



# AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 17 ISSUES 1&2 WINTER/SPRING 2022

[www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) -- [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)



**ORDER NOW FOR NEXT AUSTIN HIGH '50s ALUMNI EVENT:**

## DRURY LANE LUNCHEON/THEATRE PARTY

MAY 18, 2022



**The King and I** is a tale of the human experience, exploring the historical intricacies of class, race, and politics in 1862. This Rodgers and Hammerstein classic won 13 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Revival of a Musical. The 1957 movie, starring Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr, was nominated for nine Academy Awards, winning five, including Best Score. This is a very popular show, so reserve early.

We have reserved 40 seats. Tickets are assigned in order of registration receipt. Early birds get the best.

Check-In 11:00 AM -- Lunch 11:30 AM -- Play 1:30 PM

Payment of **\$71 per person** is due by Wednesday, **APRIL 20, 2022** (no refunds)   
Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ X \$71 = \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Select Entrée(s): # \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Cacciatore # \_\_\_\_\_ Lemon & Herb-Crusted Cod  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Linguine Pomodoro [Salad, dessert, and coffee or tea included]

Wheelchair seating? Y/N: \_\_\_\_\_ How Many? \_\_\_\_\_ Please mail check and this form to:

Nancy Pasquerelli  
Austin Classes of the '50s Reunion  
5145 Barcroft Drive  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60010

**[Only 40 seats are guaranteed, based on first come, first served.  
If registration is received after April 20<sup>th</sup>, there may be no tickets.]**

## **MESSAGE FROM KEN ROSKO:**

The following slate of officers for 2022 was confirmed at our meeting on Friday, November 12, 2021.

President: **Ken Rosko**      First Vice President: **Shel Marcus**      Second Vice President: **Art Fumarolo**  
Treasurer: **Nancy Pasquerelli**      Assistant Treasurer: **Irwin Magad**  
Secretary: **Kaye Aurigemma**      Assistant Secretary: **Sue Rosko**

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

We are grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Jordan Fields '56, Nicholas Magas '56, Patricia (Spero) Gozzola '55, and Benjamin & Sandra Weinberg '55.

**Special thanks** to those who made extra-generous donations: **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli '55**, Marie (Cerullo) Niedzialek '56, Ronald Erhardt '55, Vera (Feigenbaum) Post '56, and Al & Susan (Synoracki) Meyer '56.

Remember to mail your annual \$10 newsletter donation, payable to **Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.** to Treasurer, **Nancy Pasquerelli**, at 5145 Barcroft Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60010.

## **ALUMNI NEWS:**

**Annette Marie (Pallone) and Al Reamer '56** have celebrated their 62-year anniversary. Annette writes, "We are enjoying our retirement in Mesa, Arizona. I am painting landscapes and enjoying the pleasure it brings to me. 'Just a little kid bit of my life.'"

**NEW PICTURES OF AUSTIN ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE:** Especially for those of you who did not attend our 2021 Gala Classes of the Fifties Reunion last October and do have internet access, you can see two photos of the Austin campus at the end of the PICTURES/Austin High Campus section of our website at [www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) or from this link: [Austin High Campus | Flickr](#). These pictures were included in the Reunion Program Book which all attendees received at the reunion. The next to last picture in the Austin High Campus section is of the West (New) building and behind it, the East (Old) building across the campus. The last picture is of the East (Old) building which was used from 1890-2007.

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

**Condolences to the families and friends of the following classmates who passed away:**

**Jeanette E. (Borelli) Sprovieri '56** passed away on December 17, 2018. Beloved wife of Francis E. for 59 years; mother of three, grandmother of seven; sister of Raymond (Anne) Borelli and Diane Beahn.

**Gloria (Carrasca) L. Wilcox '56** died on May 13, 2021. She was loved and cherished by many people including: her son Vincent McAngus (Kathy); her five grandchildren, and Pat Stefanelli, who was her first husband with whom she was living at the time of her death.

**Edward Handzel '55**, of Crete, IL (formally of Dolton) passed away on December 13, 2021. Beloved husband of 52 years to the late Carolyn. Edward is survived by his four daughters and two grandchildren. Ed graduated as an ROTC Major, and went on to complete six years in the U.S. Army Reserves. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from Roosevelt University in Chicago, and started working at Brunswick Corporation. In 1965, he became a Credit Manager at U.S. Steel in Chicago. While working and raising his family, he also owned and helped run his wife Carolyn's interior design business, Handzel's Design Galleries in Dolton and Glenwood, IL. After a long career at U.S. Steel he took the position of Village Administrator for the town of Dolton, IL. He was active in many organizations including the Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Commission. After retiring, he traveled with his wife to historic areas from Virginia to California and kept in close touch with a wide circle of loving friends and family.

**Peter Kalivas'53** of Lombard, passed away on February 1, 2022. Beloved husband of the late Elaine (Bouloukos) for 50 years; loving father of three daughters; beloved Papou to three. Peter served in the Armed Forces as a Specialist Fifth Class under the 122nd Ordinance Battalion of the 2nd and 3rd Armored Division.

## **IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd.)**

**Jerome "Jerry" Kravitz**, age 93, died on January 16, 2022. He served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Jerry was an avid sportsman, enjoying a good handball game and playing football at **Austin High School** and Miami of Ohio. Jerry was a successful salesperson and a dear friend and supporter of all he loved. He will be missed by many close friends.

**James Lekas '54**, retired U.S. Navy Captain of Jacksonville, Florida, died on February 25, 2022, after a long illness. He earned his D.D.S. in the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in 1960. He joined the U.S. Navy and reported for duty at Naval Base San Diego. He traveled the country and the world his assignments including the Philippines, Japan, the USS Bushnell, and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He had a tour in Vietnam from 1968-69, and then attended the University of Maryland Graduate Dental Program in Periodontics. He retired from the Navy after 31 years, and started a second career teaching at the University of Florida College of Dentistry and was Chair of Dental Programs at Florida State College of Jacksonville. After retiring from clinical practice, he consulted for Aetna Insurance for many years.

Jim grew up on the West Side of Chicago near Central Ave. He started working at eight years old with a paper route and had various jobs including delivery boy, assistant cook, and night watchman; he worked until he was 81. He had a lot of freedom as a child and explored Chicago with his older brother. They went fishing in Lake Michigan and went to summer camp at the YMCA. He broke more than one window playing baseball in front of his apartment. The 4th of July was spent at Soldier Field watching fireworks. He met his future bride on a blind date when he was asked to pick up "Elfriede the blonde" at the airport. He knew he had met a good woman when his convertible top was leaking in the rain and she responded, "I'll just move my feet." The two dated about a year and then married. He was soon called to serve in Vietnam where he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Valor. He returned and was stationed in Baltimore, Maryland where his daughter, Andrea, was born. Next, it was off to Italy and his son, Bryan, was born.

Jim was happiest when his family was happy. He had simple needs and few wants in life. He was outgoing, kind, gentle and always ready to socialize. He never met a stranger. He always said the best decision he ever made was marrying Elfriede (Elfi) and the second-best decision was joining the Navy. Jim's dedication to Elfi was endless and he continued to refer to her as "my bride" even after 53 years of marriage. Jim's profession was dentistry but his passion was poker. He played from his youth until he passed, and made many friends and more dollars. He was not a mathematician but knew the odds of drawing to an inside straight. He also enjoyed reading, traveling and visiting the friends he had made all over the world.

James is survived by his wife, Elfriede (Rittershaus) Lekas of Jacksonville, Florida; his daughter Andrea Irina Garland and son-in-law Richard Garland, his son Bryan James Lekas and daughter-in-law Melinda Lekas; as well as two grandchildren, Emily Lekas and Carter Lekas, and one great-grandson, Colton Garland.

**Richard Burton Ross '56** of Highland Park, IL died on December 11, 2021 at the Citadel of Glenview. Loving husband for almost 51 years to the late Joan (Goodfriend) Ross, survived by their daughter, Rory Ross-Braun and son-in-law Scott D. Braun. Richard was born and raised in Chicago but spent most of his life in Glencoe, IL, where he and Joan could be seen walking their beloved collies throughout town.

**Dianne (Serota) Kraus '55** passed away on March 22, 2021. Beloved wife and best friend for 63 years of Leonard; loving mother of four; devoted Grammy of seven; cherished GiGi of two.

**Theodore "Ted" A. Shapero'58**, beloved husband of Sandy, nee Goldstein, died on February 2, 2022. Loving father of two, proud grandfather of five. A practicing attorney for over 30 years and founding member and first president of Gentlemen Enjoying Leisure (GEL). Ted was also an active member of Sherman Levine AZA

**Raymond Stonehocker '55** of Arlington Heights; Airforce Veteran and retired Project Manager passed away August 18, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Dorothy (2020); Loving father of two, Cherished grandpa of two. Dear brother of the late Tom, Juanita & Kay. Fond uncle & friend to many.

## IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd.)

**Richard Weber '57**, of Park City Utah, died on September 1, 2021 after a long illness. Beloved husband for 49 years of Joe Ann, father of two, grandfather of two, Dick was a manager at R.R. Donnelley (RRD) for 32 years, and it was there he met his wife. While at RRD, he played many seasons as the firecracker infielder of the RRD softball team. He also coached the RRD Girls softball team and proudly bore the distinction of being not only thrown out of a game in defense of his female athletes, but getting thrown out of all of Grant Park and its fields. He was always very proud of that incident. Upon retirement in 1995, they moved to Park City, Utah, where Joe Ann had introduced him to skiing, and built their dream house. Originally a Chicago North-sider, he was a Cubs fan, but was also loyal to Chicago – the Bears, Cubs, Bulls, and Blackhawks. He was a proud veteran who loved his country and his family, and was a true and lifelong friend to his old Austin High buddies. There were two Celebrations of Dick's life; one in Park City, and one at his daughter's Burr Ridge home. The next day, the family attended the Bears/Lions game, to honor Dick's life-long season ticket holder attendance. Dick was their hero, protector, and defender; their Pater familias. Rest in Peace, Richard. You done good!!

**Susan (Yablon) Klein '55** passed away on September 22, 2021. Beloved wife for 61 years of Alvin Klein; loving mother of two; proud grandmother of four; pre-deceased by three brothers.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

**150 years ago**, the first **Arbor Day** was celebrated on **April 10, 1872**. In 1855, J. Sterling Morton purchased a large plot of land in Nebraska City, where he settled his family. At the time, Nebraska had few trees, and without them, settlers lacked windbreaks, fuel, building materials, and shade from the hot sun. Morton was passionate about planting trees on his own property, and then lobbied the state legislature to create a holiday that would encourage other Nebraskans to do the same. On the first Arbor Day, prizes were offered to individuals and counties that planted the most trees. The day was a resounding success, with an estimated 1 million trees planted throughout the state. Today, the 260-acre Morton property in Nebraska City is maintained by the Arbor Day Foundation, and is a destination for 150,000 visitors, with a hotel, dining options, walking paths, interactive adventure and year-round seasonal activities. [March/April 2022 Arbor Day News]

**90 years ago**, on **February 26, 1932**, **John R. Cash**, American singer, songwriter, musician, and actor was born to poor cotton farmers in Kingsland, Arkansas. He was known for his deep, calm bass-baritone voice, the distinctive sound of his Tennessee Three backing band characterized by train-like chugging guitar rhythms, a rebelliousness coupled with an increasingly somber and humble demeanor, free prison concerts, and a trademark all-black stage wardrobe which earned him the nickname "**The Man in Black**". Cash is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 90 million records worldwide. His genre-spanning music embraced country, rock and roll, rockabilly, blues, folk, and gospel sounds. This crossover appeal earned him the rare honor of being inducted into the Country Music, Rock and Roll, and Gospel Music Halls of Fame. His music career was dramatized in the 2005 biopic Walk the Line.

**90 years ago**, when the first U.S.-hosted Winter Olympics began on **February 4, 1932**, a milestone beyond medaling awaited the champions: The 1932 Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, were also the first games in which athletes received their awards atop the now-iconic podium. That year, one of the last people to ascend to the winning spot was American boxer-turned-bobsledder Eddie Eagan, the only person to secure gold at both the Summer and Winter Games. Yet, the latter contest likely never would have unfolded in the small upstate New York town without the arm-twisting of a man named Godfrey Dewey, whose father was Melvil Dewey, the librarian who invented the Dewey Decimal System.

Melvil had founded a village recreation center called the Lake Placid Club. While the region was best known for summer getaways, the Deweys positioned the club as a winter sports haven. Godfrey Dewey convinced presidential candidate and New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt that the 4,000-person Lake Placid Club should host the third Winter Olympiad, and the International Olympic Committee unanimously approved the bid. Seventeen countries were represented in 14 events, and more than half of the participating athletes hailed from the U.S. or Canada. Attendance was low due to the global depression, and the event led to significant financial losses at the local and state level, but the added facilities allowed Lake Placid to welcome back the Olympics in 1980. [historyquiz.com]

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (Cont'd.):**

**85 years ago** (along with most of our class of 1955 alums), **Kraft Macaroni & Cheese** debuted during the Depression in 1937. Some 50 million boxes were purchased during World War II alone, because shoppers could get two boxes for one food ration stamp.

**80 years ago**, on **February 19, 1942**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed **Executive Order 9066**, initiating a controversial World War II policy with lasting consequences for Japanese-Americans. The document ordered the forced removal of resident "enemy aliens" from parts of the West vaguely identified as military areas.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1941, Roosevelt came under increasing pressure by military and political advisors to address the nation's fears of further Japanese attack or sabotage, particularly on the West Coast. While 9066 also affected Italian and German Americans, the largest numbers of detainees were by far Japanese Americans.

Japanese immigrants and their descendants, regardless of American citizenship status or length of residence, were systematically rounded up and placed in prison camps. Evacuees, as they were sometimes called, could take only as many possessions as they could carry and were forcibly placed in crude, cramped quarters in the western states, on remote and barren sites such as Manzanar and Tule Lake. Thousands of families' lives were interrupted, and some were destroyed by Executive Order 9066. Many lost businesses, farms and loved ones.

Roosevelt delegated enforcement of 9066 to the War Department, telling Secretary of War Henry Stimson to be as reasonable as possible in executing the order. Attorney General Francis Biddle recalled Roosevelt's grim determination to do whatever he thought necessary to win the war. Biddle observed that Roosevelt was not much concerned with the gravity or implications of issuing an order that contradicted the Bill of Rights.

In her memoirs, Eleanor Roosevelt recalled being completely floored by her husband's action. A fierce proponent of civil rights, Eleanor hoped to change Roosevelt's mind, but when she brought the subject up with him, he interrupted her and told her to never mention it again.

During the war, the U.S. Supreme Court heard two cases challenging the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, upholding it both times. Finally, on February 19, 1976, decades after the war, Gerald Ford signed an order prohibiting the executive branch from re-instituting the notorious and tragic World War II order. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan issued a public apology on behalf of the government and authorized reparations for former Japanese American internees or their descendants. [www.history.com]

**70 years ago**, Bernard and Rita Jacobs, having pawned their car and luggage, acquired full ownership of a struggling Chicago radio station. On **December 13, 1951**, with Bernie serving as engineer and Rita as the announcer, **WFMT** signed on for the first time as Rita famously asked, "*Is anybody listening?*" Their goal: to produce and present fine arts content on the radio that they could enjoy, respect, and share with others. Seven decades later, that idea still guides WFMT, a world-renowned brand with a reputation as a champion of classical music that presents world-class performances from Chicago and around the world accompanied by enlightening context from its knowledgeable hosts. **WFMT** celebrated its 70th anniversary on December 13, 2021, with a day of exciting performances featuring an impressive roster of special guests. This all-day celebration air/streamed live from Northeastern Illinois University's "Jewel Box" Recital Hall on 98.7 FM, [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), and the WFMT app; and video of the performances was streamed on Facebook and [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com).

## **WORDS TO LIVE BY & BON MOTS:**

- "There's a fine line between genius and insanity; I have erased this line." [Oscar Levant]
- I remember when my brain was smart and my phone wasn't. [The Lockhorns 1-2-22]
- The only reason they say "Women and children first" is to test the strength of the lifeboats. [Jean Kerr]
- Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, "What the heck happened?"
- We'll be friends until we are old and senile. Then we'll be new friends.
- Smile, it gives your face something to do!

**WORDS TO LIVE BY & BON MOTS (cont'd.):**

Aristotle teaches us: "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

"What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies."

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

**THE MOON:**

The Moon is Earth's only natural satellite. At about one-quarter the diameter of Earth, it is the largest natural satellite in the Solar System relative to the size of a major planet, the fifth largest satellite in the Solar System overall, and larger than any known dwarf planet. [Wikipedia]

The phrase "once in a blue moon" refers to something that happens very rarely. There are two technical definitions of a blue moon: A seasonal blue moon is the third full moon in a season with four full moons, while a monthly blue moon is the second full moon within a calendar month. Monthly blue moons are indeed rare: The last monthly blue moon occurred on August 22, 2021, and the next one won't happen until August 19, 2024. Historically, the Farmer's Almanac named each full moon of the year to keep track of the seasons. In order starting from January, the names for the moons are wolf, snow, worm, pink, flower, strawberry, buck, sturgeon, corn, hunter, beaver, and cold. [quizdaily.com]

**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 **2073 Sugar Creek Lane, Brussels, WI 54204**

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

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

**AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI REUNION COMMITTEE**

Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli  
[Npasq@comcast.net](mailto:Npasq@comcast.net)  
847-991-5656

Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma  
[kaurige1@att.net](mailto:kaurige1@att.net)  
708-562-6642

Art Fumarolo  
[reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)  
847-289-7847

Phil Grossman  
[phillipgrossman@pgrossman.com](mailto:phillipgrossman@pgrossman.com)  
847-673-4555

Marshall Hechter  
[marshech@comcast.net](mailto:marshech@comcast.net)  
847-903-4221

Ed Horak  
[Emhorak@aol.com](mailto:Emhorak@aol.com)  
847-910-9553

Harry G. Kappos  
[hgk1937@comcast.net](mailto:hgk1937@comcast.net)  
847-515-8693

Genny (Luisi) Schroeder  
[gennyluisi@yahoo.com](mailto:gennyluisi@yahoo.com)  
847-293-3343

Irwin A. Magad  
[Imagad@comcast.net](mailto:Imagad@comcast.net)  
847-630-6990

Shel Marcus  
[Shelmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:Shelmarcus@yahoo.com)  
847-966-5862

Joan (McConville) Leander  
[TennisGal102@yahoo.com](mailto:TennisGal102@yahoo.com)  
630-476-0193

Chuck Meyer  
[C124@illinoisalumni.org](mailto:C124@illinoisalumni.org)  
763-541-0088

Chris Padar  
[austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com)  
847-772-2332

Ken Rosko  
[jkr.financial@gmail.com](mailto:jkr.financial@gmail.com)  
847-623-5800

John Rozinsky  
[jrozcpa@aol.com](mailto:jrozcpa@aol.com)  
630-707-6508

John Spinello  
[j.spinello@yahoo.com](mailto:j.spinello@yahoo.com)  
773-457-5918

Josephine (Tavarone) Bax  
[joalbax@juno.com](mailto:joalbax@juno.com)  
847-823-8984