



AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 18 ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2022

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



MESSAGE FROM KEN ROSKO: Due to aging and declining health, it is with heavy hearts that your Austin High [Chicago] Alumni Reunion Committee has decided that our activities must come to a close. Following is the motion which was approved at the committee's final meeting on June 17, 2022:

“Be it moved that the Austin High School 1955 Reunion Committee be officially terminated by the following dates:

1. That the website and electronic mailbox be closed as of December 31, 2022,
2. That the “Not for Profit” status with State of Illinois not be renewed. It shall be terminated at the end of our fiscal year or sooner, as determined by our legal representative,
3. That our checking account be closed at the end of our fiscal year or sooner, as determined by our legal representative,
4. That any funds remaining in our checking account be distributed as determined by our by-laws.”
[Note: It is anticipated that our final balance will not exceed \$150.]

After much discussion, the motion was approved. The committee also agreed there would be two more newsletters; one in August (September), and the last one in November.

We invite your brief thoughts and memories to share for possible inclusion in the November (last) newsletter. Send to Kaye by October 15 – see “TELL US YOUR NEWS” on page 6 for her addresses.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

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

Paul Johnson '56, Arlene (Kroll) Porys '56, Theresa (Pecord) Graham '55, Jacqueline (Pedjas) Jones '55, James Plastina '55, and Anna (Poulopoulos) Sackelson '55.

Special thanks to those who made extra-generous donations: Marie (Cerullo) Niedzialek '56, Dorothy (Carlson) Frischkorn '56, Ronald Ebbola '56, Ervin Frejlach '55, Paul Pihl '56, and Roberta (Shane) Atlas '55.

Because there will be only one more newsletter, and we have the funds to pay for it, there is no need for further donations. We greatly appreciate the donations that have funded our operations over the past 16 ½ years.

ALUMNI NEWS:

'56 Alumnus **Paul Johnson** reminds us that **2022** in the Chinese horoscope is the **Year of the Tiger**. The US Post Office has Tiger commemorative Forever stamps. A sheet of 12 costs \$12.

JOHN ROZINSKY NEWS:

John was diagnosed with ALS in March 2021. He reports that his condition is deteriorating more rapidly than expected. While he is still somewhat mobile and able to get around in a wheelchair thanks to his wife and caregiver, Diane, this status is not expected to last much longer. Because of his long association with the Austin Class of 1956, he would welcome the opportunity to say goodbye to his classmates while he still can. If you are comfortable with that, feel free to call John at 630-707-6508. [Ed. Note: John - You are a Class Act.]

It's tough being a porcupine. You always need a hug. 😊

AUSTIN and U OF I YEARBOOKS FOR SALE:

Yearbooks Available for \$5 postage

Austin Yearbooks for '52, '53, '54, '55

U of IL Yearbook for '60

If you are interested, contact Chuck Meyer '55 at 763-234-1786 or email: pjmeyer4t2@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM:

Harry G. Kappos '55 died on July 11, 2022. Born in Chicago on May 7, 1937, Harry moved to Park Ridge, Glenview, and most recently Huntley, IL. Harry was a founding member of the original Class of 1955 50-year Reunion Committee, dubbed by yours truly as "The Chicago Seven." Father of George, preceded in death by his wife, Paulette (nee Condos), Harry is survived by brother, Michael (Katherine) and sister Mary (the late John) Gianopoulos. Harry graduated from UIC Pharmaceutical School and was a pharmacist at Walgreens for over 40 years. He was an excellent cook, especially of French cuisine. He also loved traveling to Greece and France. Being Greek, Harry had an excellent rapport with many restaurants, and was in charge of arranging numerous reunion committee meetings over the past 16 years. Rest in Peace, Dear Harry. We will miss you.

Edwin M. Horak, Husband of the late **Geraldine "Geri" (Harris) Horak '55**, father of two, and Zadie of six, died on September 13, 2022. Ed was named an honorary member of the Class of 1955 reunion committee in recognition of his active participation in reunion events since 2005. Thank you, Dear Ed, for all your help.

Condolences to the families and friends of the following classmates who also left us:

Michael L. Silverman '56 died on March 13, 2022. Born in Chicago on August 9, 1938, Michael was proud to serve as an Airman 1st Class in the United States Air Force as a mechanic. He married Masha Rochelle Tankus on January 23, 1960. The couple lived and raised their family in Arlington Heights, where Michael co-owned Heights Cleaners and Draperies, a family business. Michael was actively involved in the Arlington Heights community where he served for 20-plus years on the Plan Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations and community boards, always in a leadership role. Michael was also a proud Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow. Michael's love of sports brought him to work with the coaching staff of the Chicago Bears, documenting plays via Polaroid for their evaluation during the games. He was able to travel with the team and became personal friends with several football legends over the 18 years he spent with the Bears. At age 57 he started First Northwest Bank, now Village Bank and Trust. Mike served on their Board of Directors until May 2021. Michael overcame many health obstacles, including a heart transplant in 2007. The transplant was a miracle that not only saved his life, but also birthed the inception of Heart to Heart, a charity formed by Michael and Masha. Heart to Heart originally raised money for research focused on difficult to match cardiac transplants, as Michael was considered a difficult match. The goal of the research was to make the matching process easier and available to more individuals. Currently, the focus of Heart to Heart's contributions to Northwestern Memorial Foundation are directed towards renal failure research. Michael was father of four; grandfather of seven; and brother of four.

Joan (Conway) Stidham-Dunn '56 died in Scottsburg, Indiana, on January 14, 2021. Wife of the late Harold D. Stidham, Sr. and Bill J. Dunn who survives, and mother of three. Joan was a homemaker, worked in retail, was a waitress and worked several years for Stidham's Auto Sales as a bookkeeper. She also was an Avon Lady. Her striking beauty opened the door to professional modeling opportunities in Chicago and Louisville. Joan's passions in life were traveling, dancing, shopping, anything glitzy and glummy, and her Irish Ancestral Lineage. She cherished her friendship with five of her K-12 classmates. They agreed early on to meet for their annual "girl trip," and meet they did, for many years. Joan had a youthful spirit and was tough, yet gentle. She loved her family and embraced their times together. As a wife, mother, mother-in-law, G-ma to her grandchildren, G.G. and Sugar to her great-grands and "The General" to all of them, she was always a part of every important event in each of her family's lives. It kept her busy... "a good busy," Joan's legacy will live on through the family she leaves behind: her three children, five grandchildren, and her eight great-grands. Preceded in death by son, Harold Stidham, Jr., Joan is survived by lifelong friends, **Sandra (Brown) Kambourian '56**, **Lucille (Lucy) Dobrzynski '56**, **Victoria (Vicki) Dobrzynski '55**, and **Barbara Ann Hill ('56)**.

IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd):

Wilbert "Bill" A. Thiel '54 passed away on April 15, 2022. Preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Marjorie (nee Erickson); father of three; grandfather of four. Bill graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S. in Accounting and began his career as a CPA for Arthur Young. He then moved to The Chicago Corporation, starting as Comptroller, and retiring 35 years later as CEO. He served on various boards of directors, loved his church, and served in many roles including council president. Bill generously gave his time and talents to numerous other charitable organizations.

Lana (Cohen) Eisenberg '59, wife of Calvin for 60 years; mother of three, grandma of seven, sister of **Myron Cohen '55**. Lana was a member of Hadassah for over 50 years and was the president of the Highland Park Chapter. She was also a past board member of the Women's Division of JUF.

Sheila Kelin '58 passed away on August 25, 2022. Mother of three; grandmother of seven; great-grandmother of one; sister of Ethel (Ivan) Terzieff and the late Deborah (Kevin) Gramm. Sheila was an Emmet Elementary graduate and actively responsible for reunions for the Austin class of '58.

Iris Golden '56 passed away recently. We have no other information.

Captain Tassos P. Nassos, M.D. '56 died on June 29, 2022, just 12 days before his dear long-time friend **Harry Kappos '55**. His parents immigrated from Tripoli, Greece. He attended Tilton Elementary school, Austin High School, the University of Illinois at Navy Pier and Champaign-Urbana and received his medical degree from the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in 1963. His residency at Cook County Hospital was interrupted by the Vietnam War during which he spent 14 months at Pleiku Province with the army's First Cavalry Division, participating in many rescue missions, and was a surgeon in the 18th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) Unit. He received special recognition for performing surgery on wounded soldiers, repeatedly working 24 to 36 hours at a time. Returning from his Army service in 1968, he completed his residency in general surgery at Cook County Hospital and then joined the staff at Resurrection Hospital in Chicago, spending the next 40 years as a surgeon, training general surgery residents from Loyola, serving as President of the Medical and Dental staff, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, and was also a member of the hospital's Board of Directors. He served many years on the Board of the Irving Park YMCA where he enjoyed playing handball. A life-long fan of the Bears and Cubs, he loved baseball and was the third baseman of the Austin High 1954 City Championship team. He coached his three sons through Little League and Pony League and served on the Northbrook Junior Baseball League Board of Directors. He devoted equal time to his Christin, supporting her in ice-skating performances and competitions. He served on the Saints Peter and Paul Parish Council for many years, including as treasurer, vice-president, and president. He also enjoyed grilling skewers of souvlaki and slicing gyros at the church's annual food festivals. He was a loving, caring, supportive husband to Mary Ann (Lambakis) for more than 52 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his four children, his ten grandchildren, his brother George (Pat) of Glenview, IL, and brother-in-law Jack Lambakis.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

175 years ago, on June 10, 1847, from a third-floor loft at the corner of Lake and LaSalle streets, the Chicago Tribune printed its first edition. While those first 400 copies may be lost to time, the paper's archives run deep. Longtime reporter Rick Kogan wrote a weekly series examining the paper's role documenting life in Chicago over six distinct eras. The Tribune devoted several weeks of its Flashback section of the Sunday paper, renamed Vintage Chicago Tribune, to present deep dives on some of those events and personalities, and published a selection of past columns and reviews, plus a page devoted to advice columnist Ann Landers and another to film critic Gene Siskel, as well as some of Mike Royko's columns. More than 100 historic front pages are available together in a keepsake book to celebrate the Tribune's 175th anniversary. The hardcover book is a time capsule of important events that have shaped our city during almost two centuries. Copies are now available to order through the Tribune's store at <https://store.chicagotribune.com/>.

150 years ago, on March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the **Yellowstone National Park Protection Act** into law, and the world's first national park was born. Today, the park is home to the world's largest collection of geysers, including the iconic Old Faithful.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (Cont'd.):

100 years ago, on May 19, 1922, WGN Radio was founded by Thorne Donnelley and Elliott Jenkins as WDAP. In 1924 it was purchased by Col. Robert R. McCormick and the Chicago Tribune and assigned the call letters WGN for "World's Greatest Newspaper." Originally located in the Wrigley Building, the studios moved to the Drake Hotel the following July. Over the years, the station underwent many changes in content, personalities, and locations. WGN now broadcasts from the 18th floor at 303 East Wacker Drive.
<https://wgnradio.com/celebrating-100-years-of-wgn-radio/>

90 years ago, in May 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, the Forest Preserves of Cook County opened its first **Trailside Museum** in River Forest, IL, with the goal of displaying "every plant and animal in Cook County, live or mounted, for the education of the public." "We're one of the oldest and largest forest preserve districts in the United States," said Irene Flebbe, the museum's assistant director. "This museum was the first of its kind in the Midwest and one of the first of its kind in the country. The building the museum occupies was built in 1876, only five years after the Great Chicago Fire, as a mansion and school. It became the first headquarters for the Cook County Forest Preserves, but in 1932, the district offices moved, and the building became the museum, housing exhibits to educate residents about many aspects of nature, including those found right outside in the river and forest. The Nature Center is located at 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest. Entrance is free; hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October; closed Fridays. For more information, call 708-366-6530 or see <https://fpdcc.com/places/locations/trailside-museum-natural-history/>

85 years ago, on June 4, 1937, Sylvan Golden invented and patented the **Grocery Cart**. He got the idea from a wooden folding chair in his office. While studying the chair one day, Syl thought: Why not place a basket on the seat and wheels on the legs? According to one source, Syl raced downstairs to get the store's handyman, Fred Young, to ask him to help him actualize his idea. It took a few attempts, but in 1936 Syl Goldman's shopping cart was manufactured and patented through his company, the Folding Basket Carrier Company.
<https://www.jewishpress.com/sections/features/invented-by-a-jew-the-shopping-cart/2019/06/20/>
[Source: JewishPress.com June 20, 2019]

80 years ago, in August 1942, Manny's Cafeteria & Delicatessen opened its doors at Van Buren and Halsted streets and moved to a couple other locations nearby before finding its permanent home at 1141 S. Jefferson. Manny's celebrated with a big anniversary party and a new menu item, the "80," a sandwich that will, for the first time in Manny's history, feature smoked pastrami. Manny's has long garnered adoration for its thin, hand-cut, cured and brined pastrami, but third-generation owner Dan Raskin says he's always enjoyed the smokiness of Montreal and Texas barbecue, so during the pandemic the deli staff got to experiment with smoked meats, that ultimately led to the invention of the "80." The team offered the sandwich for half-price during an all-day celebration on Tuesday, August 30. <https://www.mannysdeli.com/>

50 years ago, on March 14, 1972, *The Godfather*, considered by some to be the greatest movie of all time, opened to blockbuster business and became a landmark, inspiring two film sequels, imitations, book sequels, a computer game, parodies, and more cultural references and quotable dialogue than nearly any movie of the last half-century. It won Best Picture, Best Actor, and Best Adapted Screenplay at the 45th Academy Awards.

50 years ago, on September 17, 1972, the **M*A*S*H** TV series debuted on CBS. **M*A*S*H** (an acronym for **Mobile Army Surgical Hospital**) originally featured [Alan Alda](#) and [Wayne Rogers](#), [Larry Linville](#), [Loretta Swit](#), [McLean Stevenson](#), [Gary Burghoff](#), [Jamie Farr](#), and [William Christopher](#). Over the run of the show, several members of the main cast were replaced: Wayne Rogers was replaced by [Mike Farrell](#), McLean Stevenson was replaced by [Harry Morgan](#), Frank Burns was replaced by [David Ogden Stiers](#), and when Gary Burghoff left the show, Jamie Farr's Maxwell Klinger character moved into the company clerk role. Its final episode, "[Goodbye, Farewell and Amen](#)," was the [most-watched television broadcast in American history](#) from 1983 until 2010. It's often noted that the series lasted longer than the war itself. Coincidentally, Alda was actually an Army officer, costar Jamie Farr is a Navy veteran. McLean Stevenson was also in the Navy.

Recently, [Alan Alda](#) and Mike Farrell celebrated the 50th anniversary with some red wine. "Mike and I are toasting the 50th anniversary of the show that changed our lives - and our brilliant pals who made it what it was. **M*A*S*H** was a great gift to us," Alda wrote. [*Parade* 9-18-22]

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (Cont'd):

Also in 1972, many world changers appeared. TV debuts included **The Waltons**, **The Bob Newhart Show**, **Sanford and Son**, and **Maude**; **Egg Beaters** (99% egg whites) were introduced; Al Copland founded **Popeyes Chicken** in a New Orleans suburb (he joked he was too poor to afford the apostrophe); **Mark Spitz won all seven medals** he competed for in the Munich Olympics; when President Nixon visited China, his wife Patricia mentioned over dinner that she liked pandas, resulting in a gift of **two pandas from Premier Zhou Enlai**; American **Bobby Fischer beat Russian Boris Spasky in Chess**; the Swedish band **ABBA** was founded; **Eugene Cernan**, Apollo 17 mission commander, **was the last man on the moon**; **Harry S. Truman was the first Medicare enrollee**; the **Mr. Coffee** drip coffee-maker was introduced; thanks to its sales of Beatles records, EMI (Electronic and Musical Industries) financed a long-shot research project to develop the brain imaging **CT scanner**; and **Carnival Cruise Line** started with only one ship and enough fuel to make it from Miami to San Juan, but not back.

40 years ago, in **1982**, a wayward, wobbly little space alien forever won our hearts. Steven Spielberg said that **E.T.** began with him trying to write a story about his parents' divorce. The scene in science class when Elliot frees all the frogs to save them from dissection is based on Spielberg's own past. Aghast when asked to cut open a frog in school, he released several of them. The candy Elliott uses to lure E.T. into the house could have been M&Ms, but Universal Studios reportedly wouldn't let Mars executives read the final script, so Spielberg's people approached the Hershey Company about using Hershey's Kisses. Hershey's suggested their new, peanut butter-filled bits called Reese's Pieces, and agreed to spend \$1 million on a cross-promotions campaign. Hershey reported a 65% increase in sales two weeks after the picture premiered. [*Parade* May 22-29, 2022]

25 years ago, in **1997**, **Nothing Bundt Cakes** was founded in Las Vegas, NV by friends Dena Tripp and Debra Shwetz. What began as an endeavor in their own home kitchens to create a melt-in-your-mouth Bundt cake soon blossomed into a bustling business with bakeries in 14 states. Every day, lava-powered ovens warm up batter made from fresh eggs, real butter, and cream cheese. Flavors such as chocolate-chocolate chip, pecan praline, and white-chocolate raspberry remain constants on the menu, and a new flavor makes a guest appearance each month. Cakes come in several sizes, from the standard 8- or 10-inch Bundt to the single-serving Bundlet and the bite-size Bundtini, all frosted with a signature blend of cream cheese and butter. Join the e-club for special offers and a free birthday Bundtlet. <https://www.nothingbundtcakes.com/>

INTERESTING TIDBITS:

Switzerland is world-famous for its chocolate. Switzerland has a long history with chocolate: The first mechanized chocolate factory opened in the country in 1819, and in 1875, Daniel Peter invented the first milk chocolate with his neighbor Henri Nestle. They founded the **Nestle Company** in 1879. The Swiss eat nearly 20 pounds per person. [Travelquiz.com 8-17-22]

The smallest unit of the National Park System is the **Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial**, which covers just 0.02 acres in downtown Philadelphia. It is the boarding house where Thaddeus Kosciuszko lived from 1797 to 1798. Kosciuszko was a military engineer who designed fortifications and blockades during the American Revolution [Travelquiz.com 8-27-22]

FOURTH of JULY TRIVIA:

New York Hot Dog-Eating Contest. Every Fourth of July contestants come together at Coney Island to stuff themselves full of as many Nathan's Famous hot dogs as possible. The story goes that in 1916 a group of immigrants challenged each other at the Nathan's Famous hot dog stand to eat as many as they could to prove who was the most patriotic. The first official company-sponsored contest was held in 1972 — the challenge is 10 minutes long, and contestants have been known to down as many as 75 hot dogs.

Uncle Sam is both a real and fictional person. On the fictional side, he's the personification of the U.S. government. On the real side, he evolved from a meatpacker named Samuel Wilson. During the War of 1812 Wilson sent beef to the Army in barrels stamped "U.S." (United States). The soldiers put their own spin on it and started referring to the food as Uncle Sam's beef.

FOURTH of JULY TRIVIA (cont'd):

Every Fourth of July at noon, military bases around the country hold a gun salute called the **Salute to the Union**. It's a somewhat lengthy process, as a gun is fired for every state in the country.

Massachusetts was the first state to turn the Fourth of July into an official state celebration in 1781. In 1870, the date became an unpaid federal holiday, and in 1941 Congress decided it should be a paid holiday.

Sparklers, called "wunderkerzen," were invented in Germany in the 1850s. It was a simple process of dipping a thin wire into a paste made from gunpowder and iron. They were on exhibit with the German convoy at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, and within a few years they were being produced in the United States.

The oldest Fourth of July parade in the country was started in **Bristol, Rhode Island** in **1785**, by Reverend Henry Wight of the First Congregational Church. The town's patriotic festivities start almost a month earlier, on Flag Day, June 14.

John Adams protested the Fourth of July. The Continental Congress voted unanimously for independence on July 2, 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4. John Adams believed Independence Day should be the second day of the month, not the fourth. He regularly protested the holiday by turning down invitations to events on July 4.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: Please email changes to 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 _____	
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AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI REUNION COMMITTEE

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