



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2012

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We hope you all have enjoyed good health and the warmth and company of family and friends during the holidays. We wish you more of the same in the New Year.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are very grateful to the following classmates who have donated \$5 or more to defray to cost of printing and publishing this newsletter. We couldn't do it without you. Paul Abramchik, Frances (Calamia) Hammerstone, Caroline (Hall) Misiuda, Patricia (Heiland) Wise, Norman Kazluski, *Irwin Magad*, Curran McConville, John O'Rourke, *Nancy and Michael Pasquerelli*, Anthony Ragano, *Ken Rosko*, Roberta (Shane) Atlas, and Louis Weber.

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!

RESERVE NOW!!

Our next outing will be lunch and "Gypsy" at Drury Lane Oakbrook on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 11:30 A.M. The cost will be \$40 per person. We just saw an ad in the local newspaper that said the cost for the show is \$35-\$40 without dinner; or \$50-59 for the dinner package. Our \$40 price for lunch AND the show looks like a real bargain! 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 since it's a matinee, 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 3. **Reservations MUST be in by February 14, 2012**

IN MEMORIAM:

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Phillip Sheldon Atlas**, January 1955 class, Division 459, on April 29, 2010. We apologize for not acknowledging this sooner. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Bobbi and the Atlas family.

We also mourn the loss of **Jerry Amen**, Class of 1956, who passed away on November 29, 2011. Jerry played football for the Columbus Park Cardinals and also played on two City Championship teams and Prep Bowls for the Austin Tigers. He wrestled for Austin at 155 pounds, and was head coach for OP-RF Youth Football for 20 years. He played Chicago-area softball for 47 years, ending with a Forest Park championship with the McGaffer's Chiefs in 1999. He was an avid bowler in many leagues from 1958 to 2010. He was a good friend to the guys in sports at Austin and always had a smile on his face. Rest in Peace, Jerry.

KEN'S DEERHAP ON DEERPATH:

Ken Rosko reports that after 37 years of living in a deer-infested area, the law of averages finally caught up with him. "At about 8:35 AM, on November 11, a buck caught my left front fender, driver's lower door panel, with a 6" x 2" gaping hole in the door created by either the deer's antler or one of the hooves and then the lower left rear door panel and rear bumper! I was going North on Waukegan Road in the inner lane, and just went thru the Deerpath Road intersection (how appropriate: "Deerpath Road"!) to downtown Lake Forest. About 2 blocks or so north, a "brown body" suddenly came upon my lower front left fender and got the corner of the left front headlight. I believe the deer was already hit by a car(s) going south, since I got hit on the lower portion of the car! Bottom line, I was NOT hurt, but the expense to repair the car will be over \$5,100, assuming nothing is wrong with any of the undercarriage! I guess I made a "final" contribution to the Deer Population Road Kill problem."

Editor's note: Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) road kill policy states Illinois residents who wish to claim a deer that was killed in a vehicle collision must report possession of the deer within a 24-hour window. They may file a claim by going to the IDNR website at http://dnr.state.il.us/law3/images/road_kill.pdf or by calling 217-782-6431 no later than 4:30 p.m. the next business day. Venison anyone?

THE NEWSLETTER THAT ALMOST WASN'T:

Those of you who receive our newsletter electronically would not have been affected by the mini-disaster that occurred on November 14, 2011, but the 313 classmates and five teachers who receive hard copy almost didn't. Your editor's computer died shortly after the envelopes were printed, but before any of the 1252 pages could be produced. My computer guru son-in-law was out of town, and a techno-savvy friend was not available. What to do? What to do? Call the Lone Ranger, of course, in the form of our good friend and webmaster, **Jim Padar**.

Jim lives on the Northwest side of Chicago, and I live in Westchester, 20 miles away, but he hopped in his car, and rushed to try to revive my dead computer. All attempts failed, so he ordered me a new one, which miraculously was delivered the next day. Back he came to install the new CPU and monitor, and take the new hard drive to his place to load the latest and greatest software. A few glitches and another round trip or two got me back in business. In the meantime, the newsletter needed to be printed, so Jim took his copy that all committee members had received via email, to a printer, had copies made, and brought the copies to my house where the stuffing and fluffing crew, **Joan (McConville) Leander, Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli, Genny (Luisi) Schroeder**, and yours truly were able to fold, stuff, seal, stamp, and mail all newsletters on November 19. WHEW! Who was that masked man?

Thanks a BUNCH, Jim! You are our hero!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD:

Peggy and **Chuck Meyer** headed south for Thanksgiving 2011. Chuck writes, "We flew to Atlanta, then drove 1500 miles around the Carolinas, visiting a classmate of Peggy and a classmate of mine, **Laverne "Lovey" (Swirczinski) Kempf**. Both of our classmates were from our grammar schools. We spent Thanksgiving with my sister in South Carolina and also enjoyed the hospitality of "Lovey" and Wayne Kempf in North Carolina. My niece lives in a small town in South Carolina that has hosted a free, outdoor Thanksgiving dinner for at least the last five years. All we had to contribute was food for the town's food shelf. They had a couple of block-long tables in the middle of the street. The mixing of the families, the races, the ages, and the classes, was truly heartwarming. I can't believe the changes in the South since I was there in the 60's. An Atlanta TV station was there to report the event. See the movie "The Help" to reacquaint yourself with the South of the 1960's."

Editor's note: It's a really eye-opening film, and very well acted. Watch for an Academy Award nomination.

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.

JIM PADAR'S BLOG:

Now that **Jim Padar** is fully retired, he is giving more time to one of his serious pastimes, short story writing. He has started a blog of short stories, many of which will tell of his experiences as a homicide detective in Chicago. Give it a gander at: <http://jimpadar.wordpress.com/> .

CLOSING MESSAGE:

"A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour."

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: _____

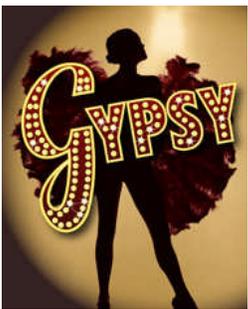
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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: _____



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 *

*Vegetarian meals are available upon request.