

# CLASS OF 1959 - 50th REUNION

## All events are very casual dress

Our reunion is going to begin as soon as YOU arrive..... Please print out and bring this schedule with you for the most fun reunion you have ever experienced! For those who have a GPS, we are listing the address and zip code. Door prizes will be given away Friday night, Saturday at breakfast and Saturday night. You must be present to win. Reservations are required **for all events no later than September 28.**

### **Friday, October 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. - Historic Huntsville Depot, 320 Church St. (35801)**

We will begin our reunion at the Depot next to the railroad tracks where you will pick up your name tag(s), your free Class of 1959 Memories DVD and register for some amazing door prizes. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be our menu and you can visit the museum upper floors. We have a great evening planned with lots of visiting time. Be sure to sign up for the Saturday bus tour for either 12:30 or 2 p.m. If you have volunteered to donate a door prize, bring it to this event.

**Saturday, October 3 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. - Breakfast at Huntsville High School, 2304 Billie Watkins Ave. (35801)** at the new Huntsville High School (corner of Billie Watkins and Bob Wallace). Park behind the school - entrance on Billie Watkins and someone will be there to direct you to the cafeteria. Breakfast is \$5 per person payable at the door. Please bring correct change. You will be greeted with a special handmade gift (compliments of a classmate). If you have a "memory" you would like to share, bring the item to the memory table for display. Last chance to sign up for the bus tour for either 12:30 or 2 p.m.

Directions from Huntsville High School to Bus Tour at Embassy Suites - Exit right from parking lot, then turn right on Bob Wallace. Turn right onto service road at Memorial Parkway and stay on service road to Governors Drive. Turn right on Governors, then left on Monroe to James Williams Aquatic Center to park.

### **Saturday, October 3 from 10:45 - 11 a.m. - Tour of new school, Huntsville High School, 2304 Billie Watkins Ave. (35801)**

Meet in hallway just outside the cafeteria entrance where an ROTC student will guide us through the school. You will be envious of the gym, labs and other classrooms.

### **Saturday, October 3 from 11 to 1:30 p.m. - Hiking, Goldsmith/Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary with Margaret Anne**

**Goldsmith** To arrive at sanctuary by 11 a.m. you need to leave Huntsville High School by 10:30. Turn right, out of parking lot, then turn left (east) onto Bob Wallace. Go to California St. and turn left (north) onto California St. and go to Governors Drive. Turn right (east) onto Governors Drive (Hwy. 431) and go over Monte Sano Mountain about 7 ½ miles to traffic light at Sutton Road (**Walmart Shopping Center, 330 Sutton Rd., Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763**). Turn right on Sutton Road, then go 3/10 mile and turn left on Taylor Rd. Go 2.2 miles to the end of Taylor Road and turn right at the barricade. There is no sign, you will be on Terry Drake Road. Continue 1/10 mile on Terry Drake and you'll see a gravel road on your left and "The Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary" sign. Turn in and go through the open gate to the parking area. **Margaret Anne (Cell 509-9192)**

**On your return trip to Huntsville,** return to Sutton Road, turn left (west) and go over new mountain road. Turn right on Carl T. Jones and this will take you to Memorial Parkway. If you are going to ride the bus at 2 p.m., turn right (north) on Parkway and exit at Governors Drive. Turn right (east) onto Governors, then turn left at traffic light (Monroe St.). Look for parking just past library on right. (Williams Aquatic Center).

**OR** You can return the way you came but continue west on Governors Drive past Huntsville Hospital to Monroe St. Turn right on Monroe. Park at the James A. Williams Aquatic Center across from the Embassy Suites.

**Saturday, October 3 at 12:30 or 2 p.m. - Bus Tour - Meet at the Embassy Suites, 800 Monroe St. (35801)** located at the Big Spring Park next to Von Braun Civic Center downtown. If you are staying at the Holiday Inn downtown or Embassy Suites, please leave your vehicle there. All others may park at the James A. Williams Aquatic Center across from the Embassy Suites. Jan Williams has a great tour planned of old and new Huntsville. You will see places that use to be cotton fields and are now shopping centers. Many other changes will amaze you such as the Space Center, research areas and old Five Points. So bring your camera, get comfortable and enjoy!

### **Saturday, October 3 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. - Early Works Museum, Corner of Madison and Gates and Williams St. (35801)**

Get ready to eat John Paul Hampton's Gibson's BBQ Pork, BBQ Chicken, BBQ Ribs with cole slaw, bake beans, potato salad, dill pickles, rolls and their famous pies and iced tea, then enjoy our local Reunion Band & Co. featuring Richard Van Valkenburgh (Class of '60) play great 50's and 60's music. We will have an enjoyable program and a very special door prize with a large value will be given away at approximately 10 p.m. but you must be present to win.

The entrance to Earlyworks is on Madison St. (Big Yellow Columns). Across the street from Early Works on Gates St. is a city parking garage or you can park at the Wachovia Bank or Regions Bank Parking lot. Parking is free. Earlyworks is two blocks east of Big Spring Park and downtown hotels within walking distance.

**Other contacts: Joyce Joyce 256-337-6640, Jo Anna Burkett 256-679-0538,  
Betty Vaughn Christian 256-426-7014 and Anne Forgey 256-679-4007**

## **Historical Interest**

### **Historic Huntsville Depot**

One of the oldest remaining railroad structures in the United States. The Huntsville Depot was built in 1860 as the eastern division headquarters of the Memphis to Charleston Railroad. As a vital east-west Confederate rail line, it was captured by the Federals in 1862 and used as a prison. There is legible graffiti on the third floor walls left by Civil War soldiers.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Depot served as the local passenger house & the corporate offices for the eastern division of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. An active passenger station until 1968, the original depot building now stands as a symbol of Huntsville's transportation history and city growth. Teddy Roosevelt came through town on a "Whistlestop Campaign" and spoke to the citizens of Huntsville from his train at the Depot.

### **Huntsville High School**

Huntsville High School (per Mrs. Ladye Hamm's "History of Huntsville School System") was known as Green Academy and was founded in 1904. It held classes in the old East Clinton Grammar School building until 1914. In 1915 it was re-located to the Huntsville High School building on West Clinton. This was the site of the Huntsville Arts Council in the 1970's - the building has been torn down.

Due to growth in Huntsville in the 1920s, Huntsville High then moved to a location on the corner of Randolph Avenue and White Street in 1927. This building served the high school until 1954, when a new building opened on Billie Watkins St. and Marsheutz. This building served the school for 50 years, but also faced issues regarding the maintenance of the building. In response to this, the school board decided to construct a new building for the school on the current site (corner of Bob Wallace and Billie Watkins), building on the space previously used as athletic fields. This new building, opened in 2004, provided a more traditional look for the school and the exterior resembles the old Huntsville High on Randolph Avenue..

The old Huntsville High on Randolph Avenue currently houses the Huntsville School Board offices.

Notable alumni:

Jan Davis, former NASA astronaut  
Margaret Hoelzer, Olympic swimmer  
Loretta Spencer, 66th Mayor of Huntsville  
Don West, Jr., Attorney & Entrepreneur

### **Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary**

The soon to be opened to the public Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary located on the banks of the Flint River is a bottomland nature park. It includes forests, spring runs and an ancient tupelo swamp. In addition there are cleared fields planted in soy beans. The two mile trail we will be taking is flat and wanders through all the geological features mentioned above. The deed restrictions are that no domestic animals may enter the park and there can be no camping except strictly supervised groups led by the caretaker. Picnicking will be allowed in only a single designated area. There will eventually be a bike trail linked to the City greenway that will not cross the walking trails. The Sanctuary is a place where the wildlife comes first. It is a place to look and listen, observe and learn and experience the soaring of soul found in sacred places. Those of you who will be walking with Margaret Anne hopefully will experience just that.

### **Earlyworks Museum**

The south's largest hands-on history museum. EarlyWorks was designed for children to touch, climb, pull, explore!

Children can hear stories from the Talking Tree, play a tune on the giant-sized instruments at the Alabama bandstand and try their hand at building in the Kidstruction Zone. Explore a 46-foot Keelboat, trade wares at the General Store and try on 1800's clothing in the federal house. Pre-schoolers enjoy exploring Biscuit's Backyard, a touch-and-learn area designed especially for them, which includes a garden, grocery store, water table and even karaoke!

### **Other places of interest**

Burritt Museum on Monte Sano Mountain  
Monte Sano State Park  
Alabama Constitution Village (downtown)  
Weeden House (downtown)  
Harrison Brothers Hardware Store (downtown)  
Huntsville Museum of Art (Big Spring Park)

Von Braun Civic Center (Big Spring Park)  
Alabama Space and Rocket Center (I-565)

### **Shopping**

Parkway Shopping Mall (Memorial Parkway, South)  
Madison Square Mall (University Ave)  
Bridge Street (between I-565 and University Ave)