



AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2020

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



HAPPY SPRING!!

Dear Friends: Because of the coronavirus pandemic, no printed newsletter can be produced as this time, because we cannot gather together to stuff and stamp envelopes. We hope we can do it for the Summer newsletter. Meanwhile, anyone with internet access can read this newsletter on our website www.austin1955.org.

2020 AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL 1950s GALA WEEK-END REUNION!

On behalf of the entire Austin High School Reunion Committee, we hope you and your family are doing well as we are all dealing with the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. It is something we will all remember for years to come. Because no one knows what tomorrow brings, I think it's good to be positive and have plans for future happy events. This brings me to our plans for our 2020 Austin High School 1950s WEEK-END REUNION celebration.

YES, IT'S ON!!!! OCT. 9-11

*Your committee is working hard and is very excited. From your registration responses, so are you! We've added more rooms to our room block to accommodate the additional registrations. **If you have registered, THANKS, but if you haven't, do it today!** You can find the Registration Form on our website <http://www.austin1955.org>*

For those of you who have attended past Austin High School Reunions, you know they have all been first class affairs, and your Reunion Committee is planning that this one, which salutes all the classes of the fifties, will be the best one ever!

Relive those great Austin memories with your classmates at the 2020 celebration in October.

..... **“It was a wonderful week-end”** **“It was money well spent”**
..... **“Great Memories”** **“Looked forward to it”**
..... **“It was nice seeing my good friends, who I haven't seen in years”** ...

*These are some of the comments you will make when you attend the **2020 Austin High School 1950s GALA WEEK-END REUNION, OCTOBER 9-11, 2020, at the DRURY LANE DINING/THEATRE COMPLEX & the OAKBROOK/HILTON SUITES.***

It's very heartwarming to see Austin High grads from around the country and around the world coming back one more time and sharing their personal thoughts on their registration form. Such comments as the following have made the committee's time and effort in planning this REUNION worthwhile.

..... **“can't wait”** **“thanks, for all you're doing”**
.... **“I've attended each reunion; each one was better than the last”** ...
..... **“sorry, I can't make this one, but here's a contribution”**
.. **“wish I could be with you, please say hello to my fellow classmates”** ...

If you've already sent in your deposit of \$50.00 per person, Thanks, but if you are still thinking about it, I urge you to send in your deposit today! It's IMPORTANT; let me tell you why. Even though all fees are due by July 31, and refunds, if necessary, will be made 'til September 1st, getting your deposit in tells us you are planning to attend and it GUARANTEES that YOUR High School picture and contact information will be listed in the beautiful commemorative book that will be given to all attendees. If you wait until July 31, we cannot guarantee that you will be listed. So, get your deposit in today!

If you are planning to stay overnight at our reunion hotel site, the Oakbrook/Hilton Suites, just a few steps from our event site, I'm urging you to make your reservation ASAP. I've been informed our room block is selling out fast at our special rate of \$109.00+tax and once the block is sold, rooms will be available at their higher regular rate.

Let me share with you some other exciting details that our REUNION COMMITTEE is planning. On Friday evening, you will participate in a lovely welcoming reception party and a beautiful 4 course dinner, with your choice of entree. In addition, we are negotiating with a well-known Chicago personality to be our special speaker and discuss the impact of radio and television on us during the 40s and 50s, with interesting radio clips from those years that will bring back wonderful memories. On Saturday afternoon, we are offering special tours, for those who are interested, and on Saturday evening we will have a night to remember at our Gala Chicago 50s party, with food, music, and special surprises that will make it a party you won't forget. In addition, the committee is planning to have a special video presentation that will bring back memories for anyone who grew up in Chicago during the 40s and 50s. There will be games and even some door prizes. It will be a once in a lifetime experience. To conclude the week-end festivities, on Sunday morning, an optional scheduled "farewell" Buffet Breakfast is being planned for those who have the energy and strength to discuss their week-end experiences. Register today by following these simple instructions:

Print the 4-page Registration Form you can find on our website <http://www.austin1955.org>

Fill in the blanks, and send it with your check, made payable to "AUSTIN 1955 REUNION, LTD", to Irwin Magad, 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060.

We are looking forward in seeing you all at the Drury Lane and the Oak Brook/Hilton Suites.

For any additional questions, feel free to contact me or any member of our committee.

Shel Marcus, Gala Reunion Planning Committee Chairman, 847-966-5862.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS!!

Please make all donation checks payable to **Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.** Mail checks to our treasurer, **Irwin Magad, 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060.** (DO NOT SEND CASH.)

NEWSLETTER DONATIONS:

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

Vera (Feigenbaum) Post '56, Carolyn (Garcia) Anderson '56, Robert Mintz '55, **John Rozinsky '56**, and Ronald Weiss '55,

Special thanks to these who made extra-generous donations: Peter Chelepis '55, Louis '55 and Helen (Gaysowski) '56 Mango, Al and Susan (Synoracki) Meyer '56, and George Wesesku '56.

M&W SPONSORS:

As noted on the Gala Reunion Week-End Event Registration Form, if you would like to help underwrite the Gala Reunion, you may send a donation of any amount, and your name will be listed in the Program Book on the "Maroon & White Sponsor" page. Be sure to note "M&W SPONSOR" on your check, so your donation won't be confused with newsletter donations. If you cannot attend the reunion, we will mail you a souvenir program book as a "Thank You." All M&W sponsors will be acknowledged in the Reunion Program Book.

As I got older, I became like a good mystery story – full of wrinkles. [Frank & Ernest]

ALUMNI NEWS: In an email from **Fern [Karn] Katz '55**, expressing her regrets that she will not be attending the October reunion, she states: “When I die, I want it to be on my 100th birthday, in my beach house on Maui, and I want my (new) husband to be so upset that he has to drop out of college.” “Way to Go, Fern!

Don Segal '56 tells us that the “Happy Meal,” whose 40th anniversary was mentioned in the Autumn 2019 newsletter, was developed by the Bernstein-Rein P.R. firm in Kansas City, Missouri. The “Rein” is Don’s classmate **Irwin (Skip) Rein**, class of Feb. 1956.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to 1955 classmates **Connie (Tosto)** and **Art Fumarolo** as they celebrated their April 23rd 60th wedding anniversary. Art writes, “We had FaceTime and regular telephone calls all day long from our children and grandchildren, a nephew, and several friends. We received a beautiful floral arrangement, a delicious Edible fruit arrangement, and a decorated cake. The bigger celebration was the Saturday before our anniversary when we were surprised by our immediate family with a "drive-by parade." Our daughter who lives nearby called and said to come to the door. We thought she was leaving something on the stoop, perhaps from the grocery store, for us. When we opened the door, our daughter-in-law was down by the garage and told us to come out further. As we did, we heard cars honking from down the street. As we got beyond the garage, we could see the honking cars approaching with balloons and signs on them. Our 15 children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter were in 6 or 7 cars. They honkingly drove by the house, went to the end of the block, turned around, passed by going in the other direction, then turned around again and came back. They parked along the curb in front of our house and the houses on either side of us. They all got out of the cars, waving and clapping, and each stood near their car and we stood half-way down the driveway and talked for over an hour. Each family brought a gift and left them on the foot of the driveway. We all were thrilled with the experience and especially enjoyed seeing our great-granddaughter walking live (we've seen her before on a FaceTime chat) up and down the driveway and across the lawn. She also was talking and babbling. It was a grand afternoon. The balloons and signs still adorn our vestibule.” [Editor’s note: Long may you love!]

WEBSITE REVISION and UPDATES:

The 1955 Austin High School and Austin High [Chicago] 1950s Alumni website has been revised. The layout has been reorganized into sections containing similar content, such as Pictures and Old Newspaper Articles. It currently also contains a link to the 2020 Austin High School Reunion Registration Form and updated 1955 and 1956 Graduates' Status listings. Take a look at them!

SEE YOUR MAROON & WHITE PICTURES IN COLOR:

MyHeritage [sic] is offering **free** searches in its "colorized" collection of school yearbooks through **May 23, 2020**. MyHeritage has an enormous yearbook collection with 290 million names in 36 million pages, from yearbooks across the U.S. from 1890 until 1979. The original black and white yearbook pages remain unchanged, and you can easily toggle between the black and white and colorized versions. Take this opportunity to search for your old friends and loved ones in the vast collection. Go to MyHeritage in Color at <https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10569/us-yearbooks-name-index-1890-1979> .

IN MEMORIAM:

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the following deceased classmates:

Alan R. Burke ('55) died in December 2017. His widow, Maxine, wrote, “he would have loved to attend” the October 2020 reunion.

Mary Lou (Agin) McCan ('56) died on September 15, 2017 in southern Indiana.

Marvin H. Glick ('55), passed away on February 28, 2020, his 83rd birthday.

Dennis C. Keating ('55) of Downers Grove, IL, formerly of Villa Park, died on March 12, 2020. Beloved husband of JoAnn, loving father of four, grandfather of 12, great grandfather of 13.

The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone else solve theirs. [Unknown]

IN MEMORIAM (cont'd.):

June Elizabeth (Mundson) Wolf ('56) of Prospect Heights, IL died on August 29, 2019. June is survived by her children Karen (Jonathan) Kaspar, Valerie (Susan) Sinitean-Wolf, and Jennifer (Colin) Noronha; six grandchildren and foreign-exchange daughter, Gisele Bellido. Preceded in death by her husband Richard.

Thomas Joseph Ridolfo, Sr. ('56) passed away on June 15, 2017 in Mountain Home, AR. Tom was a mechanical engineer, working in the construction of nuclear power plants. He served four years in the Illinois National Guard as an MP. He enjoyed a variety of interests, displaying a love for the arts and hunting; playing the violin and fishing. He was a renaissance man. He took his first flying lessons in the early sixties and retained a passion for flying as long as his health allowed. Tom is survived by his wife, Sharon; son Thomas (Nicole) Ridolfo II, step son Kevin Scott Hedberg of Illinois, daughters Michelle (Peter) Keefe of Texas and Gayland Ridolfo of Illinois, and five grandchildren.

Constance D. Schwab, MD ('56) long-time resident of River Forest, IL, loving sister of Linda Schwab, passed away in January 2017. "She attended the last 1956 class reunion, and really enjoyed herself," says sister Linda.

Myron Lee Stone, MD ('55) of Saratoga, CA, passed away on February 27, 2020. Lee's childhood dream of becoming a pediatrician was fulfilled during his residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. After two years at Irwin Army Hospital in Fort Riley, KN as a pediatrician, he moved his family to Saratoga, CA in 1967, and opened his practice in San Jose, where he remained until his retirement in 2005. Lee had three loves in his life: his family, his life's work as a pediatrician, and collecting and selling fine prints. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Bonnie, and their three children, Barrie, Rachel (Alan), and Benjamin (Jennie), and his three grandchildren Lilian, Zander, and Alon. His family was fortunate to share "Poppa's" zest for life, his sense of humor, his curiosity (as an ardent student of history), his sense of adventure, and his warm heart. As a member of the Physicians for Automotive Safety, he was responsible for the implementation of a policy requiring newborns to be in approved car seats upon departure from the hospital. As a man of boundless energy, he was able to carve out a parallel career as a print dealer specializing in 20th century works of art on paper. He was also a long-time member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association.

Robert J. Woods ('55) passed away on July 8, 2003. His daughter Geralyn Fitzgerald wrote, "I hope, in light of all that is happening right now, your reunion will go on without a hitch!"

Barbara (Valdes) Kramer ('52), passed away in November 2014.

GOOD THOUGHTS:

"Worrying won't stop the bad stuff from happening – It just stops you from enjoying the good." [Charles Schulz]

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS:

100 years ago, the first **Fannie May** retail store was opened by H. Teller Archibald in 1920 at 11 N. LaSalle St. in Chicago. Buttercreams were introduced and became an immediate success. In 1946, an instant classic, "Pixies" were born, followed by Mint Meltaways in 1963 and Trinidads in 1972. The newest innovation was the Carmarsh® in 1992, bringing together an all-star trio; caramel, marshmallow, and chocolate. This quickly became a customer favorite. [<https://www.fanniemay.com/our-story>]

90 years ago, **Stephen Sondheim**, one of the most important figures in 20th-century musical theater, was born in 1930. The birthday celebration was supposed to take place on March 22, Sondheim's actual 90th birthday and the scheduled opening night of the latest revival of his show "Company," but because of Broadway's shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was cancelled. Ctrl/click on the link below for a 2 ½ hour live-streamed musical tribute. <https://youtube/A92wZIVEUaw>

See also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Sondheim

MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (cont'd):

100 years ago, the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago** gave its first performance on March 29, 1920. In lieu of the previously scheduled March 29 concert at Symphony Center—cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic—the Civic Orchestra of Chicago has prepared an historic “virtual concert” of newly recorded content. Audiences around the world can access the Civic Orchestra of Chicago 100th Anniversary Virtual Concert online at [facebook.com/civicorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/civicorchestra) and on YouTube at [youtube.com/chicagosymphony](https://www.youtube.com/chicagosymphony).

The program will last approximately 35 minutes, and feature an excerpt from the fourth movement of Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony, which was recorded remotely by over sixty Civic Orchestra musicians, and compiled as a “virtual symphony” performance. The concert then continues with the world premieres of seven new pieces that were commissioned this week by the Civic Orchestra in celebration of its 100th anniversary.

90 years ago, The Adler Planetarium was founded by Chicago business leader Max Adler. It is located on the northeast tip of Northerly Island at the shore of Lake Michigan in Chicago, IL and opened on May 12, 1930. On January 20, 2020, Adler launched a new logo and brand identity. See <https://www.adlerplanetarium.org>.

70 years ago, the Timex watch was created. The Waterbury Clock Company was founded in 1854 to create a number of precision clock products, so many that Connecticut's Naugatuck Valley area was dubbed the "Switzerland of America." After WWI, America's demand for a more convenient timepiece resulted in the invention of the wristwatch — and in **1950**, the company created a model it called the Timex. By 1958, the company was attempting to destroy its timepieces on live TV to prove the famous tagline, "It takes a licking and keeps on ticking," and in the 1960s, the Waterbury Clock Company officially became the Timex Corporation. <https://www.timex.com/the-timex-story/>

50 years ago, Edward K. Thompson, the retired editor of *Life* magazine, was asked by the then-Secretary of the Smithsonian, S. Dillon Ripley, to produce a magazine "about things in which the Smithsonian [Institution] is interested, might be interested or ought to be interested." Thompson would later recall that his philosophy for the new magazine was that it "would stir curiosity in already receptive minds. We would find the best writers and the best photographers—not unlike the best of the old *Life*." Thus, the first *The Smithsonian Magazine* was published in **April 1970**.

50 years ago, on **April 22, 1970**, Earth Day was born in the muck of an oil spill. After an oil-well blowout offshore from Santa Barbara caused devastation along the California coast in 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin worked with environmentalist Denis Hayes to organize and launch the first Earth Day, drawing millions to the streets. It was such a shock to President Nixon and Congress that they did a lot right away. They created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and began developing landmark laws such as the Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, both of which are currently in danger. [*National Wildlife* April-May 2020]

40 years ago, representing America in the 1980 Winter Olympics, 20 college hockey players from Minnesota or Massachusetts, nearly all former team captains in high school or college, defeated the mighty Soviet professionals in what became known as ***The Miracle on Ice***. It was during this meet that the chant “U-S-A!” was born, and has been heard at all subsequent Olympics. [AARP Magazine February/March 2020]

35 years ago, in 1985, Alice Walker's epic novel, ***The Color Purple***, was put on the big screen. Directed by Steve Spielberg, the film deals with the maturity and independence of a mistreated black woman (Whoopi Goldberg in an Oscar-nominated role) from the years 1909 to 1947. The movie made Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey stars. [Imdb.com]

“The other day, I fell down the stairs. Instead of getting upset, I thought, “WOW! That’s the fastest I’ve moved in years!” [Unknown]

“There’s nothing I believe more than this, that laughter adds time to one’s life.” [Norman Lear, age 97]

DID YOU KNOW?

According to historians, the color we should all be wearing on St. Patrick's Day is actually blue, not green! A light shade of blue, actually known as **St. Patrick's blue**, was the primary color on ancient Irish flags and armbands worn by the Irish Citizen Army. It wasn't until the 1798 Irish Rebellion, when the iconic clover became a national symbol, leading to wearing green on lapels. From there, green spread to official uniforms and reached the point where most people don't even remember that blue was where it all began! [*Trivia Genius*]

TIDBITS FROM KEN ROSKO:

- My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.
- Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.
- Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.
- The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
- Bad decisions make good stories.
- I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.

TELL US YOUR NEWS: Send news to share to *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* at kaurigel@att.net or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021. Photos and other website items should be sent to Chris Padar at austin1955.webmaster@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

(print)

GRAD. YEAR

(First, Maiden, Last)

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CITY, ST, ZIP

PHONE (Required):

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