



# AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 14 ISSUES 3&4 SUMMER-AUTUMN 2020

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Dear Friends: Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to produce a Summer newsletter. This combined issue includes events that have occurred since our email-only Spring issue of April 29, 2020. All newsletters produced since January 2006 can be found on our website at [www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org).

## **GREETINGS TO ALL from Your Austin High '50s Reunion Committee President, Ken Rosko !!**

We have finally confirmed the dates for our postponed REUNION '50s EVENT to be held at the Drury Lane Dining/Theatre Complex in Oakbrook Terrace, IL and Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Suites.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR for OCTOBER 1-3, 2021!**

It will again be a 3-day weekend, with individuals choosing the day(s) and events they wish to attend. We will gather for a Friday night Welcoming party and sit-down dinner. On Saturday, we will offer tours for the day and a Big GALA PARTY at night, featuring a "Chicago style" buffet dinner and lots of surprises. Sunday will offer an optional breakfast buffet. We will be sending out specific details and requesting your refundable reservation deposit early next year. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy, HEALTHY New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2021. GO TIGERS!

## **NEWSLETTER DONATIONS:**

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.)

**Special thanks** to those who made extra special donations:

David Coquilette '54, Victoria (Dobrzynski) Peterson '55, and Larry Manelis '55.

## **ALUMNI NEWS:**

Congratulations and Best Wishes to **1955** classmate **Suzanne (Johnson) Peterson** and her husband Richard as they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 17. [Editor's note: Long may you love!]

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

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

**Diana Caporelli Catale ('52)** passed away on June 17, 2020.

**Gwendolyn L. (Coquilette) Davis ('55)**, 82, at rest January 26, 2019. Beloved wife of the late William. Loving mother of two children, predeceased by one son. Dearest Grammie of six grandchildren, great-grandmother of two.

**Marvin Einhorn ('55)**, beloved husband and friend of Minna for 67 years, passed away in September 2020. Beloved father of two children, proud grandfather of four. Marvin was a lifelong active bicyclist, hiker, and adventure travelling companion. He was also an extraordinary photographer, and since retirement, a member of MEL and SEL, and bridge-playing partner.

## IN MEMORIAM (cont'd.):

**Alexander N. Gonzales ('56)**, 82, passed away on August 19, 2020. Marsh Hechter ('56) notes that "at Penn School, Alex was our class president and Captain of the Patrol Boys who guarded the intersections between our homes and our school." He was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and was a founding member of the Filipino American Council of Chicago/Rizal Center. He is survived by his loving wife Nobuko (Uechi), four children, and six grandchildren.

**Eli Hugh Jacobs ('56)**, passed away on September 16, 2020. Beloved husband of Jacqueline (Stemler), father of two, stepfather of two, and grandfather of six.

**Eileen (Leander) Cook ('53)**, wife of the late **William ('53)**, beloved sister-in-law of **Joan (McConville) Leander ('55)**, passed away on April 14, 2020 in Sun City West, AZ. Eileen was an amazing cook, a great seamstress, an avid golfer, bridge and poker player, and a die-hard Cubs fan. She is survived by her three children, a sister and a brother.

**Harriet (Michaels) Schab ('56)**, age 80, passed away on March 13, 2020. She was the wife of the late Daniel M. Schab, the mother of three, and grandmother of five.

**Carol Ruth (Mitzen) Christenholz ('58)**, age 80, died on August 23, 2020, at her home in Scottsdale, AZ. Carol was the beloved wife of 59 years of Wallace ("Wally"); mother of two, sister of two, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of four.

**June Elizabeth (Mundson) Wolf ('56)** died August 29, 2019 at her home in Prospect Heights from lung disease. She is survived by her three children, six grandchildren, and foreign-exchange daughter, Gisele Bellido. June was preceded in death by her husband, Richard E. Wolf and by her parents.

**Paul Pearlman ('56)** passed away in 2013.

**James "Jim" Stewart Reinhart ('56)**, age 80, of The Villages, FL passed away on November 9, 2018 at The Villages Hospice House. Jim was born on May 5, 1938 in Chicago, IL. He was the owner/operator of Mijan Enterprises, Inc., and was very involved with several masonic organizations, as well as the Big Wheel Organization, and bowling. Jim is survived by his wife, Janet (Spoerl), one daughter, and four grandchildren.

**Sandra D. (Ring) Drabek ('56)**, age 82, died on December 3, 2019, at home, following five years of suffering with asthma and COPD. She was the 1956 Austin Homecoming Queen. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Richard Drabek, two children, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Patricia (Simon) Roth ('55)** passed away on April 7, 2020. Patricia was a Special Educational Teacher and taught hundreds of children, giving them the chance to reach their full potential. She was a lover of music and art and an intelligent and astute observer of life. May Patricia's memory be blessed. Wife of the late George Roth; loving mother of two; adoring grandmother of one.

## Sincere condolences to the following classmates who have lost loved ones:

**Natalie "Nikki" (Aaron) Friedman ('56)**, whose husband David (Davey) Friedman, age 92, passed away on August 11, 2020. Father of three, stepfather of three, grandfather of 15, and uncle of two.

**Donald Gagliano ('55)**, who lost his wife Rita (Mustell) on July 18, 2020. Mother of Jennifer, beloved step-mother of four.

**Bonita (Rowe) Gibbons ('55)**, whose husband, **Kenneth Gibbons (early '50s)**, passed away on May 14, 2020.

## **MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS:**

**400 years ago**, intending to land near the Hudson River, the **Mayflower** encountered a series of storms that caused their course to veer north, finally sighting the land of Cape Cod on the morning of **November 9, 1620**. They still wanted to go south to New York, but continued encountering rough seas. So, they threw their hands up and said "never mind, we'll just hang out here and build quaint little villages for future tourists right here on Cape Cod." [Source: [Mayflower History](#) | Date Updated: November 19, 2018]

**250 years ago**, **Ludwig van Beethoven**, a German pianist and composer widely considered to be one of the greatest musical geniuses of all time, was born on or about **December 16, 1770**, in the city of Bonn, Germany. Although his exact date of birth is uncertain, Beethoven was baptized on December 17, 1770. Babies at the time were baptized within 24 hours of birth, so December 16 is his most likely birthdate. However, Beethoven himself mistakenly believed that he was born two years later, in 1772, and he stubbornly insisted on the incorrect date even when presented with official papers that proved that 1770 was his true birth year. Beethoven's personal life was marked by a struggle against deafness. Some of his greatest works were composed during the last 10 years of his life, when he was quite unable to hear. He died at the age of 56.

**230 years ago**, the first **U.S. Census** began on **August 2, 1790**. Congress gave responsibility for the census to the marshals of the U.S. judicial districts, who were generally overseen by Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. The Census Act of 1790 required that every household be visited, and the total amount "of each description of persons" be sent to the president. Census-takers were to collect the name of the head of each household, as well as the number of people in each of the following five categories: 1) Free white males 16 years and older, 2) Free white males under 16 years old, 3) Free white females, 4) All other free people, and 5) slaves. The census took place in the original 13 states as well as the districts of Maine, Kentucky, Vermont, and the Southwest Territory. [Source: [U.S. Census](#) | Date Updated: February 12, 2020]

**150 years ago**, when the product we now know as **Vaseline debuted in 1870**, it was called Wonder Jelly. Chemist Robert Chesebrough first got the idea for the item after noticing that oil workers in Titusville, PA, were using a drilling byproduct, known as "rod wax," on their burned skin. He began to study the byproduct, and realized he could refine it into a lighter and more transparent substance. He reportedly traveled around New York promoting Wonder Jelly by burning his skin (using acid or an open flame) and then applying his new ointment. He changed the name to Vaseline, a supposed combination of the German word for water, "wasser," and the Greek word for oil, "oleon." [Source: [Mental Floss](#) | Date Updated: March 24, 2020]

**150 years ago**, history was made on **June 26, 1870**, when the first boardwalk in the U.S. opened in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Rather than the permanent structure seen today, this boardwalk was disassembled during the winter months. Spanning more than five miles, the **Atlantic City Boardwalk** is the longest in the world. [National Geographic: 1-16-20]

**135 years ago**, **Dr. Pepper**, the oldest of the major soft drink brands in the United States, was sold for the first time on **December 1, 1885**. The carbonated beverage, with its famously unique blend of 23 different flavors, traces its roots back to when Charles Alderton, a pharmacist at Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store in Waco, Texas, developed the fizzy and refreshing drink for customers at the pharmacy's soda fountain. According to the United States Patent Office, Alderton's boss, the owner of the pharmacy, is the one who came up with the name Dr. Pepper. [Source: [Dr. Pepper Museum](#), Updated: December 18, 2019]

**100 years ago**, the **Eighteenth Amendment** to the United States Constitution, known as the **Volstead Act**, set down the rules for enforcing the federal ban on alcoholic beverages, and defined the types of alcoholic beverages that were prohibited. Not all alcohol was banned; for example, religious use of wine was permitted. President Woodrow Wilson vetoed the bill, citing both constitutional and ethical grounds, but Congress overrode his veto. The Act became law on January 17, 1920 at 12:01 am, and lasted until it was repealed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment on December 5, 1933.

## **MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (cont'd.):**

**100 years ago**, at 4 pm on the sunny afternoon of **May 14, 1920**, a cowboy-hat wearing mayor William Hale “Big Bill” Thompson cut the ribbon to open the upper level of the new **Michigan Avenue bridge**. Fireworks were shot into the sky, planes dropped booster literature, boats in the river sounded their whistles, and a band played *The Star-Spangled Banner*. During the festivities, workers on the trunnion bascule bridge’s uncompleted lower level remained busily on the job. It was designated a Chicago landmark in 1991, and in 2010, it was officially renamed the **DuSable Bridge** in honor of Chicago’s first permanent resident, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, whose homesite is next to the north end of the bridge. [Chicagohistory.org]

**100 years ago**, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women’s suffrage, and was ratified on **August 18, 1920**, ending almost a century of protest. During America’s early history, women were denied some of the basic rights enjoyed by male citizens. Married women couldn’t own property and had no legal claim to any money they might earn, and no female had the right to vote. Women were expected to focus on housework and motherhood, not politics. (Editor’ note: HAH! We’ve come a long way, Baby!) [History.com 8-14-20]

**90 years ago**, in **1930**, Elizabeth Lee, Marcus Urann, and John Makepeace came together to form the co-op that came to be called **Ocean Spray**. That small cooperative has grown to include more than 700 small family farms, which have helped preserve the farmer family way of life for generations. Founded on the principle that we are stronger when we are working together, both Ocean Spray and our farmer-owners share the goal of connecting farms to families for a better life.

**75 years ago**, on **May 8, 1945** the war in Europe ended. **Victory in Europe Day**, generally known as **VE Day** (UK) or **V-E Day** (US), is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. Most countries celebrate the end of World War II on 8 May. Russia, Belarus, and Serbia celebrate on 9 May, as did several former Soviet bloc countries and Israel. The term VE Day existed as early as September 1944, in anticipation of victory. [Wikipedia.org]

**75 years ago**, the first **Thomas & Friends** story was created by the Rev. W. Awdry for his son, Christopher. Today, Thomas is just as beloved by children as he was when he first chugged down the tracks in **1945**. With constantly evolving content and more ways to reach fans than ever before, Thomas is inviting everyone to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary throughout 2020. The momentous year for the iconic **No.1 Blue Tank Engine** will include exciting partnerships, engaging apps and e-books, brand-new music, and new episodic content and specials. The power of the Thomas & Friends brand is evident across many platforms, but most of all in the hearts of its fans. See **businesswire.com** for more details. [BUSINESS WIRE April 28, 2020]

**75 years ago**, The **United Nations** officially came into existence on **October 24, 1945**, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. **United Nations Day** is celebrated on October 24 each year. [un.org]

**70 years ago**, **Smokey the Bear** was an orphaned cub who was actually saved from a forest fire in New Mexico’s Capitan Mountains in **1950**. He was discovered wandering alone near the fire line and then climbing a tree for safety. After the blaze, firefighters found the cub and treated his burns. He eventually was moved to Washington, D.C.’s National Zoo, becoming a real-life symbol for Smokey the Bear. Upon his death in 1976, he was laid to rest at Smokey Bear Historical Park in Capitan, New Mexico. [Smokeybear.com]

**50 years ago**, on **December 4, 1970** President Richard Nixon founded the revolutionary **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** in an effort to preserve America’s treasured landscapes. Throughout the 1960s, series of events including oil spills and the famous Cuyahoga River fire sparked national conversations about the state of the environment. In response, on July 9, 1970, Nixon proposed to Congress the organization, its goals, and steps to achieve them. In the ensuing half-century, the EPA has worked diligently to protect and preserve our environment. [Source: [EPA](#) | Date Updated: January 15, 2020]

## **MILESTONES & HISTORIC EVENTS (cont'd.):**

**50 years ago,** Garry Trudeau, now 72, launched *Doonsbury* as a syndicated comic strip on **October 26, 1970**, and a generation was never the same again. The name "Doonesbury" is a combination of the word *doone* (prep school slang for someone who is clueless, inattentive, or careless) and the surname of Charles Pillsbury, Trudeau's roommate at Yale University. Created in "the throes of '60s and '70s counterculture," and frequently political in nature, *Doonesbury* features characters representing a range of affiliations, but the cartoon is noted for a liberal viewpoint. [Wikipedia]

**40 years ago,** *The Blues Brothers* movie opened on **June 20, 1980**, with a **release** in 594 theaters. This iconic movie made Joliet world-famous. Several scenes were filmed at the Old Joliet Prison, which was built in 1858. The Joliet Area Historical Museum was planning a major party to commemorate the 40th anniversary, including a visit from Dan Aykroyd, but the coronavirus put that on hold. 2019 was the museum's first full year of hosting 90-minute walking tours behind the limestone walls of the Old Joliet Prison, and the Joliet museum began partnering with Aykroyd's **Crystal Head Vodka** for its prison events. [Todayinhistory.blog]

**35 years ago,** the comic strip *Arlo & Janis* made its debut on July 29, 1985. It is still running.

**30 Years ago,** **Sue**, the Field Museum's dinosaur, was unearthed on **August 12, 1990**. Sue is the world's most complete, best-preserved *T. rex*. Make no bones about it: SUE is special. The museum has 250 of the approximately 280 total known bones of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. which means SUE is 90% complete by bone volume. [www.fieldmuseum.org]

## **WORD FUN FROM ED SCHWARTZ ('54):**

The meaning of opaque is unclear.

I wasn't going to get a brain transplant but then I changed my mind.

Have you ever tried to eat a clock? It's very time consuming.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

So what, if I don't know the meaning of the word 'apocalypse'? It's not the end of the world.

Police were called to the daycare center. A 3-year old was resisting a rest.

The other day I held the door open for a clown. I thought it was a nice jester.

Need an ark to save two of every animal? I Noah guy.

Alternative facts are aversion of the truth.

**MOSQUITOS:** There's some magic going on in Iceland that makes it a completely mosquito-free country. Well, not really magic: It's the climate. In other chilly places, like Greenland or the coldest parts of Norway, mosquito larvae survive under the ice and emerge as the weather warms up. Icelandic winters have much more variation, so one warm day doesn't guarantee that warm weather's there to stay. It could drop back below freezing pretty quickly, which kills the larvae or any mosquito lucky enough to make it to adulthood, and the changes happen fast and often enough that there's no chance for mosquitoes to build any sort of population. [Source: [The Icelandic Web of Science](#) | Date Updated: October 7, 2019]

**EYE OF PROVIDENCE:** Your friendly neighborhood conspiracy theorist might have something to say about the Eye of Providence that floats on top of the pyramid on the back of the \$1 bill. But there are no secrets here: The pyramid and the eye are a part of the Great Seal of the United States, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt added them to the dollar currency in 1935. The phrases surrounding the pyramid are in Latin, and translate to "Providence Has Favored Our Undertakings" and "A New Order of the Ages," referring to the Founding Fathers establishing a new government. According to researchers, the eye is supposed to represent the eye of God watching over the new nation. That's not all: There's a lot to take in on the back of the dollar bill. Other elements include an eagle holding arrows and an olive branch, symbolizing war and peace, 13 steps on the pyramid representing the 13 original colonies, and the Roman numeral MDCCLXXVI (1776), the year the Declaration of Independence was signed. All that history is quite a bit more valuable than one dollar.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The name for a single spaghetti noodle is "spaghetto".

### **TIDBITS FROM KEN ROSKO:**

- If you are coughing uncontrollably, raise your hands above your head, and it will stop.
- An egg contains every vitamin, except Vitamin C.
- A study found that sniffing rosemary can increase memory by 75%.
- Rain contains Vitamin B12.
- Sucking a piece of clove after a meal helps reduce acidity.

### **LIFE LESSONS:**

- The best thing about being over 60 is that we did all our stupid stuff before the invention of the internet, so there's no proof.
- If you stir coconut oil into your kale, it makes it easier to scrape it into the trash.
- Everything will kill you, so choose something fun.
- No matter how big and bad you are, when a two-year-old hands you a toy phone, you answer it.

**TELL US YOUR NEWS:** Send news to share to *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* at [kaurige1@att.net](mailto:kaurige1@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](mailto:austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com) or 408 Nawata Place, Prospect Heights, IL 60070.

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto: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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