



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2011

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

JANUARY, 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We hope your holidays were happy and peaceful. This year we will experience four unusual dates: 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, and 11/11/11. NOW, go figure this out. Take the last two digits of the year you were born plus the age you will be this year and the sum WILL EQUAL111!!!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We ask that everyone contribute at least \$5 per year to help defray the cost of publishing and mailing the quarterly newsletter, and maintaining our database and website. We are very grateful to these donors of \$5 or more: **Carol (Ames) Rubin, Penny (Frank) Mosher, Norman Kazluski, Dolores (Lindquist) Defazio, Barbara (Manzke) Poole, Pat Pecoraro, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, Myra (Polifka) Dickens, and Santina (Rubino) Warren.** **Please make checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."**, and send them to our Treasurer, **Irwin Magad**; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141. Ladies, please write your maiden name in parentheses on your check. It will save your editor lots of time. Many thanks. We appreciate your support.

MIX 'N MATCH: This is a repeat of a previous request. We have not heard anything from any of you, but would dearly love to reunite the beautiful plates with their boxes. Many collector plates, donated by **Phil Grossman**, were awarded as prizes at the reunion. However, in many cases, the name of the plate that was written on the box did not agree with the contents. If you are interested in swapping a plate or box for its mate, please call or email your newsletter editor, **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma**. Kaye has a box that says "Wicked Witch of the West," a perfectly appropriate plate for her, but the plate inside is the "Scarecrow", not at all appropriate for her size and shape. She would love to have the Wicked Witch plate. Please call 708-562-6642, if you'd like to swap. **Joan (McConville) Leander** has a box that says "Cowardly Lion", but the plate inside is the "Tin Man". Joan would really like to have the "Cowardly Lion" plate. Call Joan at 630-932-0193 if you'd like to swap for the "Tin Man". **Donna (Mayfield) Harder** has the "Glinda the Good" plate in a box marked "Wizard of Oz", and the certificate inside doesn't match either. If you'd like to make a trade, call Donna at 708-448-6879.

SPECIAL NOTE to **Millie (Handy) O'Brien** and **Wanda (Myers) Smith**: Did you also win plates, and if so, why? Come on, ladies! What are your claims to fame?

IN MEMORIAM:

We are saddened to report the passing on November 29, 2010 of Rose Leddy, wife for 63 years of Mr. George Leddy. In attendance at Mrs. Leddy's memorial services were four members of the Austin High School 1954 Public League Baseball Championship Team: Don Gagliano and Shel Richmond (Class of 1954), Marshall Hechter (class of 1956), and **Mike Pasquerelli** (Class of 1955).. Our Deepest Sympathy goes to Coach Leddy and their ten children, 17 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and other family members.

50TH ANNIVERSARY HELP: Can anyone help **Joe and Anna Montana** (Montano) locate two of Joe's female classmates who frequently patronized Montana's Restaurant, located at 5909 West North Avenue in Chicago? They were guests at the wedding reception held on July 14, 1961 at the Carlton Hotel in Oak Park. Joe and Anna would like to invite them to their 50th wedding anniversary celebration in July, 2011, but cannot recall their names. If you have any information about these mystery ladies, please call Anna at 847-678-3037, or e-mail montana9856@aol.com as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your help.

1955 MAROON & WHITE MYSTERY: Have you visited classmates.com recently?? They have a copy of our 1955 annual available for online browsing. It's obvious (because of the autographs) that this was **John Spinello's** yearbook. But he never sent it to them – it's been missing for many years! So how did John's yearbook go from "missing" to classmates.com?? That's the mystery of the year, and John's trying to unravel it. Until he finds an answer, his 1955 yearbook is still available on-line for browsing - enjoy!! <http://www.classmates.com/home/>

REUNION FEEDBACK:

We thank all who wrote about their reunion experiences. From **Pat Pecoraro**: “I had a great time and it was wonderful to see and talk with so many former classmates.” From **Myra (Polifka) Dickens**: “What a great time we had at the 55th reunion. We’ll look forward to the next one.” It appears that everyone really enjoyed connecting with old friends.

LOST AND FOUND:

If you left something behind at the reunion, or if you found something, please notify any member of the reunion committee. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

AUSTIN 1955 REUNION, LTD. 2011 ANNUAL MEETING & OFFICER ELECTIONS:

The annual meeting of Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd., a non-profit corporation, was held on Friday, January 14, at 9:30 A.M. at the Pickwick Restaurant in Park Ridge, IL. The following officers were elected: Ken Rosko, President; Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli, Vice President; Irwin Magad, Treasurer; and Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma, Secretary. These officers will serve for one year.

Please note that Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd. is the only Austin High School not-for-profit reunion organization, and we are NOT affiliated in any way with Classmates.com. Because our numbers are dwindling, we would like to join with other Austin Alumni Classes, such as 1954 and 1956 and all others who may wish to tie into our website and participate in future event planning. We have already hosted a joint event with the Class of 1956 (the 70th Birthday Party at Drury Lane in 2007) and they have a link on our website to their list of classmates. Take a look!

<http://www.austin1955.org/1956/1956StudentsAll.html>

Your reunion committee is thinking about organizing other social events once or twice a year, such as U.S. and foreign cruises, local and other U.S. excursions, Drury Lane lunch or dinner and a show, a Day at the Races at Arlington Racetrack, etc., perhaps in collaboration with other Austin classes. We need to hear more from you, so we can make plans for future alumni events. We ain’t quitting any time soon!

If you have friends from other Austin classes, please contact them and invite them to join us. We will add them to our newsletter mailing list, and will work with their webmaster and/or database administrator to develop connections to our website. Tell them to contact Jim Padar, at webmaster@austin1955.org or 773-763-5078, or our database administrator, Chuck Meyer at reunion@austin1955.org or 763-425-7941.

MORE KUDOS TO JOHN SPINELLO!!

As mentioned in our April 2010 newsletter, John is the inventor of the game *Operation*, and was honored at the Sarasota Film Festival. But that wasn’t the end of it. Your editor had the pleasure of attending the Naperville Independent Film Festival, which ran from September 18 thru 25th, and featured over 100 films from 19 states and 10 countries. The Ken Sons film *TOYLAND* took top honors at the closing awards ceremony. John is featured in the film. Tim Walsh, who appears in the film as a game designer, and who also acted as Creative Consultant on the film, accepted the award.

“Director Ken Sons and I are thrilled to have won Best Documentary. We want to thank our fellow nominees and everyone at the Naperville Independent Film Festival,” Walsh said. “Chicago is the birthplace of the toy invention business, so we were thrilled to bring our film here. Our goal with *TOYLAND* was to give the movie-going public a real appreciation for this amazing industry and the people who work in it. We are humbled and very grateful for this award.”

The movie *TOYLAND*, Starring Tim Walsh, Betty James, Reyn Geyer, and **John Spinello**, is available on DVD at Amazon.com. See some fun facts from the movie at <http://www.theplaymakers.com/FILMS/090110.html>.

FOOTBALL TRIVIA:

From Richard Roeper’s January 20, 2011 column in the Chicago Sun-Times: “In 1937, nearly 120,000 fans jammed into Soldier Field to see **Austin High School** and Leo High School face off for the Chicago City High School Championship. (**Austin** was victorious, 26-0) How big was high school football in 1937? That same year, the Bears hosted the Redskins for the NFL Championship at Wrigley Field. Attendance for that game was 15,870 – about 100,000 fewer than for Leo/Austin matchup.”

ATTENTION FLORIDA SNOWBIRDS:

This is a reminder that *Penny (Frank) Mosher*, a graduate of Orr school, noticed that several classmates live in Florida. She has a house in Cape Coral. If anyone is interested in getting together in Florida, please contact her at 815-404-8444 or at mospav@toast.net, or write to her at 920 Darlington, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOS STILL WANTED:

Do any of you have your 1951 class photo? If you do, please send it to our webmaster, *Jim Padar* via email to webmaster@austin1955.org or via snail mail to 5426 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646.

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.

Austin 1955 Reunion Committee

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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: _____

