



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2010

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

April, 2010

SPRING IS SPRUNG, THE GRASS IS RIZ, AND WE KNOW WHERE THE FLOWERS IS!

Hasn't it been a lovely Spring? We hope your Easter and Passover holidays were pleasant and peaceful and that all is well with you and yours.

OUR 55TH REUNION ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 IS OUR "GOLDEN" REUNION:

Shel Marcus writes: As you know, the next Austin Class of 1955 Reunion event is scheduled for the weekend of September 24-26th, 2010 at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare. I think those of you who attended our 50th will agree it was a wonderful gathering of friends, sharing memories, 50's music and good food. A good time was had by all. Well, your reunion committee had such a great time planning that special event, we have stayed together since that time to create our very own website, publish a quarterly newsletter, and organize several other social events. Our high school days were a unique time in our lives. The relationships we formed and the times we had in high school cannot be forgotten.

So now, we are approaching our 55th reunion, which, to my way of thinking, may be even more important than the 50th. Think of it - the 55th reunion for the Austin High School Class of '55! These numbers will never happen again. Some have asked, "Why so soon? It's not one of the standard anniversary levels like 25th, 50th, 60th...etc." But, each year, our class numbers get smaller. We have lost many good friends in just the last five years. Who knows what will happen between now and 2015?

If you enjoyed the 50th you'll love the 55th. And, if you missed the 50th, this is your chance to come and visit with former classmates, team members, and some teachers. There'll be the optional Friday evening Buffet Supper, the big Saturday evening shindig with all the 50's and other music you can listen and/or dance to, special surprises we can't divulge at this time, and the traditional optional Sunday morning brunch, where we can reminisce about the weekend. Reserve your week-end now or at least join us for the big shindig on Saturday. This will be the only time in your lifetime that you can say you attended the 55th Reunion of Austin High School Class of '55.

We're also making an effort to invite our elementary school classmates, even if they didn't attend Austin. If you'd like to help us find them, 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 and you can play Sherlock Holmes.

We are looking forward in seeing you at the 55th reunion. Don't be like some, who after the fact, said they heard the 50th was a blast and were sorry they missed it. This will be one to remember as well. We only go down this road called Life one time...but if you do it right, once is enough! Enclosed is a reservation form for those who haven't yet responded. **SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION TODAY**. If you are receiving this newsletter on-line, here is the link to the registration form on our website. <http://austin1955.org/55thResv.pdf>

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to these donors of \$5 or more: Paul Abramchik, Rita (Aniszewski) Simonaitis, Rita (Cimino) Reczek, David Greenberg, Suzanne (Johnson) Peterson, Barbara (Manzke) Poole, Murray Simpson, and Louis Weber. Please send newsletter donations to our Treasurer, *Irwin Magad*; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141. Make checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."

ATTENTION CLASS OF 1956:

Your own website can now be found at www.austin1955.org/1956. It is currently empty, but it's pretty!

Note to the Class of 1955 – Please pass the word to your younger Austin alumni friends.

1955 YEARBOOK WANTED:

Dorothea (Papadogianis) Hailer writes: "I'm fairly new on the mailing list. I'm Dorothy, one of the Papadogianis twins. My sister, Violet (Vi or Vicky) passed away from ovarian cancer in 2002. I've searched her home and mine for a yearbook with no success. My memory is not what it used to be and it would be helpful to have a yearbook to refer to. Do you know of any available and if so, how can I obtain one?" If anyone has a 1955 Maroon & White to give or sell to Dorothy, she can be reached at Dorothea.Hailer@ourbridgewater.net or 734-789-1795.

IN MEMORIAM:

We were saddened to learn of the passing in late December of classmate *Samuel Helfer*. Sam served as president of Oak Park Temple, B'nai Abraham Zion from 1980-1982, and was made a lifetime board member. In the mid-'60s, his father-in-law retired and Sam took the helm of Algor Plumbing and Heating Supply in Cicero. As a retiree these past 9+ years in Carillon, he did aerobics, water and chair exercises with "his gang" and instructors, with whom he enjoyed laughter and friendship. Visit his Guest Book at www.suntimes.com. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife of 52+ years, Hazel, their children Marcia, Scott and Penny and the entire Helfer family.

We are also sorry to report the passing of classmate *Sam Panebianco Banks*, aka Samuel V. P. Banks. Sam attended Young elementary school and graduated in our January class, Division 455. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Dorothy, his children James and Karen, and the entire Banks family.

It is with deep personal sadness this writer reports the passing on February 16, 2010 of *Rudolph Macciocchi*, U.S. Army Veteran, age 85. I was looking forward to dancing with Rudy at our 55th reunion, as I did at both our 40th and 50th. I learned this sad news from *Ken Iversen*, another fine musician and teacher. The April 2010 edition of *Intermezzo*, a Chicago Federation of Musicians publication, is filled with stories of Rudy and his vast career as a professional French horn musician. For over 20 years, he had played with the Chicago Symphony, the Lyric Opera orchestra, and the Grant Park Symphony. He toured with the Cleveland, Minneapolis, Boston Pops, Henry Mancini, Dick Schory and Michel LeGrand Orchestras. He played in the NBC, CBS, and WGN radio orchestras. In addition, he played musical shows in Chicago and was the conductor of the City Orchestra. You can read four pages of glowing tributes to Rudy on the Intermezzo website: https://www.cfm10208.com/view_intermezzo.php. Requiescat in pace, Rudy.

REGARDS FROM MURRAY SIMPSON:

Classmate *Murray Simpson* writes, "While I have never been able to attend any reunion, I enjoy receiving the newsletter....It's hard to believe it's almost 55 years since our graduation, but I'm happy to be able to write this note – it sure beats the alternatives." Space constraints prevent us from including Murray's entire professional biography, but he is currently of counsel in the Silicon Valley office of O'Melveny & Myers LLP. He has more than 45 years of financial and legal experience within the global investment management community. He has a wealth of experience on a variety of financial issues, including domestic and international activities of asset managers, with a particular focus on Asia. Murray wishes, "Good Health to All." We wish him the same, and thank him for writing. Murray can be reached by phone at 650-473-2610 or email at msimpson@omm.com.

WHO SAID THAT??

If you attended our 30th reunion on June 21, 1985, you may recall the "Thanks for the Memories" pages in the program book. Can you remember or guess who said what?

1. "Riot when we lost football championship by toss of the coin."
2. "Chemistry Class with Mr. Akers. We did a hydrogen sulfide generator experiment. Gas got out of hand, was concentrated out the windows and a cloud of smoke settled in the center courtyard near the lunchroom."
3. "Lots of excitement, hot tempers and stinky rotten eggs, too. A gross improvement over the odor from the lunch room kitchen."
4. "Nickname of Animal".
5. "Running from the old bldg. to the new bldg. In the middle of winter, wearing no coat or sweater. Barely getting to the 6:45 A.M. punishment class, only to fall asleep during class."
6. "Asphyxiated by smoke in the Green Grill."
7. "Watching Mr. Compton, Civics teacher, walking in the hallways and always turning square corners."
8. "Being a member of R.O.T.C. picked squad and an usher at school events."

BRAVO! BRAVO!

Our very own *John Spinello*, inventor of the game *Operation*, was honored earlier this month at the Sarasota Film Festival. Tim Walsh, who wrote the book "Playmakers/Timeless Toys", and is the creator of the film "Toyland", in both of which John is one of the featured inventors, invited John to attend the premier showing of "Toyland" at the Sarasota Film Festival. At the conclusion of the film, Tim introduced some other inventors. They received warm recognition, but when John was introduced, everyone rose to their feet and applauded and cheered. John was so touched and overwhelmed. Many asked for his autograph, many just wanted to shake his hand, and some told stories about how *Operation* influenced their lives. The creator of the Sarasota Film Festival, a surgeon, was one of them, who told John he has had *Operation* in his home forever. When John was at the airport, two people from California rushed up to John with *Operation* games for him to autograph, telling him what a pleasure it was to meet him. Of course, he obliged them. A few days later, John received a box of candy and a "thank you for the pleasure of having met you" note from the couple who tracked him down at the airport. We never realized what an impact John and his game have made on many kids and grown-ups. Here is a link to the history of John's invention. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_\(game\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_(game)). Hurrah for you, John!! We are proud of you!

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): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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: _____
