



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2010

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

January, 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW DECADE!

We hope your holidays were pleasant and peaceful and that this finds you in good humor and good health.

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING FOR OUR 55TH REUNION ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2010:

LET'S INVITE ALL AUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADS!

The reunion committee has decided to open our 55th Reunion to all Austin district elementary school classmates, whether they attended Austin High or not. And, if your school was outside of the district, we could also include your classmates. **This idea will need your help!!** We need all the volunteers we can get. A head coordinator will be needed for each elementary school. This coordinator and other volunteers will try to obtain as many names, addresses, e-mails and phone numbers as possible, so that we can send invitations to them. We hope to get invitations in the mail by the middle of March, so we need to gather names quickly. Maybe you have kept in contact with some of your old classmates from grammar school. Won't it be fun to see them again? If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact *Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli* at npasq@comcast.net or call 847-991-5656 **ASAP**. Nancy will be happy to supply you with a list of names from your elementary school.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to these donors of \$5 or more: Francis Donohoe, Mildred (Handy) O'Brien, Robert Haslam, Robert L. Hedlund, Robert Kruse, Barbara (Manzke) Poole, Peggy Jane Miller, Robert Mintz, Jack Rosspank, Carol Ann Wolf, and Richard Wolnik. Special thanks to Richard Otto for his VERY generous donation. Please send newsletter support donations to our Treasurer, *Irwin Magad*; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141. Make checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."

WEDDING BELLS:

We are delighted to report the marriage of classmate *Phillip Grossman* to DeeDee Whipple on November 15, 2009. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the happy couple! Mazel Tov!!

AND THE WINNER IS:

JKR Financial Consultants of Waukegan, Illinois! The firm, owned by our very own *J. Kenneth Rosko* and partner Gerald Crews, was recently named a winner of FSC Securities Corp.'s President Elite Group Award. This annual award by the Atlanta-based brokerage firm honors the top 100 independent financial advisers out of the 1,400 affiliated with FSC. Congratulations, Ken!!

IN MEMORIAM:

It is with deep sadness we report the passing on November 28, 2009, of classmate *Ted Warshawsky*, from complications following mitral valve surgery. We extend our deep sympathy to his widow, Barbara (nee Oppenheim, Class of 1958) and the Warshawsky and Oppenheim families.

Jackie (Pedjas) Jones' husband, LCDR Arthur L. (Buzz) Jones, passed away on September 15, 2009. Buzz will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on March 31, 2010 at 1 P.M. Jackie writes that anyone who cares to view this very dignified and impressive ceremony is welcome to attend. Thank you, Jackie. Our sincere sympathy to you and yours.

NOTES & TRAVELS:

Marilyn Haslam writes for *Robert Haslam*: "We live in a rural town (Princeton) two hours from Chicago. Bob retired in 1997. He had a stroke in 2008, so after many years of traveling around the world, we are more homebound now, especially with an elderly dog. We have no computer or cell phone, but if anyone wants to call, our phone number is 815-872-7753." Let's give Bob and Marilyn a call!

Chuck and Peg **Meyer's** trip to Russia included a river cruise between St. Petersburg and Moscow, as well as visits to Helsinki, Finland; Tallinn, Estonia; and Kiev, Ukraine. Their home base was a riverboat, and they enjoyed the Russian crew's wealth of information and professional manner. Chuck added four more subways to his list in his attempt to travel all the subways of the world. The Moscow subway was incredible – like an art museum with stained glass, statues, and other artifacts at the stations. One day, they rode the subway just to see the stations, some of which were 300 feet underground. They also visited Petrozavodsk, Russia, a sister city of Duluth, Minnesota. There is a sculpture there, a gift from Duluth, and Duluth has one from Petrozavodsk. The Meyers now must take a trip to Duluth to see the Petrozavodsk gift sculpture.

Tom and **Barb (Jarm) Baker** report from the snow country of eastern Iowa that it took them and their neighbors three days to dig out of an early 12-inch snowfall. Barb, who learned early last year that she was allergic to everything she loves (except Tom), developed a cold that led to a sinus infection, complicated by an allergy infection, resulting in sinus surgery on March 4. She calls it “nasal snorkeling.”

In July, the Bakers joined Ed and **Geri (Harris) Horak** on a train and cruise trip to Alaska, where they had a great time. They started from Anchorage by train to Denali Lodge in Denali National Park, then on to McKinley Lodge in McKinley National Park, then back south to Whittier, Alaska, where they boarded the Island Princess. They cruised Glacier Bay and the inside passage, with daytime stops and side tours at Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan, ending in Vancouver, B.C. Vancouver impressed them as very cosmopolitan and expensive.

Barb lost her special, handsome, first ever horse, Josh last year, but now has a black Labrador puppy named Mali who, at only five months old, sleeps all night, knows her name and understands “sit”. Tom is recuperating from some broken ribs, incurred in a fall down the stairs. Tom's advice: Don't wear socks on bare wood steps!

Linda and **Irwin Magad** and classmate **Robert Mintz** and his wife Ina Beth toured Egypt from November 4th thru November 15th. The trip included many sites of antiquities, i.e. the Karnak and Luxor Temples and The Valley of the Kings on the west bank of ancient Thebes. They also visited the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of the female Pharaohs of Egypt, The Colossi of Memnon, Edfu Temple, the Temple of Kom Ombo, and the Philae Temple, built for the Goddess Isis. They toured the cities of Cairo and Alexandria and cruised down the Nile to Aswan, Luxor, The Pyramids of Giza and the Mighty Sphinx, plus Abu Simbil's Two Temples of Ramses II, and the Aswan Dam High Dam, an engineering miracle when it was built in the 1960's. What a great lesson in ancient history!

Richard Otto is the owner and President of the American Academy of Art, Inc., a four-year college. Last year, First Lady Laura Bush commissioned one of their alumni to do a painting which was used for the White House Christmas card. Another former Academy alumnus, Sandy Dvore, became a famous Hollywood artist, creating celebrity images for such major stars as Frank Sinatra, Vic Damone, and Judy Garland for their Las Vegas appearances. Coincidentally, Sandy also attended Austin around 1948. Most of his iconic images can be found on his website: <http://www.electronicgallery.com/>.

Richard's hobby is racing and breeding racehorses. In December 2008, he had the good fortune of winning the Governor Jim Edgar \$100,000 Race at Hawthorne Racecourse. Richard plans to attend our 55th reunion. Perhaps he will give us some tips on winning at the races.

RETIREE RECOLLECTIONS:

Fred Schaeffer writes: “December 2009 marked the 10th anniversary of what has become one of my most vivid memories, almost equal to the memories I have of Austin High! I had long been involved in independent study in the fields of genocide studies and religious thought, and was invited to participate in the Parliament of the World's Religions, convened at Cape Town, South Africa, December 1-8, 1999. Present at the Parliament were the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, and Bishop Tutu, among others. My presentation was titled, ‘A World without Hate: Proposals for the New Millennium’. I have long felt most grateful for this opportunity and for the whole Cape Town experience.” Wow! Good for you, Fred!

Fred would be delighted to hear from his old classmates. His phone number is 773-549-6149.

SILVER SNEAKERS:

Exercise? Who, Me? Can't find a class at the right time of day? Don't want to exercise with all those young people? Well, there is an answer – Silver Sneakers, a national exercise program for seniors. There are a variety of classes to choose from, all held in the middle of the day – cardiac, aerobic, yoga stretch – which may vary by area. The classes are designed to help with balance, range of motion, strength (muscular and cardiac) and flexibility. Can you imagine sitting in a chair with paper plates under your feet and getting a workout? Well, in our Silver Sneakers class, we get the heart going with that exercise, plus a workout for the legs. Classes are taught by certified instructors. There are something like 10,000 Silver Sneakers classes in the US, held at community centers, fitness centers and YMCA/YWCA's. Some supplemental insurance plans cover the cost or there is a minimal fee. The insurance companies that participate vary by state, but the Humana Drug Plan covers Silver Sneakers. Fitness centers and the Y may have membership requirements. Want to check it out? Go to www.silversneakers.com, enter your zip code and the closest locations will be listed. For example, by entering "60015" (Deerfield, IL) the list includes classes in: Deerfield, Mount Prospect, Libertyville, Des Plaines, Morton Grove, Nilis, Skokie, and Waukegan. Within 15 miles of our zip code in Minnesota there are twenty-one options. So, take advantage of this great resource to lower your health risks and get physically fit! (Many thanks to *Chuck Meyer's* wife, Peg, for this excellent information.)

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

Nobody answered the prior question correctly. - the song was "Sh-Boom" It was written and recorded, by the Chords in early 1954. By the end of June 1954, this song had climbed up the charts nationwide, charting on both the R&B (number three) and Pop (number nine) lists, a nearly unprecedented feat for its time. Hear the original recording at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z92BNq61a7Y>.

After their recording became popular, they ran into a legal dispute over the name Chords, so they changed it to the ShBooms, but to no avail. They disbanded until the 1980's, when four of the quintet members had a "reunion" where they sang their hit. See this performance video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp2IyWM4ycc>.

The Crew Cuts then recorded this song - with the Ya-da-da-da-da-da that became their signature. It was number one on the Billboard charts for nine weeks during August and September of 1954. This is the version that most of us remember. Hear it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqWqFLzGLi8>.

WELL ACTUALLY... *Jim Padar* knew the answer, but failed to submit it prior to reading the first draft of this newsletter. Sorry, Jim - you can't bet the race after the horses cross the finish line. Jim was on Stage Crew and, if you remember, prior to our home games at Hanson Park, they would pipe the latest hits of the day into the PA system. Do you recall the one bar total silence breaks in the Crew Cuts version? Jim was the joker who grabbed the edge of the record and turned it into a four bar break, thus producing an entire student body that thought they suffered a petit mal seizure in the fall of 1954.

But now let's meet our next mystery one-hit wonder. She speaks fluently in six languages, and has recorded over 1300 albums in 12 languages. She was probably the first international girl pop singing star, a bigger hit overseas than in the US. She performed on TV shows hosted by Danny Kaye, Perry Como, Bing Crosby, Gordon MacRae, and Dean Martin; and on similar shows in many other countries. She has performed with Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, and Ella Fitzgerald. So how could such a singer be a one-hit-wonder?? Let her tell you about it.

"I was born in Paris in 1931, of Italian parents who were in the circus. So I, as a child, also worked in the circus. Singing and performing became my life. I even saw one of your Austin classmates in the audience in 1966 when I did a concert at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. My first three singles were international hits, but only one was a hit in the US (it was the only one in English). The song reached its highest on the charts (#13) around the time of your graduation. After that, I recorded only albums. Because of that, I had only one hit single in the US. So, I'm a one-hit-wonder on a technicality."

Who am I? What was my one U.S. hit? For extra credit - What were the other two singles? In what languages? Email your answers to reunion@austin1955.org or mail to *Chuck Meyer* at the address on the last page.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 1956:

Are there any 1956 Classmates out there? Watch for your own website coming soon at www.austin1955.org/1956.
Note to the Class of 1955 – Please pass the word to your younger Austin alumni friends.

AUTHOR, AUTHOR!!

Paul Sengpiehl writes: “I was ordained officially on March 1, 2009, by my Church for my ministry at Cook County Jail. Can you really imagine that combination - a lawyer and minister in one?” Congratulations, Paul! Paul has written a book: The Centennial Graduation Class of Wheaton College; The Class of 1959 Remembered. The book relates the activities of the Class of 1959, from first day orientation through graduation, including numerous sports victories, academic honors, and campus hijinks. It also highlights significant Chicago and World events of the era. The cost of the book is \$15 + \$4.95 for postage. Paul will be happy to autograph a copy for you. Write to Paul at 727 N. Ridgeland Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302-1735 or email SengpiehlLaw@aol.com.

TELL US WHAT’S HAPPENING 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, email *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive; Westchester, IL 60154-5021.

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CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: Please email changes to reunion@austin1955.org

NAME (1st, maiden, last): _____

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OTHER CHANGE: _____

PHONE NUMBER (required): _____

OR, mail this form to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 5257 107th Av N; Minneapolis, MN 55443-5902**

COMMENTS: _____
