

*Cal Class of '62 Reunion, "Sixty Out from '62"*

*September 23, 2022*

*The Faculty Club*

**1940-1962--A Golden Time!**

*Remarks, Brian Van Camp, Reunion Co-Chair & Perm. Sr. Class Pres.*

Most of us were born as our country emerged from the Great Depression, but we were about to be engaged in another World War. By the mid-'50's, though, the economy had recovered enough so that most people had jobs, families, a home, at least one car and maybe even a TV set! With some planning and sacrifice, most families could afford to send at least one, and maybe two kids to college.

Our communities supported our public schools, including high schools and the state's colleges and university, as sound investments. Many teachers and professors had come of age in the Depression, when teaching and government jobs were some of the most secure available. Thus, they attracted many of the brightest of that generation. Accordingly, we got a great education!

And, in 1957, we all applied to the University of California—(not "UCB," by the way!)--one of the proudest achievements of our state.

*Fun Facts—1958-'62*

**1958**

Pres. Eisenhower signed bill to create NASA, a civilian agency to explore space--not a military agency, but following Russia's Sputnik in Oct., '57, the military importance was obvious.

The European Economic Community ("EEC" or the Common Market), the precursor to the EU was formed.

April 7—First MLB game was played in California (at Seals' Stadium)—the SF Giants, from Queens, beat the LA Dodgers, from Brooklyn.

Elvis was drafted into the Army

NFL Champions: Baltimore Colts beat the NY Giants (the AFL was one year away; the first Super Bowl--nine years later).

Mohawk Airlines hired the first African American woman as a stewardess; she was fired six months later when she married.

Explorer One—USA's first successful satellite—lifted off 8 months after Sputnik.

Culture: Most Popular Books: *Dr. Zhivago* (Boris Pasternak), *The Affluent Society*, J.K. Galbreath; Broadway: *My Fair Lady*, Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright's *Guggenheim Museum* opens in NYC.

Average prices: minimum wage: \$1/hr.; monthly rent: \$92/mo.; cost of new home: \$12,750; annual wage: \$4,000; gal. gas: 25 cents/gal.; new car: \$2,200.

First Microchip developed by Jack Kilby, a Texas Instruments engineer.

Chinese famine caused 30 million deaths amid Mao's Cultural Revolution.

### **1959:**

Fidel Castro overthrows Batista in Cuba;

Alaska and Hawaii become the 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> states in the Union.

VP Richard Nixon engages in a feisty debate in a model kitchen at a trade show with Secretary General Nikita Khrushchev, showcasing opposing philosophies of the two warring superpowers.

### **1960:**

The OPEC cartel is formed by Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Venezuela.

Soviet military shoots down Gary Francis Powers' U-2 spy-plane over Russia, belying Pres. Eisenhower's contention that we weren't spying on the Russians—deeper freeze in Cold War.

U.S. sends 3,500 soldier "advisors" to Vietnam to help resist invasion by Communists from the north.

Sen. John F. Kennedy defeats Vice Pres. RM Nixon for president by a whisker. The Vice President chooses not to contest the election, despite credible reports of numerous votes having been cast by occupants of Chicago's graveyards.

## **1961:**

President Kennedy authorizes, then apologizes for and explains to the nation, the failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space, then visits Cal and delivers a speech. Dottie Ahlburg, ASUC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and head of the Speakers program, escorts him around campus.

Pres. Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps, naming his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver as head. ASUC helps recruit Cal students to volunteer. As of 2020, Cal still led all other schools in the number of volunteers joining the Peace Corps.

Freedom Riders, many from Cal, travel to the South to ride trains and sit in at lunch counters, testing the Supreme Court's ruling outlawing racial restrictions.

## **1962**

John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit earth in space.

Dr. Sabin's polio vaccine administered to millions of children.

JFK calls for landing a man on the moon by decade's end; seeks \$531 million from Congress to do so.

Culture: New British singing group, called 'the Beatles,' have their first hit: '*Love Me, Do.*' "Double Oh 7; Bond, James Bond" was first introduced to the moviegoing public in "*Dr. No.*"

In her last public appearance, Marilyn Monroe sings, breathlessly, "Happy Birthday, Mr. President," to President Kennedy. She dies three months later—sleeping pills said to have contributed to her passing.

'62 World Series—NY Yankees beat the San Francisco Giants in the seventh game, at Candlestick Park.

The DJIA closed on June 7, '62, at 610.

## **1940 to 2022--A Golden Time?**

Notwithstanding frequent reports of illness or infirmities or passing of friends and neighbors, of all U.S. citizens born in the year 1940, some 48% of us are still alive in 2022. Of all persons born that year in the rest of the world? Fewer than 2%!

Because of a great Cal education, with a spirit of giving back and life-long learning, and due to a growing economy over the last 80 years, pension programs and/or 401(k)'s, most of us find ourselves secure in our homes and at our tables. And, as shown by our Essayists tonight, many are pursuing interesting, beneficial, public-spirited activities into our Ninth Decade.

**Blue and Golden Times?--*How can you say otherwise?!?!***

BRVC, September 23, 2022