



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2011

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

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:

Esteen (Blumberg) Portnoy, Patricia (Callahan) D'Amato, James Connelly, Betty and Joseph Derosa, Francis Donohoe, Charles Doty, Barbara (Feldgraber) Wilensky, Kathleen (Jeanette Gromoshak) Lucansky, Nancy (Hagemeyer) and John Gall, Geri (Harris) and Ed Horak, Gloria (Jaconetti) and Rocco Colella, Linda and Irwin Magad, Donald Martin, Wanda (Myers) and John Smith, Myra (Polifka) Dickens, Patricia and William Polzin, Cherie and Ken Rosko, Robert and Angel (Sternberg) Newman, Frank and Carolyn (Stevens) Heino, Louis Weber, and Ronald Weiss,

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!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Our next outing will be lunch and "Gypsy" at Drury Lane Oakbrook on Thursday, March 15, 2012. The cost will be \$40 per person, a real bargain, given the quality of the food and the shows. Lunch will include a first course, a choice of entrée, dessert, rolls and butter, and choice of beverage. Wheelchairs are available upon request. Parking is free, and you won't have to drive in the dark! Other Austin classes, friends, and family are welcome to join us. The more, the merrier! Sign up now with the form at the bottom of Page 4 or watch for the Winter newsletter..

Reservations MUST be in by February 14, 2012

A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE:

Mike Pasquerelli reports that classmate **Ron Weiss** enjoyed a surprise 75th birthday party on August 13th. His son Ronnie and daughter-in-law, Jeanne hosted the party. There were many family and friends celebrating with Ron. His daughter, Linda Weiss Horton, contacted some of Ron's teammates from the 1954 Austin Tigers Chicago Public League Baseball Championship Team. Linda set up the surprise so that all of us; **John Spinello**, Don Gagliano, Marshall Hechter, Shel Richmond, and **Mike Pasquerelli** would arrive precisely at 3:00PM and walk in together. She pulled it off perfectly. Ron was completely surprised. Then, "to put the icing on the cake", Coach George Leddy arrived with daughter Ann and son George Jr. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RON!

Mike's party photos can be seen on our website at "Ron Weiss Birthday": <http://tinyurl.com/3pkrkvh>

IN MEMORIAM:

We are saddened to report the passing of **Ellen (Marks) Jordan** on January 8, 2011. Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert D. Jordan, III. **Phil Grossman** remarked, "A great friend has passed to a place of higher learning and she will be missed." We share that thought, and offer our sincere condolences to Ellen's daughters, Melissa and Elizabeth, grandson Connor, and the rest of the Jordan family.

Our deepest sympathy also goes to **Miriam (Abrams) Shiffrin's** husband Joel, her sons Daniel (Gracia) Shiffrin and Allan (Lisa) Shiffrin, and her five grandchildren. Miriam was Valedictorian of the January 1955 class and was also a talented Ballet dancer. Services were held on September 21, at Beth Emet in Evanston.

We also mourn the recent passing of classmate **Lillian Kenyeri**, twin sister of classmate **Ron Kenyeri**. Services were held on November 14. Rest in Peace, Lillian.

NASH AND HOWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ON THE HONOR ROLE:

On September 25, the Chicago Tribune recognized teachers at 13 Chicago public elementary schools for voting to expand the instructional day by 90 minutes, giving students valuable extra time they need to excel. Two of those 13 schools are the alma maters of 54 of our classmates: 30 from Nash, and 24 from Howe.

A DAY AT THE RACES RECAP:

September 15 was a chilly, but sun-shiny day for the 24 classmates and others who attended our “Day at the Races”. In attendance were *Mike and Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli, Jim Costabilo, Phyllis (Grebel) Wehrs, Geri (Harris) and Ed Horak, Harry Kappos, Lois (Leff) Streiker, Genny (Luisi) Schroeder* and Hertha Prager, Linda and *Irwin Magad, Jim McCarthy, Ina Beth and Bob Mintz, John and Wanda (Myers) Smith, Shel Marcus* and Harlene Dunitz, *Jim Padar*, Cherie and *Ken Rosko, Paul Sengpiehl*, and yours truly, *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma*.

Jim Padar reports that he used the “I don’t know anything about racing” method to place all his bets: picking the catchy names, betting an occasional Trifecta, or using his favorite three digit number. He played almost every race: won some (no Trifecta) and lost some. By the end of the day his bottom line was minus \$7; not bad for an afternoon of fun with classmates.

Shel Marcus says, “Harlene and I had a great time at the Arlington Race track. It was a beautiful day and was enjoyable meeting some of the alumni. Harlene had a great day. She picked 6 or 7 races successfully. She has a great system; she picks the names. One horse she picked was “High Flying Jacob”, her grandson's name. She picked him across the board to win, place, and show. He won, so she collected for all three positions!

Bob Mintz agrees that, “Indeed, it was a lovely day to spend at Arlington with the other Austinites. And, better yet, Ina Beth actually won a few bucks (which is more than I can say for myself). As a matter of fact, she was so thrilled at winning, that she put a bet down on what she absolutely knew was going to be a winner. This horsey knocked his jockey off and then proceeded to try to win the race on his own, but ran off in the wrong direction. Only my wife could put down a bet on a rider-less horse, who doesn’t know which way to run. That “race” was the most fun we ever had at any racetrack, and added to the great day.” (Editor’s note: I, too, bet on “Pop’s Gold”, and if I ever see where he will race again, I will place another bet. That horse really loves to run, and led a merry chase around the infield until they finally caught him. Racing was delayed for about ten minutes.)

Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli’s theory for picking winners is to go to the paddock and check out the horse’s rumps. She claims that the ones with the biggest behinds have strong legs, so are likely to run faster than the others. Your editor bet on all the races, but had to leave early, so did not know the winners until the next day, and didn’t collect until October 7, when she went to the Off Track Betting facility on Weed Street in Chicago. She had bet a total of \$20, and ended up with \$45.60! That’s a better return on investment than the stock market!

See Mike Pasquerelli’s photos of the day on our website at “Day at the Races”: <http://tinyurl.com/3t9x4ao>

WEATHER TRIVIA:

July 2011 was Chicago’s third-hottest on record, according to the National Weather Service. Do you know in what year July temperatures hit 80 degrees every day? It was 1955, the hottest July on record and part of the hottest summer, as well. No wonder we girls wore just our slips under our graduation gowns! (What did you guys wear?)

A FUN TRIP TO KANSAS CITY, MO:

Nancy Pasquerelli reports that on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011, she and *Mike* headed for Lawrence, Kansas to visit Anne and *Bob Schulman*. (Bob attended Austin when we did.) Cherie and *Ken Rosko* joined them at the Schulmans’ house after attending the christening of their first grandchild in another town in Kansas. Then the party began!! “The Schulmans rented a van for all six of us. Anne was a wonderful and fun tour guide of Kansas City. We visited the Black Baseball Hall of Fame and the Jazz Museum on 18th and Vine. After that, we wanted to taste some of the barbeque that Kansas is known for, so we went to the famous Arthur Bryant’s Barbeque Restaurant. Umm-Umm - those ribs and pulled pork sandwiches were delicious. ‘Have to take another trip just for that. After waddling out of the restaurant, we had to work off some of those calories, so we went to another well-known place: Bob Jones Shoe Store, where we proceeded to spend some money. Then Anne drove us around town to see some more of the sights, including the new Performing Arts Center. The trip was fun and fantastic. The Schulmans were the greatest host and hostess. The Roskos and Pasquerellis really appreciated their hospitality and the fun we had with them. Thank you Schulmans!! Now come to Chicago so we can take you around our great city!!”

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE:

Chuck Meyer writes: Are you in OLLI? Do you know about OLLI? OLLI is Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, a senior learning program connected to a university. There are 118 in the country.

The Bernard Osher Foundation, created by Bernard Osher, has the goal of supporting education and the arts. One of the most important programs is a national network of lifelong learning for older adults. He was interested in meeting the needs of older learners who want to learn simply for the joy of learning and personal fulfillment. Classes are taught by retired professors, knowledgeable people and sometimes graduate students, all on a volunteer basis. The best part is that there are no tests! A small sampling of subject matter includes art, books, computers, history, psychology, science, and preparation for travel to destinations both in the US and abroad. In the Twin Cities there are also special interest groups such as theater, ethnic dining, biking, Scrabble, Bridge and many more.

The specific models of each group vary widely, but the premise for all OLLI groups is the same. In the Twin Cities, there are more than 250 courses over four sessions each year. The membership is over 1,000. At some locations, the classes are held at a university; in the Twin Cities, classes are held around the metro area in churches, community rooms, nursing homes, or wherever space is donated.

To learn more or to locate an OLLI near you, go to the OLLI National Resource Center website at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national/> and click on the "Find an OLLI Near You" or call them at 207-780-4128; or to see a list of OLLI's, check out www.osherfoundation.org and click on "The Programs" and then "List of Institutes" on the left or call them at 415-861-5587.

JIM PADAR'S BLOG UPDATE:

Jim Padar reports that his blog of short stories has taken on a life of its own. "It started out as an experiment for the family, and last week we passed the 30,000 views mark. I never expected it to be this popular," Jim remarked. All of the stories are based on true tales and Jim says he tends to concentrate on his police experiences, both as a uniformed patrol officer and a homicide detective. He posts 2-3 stories a month so it's light reading that is easy for people to keep up with. Could Austin High School's advanced placement English classes have played a roll in his success? Jim says that's very likely. "I've enjoyed writing for as long as I can remember," he said. Is there a book in the future? "Any literary agents out there?" replies Jim. Give the blog a gander at: <http://jimpadar.wordpress.com/>.

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"Women and cats will do as they please; men and dogs should just relax and get used to the idea."

CLOSING MESSAGE:

"There is finally conclusive evidence that Osama bin Laden and Muammar Gaddafi are dead. Yesterday, they both registered to vote in Chicago."

VETERANS' DISCOUNTS AT LOWE'S & HOME DEPOT:

Receive a 10% discount on all purchases at Lowe's and Home Depot, just by showing your VA card (or other proof of military service). The discount applies to all items, in all stores, at all hours.

GOLDSTAR DISCOUNTS TO SHOWS AND OTHER EVENTS:

Take a look. <http://www.goldstar.com/events/browse/60603> Sign up here. <https://www.goldstar.com/signup>

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

Nancy Baggio Pasquerelli
Npasq@comcast.net
847-991-5656

Kaye Beecroft Aurigemma
kaurigel1@att.net
708-562-6642

Phil Grossman
phillipgrossman@pgrossman.com
847-446-3266

Geri Harris & Ed Horak
Gjhorak@aol.com
847-291-8485

Harry G. Kappos
hgk1937@comcast.net
847-515-8693

Genny Luisi Schroeder
gennyluisi@yahoo.com
847-824-5615

Irwin A. Magad
Imagad@cjbs.com
224-475-0390

Shel Marcus
Shelmarcus@yahoo.com
847-966-5862

Joan McConville Leander
TennisGal102@sbcglobal.net
630-932-0193

Chuck Meyer
C124@attglobal.net
763-425-7941

Jim Padar
webmaster@austin1955.org
773-763-5078

Mike Pasquerelli
mjp1937@comcast.net
847-991-5656

Ken Rosko
jkr.financial@gmail.com
847-623-5800

John Spinello
maddi65@live.com
630-980-7801

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

NAME (1st, maiden, last): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

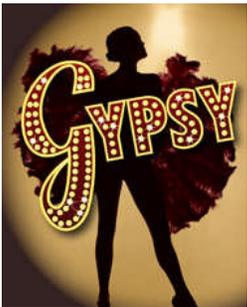
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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: _____



Luncheon/Theatre: Thursday, March 15, 2012

Drury Lane's production of "Gypsy," based on memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee
Lunch 11:30 AM — Play to Follow

Winner of three Tony Awards, "GYPSY" is considered by many critics to be the greatest American musical ever written. "Gypsy" is based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, a famous burlesque stripper. This show tells the story of Rose, an overbearing stage mother who is determined to break into the big time by pushing a vaudeville career onto her two daughters.

Payment due by Tuesday, February 14, 2012 (no refunds)

Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."

Please mail to:



Name(s) _____ X \$40 = _____

Irwin Magad
Austin Class of 1955 Reunion
2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200
Northbrook, IL 60062-6141

Please Select: ___ Chicken Breast Marsala ___ Roast Sirloin of Beef