



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2008

www.austin1955.org — reunion@austin1955.org

October 20, 2008

Where does the time go? Summer is over, and the leaves are starting to fall. 'Better start looking for your gloves and long johns. Here's the latest news from and about our classmates. Be sure to send us yours. Please put a date on all correspondence.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Donations of \$5 per year, payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.", to defray the cost of newsletter production, are appreciated. Many thanks to these donors of \$5 or more: Paul Abramchik, Joe Antala, Ronald Erhardt, John Falkowski, Sandra Gnippe, Dan Gurney, Lois (Horwitz) Silverman, Kenneth Iversen, Gloria (Jaconetti) Colella, Richard Kirchoff, Louis Kaufman, Andrew and Diana (Lake) Janovics, Earl Lassen, Peter Markos, Donald Martin, Claire (Olson) Potter, Mary Ann (Stentz) Kaiser, Ann (Vatta) Smith, and Joseph Zanon. If your name is not here, we'd love to put it in the next newsletter. Please send your donation to Ken Rosko at the address on page 4.

THE PARTY'S OVER, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:

The 70th Birthday Bash on September 14 at the Drury Lane Oakbrook was a huge success. 145 people enjoyed cocktails, excellent appetizers, a wonderful meal and super entertainment. Ten who had signed up could not attend due to the flooding in the area. Suzanne Johnson Peterson and Ken Iversen provided the musical entertainment, which included Suzanne's reminiscences of her being chosen as Miss Illinois of 1959 and her participation with Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians and visiting the troops in Viet Nam. Mr. Iversen accompanied her in leading a Sing-Along of great old standard tunes, including "Happy Birthday" to all of us. Many thanks to Ken and Suzanne! A real hit among the attendees was J.B. Brash, a professional magician for 35 years who has performed in just about every kind of venue one can imagine. He has been the resident magician at Allgauer's Restaurant in Northbrook for the past 32 years, where he can be seen four nights a week (www.jbbrash.com). He won First Place in the Chicago Close-up Magic Competition hosted by Navy Pier in 2006, and he hasn't lost his touch. He selected Shel Marcus and yours truly (Kaye Beecroft Aurigemma) to participate in one of his routines, and we absolutely could not figure how he did what he did. It was great fun – we're thinking about taking the show on the road! Several alumni won excellent door prizes, including free tickets provided by Drury Lane to performances of "The Boys From Syracuse", five CD's donated by Suzanne Johnson Peterson, and the small Austin Tiger birthday cake. The two large sheet cakes that were decorated with tiger paws were served with ice cream for dessert. Contact Suzanne at suzjpete@comcast.net, if you'd like to purchase one of her CD's.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO:

Mike and Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli on September 6, and Ralph and Lucille (Spezia) Tricarico on October 5th. Long may they love!

HEALTH UPDATES:

Ken Rosko had TWO cataract surgeries in September. His comment: "Boy, are things bright & brilliant now!!" But later in the month, we had "Triple Trouble". Three of your alumni committee members had hospital visits. On September 23, Ken was broadsided by an ambulance which totaled his almost new car. He had bruises and pain from the seat belt and air bag, but no serious injury. Ken is now "driving a new car a bit more conservatively!" Also on September 23, Mike Pasquerelli was taken to St. Alexius in Hoffman Estates, with a big bellyache. Various tests determined he had gallstones. He had surgery on October 8. He's now home and recovering nicely. On 9-28, not to be outdone, yours truly made a six-point landing backwards in the bathtub and split both elbows, requiring three stitches in each at LaGrange Memorial Hospital. I'm fine now. And how are all of you??????

IN MEMORIAM:

Oscar Award-winning actor Paul Newman died on Sept. 26 of complications from lung cancer. Although not a member of the Class of 1955, Paul Newman was a superb actor, humanitarian and genuinely nice guy. We'd like to share this little story about him, compliments of Joyce Rosko. Gentlemen: Please forgive us ladies this little indulgence.

"A Michigan woman and her family were vacationing in a small New England town where Paul Newman and his family often visited. One Sunday morning, the woman got up early to take a long walk. After a brisk five-mile hike, she decided to treat herself to a double-dip chocolate ice cream cone. She hopped in the car, drove to the center of the village and went straight to the combination bakery/ice cream parlor. There was only one other patron in the store: Paul Newman, sitting at the counter having a doughnut and coffee. The woman's heart skipped a beat as her eyes made contact with those famous baby-blues. The actor nodded graciously and the star-struck woman smiled demurely. "Pull yourself together!" she chided herself. "You're a happily married woman with three children. You're forty-five years old – not a teenager!"

The clerk filled her order and she took the double-dip chocolate ice cream cone in one hand and her change in the other. Then, she went out the door, avoiding even a glance in Paul Newman's direction. When she reached her car, she realized that she had a handful of change, but her other hand was empty. "Where's my ice cream cone: Did I leave it in the store?"

Back into the shop she went, expecting to see the cone still in the clerk's hand or in a holder on the counter or something. No ice cream cone was in sight. With that, she happened to look over at Paul Newman. His face broke into his familiar warm, friendly grin and he said to the woman,

"You put it in your purse".

MOVES, TRAVELS & NOTES:

Gerri (Harris) Horak reports that the Bakers, Horaks and Shulmans met in Copenhagen on July 17th / 18th to get acquainted before their Baltic Cruise. The night before the trip they had a Danish dinner and went to the Absolute Ice Bar, wearing parkas, hoods and gloves, into a room made of ice, drinking vodka with exotic fruit juices out of Ice Cubes shaped in the form of glasses. The trip, which sailed on the 19th (Crown Princess), lasted ten days, with eight days in ports, including stops in Helsinki, Stockholm, St. Petersburg (2 days), Estonia, Gdansk and a port which allowed you to rail to Berlin, which the Bakers and Shulmans did. The ship was both beautiful and gigantic. It had over 3200 passengers, great entertainment, food and crew. Gerri celebrated her birthday aboard ship, including balloons and a cake.

There were more than enough things to do and buy, however the prices in Europe have skyrocketed due to the strength of the Euro and the Dollar weakness. Most people in Scandinavia and the Baltic speak English. Many of the walking tours were in old town areas and had cobblestoned streets. The cities have a lot of waterways and the tour guides (mostly advanced degreed students) spoke good English. The weather was exceptional, between 65 to 85 degrees F. during the day with lots of sun and limited rain. Depending on where we were, darkness was between 10 pm and midnight. It was normally daylight by 5:30 am. In summary, a lot to do and see, large ship, high prices, lots of walking with wonderful friendships.

Irwin and Linda Magad will depart for Israel and Jordan on November 30th, returning on December 17th. This year is Israel's 60th birthday as a state. Watch for their trip report in the January newsletter. Happy Birthday, Israel!!

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNISTS WANTED:

Do you have a hobby or special interest or area of expertise you would like to share with others? How about your favorite Austin memories? Here's your chance to reach over 500 people. YOUR alumni newsletter welcomes articles on subjects your classmates might find interesting. Chuck Meyer has volunteered to test our memories about the music of the '50's. (See article on the next page.) How about you???

MUSIC MEMORIES: THE ONE HIT WONDERS OF THE FIFTIES (by Chuck Meyer):

Whatever happened to those singers who had only one, or perhaps two, hits, and then were never heard from again? This is one in a series of articles that will look at the stories of some of these singers. When I started this thread, I believed that the following singer had only one hit. Research reminded me that she also had another hit before the big one. So then (just like any good politician), I just redefined one-hit wonder to include two hits!

Consider me, Myrtle Audrey Arinsberg, born September 20, 1924, in Philadelphia. I starting recording in 1952 using the name Audrey Brown. RCA later changed my name to the name we all know. In 1955, I signed with a small record company, Era Records, and had my first top-ten hit. The next year (1956), I had an even bigger hit (reaching Billboard magazine's number one spot and staying there for many weeks) and I was voted most popular female vocalist by Billboard magazine. This single record returned to the Billboard Hot 100 in 1961. In 1957 I supplied the vocals for Ann Blyth in the movie portrayal of Helen Morgan's life. But, in spite of a good voice, and returning to RCA, after 1956 I only had a few minor hits. I am still singing, recently headlining at The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies in Palm Springs, California. My last show with the Follies was on December 31, 2006, and I continue to perform well into my 80s. I have also appeared on PBS pledge-week "retro" programs (singing guess-what??). By what name do you know me, and what was the name of my biggest hit? For extra credit, name my other (first) hit song.

Email your answer, together with a suggestion for another mystery guest, to our website (reunion@austin1955.org), or mail to Ken Rosko at the address on Page 4. The first response with all three correct answers gets bragging rights. Answers (and an audio clip) will be in the next newsletter!

HIGH-TECH EDUCATION:

Freshmen won't need book bags filled with textbooks or even pencils and pens when they walk into the new Chicago public high school opening today in the old Austin High building. Instead, they will be entering a mostly textbook-free world at Virtual Opportunities Inside a School Environment, one of 26 new or revitalized CPS schools to open today. VOISE is one of three small high schools housed at 231 N. Pine. But as the only school in the state to mix daily lessons by teachers with an all-digital curriculum, VOISE offers the best of both worlds, said Principal Todd Yarsh.

At VOISE, students will be flipping open personal laptops, not textbooks, to not only read — but watch and hear — online lessons packed with animation, video and quizzes. Forget the spiral notebooks. Kids will be taking notes on laptops — just as many college students do. They'll also get home computers, so they and their parents can e-mail teachers questions or check on student grades, homework and attendance 24/7. "I'm going to be nervous, but I'm going to get used to it," said VOISE freshman Ashley Guilty, 14, who doesn't have a home computer now. "They will be preparing us for the future," Ashley said. "When it comes time for me to walk across the graduation stage, I'll know a lot about technology."

Teachers will introduce new material, then support kids as they advance through online units at their own pace. Those who need more time can take it. Struggling readers can slap on headphones and simultaneously listen to their lessons as they read them. Kids who digest material quickly can advance to the next unit, or dig deeper into a topic in the current unit that interests them. "This model allows you to not let the learning stop at a book," Yarsh said. "There's no end to their learning." Students will still read novels in English class, and textbooks will be around for reference in classrooms, but most work will be online — including all written papers. Kids who may be shy about raising their hands in class can discuss their studies at online message boards and blog sites. "You could have a classroom of students that could be dead silent, but they could be having a hugely rich conversation just by messaging on a site," Yarsh said. The textbook-less curriculum is produced by Seattle-based Apex Learning, which has provided online Advanced Placement courses for years to kids whose pass rates on AP tests mirror the nation's. The VOISE curriculum is "more than a textbook; it's a complete course of study," but one designed to be led by a teacher, said Apex Learning CEO Cheryl Vedoe. Today, many kids weaned on computers and fast-paced videos "tune out" in a traditional classroom, Vedoe said. "When they are given instruction in a format that is more like their lives, they see it as relevant," Vedoe said. "We're on the forefront of something that's very powerful."

September 2, 2008 BY ROSALIND ROSSI Education Reporter/rrossi@suntimes.com

<http://virtualschooling.wordpress.com/2008/09/05/new-cps-school-offers-high-tech-education/>

NEWS, PHOTOS AND MEMORIES: Have you visited our website (www.austin1955.org) recently? If not, you're missing a treasure trove of Austin High School memories as well as some current news articles about our alma mater. We've also posted our most recent newsletter as well as an archive of all our past newsletters. In addition, you'll find photographs and news about alumni vacations, and most recently, we've added a series of 15 Chicago photographs that succinctly cover our lifetime. Submit your own photos to webmaster@austin1955.org. Give it a click!

WEBSITE REMINDER:

As mentioned in our July newsletter, future mass-mailings and newsletters will be emailed from our own website and User ID (reunion@austin1955.org). If you have a spam filter on your email, please set it to allow emails from our new address. And please (ABSOLUTELY) do not send any "junque" forwards (political, religious, humorous, indignant, etc.) to this email address. This address will be used only to send quarterly newsletters, articles for the newsletter, other notices of interest to all classmates, and responses to emails sent to us. We will not forward any email, other than an email you ask us to forward (since we do not publish email addresses).

TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU:

Photos and items of general class interest should be directed to webmaster@austin1955.org. If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) or memories of your days at Austin to share, please email any committee member at the addresses below, or write to Ken Rosko at the address below.

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CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: If your contact information has changed, please let us know.

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OTHER CHANGE: _____

PHONE NUMBER (required): _____

Please email changes to reunion@austin1955.org or mail this form to:

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