



AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO]1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2021

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



AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!

That's the word we heard from so many people. The October 1-3 Austin Classes of the '50s reunion weekend was wonderful, exciting, as well as exhausting, for many of us who spent hundreds of hours and sleepless nights bringing this long-awaited event to fruition, but in the end, it was worth it. Seeing the happy, smiling faces of so many of our classmates, standing with their pennants waving as they sang the Austin fight song caused one to think, "If Coach Bill Heiland were here, he would have said, "This was a City Championship School Spirit job!"

Your committee can't thank enough the many attendees who stepped up with additional donations when President Ken Rosko mentioned how close we came to cancelling, because of increased costs and many cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The outpouring of checks and cash to make sure our organization can continue our volunteer efforts was truly amazing.

For those who didn't attend, let us try to capture the weekend for you. Friday evening began with a welcoming reception, where all attendees received a "goodie bag" containing our beautiful 4-color commemorative program book, in which were graduation photos of all attendees, history and photos of Austin High during each year of the '50s. Complimentary wine and soft drinks and an array of delicious hors d'oeuvres were served while everyone mingled with old and new friends and gathered signatures for a Bingo-like game that was played later. A lovely 4-course dinner, with wine, was enjoyed, while music of the fifties was played. Later, a "Sweet Table" with delectable pastries and cakes was available. Our guest speaker, noted WDCB radio host Steve Darnall spoke about how radio and television had an impact on our lives, and played some interesting tapes of old radio shows, which brought back nostalgic memories. The wonderful evening seemed to fly by as people moved from table to table, connecting with friends they hadn't seen in years!

The celebration continued on Saturday, as a number of attendees enjoyed the matinee performance of *Forever Plaid*, a superb musical tribute to the fifties that brought back memories of the songs and events of our high school years. [An interesting side note: After the show, a mother and daughter who attended the performance noticed our Austin pennants in the ballroom area, and inquired what was going on. When informed it was a '50s Austin High School reunion, she exclaimed, "I went to Austin in the '50s. Can my daughter and I join the party?" Because of some cancellations, we were able to accommodate them and they had a fantastic time!]

Our buffet dinner, featuring foods of the fifties, was a big hit as everyone enjoyed assorted pizzas, Italian Beef, Vienna hot dogs with all the trimmings (no ketchup), Caesar salad, garlic bread, pasta dishes, assorted pastries and a large "make you own sundaes" table. The evening ended with door prizes and, of course, the singing of our Austin fight song, with the surprise addition of two cheerleaders from the class of '57 leading us in the cheer. It was a great way to end the evening.

Sunday morning, several attendees gathered at a "Farewell Breakfast" at the Hilton Hotel to share stories and experiences they had during the weekend. We were all tired, but thankful we were able to share in this very special occasion. We hope you enjoyed this synopsis.

Ken Rosko, President

Shel Marcus, Events Chair

Austin High [Chicago] 1950s Alumni Committee

JIM DAYTON'S AUSTIN MEMORIES:

Jim Dayton, President of the June 1955 class, had intended to speak at the October 1-3, 2021 reunion, but was unable to attend. Following are excerpts from his Tribute to Austin:

“Attending Austin High School was one of the best things that ever happened to me. Austin set me on a career path and prepared me for the highly competitive environment of engineering school. At Austin I acquired basic technical skills and personal habits of fitness that I drew upon throughout a long career. Although I was president of the June 1955 class, I fear that I am a stranger to most of my classmates. I have attended all of the reunions, but I have not lived in Illinois since 1965. We have a family joke that when I asked Carol Olsen (Bowen HS 1961) to marry me in 1965 as I was graduating from Illinois with a doctorate in electrical engineering, she said she would follow me to the ends of the earth, so I took a job in Buffalo. After two years there, we moved to Cleveland where we still reside. We celebrated our 56th wedding anniversary on July 10 this year. We have three children and three grandchildren. Our oldest grandchild is 10; most of the class probably have great-grandchildren that age.

I spent 31 years at the NASA Lewis (now Glenn) Research Center in Cleveland. The branch that I worked with and eventually led was tasked to improve the efficiency of communication amplifiers for operation in deep space. Our efficiency enhancement work was quite successful, and it turned out to be extremely valuable not only to NASA but to the commercial communications satellite industry and the Department of Defense. There are thousands of amplifiers flying on communications satellites that utilize the technology that we developed, and in 1988 the group was awarded an Emmy for developing technology that enabled the direct broadcast of television signals from space.

My most significant accomplishment for NASA was to develop the amplifiers that flew on the Cassini spacecraft that operated in the vicinity of Saturn for 20 years. Perhaps you may have seen the pretty pictures of Saturn and its rings and moons sent back to earth from Cassini. All of those images were transmitted by the amplifiers that we developed. This project, from conception to launch, occupied 14 years of my professional life.

Another major contribution at NASA after the Cassini project was to introduce computer modeling to solve technical problems in vacuum electronics that were intractable using classical mathematics. These concepts were at first greeted with considerable skepticism, but they have now been adopted internationally. And speaking of international contributions, in 2000, I started IVEC, the first international conference in the field of vacuum electronics. Carol, and I traveled to Busan, South Korea to celebrate the 20th IVEC two years ago.

If I had not attended Austin High School, I'm not sure if any of this would have happened. I was pushed by a guidance counselor (I am embarrassed to say that I can't recall his name) to pursue an engineering career. One day at the beginning of sophomore year I was pulled out of class and sent to the office where I was told, “You have to be an engineer. The country needs you.” It was 1952. The country had been shocked out of the euphoria of 1945 by the war in Korea, and the Soviets had the bomb. I was 14 and had not given much thought to what I might do with my life. I barely had any idea of what engineers do, but my schedule was altered so that I would have the entrance requirements for engineering school. The course of my life was set.

In recent years, as we were developing miniature vacuum electron devices, I would joke, sometimes to the horror of my colleagues, that everything I know about microfabrication I learned in high school wood shop. That is only partially a joke. At Austin I learned many of the basic skills that I have used throughout my career. Shop classes introduced me to basic manufacturing processes. Although wonderful computer graphics are available now, I have never started a development without first making a pencil sketch of the new device. Fred Akers' chemistry class provided me with an excellent preparation for chemistry at IIT. Chemistry was the freshman flunkout course at IIT and my preparation at Austin got my college career off to a great start. However, the most valuable course that I took at Austin was Alice Rape's journalism class. I learned how to organize my thoughts and express myself effectively. Those skills are valuable regardless of what career you follow. Finally, aside from academics, I have to say a word about John Gill our track coach. Under his guidance I developed habits of physical fitness that have supported me throughout my life.

I owe a lot to Austin High School.”

SAVE THE DATE!!

We have made reservations for **42** on **Wednesday, May 18, 2022** at Drury Lane for Lunch and *THE KING AND I*. Details and a registration form will be in the Winter 2022 newsletter. **Mark your calendar!**

REUNION PHOTOS WANTED: If you took any photos at the Gala Reunion of the Classes of the Fifties in October, and are willing to share them, we'd love to add them to the Pictures collection on our website so that all can see and enjoy them. Please submit them as soon as possible by doing **any one** of the following:

- Post them on any online photo album service such as kodakgallery.com, shutterfly.com, or snapfish.com. Then send a message with the link to your photos to austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com.
- Send an email with your digital photos(s) attached to austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com. We suggest that you not attach more than 3 photos to any one email.
- Send a print of your picture(s) to Chris Padar, 2073 Sugar Creek Ln., Brussels, WI 54204.

NOTE: Some photos are already on the website at www.austin1955.org and on the last two pages of this newsletter. Add yours to our website collection.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU:

We are very grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Mary (Considine) Goodenough '57, Susanne (Ferrari) Block '55, Emma (Good) Giannini '56, and John Neton '56. Belated "Thank You's" to Vera (Feigenbaum) Post '56 and Shirley Anne [Teren] Stone '56, whose donations were not acknowledged in previous newsletters. Mea Culpa!

Special Thanks for their extra generous donations to: Regina (Daniel) Katz '55, Victoria (Dobrzynski) Petersen '55, and **John Rozinsky '56**, and to the following alumni who made Maroon & White contributions at or after the reunion and whose donations were not acknowledged in the Program Book: Mary (Abarre) Grebin '57, Lois (Avena) Heaton '56, **Phillip Grossman '55**, James Leader '57, Carol (Metcalf) Keplinger '56, Bernard Oppenheim '55, and Wanda Myers Smith '55.

Please make your annual \$10 (or more) donation checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd." and **mail them to our Treasurer, Nancy Pasquerelli**, at 5145 Barcroft Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60010. **PLEASE** write your **class year ('55, '56' etc.)** and **maiden name** (if any) on your check, so we can acknowledge your donation properly. **NOTE:** Donations are tax-deductible.

ALUMNI NEWS:

Congratulations to **Toby (Speck) Gordon '55** and husband Ed, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 21, 2021, and to **Sophia (Maduros) Simios '56** and husband William who celebrated their 61st on April 24, 2021. Long may you Love!

We wish a speedy recovery to Lois (Karno) Pitalis '56 who got a new hip at the end of September.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.

When I was a kid. I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

IN MEMORIAM:

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of the following classmates.

Gerald Bender '56 died in November 2010. Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Barbara Sue (Berueffy) Geil '56 passed away in July 2021 at her daughter's home in Reno, NV. Her loving husband of just short of 62 years was by her side. They had two children, and no grandkids. She was most proud of her United States Tax Court Practitioner status as a non-attorney admitted to the Tax Court bar. She also loved to drive her Morgan horse, and had managed to qualify (unofficially) for the Centurion award, which is where the age of the horse and driver are at least 100.

IN MEMORIAM (cont'd.)

Clifford Russell Dorn '55 of Evanston passed away on April 23, 2021. Cliffy, as he was known to this writer, was a retired pharmaceutical chemist. Beloved husband of the late Diana June Dorn, loving father of Russell L. Dorn. Rest in Peace, Dear Friend.

Sara Zelda Eisen '56 died on August 6, 2021, a graduate of U of C with a degree in Political Science. She enjoyed a long career as an educator in the fields of History, Hebrew, and English as a Second Language. Zelda had an artistic side as well, and could be found attending art fairs and the opera, creating beaded jewelry for family and friends, and playing the piano. Her 4-year home room classmate **Marshall Hechter '56** says, "Zelda was a truly nice person."

John M. Falkowski '55 died on March 25, 2021 in Barrington, shortly after the death of the love of his life, Maryann. John loved the times he spent fishing and attending all his grandchildren's activities. His gentle personality and humor were loved by all. John is survived by his two daughters and six grandchildren,

William Falkowski Bowers '56 died on May 21, 2017. Father of two, Grandpa of three, Great-grandfather of six. Fond brother of John (Maryann) Falkowski. Uncle of many.

Judith (Fetherston) Treadway '56 died on January 20, 2012.

Eugene Groobman '55 died in April of 2020. Father of four, Zadie of eight.

Robert Haslam '55 died on August 4, 2021 in Princeton, IL. He is survived by his wife of 60+ years, Marilyn Brandner Haslam, and two children. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked for Northern Illinois Gas. After relocating to Princeton, he worked as a maintenance technician and machine fabricator. He and Marilyn restored four homes. In retirement, he built various musical machines and traveled around the world.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

150 years ago, on September 26, 1871, The Palmer House opened. 13 days later it was consumed by the **Great Chicago Fire**.

150 years ago, on October 8, 1871, the fire that started in a hay-filled barn behind the home of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary on De Koven Street, near Halsted and what is now Roosevelt Road, spread throughout the city, until it finally burned itself out the next day, leaving more than 18,000 buildings destroyed, much of the city leveled, 90,000 people homeless, and 30-some people dead.

40,000 of the pre-fire population of 334,000 fled the city in the days after the Great Fire, but thousands came to replace them—and thousands more, for news of the calamity and the way in which the city had rebounded from it had spread to many lands. By 1881 503,185 people were living in Chicago, and by 1890 its population would be 1,099,850—and of these, 41 percent would be foreign immigrants, mainly from Germany, Ireland, the Scandinavian countries, and Great Britain.

100 years ago, the new Field Museum opened on **May 2, 1921**. Its first home was the Palace of Fine Arts on the site of the 1893 World's Fair in Jackson Park.

The **Wrigley Building** celebrates 100 years this year. "This building began a new era in Chicago," says historian Tim Samuelson. For more interesting facts about the Wrigley Building, click on the link below.

https://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/ct-ent-wrigley-building-100th-birthday-kogan-1031-20211027-hb3yio5pcjhzhatlxyd7vvxnq-story.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Don%27t%20miss%3A%20News&utm_content=6821635379842#nws=true

The **Chicago Theater** also turns 100 this year. and its stunning marquee has been lighted for the occasion.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (cont'd.)

2021 marks the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Learn more about the Tomb's history and significance in our Education Program module. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial.

50 years ago, when the very first episode of *All in the Family* aired on **January 12, 1971**, CBS ran the following disclaimer immediately preceding it: *The program you are about to see is All in the Family. It seeks to throw a humorous spotlight on our frailties, prejudices, and concerns. By making them a source of laughter, we hope to show—in a mature fashion—just how absurd they are.* Learn more by clicking the link below.

[<https://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2015/01/day-history-january-12th-family/>]

STATE FAIR TRIVIA: State fairs in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin all began in the 1850s. Wisconsin's turns 170 this year. While fair activities have expanded well beyond cows and sows, to include midway rides and big-name bands, they continue to honor their roots. The butter cow, carved out of 600 or more pounds of butter, celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Illinois State Fair. The bovine sculptures for the Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas state fairs are all carved by Sarah Pratt, an Iowa schoolteacher. She works right in the cooler, and can finish a sculpture in five days. "Sometimes those are 12-hour or 14-hour days," she says.

THANKSGIVING:

Many thanks to **Roberta (Gnippe) Enschede ('51)** for these interesting facts from her home in Holland.

"I did not know it until I came here. Every year on Thanksgiving morning, more than 500 Americans gather at the Pieterskerk church. It is very moving to see their reactions when they realize that there, people planned the voyage that ultimately would become "our nation's beginning." It's a story that is not in our history books. We do not learn that at least half of the people on the Mayflower had lived in Leiden for 11 years.

Several of our presidents are their descendants, including the Bush family and Obama from his mother's side. The concept of civil marriage comes from the Dutch. In Leiden, too, William Brewster was able to publish freely. Though this is a small nation, its influence on our nation's values and principles run deep. The Dutch province of Friesland was the first place to recognize American independence, then France, then the United Provinces (Holland). The Dutch also loaned us money to sustain the Revolution."

In Leiden, the Pieterskerk Leiden has held a service of thanks since 1574 in honor of the Relief of Leiden. Many experts claim that the Pilgrims were inspired by the Leiden celebration on 3 October and that the celebration of Thanksgiving, which they started in America in 1621, was based on that. George Washington made it a national holiday in 1789. Source: <https://leiden400.nl/en/programitem/thanksgiving-day-service>

For a 33-minute film of the 2020 American Thanksgiving celebration in Leiden, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdWvda5-SKo>

TURKEY TRIVIA:

1. Benjamin Franklin proposed that the turkey be designated as the National Bird. He was out-voted in favor of the Eagle.
2. President Harry Truman began the modern tradition of pardoning a turkey in 1947. President Lincoln, who designated Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, is believed to have also informally given a pass to his son Tad's pet turkey. But no President was as gracious to turkeys as President George W. Bush, who pardoned two turkeys in 2007. Those turkeys left the White House and flew down to Disney World, where they served as grand marshals for the Disney World Thanksgiving Parade. Gobble, gobble!
3. "Necessity is the mother of invention" isn't just a cliché; it's true. In 1953 the C.A. Swanson & Sons poultry company drastically overestimated the market for Thanksgiving turkey and was left wondering what to do with 260 tons of frozen turkeys. A salesman was inspired by the airline food he received and suggested the company make their own. Five thousand aluminum trays and a few traditional Thanksgiving sides later and the first TV dinner was sold at a price of 98 cents. Swanson remains one of the leading brands in the now over \$1 billion annual frozen-dinner market. [from quizdaily.com]

FUNNIES & TIDBITS:

Four things you can't get back: A stone after it's thrown, a word after it's said, an occasion after it's missed, a time after it's gone.

At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who's next.

Lockdown can go one of four ways: You'll come out a hunk, a monk, a chunk, or a drunk. Choose wisely.

Why does the town of Farmington, Maine, call itself the "Earmuff Capital of the World?" The handy winter warming devices were indeed invented there. In 1873, a teenager named Chester Greenwood got cold ears while ice skating, so he bent some wire into loops, asked his grandmother to cover the loops with beaver fur, and continued skating with protected ears. Four years later, he patented "Greenwood's Champion Ear Protectors." [Travelquiz.com 8-14-21]

Commercialized egg cartons were created by a Canadian journalist in the 1910s. Joseph Coyle designed a carton of individual egg slots filled with recycled newspaper. He eventually patented the "Coyle Egg-Safety Carton" and went on to build egg-carton factories across the U.S. and Canada. [quizdaily.com 8-21-21]

I'm not worried about taking it with me. I just want it to last until I go. [Frank & Ernest]

TELL US YOUR NEWS: If you have any news to share, email *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 **webmaster@austin1955.org**.

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) _____ GRAD. YEAR _____
(First, Maiden, Last)

ADDRESS _____ CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PHONES (home/cell) (at least one is Required) _____ EMAIL _____

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SCENES FROM THE AHS '50S REUNION!



MORE SCENES FROM AHS '50S REUNION!

