicago's South Side and West Side.]

IN MEMORIAM:

Edward M. Bisso ('56) passed away on June 11, 2019. He received his business degree while employed by Illinois Bell and retired as District Manager at AT&T, from where he early-retired in 1988. He and his wife Gayle enjoyed 25 more years between their homes in Florida and Illinois, rooting for the Bears and Cubs, and enjoying boating, fishing, and golf. His tenacity, bright smile, and never-ceasing optimism will be greatly missed.

Philip H. Bizar ('59), passed away on September 18, 2019. Phil is survived by his loving son, Craig Bizar, grandson, Asa A. Bizar, and a beloved brother-in-law. Phil was a devout atheist, Democrat, and Bears fan. Phil was a football superstar at Austin High School and founding member of the law firm Bizar & Doyle, LLC where he worked with his son up until his passing.

Janice (Carson) Tokarz ('56) passed in October 2013. We have no other information.

Nicholas "Nick" or "Butch" Coneset ('56) passed on November 16, 2019. Loving husband of the late Marianne (nee Kamp); Dear Dad of Dina (Tony) Raya and Marianne (Dave) Schmoie; grandfather of Nick, Matthew (Jennifer), Lindsay, Sarah, Kiley and Anthony; great-grandfather of Parker; brother of the late Peter (Dale) Coneset. Former Illinois High School Assn. referee.

Myron (Michael) Cooper ('53 or '54) passed away in August 2019. He was a former A&E Mechanic, Jet Engine Specialist at Strategic Air Command during the Korean Conflict. He was a Low Hurdles State Champ and played on the 1952 and 1953 Austin Championship football teams under coach Bill Heiland. Myron was a member of the Great Vest Side Organization, the Lake Shore & Snow Hawks Ski Clubs, and Temple Sholom. We offer condolences to his fiancée Pamela Brownie, son Joseph (Lizbeth), daughters Lisa (Cary) Ross, and Karyn Lanza, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Eunice (Keller) Bergman ('56) passed on August 25, 2019 after a short illness. We have no other information.

IN MEMORIAM (cont'd):

Concetta Ippolito Fiasche ('55) passed away in January 2019. Beloved wife of the late Michael; devoted mother of Mary (Michael) Stegeman and Cathy (Roger) Peterson; loving grandmother of Joe (Alexa) Stegeman, Lisa Stegeman and Jeffrey Peterson.

Dolores (Minervini) Darring ('55) passed away on December 18, 2018 in Euless, TX.

Robert J. Priore ('56), husband of the late Elaine for 25 years; U.S. Army veteran; passed away on August 8, 2019. Condolences and Thanks to his cousin Elizabeth Peterson for letting us know.

Irving D. Rouse ('55) passed away on March 11, 2015. We have no other information

Mary Ann (Rucinski) Cannalte ('56) passed away on October 17, 2019.

Kenneth Swiatek ('58) passed away in January 2018 in San Marcos, CA. Ken attended Nash Elementary School, had his own Beauty Salon in Ruby's Department Store in Elmhurst, IL, joined the Marine Corps, and moved to California, where he became a model. Ken was the Marlboro Man in the cigarette ads. He opened his own beauty salon (Mr. Ken's) and served many very high-class celebrities. **Janet (Westergren) Johnson ('55)** informed us that her brother **Frank Westergren ('58)** attended to Ken until his passing.

Condolences to classmate **Alice (Shapiro) Blitstein ('56)**, whose husband of nearly 62 years, David, passed away in late August, 2019.

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS:

235 years ago, on September 26, 1774, John Chapman, better known as **Johnny Appleseed**, was born. He was an American pioneer nurseryman who introduced apple trees to large parts of Pennsylvania, Ontario, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, as well as the northern counties of present-day West Virginia. He became an American legend while still alive, due to his kind, generous ways, his leadership in conservation, and the symbolic importance he attributed to apples. [Wikipedia]

150 years ago, in 1869, the 182.5-foot-tall **Chicago Water Tower** was built of Lemont limestone to house a 138-foot high standpipe to hold water. In addition to being used for firefighting, the pressure in the pipe could be regulated to control water surges in the area around 806 North Michigan Avenue. It is the second-oldest water tower in the U.S., after the Louisville Water Tower in Kentucky. Contrary to popular belief, the Water Tower is NOT the only building in the burn area to survive the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, but it IS the only public building to survive the fire. In 2014, the small park the tower is sited in was named for former Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne. It is a lovely place to sit and enjoy the garden and admire the horses that pull the carriages that park on the adjacent street. The tower also serves as an art gallery, featuring the work of local artists, photographers, and filmmakers. Go inside and check it out. You'll be pleasantly surprised. [Wikipedia]

100 years ago, on August 21, 1919, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, beloved chaplain of Loyola U's men's basketball, was born. 100 years later, Sister Jean, who became a national sensation during the 2018 March Madness college basketball tournament, when the Ramblers made their first Final Four appearance since 1963, Sister Jean was serenaded with "Happy Birthday" by a large crowd — which included Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and many other Chicago politicians — in the Damen Student Center. During the event, Sister Jean revealed her secret to living a long life: saying "Good Morning." "It might be tough to do in the beginning but it'll grow on you," she said. Loyola president Jo Ann Rooney announced that the university will match an alum's \$250,000 donation to create the Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt BVM endowment scholarship fund. She also announced that more than \$30,000 had been raised for Sister Jean's "Worship, work, win" athletic endowment. Pritzker also had a special honor for the basketball-loving nun, proclaiming Aug. 21, 2019, "Sister Jean Day." [NBC Chicago & Chicago Sun-Times August 21, 2019.]

"Live your life, but forget your age." [Unknown]

"Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining." [Theodore Roosevelt]

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (Cont'd):

95 years ago, on **November 27, 1924**, at 9 a.m., Macy's gave the children of New York a particularly special Thanksgiving treat as a police escort led the start of the parade from the intersection of 145th Street and Convent Avenue. The early-morning start time of "**Macy's Christmas Parade**" overlapped with many church services, but it gave spectators plenty of time to make it to the afternoon's big football game between Syracuse and Columbia universities at the Polo Grounds. The spectators who stood four and five people deep, could watch it all in just a matter of minutes since the modest parade stretched the length of only two city blocks.

To match the nursery-rhyme theme in Macy's Christmas window display in 1924, floats featured Mother Goose favorites such as the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, Little Miss Muffet and Little Red Riding Hood. Macy's employees dressed as clowns, cowboys and sword-wielding knights. A menagerie of animals on loan from the Central Park Zoo - including bears, elephants, camels and monkeys - offered a circus-like atmosphere as four bands provided the soundtrack to the festive march. Bringing up the rear of the parade was a float bearing the guest of honor - Santa Claus - sitting in his reindeer-driven sleigh on top of a mountain of ice.

By noontime, the parade finally arrived at its end in front of Macy's Herald Square store where 10,000 people cheered Santa as he descended from his sleigh. After being crowned "King of the Kiddies," Kris Kringle scaled a ladder and sat on a gold throne mounted on top of the marquee above the store's new 34th Street entrance near Seventh Avenue. With a bellow from his trumpet, Santa sounded the signal to unveil "The Fair Frolics of Wondertown," the Christmastime window display designed by artist and puppeteer Tony Sarg. As soon as the police lowered their crowd-control lines, children rushed to the 75-foot-long window to see the miniature Mother Goose marionette characters on moving belts frolicking in their own parade in front of a castle-like façade.

The first-ever balloon to launch over the parade was Felix the Cat, who debuted in 1927, alongside a colossal dinosaur, a dachshund hound, turkeys, chickens, and ducks. In that first year, the parade balloons were not deflated, but rather released into the air to pop of their own accord. The next year, Macy's had even more fun with it, when they filled the balloons with helium designed to leak out slowly, allowing five characters – a tiger, an elephant, a ghost, and two birds – to float for 10 days and drift to various parts of the country, while offering a \$100 reward for their return (around \$1,500 in today's money). Years later, many of these parade balloons were donated to WWII efforts for the use of their rubber. Felix the Cat took a break from the parade for nearly 90 years, before returning in 2016, looking just as he had in his inaugural appearance. [history.com]

90 years ago, on **August 22, 1929**, **The Music Box Theatre**, on the north side of Chicago, opened at a time when the movie palaces in downtown Chicago each had seating capacities of around 3,000 people. **The Music Box** sat 700, and was built for a cost of \$110,000. To this day, it retains its original architecture and design. With a dark blue ceiling, "twinkling stars" and moving cloud formations suggesting a night sky, and walls and towers suggesting an Italian courtyard, patrons are made to feel as if they are watching a film in an open-air Tuscan palazzo. *Theatre Architecture* magazine noted in 1929 that the theatre "represents the smaller, though charming and well equipped, sound picture theatre which is rapidly taking the place of the 'deluxe' palaces." **The Music Box** is the only theatre in the Chicago area presenting silent films with organ accompaniment on a regular basis. The irony is that it began in 1929 playing only sound films.

Old theaters have ghosts. The Music Box has "Whitey," who was the manager of The Music Box from opening night 1929 to November 24, 1977. His wife was the cashier, and they raised their family two blocks away from the theater. According to one of Whitey's daughters and his daughter-in-law, he spent most of his time at the theater. Young people who grew up in the neighborhood tell tales of working for Whitey, being tossed out by Whitey and accidentally-on-purpose skinning their knee to get a free piece of candy from Whitey. On Thanksgiving eve, 1977, Whitey returned to close the theater. He fell asleep on the couch in the lobby and never woke up. He is now a tireless protector of The Music Box Theatre. He helps solve problems and has been known to express his opinion of a bad organist by causing the drapery to drop in both organ chambers simultaneously. He is a positive contributor to the audience's comfort and enjoyment of his theater. He is sometimes felt to be pacing Aisle 4 (protecting the alley doors where kids used to sneak in). If you see him, be sure to say hello and thank him for his 48 years of care and operation of The Music Box and his continued service to the patrons. He is the Manager Emeritus.

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (Cont'd):

80 years ago, on August 12, 1939, *The Wizard of Oz* premiered not in Hollywood or New York, but at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc, WI! Part of the appeal of Oconomowoc was the local connection for two people involved in the film. Composer Herbert Struthers, who wrote the score, was from Milwaukee and had a lake home in Okauchee; and Meinhardt Raabe, the munchkin coroner who declared the Wicked Witch dead, was born in Watertown in 1915. Raabe's less-than-15-second appearance in the film made him famous (he was one of the few Munchkins with dialogue). He graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in accounting in 1937, and served as the smallest pilot in uniform with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II. After college, he took a job as a salesman with Oscar Mayer. The company made him "Little Oscar," the world's smallest chef, and he spent the next three decades traveling the country with the Wienermobile. He took leave from his job to be in *The Wizard of Oz* when he heard they were hiring little people, or "midgets" as they were referred to at the time.

The Wizard of Oz played to sold-out shows for its five-day run in Oconomowoc. The publicists used the audience reaction to craft the national publicity campaign for the film, which had a much splashier — and expected — opening at Grauman's Chinese Theater on Aug. 15.

80 Years ago, on September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler ordered the German army to meet force with force. His order of the day read: "The Polish state has rejected my efforts to establish neighborly relations and instead has appealed to weapons. Germans in Poland are victims of a bloody terror, driven from house and home. A series of border violations unbearable for a great power show that Poles no longer are willing to respect the German border." Germany invading Poland on September 1, 1939, was the immediate precipitating event of Britain and France declaring war on Germany on September 3, 1939. [*Chicago Tribune* September 1, 1939]

80 years ago, Robert Lewis May created **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer** in 1939 as an assignment for Chicago-based Montgomery Ward. The retailer had been buying and giving away coloring books for Christmas every year and it was decided that creating their own book would save money. May was pondering how best to craft a Christmas story about a reindeer, while staring out his office window in downtown Chicago, when a thick fog from Lake Michigan blocked his view—giving him a flash of inspiration. "Suddenly I had it!" he recalled. "A nose! A bright red nose that would shine through fog like a spotlight."

Robert May considered naming the reindeer "Rollo" or "Reginald" before deciding upon "Rudolph". May said his daughter liked reindeer, and he said he was treated like Rudolph as a child. In its first year of publication, Montgomery Ward distributed 2.4 million copies of Rudolph's story. The story chronicles the experiences of Rudolph, a youthful reindeer buck (male) who possesses an unusual luminous red nose. Mocked and excluded by his peers because of this trait, Rudolph proves himself one Christmas Eve with poor visibility due to inclement weather. Santa Claus catches sight of Rudolph's nose and asks Rudolph to lead his sleigh for the evening. Rudolph agrees and is finally favored by his fellow reindeer for his heroism and accomplishment.

May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, adapted the story of Rudolph into a song. Gene Autry's recording of the song hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* pop singles chart the week of Christmas 1949. Autry's recording sold 2.5 million copies the first year, eventually selling a total of 25 million, and it remained the second best-selling record of all time until the 1980s. [Wikipedia]

1939 also marked the first year Thanksgiving would be on the fourth Thursday in November (instead of the last Thursday), thus lengthening the Christmas shopping season.

70 years ago, on April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed and **NATO**, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was born. This event was celebrated by Allied Heads of State and Government in London on December 3, 2019. In 1949, the United Kingdom was one of NATO's twelve founding members and London was the home of NATO's first headquarters. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II hosted a reception for NATO leaders at Buckingham Palace. [Wikipedia & www.nato.int]

70 years ago, on October 1, 1949, the **Chinese Communist Revolution**, led by the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Zedong, resulted in the proclamation of the People's Republic of China. [Wikipedia]

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (Cont'd):

65 years ago, on September 27, 1954, the **Tonight Show** debuted, called simply “Tonight,” with Steve Allen as host. This show served as an archetype for much of late-night entertainment in the decades that followed. One of his most famous bits, “The Question Man,” served as the inspiration for Johnny Carson’s “Carnac the Magnificent,” and he was never afraid to abuse his body for comedy. One time, he climbed into a massive bowl of salad with a female wrestler; another time, he drank six double vodkas on the show to allow his audience to watch his transformation into a giggling mess. His tenure was brief, ending on January 25, 1957, but his legacy as the father of late-night television continues to this day. [*New York Times* September 6, 2019]

65 years ago, in December 1954, **Burger King** (BK) was founded in Miami, FL. It's fitting that Burger King was founded in Miami, as its closest competitor — the one with the golden arches — got its start across the country in California. Floridians were never quite the same after having their first taste of the fast-food chain's now-iconic specialties. Since then, Burger King has become an international brand with more than 17,000 franchises around the world. [*Miami Herald* 8-25-19]

60 years ago, inspired by his pregnant wife Ethel’s discomfort with the era’s restrictive undergarments, Allen Gant Sr., then running textile company Glen Raven Mills, asked her, “How would it be if we made a pair of panties and fastened the stockings to it?” She stitched some crude garments together, tried them on, and handed the products to her husband. “You got to figure out how to do this,” she said. Allen brought Ethel’s experiment into the office, and with the help of his colleagues Arthur Rogers, J. O. Austin, and Irvin Combs, developed what they later called “Panti-Legs.” Their product—the world’s first commercial pantyhose—began lining department store shelves in **1959**. The rest, as they say, is history. [Smithsonian.com July 7, 2009]

50 years ago, on January 12, 1959, a young Detroit entrepreneur named Berry Gordy, great-grandson of a Georgia slave, created a new music that broke down barriers, electrified the American songbook – and keeps us dancing even today. **Motown** was incorporated as Motown Record Corporation on April 14, 1960. Its name, a portmanteau of *motor* and *town*, has become a nickname for Detroit, where the label was headquartered. **Motown** played an important role in the racial integration of popular music as an African American-owned label that achieved crossover success. In the 1960s, **Motown** and its subsidiary labels (including **Tamla Motown**, the brand used outside the US) were the most successful proponents of the **Motown** Sound, a style of soul music with a pop influence.

50 years ago, from August 15 to 18, 1969, **Woodstock** was held on Max Yasgur's dairy farm in Bethel, New York. Billed as "an Aquarian Exposition: 3 Days of Peace & Music" and alternatively referred to as the **Bethel Rock Festival**, it attracted an audience of more than 400,000. Thirty-two acts performed outdoors despite sporadic rain. The festival has become widely regarded as a pivotal moment in popular music history as well as a defining event for the counterculture generation. Last-minute venue changes, bad weather and the hordes of attendees caused major headaches. Still, despite—or because of—a lot of sex, drugs, rock ‘n’ roll and rain, Woodstock was a peaceful celebration and earned its hallowed place in pop culture history. In 2017, the festival site became listed on the National Register of Historic Places. [Wikipedia & History.com]

50 years ago, on November 10, 1969, **Sesame Street** debuted on Public Television to the delight of thousands of children. Since it started, Sesame Street has won 193 awards, launched thousands of products, and changed early education around the world. [*TIME* 11-18-19] R.I.P. Carroll Spinney (Big Bird), who died on 12-8-19.

40 years ago, the **McDonald’s Happy Meal** was introduced as the “Circus Wagon Happy Meal” in June 1979, and McDonald’s served up a surprise for its patrons this year. From November 7 through 11, 2019, the chain offered the Surprise Happy Meal (while supplies lasted) – each featuring one of the most popular toys from among the four decades since the first meal-with-a-toy was launched. The throwback lineup boasted 17 toys (plus two additional toys exclusively available in the U.S. only). [*Chicago Sun-Times* November 6, 2019]

“I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots. [Albert Einstein]

“Live full, die empty.” [Chuck Pagano, Chicago Bears Defensive Coordinator]

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (Cont'd):

30 years ago, on November 9, 1989, the **Berlin Wall** fell, a pivotal moment in the events that brought down Communism in eastern Europe. Leaders from Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic attended a ceremony at Bernauer Strasse – where one of the last parts of the wall remains – before placing roses in the barrier that divided the city for 28 years. “The Berlin Wall, ladies and gentlemen, is history,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said. “It teaches us: No wall that keeps people out and restricts freedom is so high or so wide that it can’t be broken down.” [*Chicago Sun-Times* November 10, 2019]

20 years ago, on November 1, 1989, **Walter “Sweetness” Payton** died at age 45 of bile duct cancer and liver failure. “*When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you.*” There are athletes that transcend sports. Those that made a significant impact on the field that even decades later is still felt today. Walter Payton was that athlete. Payton helped lead the Bears to their only Super Bowl title in 1985. But Payton was so much more than his accomplishments on the field. While he was one of the most graceful players to ever play on the gridiron, he forever changed what it meant to be an athlete that contributed to his city. It's a legacy that lives on in the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, which is presented to an NFL athlete that has displayed excellence both on and off the field. [*USA Today*, November 1, 2019] See also <https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/bears/walter-revisited-20-years-after-his-passing-walter-payton-remembered-how-he-lived>. Get the tissues ready.

TELL US YOUR NEWS: Send news to share to **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma** at kaurige1@att.net 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 or **408 Nawata Place, Prospect Heights, IL 60070**.

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

NAME _____ YEAR _____
(print) _____
(First, Maiden, Last, and Class Year)

STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PHONE (Required): _____

EMAIL _____

AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI REUNION COMMITTEE

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