



AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2021

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

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, and here is where the flowers is.



REUNION UPDATE FROM SHEL MARCUS – DEPOSITS DUE APRIL 30th:

The wheels are moving and I hope all of our alumni have received their Covid 19 vaccine shots so we can all look forward to having a wonderful, stressless time at our fabulous AHS 2021 GALA '50s REUNION Week-end, **October 1-3**, at the Drury Lane Dining/Theatre Complex and the Chicago Hilton/Oak Brook Suites hotel. By now, everyone should have received their registration and event information. We mailed to our total data base to make sure all forms would be delivered. Mailing helps us to correct the addresses of those who have moved, if the mailing is returned undeliverable. Keeping us informed of your contact information changes and providing us with your emails, if possible, saves us postage and enables us to provide faster communication. We want to thank so many of you who are coming and are sending in your deposits and/or full payments to reserve your space(s) at the various events planned for the week-end. As you know, we are asking for a **\$50.00 per person deposit or full payment by April 30th** so we can properly plan each of the events that are being scheduled. As a reminder, any balance due must be paid by July 31 to guarantee your reservation. You can cancel and receive a full refund by September 1. Send in your reservations today! For many individuals, particularly those coming from out of town, we have reserved a small block of rooms at a special Austin High School '50s reunion rate, and again, we urge you to call them and book your stay before the block is sold out. You can reserve your room by calling toll-free 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) and asking for the Austin High School Reunion rate. For additional questions, you can call the hotel at 1(630) 516-3820. We'd also like to publicly thank the individuals who, for various reasons, are unable to join us, but have become Maroon & White sponsors to help support our efforts in providing a week-end to remember that will be filled with good food, drinks, fun, surprises, and lots of memories. We look forward to seeing you in the fall. **GO TIGERS!!!!!!**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Marie (Cerullo) Niedzialek '56, Harley Collins '56, Clifford Dorn '55, Jordan Fields '56, Geraldine (Erdmann) O'Rourke '55, Arlene (Kroll) Porys '56, Jeanne (Messineo) Hamilton '51, Diane Lee (Muscia) Avallone '57, Roberta (Shane) Atlas '55, **Josephine (Tavarone) Bax** '56, Ben Weinberg '55, and Richard Wolnik '55.

Special thanks to these who made extra-generous donations: Yvonne (Forsland) Alton '57, Robert Haslam '55, Allen Kovin '56, Nick Kuzmich '56, Marshall Levin '55, Adrienne (Lieberman) Reimer '55, Al Meyer and Susan (Synoracki) Meyer '56, Tom Mitchell '56, and Gail (Newman) Goldstein '55.

Remember to mail your annual \$10 newsletter donation, payable to **Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.** to our new Treasurer, **Nancy Pasquerelli**, at 5145 Barcroft Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60010. PLEASE write your **class year** and **maiden name** (if any) on your check, so we can acknowledge your donation properly.

DO YOU HAVE a copy of the article, or the full magazine which contained a feature story on our Austin High School sometime between 1951 and 1954? I believe it mentioned that Austin was then the largest co-educational high school in the United States. The magazine may have been *Seventeen*, *Look*, *Life*, or something like those. If you have it, or know the magazine's title and the date, *please* let Art Fumarolo know by calling 847-289-7847 or writing at reunion@austin1944.org or 5365 Fox Path Lane, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192-4547.

CHUCK MEYER WRITES ABOUT Wondering....

I enjoyed writing that earlier series about some of the “One-Hit Wonders” from “our” era. But I still wonder about another song from our era. One that never made it to the “top 10,” the “top 40,” or even the “top 100. Never made it to any of those CD sets of ‘50s music sold by “Reader’s Digest,” RCA, and PCH, nor sent to you as a reward for your renewal of your NPR or PBS membership.

I have always enjoyed a song that tells a story, or at least creates a number of ideas which are connected together to form a mental picture of an object or a person. This genre has titles such as “Ghost Riders,” “Sixteen Tons,” “Granada,” and “House of the Rising Sun” -- and singers such as Frankie Laine, Tennessee Ernie Ford, and Joan Baez. This sort of song was usually under the heading of “Country & Western” or “Folk.” This song is called “**Lighthouse.**” It’s a monologue, by a lighthouse, telling us his history and the maritime events he has witnessed.

[Click Here to HEAR it](#)

VERSE 1 -

*I don't know where I came from / And I don't know where I've been
I lived all my life in the rollickin' sea / I guess since time began
I recall the Flyin' Dutchman / The Mayflower and the Maine
And along about 500 years ago / I saw three ships from Spain
My castle is the lighthouse / My kingdom is the sea
I rule all alone in the middle of the night / And no one cares for me*

INTERLUDE -

*I can see the Vikings / Their sails so wide and clean
The skull-and-bones and old Davy Jones / Are sights that I have seen
I recall the great Titanic / My light she couldn't see
And along about morning I heard the strains / Of “Nearer My God to Thee”*

VERSE 2 -

*And once I had a sweetheart / I still recall with joy
We loved all alone in the rollickin' sea / When I was born a boy
But the poundin' surf and trade winds / Were jealous as could be
And along about 900 years ago / They took my love from me
But I cannot forget her / My lady from above
When you see my light in the blackness of the night / I'm searchin' for my love*

This song appeared in 1953, covered by both Jim Lowe (composer) and Rusty Draper, altho’ neither one was ever a hit. But it’s an interesting song, a story-telling song; yet it doesn’t seem to be a complete story. The last verse seems to leave two big questions unanswered:

1. Who/what was this sweetheart?
2. And, what was the event that occurred around 1055 (900 years before 1955)?

A few years ago, I was re-acquainted with Plato’s “Timaeus” (tie-MAY-us). This is a book written by Plato a few years before his death around 348 BCE. [Note: Philosophy was my minor at UI.] In this book, Plato is discussing the ideal form of government for a city/state such as Athens, and says that both the government and the citizens have rights and responsibilities that must be respected. He goes on to opine that the government should honor those citizens who were truly heroic. He then describes the fabulous City/Island/Continent of Atlantis which was destroyed, because of its hubris (excessive pride or self-confidence), by an epic earthquake/volcano that occurred “nine thousand years ago.” He also said that this was a “fable,” with no other documentation. But, recent historians have found that some translations of Plato’s work have mistranslated this “nine *thousand* years” into “nine *hundred* years.” BINGO!!!

So, I would suggest that Jim Lowe simply read the wrong translation of Timeaus. And, ironically, he could have written “nine thousand” instead of “nine hundred” without altering the rhythm of the poetry. And the “sweetheart” is the lost Eden-like island of Atlantis.

[Editor’s note: Thanks, Chuck, for this wonderful story. The song gave me goosebumps!]

“Without music, Life would be a mistake.” [Friedriche Nietzsche]

STATUS OF 1955 GRADUATES: The 1955 graduate status on our webpage has been updated to reflect the status of all 1955 alumni as of April 12, 2021. Take some time and browse the list to rekindle some old memories. If you find any inaccurate information or have any information about someone we have listed as "Not Located" or "Addr Unknown," please tell us by email to: reunion@austin1955.org. We will send new members details about our organization and our 2021 reunion.

MILESTONE:

Russell's Barbecue celebrates its 90th anniversary at both the Elmwood Park and Countryside locations with special prices for their Baby Back Ribs or a Ribs & Chicken Combo thru 4-30-21.

IN MEMORIAM:

Condolences to **Paul Sengpiehl '55**, whose wife June passed away on November 10, 2020.

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

Martin Shalom Altman ('50) passed away in May 2019. Founder and Owner of Altman's Shoes for Men in Chicago, Marty will be remembered for his profound generosity and caring, his mischievous sense of humor and for the many mitzvahs he quietly bestowed to others throughout his life. Marty was the loving father of three; Papa of two; soulmate of Devora Freeman, and brother of Serene and Howard (Marilyn) Altman.

David M. Arkin ('56) beloved husband of Marlene Arkin (née Berholtz); loving father of three, grandfather of three; treasured brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and friend of many, passed away on July 20, 2020. David was an active member and past Master of Chicago Lodge #437.

Joan (Calandra) Fichera ('57) passed away in April 1999.

Joseph P. DeMarco ('56) passed away on March 16, 2018. Brother of three, uncle and great-uncle of many. Joseph proudly served his country in the Marine Corps.,

Carol J. (Finnegan) Zabel ('56) passed away on June 12, 2017 in Delavan, WI. Survivors include her sister, Lois Kahn of Chicago, five children, six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great.

Carl Haennicke ('56) died February 24, 2021 due to COVID-19. He began a 38-year career at Commonwealth Edison in 1956. Survivors include his high school sweetheart, Theresa Pusateri, three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Carl was a member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Wood Dale, and in retirement, was a volunteer at Elmhurst Hospital.

Donald Martin ('55) passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Survivors include his wife and best friend for 54 years, Judy; four children; and six grandchildren. Don was born in Brooklyn, NY, and moved to Chicago in 1951. He earned bachelor and law degrees from the University of Chicago, spent two years in the army reserves, and started his own legal practice that later became Martin & Karcazes, Ltd. Don was an active real estate investor, starting Seminary Properties & Management, Ltd. He was an avid world traveler, lifelong learner with a passion for Chicago history and architecture, and a voracious reader and follower of world events. A loyal friend and philanthropist, he was known for his generosity, and will be remembered for his kindness and devotion to family and friends.

Vito N. Martino ('56) died on September 24, 2020 in Westchester, IL. Vito is survived by his wife Judith, née Sabella, two children, and one grandchild. Vito was an accomplished interior designer and talented photographer who often captured the beauty of the natural world. He was a gentle, fun-loving, hard-working, and creative individual who loved his Italian heritage and who was passionate about sharing that joy.

Stuart Gerald "Jerry" Miller ('55) beloved husband of **Judy (Abrams) '57** for 56 years. Loving father of three; proud grandfather of three; devoted brother to David (Rita) Miller; favorite uncle of many nieces and nephews. Jerry was a founding member of the Hoffman Estates Jaycees and proud Silver member of the JUF.

IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd):

Ruth (Miller) Wieloch ('56) passed away in her home on November 30, 2019. Ruth married the love of her life Edmund Wieloch on April 12, 1958. A true romantic story, for which she let everyone know it was love at first sight. She was a successful entrepreneur running her own tour business, volunteered with local politics and Girl Scouts, and headed up many community activities. Ruth cherished her family and friends, theater, traveling, and fine dining and inspired everyone with her enthusiasm and beautiful smile. She is survived by her husband Edmund, her three children, and two grandchildren who adored her very much.

Marlene (Munson) Carey ('55) passed away on October 2, 2019 in Las Vegas, NV. Marlene taught gymnastics in Riverside, IL for ten years. She was involved in many local talent and fundraising shows at Hauser Jr. High and St. Mary's Church of Riverside. Marlene had a passion for teaching, singing, dancing, directing and simply entertaining. Marlene is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. David Claude O'Bryant ('53) passed away in Colorado Springs, Colo., on October 24, 2020. On June 26, 1960, he married Joan Marie Ellacott in Riverside, IL and has one daughter. He married Sharon Jean McConkey on September 9, 1988, and has two stepsons. David attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he received a B.S. and a master's degree in mechanical engineering, and a doctorate in vocational-technical education. He was a member of Acacia Fraternity and served in the Army ROTC. David taught at the ordnance school at the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, and served in the 5000th Research Development Group in Illinois until 1967, leaving as a captain. For 36 years, David taught as an associate professor in the Department of General Engineering at UIUC, retiring in 1993 as an emeritus professor, associate department head and student adviser. In 1971, he was appointed a special consultant to the Peace Corps in Kenya, where he spent two months working with the Kenyan government and Peace Corps trainees. David was a registered professional engineer in Illinois. His main hobbies were golf, woodworking, traveling, playing bridge and, in the past, fishing and bowling. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; brother Dan; one daughter; two stepsons; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews who considered Uncle David the patriarch of the family

Lois (Patrick) Deangelis ('57) passed away on October 14, 2020. She is survived by her husband Vincent, and will be missed by friend and classmate **Marilyn (Guest) Fawell '57**.

James G. Polous ('56) of Palatine, IL died on December 30, 2020 at home surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Sharon, nee Nemeth. Loving father of two, grandfather of four, brother of Christine Young.

Jerry Schor ('51) died in June 2020. Husband of the late Cissy Schor, special friend and companion of Sheila Landsman, father of six; grandfather of eleven; great-grandfather of four. Jerry will be sorely missed by those who loved him dearly.

Charlene (Soibel) Urow-DeGraff ('56) died on November 23, 2019. Wife of the late Arnold DeGraff and best friend of Marshall Sokol; mother of two; grandmother of four; sister of Linda (the late Leonard) Halperin.

Fred P. Thomas ('56) of Huntley, Illinois, passed away suddenly on February 5, 2021. He proudly served in the U. S. Army and worked for Local # 100 UFCW. He was an avid fisherman and loved to play softball with the Sun City Leagues. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Ann Thomas, three sons, and six grandchildren.

Anna Marie (Tortorella) Tselepis ('56) died on April 6, 2016. Wife of Anthony, and mother three.

Walter R. Williams ('55) passed away on November 2, 2020. Wally is survived by Judith (nee Milwer), two children, and two grandchildren. Wally worked for Northern Trust for over 30 years. He was a lifelong Chicago sports fan. His sense of humor and his positive, charismatic charm left a mark on everyone he met.

IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd):

Albena A. (Zambetti) Gasiorowski ('56) died on August 24, 2020. "Bee" was the wife of the late Dennis; mother of four, grandmother of three, sister of Leonard (Lillian) Zambetta, and sister-in-law of Rosanne Loesch. "Bee" was loved by her many nieces and nephews.

Robert W. Zarlenga ('55) of Belvidere, IL passed away November 13, 2018. He is survived by his three children; brother Ronald; four grandchildren; and four great grandchildren. Robert worked in the telecom industry for Automatic Electric, GTE, and Northern Telecom. He finished his working years with the U.S. Postal Service. He loved playing Santa, his casino trips, and never found a bargain he didn't take advantage of.

INTERESTING TIDBITS:

"Cheddar" is slang for cash in the U.S., but in Italy, Parmesan is king. Not only does Credito Emiliano accept large wheels of Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese as collateral, it has special vaults where it houses and ages the cheese. Italian dairy farmers have a lot to be grate-ful for; without this unique system, they'd be forced to sell off the cheese before it's had time to properly mature, meaning less cash. [Quizdaily.com]

The process of gerrymandering is nearly as old as our country. The word was coined by critics reviewing a Massachusetts redistricting map in 1812. All the districts looked like salamanders as a result of the political influence of the governor at that time, Elbridge Gerry. [Phil Kadner, Chicago Sun-Times 4-7-21]

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 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		GRAD.YEAR
(print) _____		_____
(First, Maiden, Last)		
STREET ADDRESS:		CITY, ST, ZIP
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