



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2 APRIL 2012

[www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) -- [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)

HAPPY SPRING!!

HAPPY PASSOVER!!

HAPPY EASTER!!

Isn't it lovely to have the snow and cold behind us, and enjoy the flowers that bloom in the Springtime once again?

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are very grateful to the following classmates who have donated \$5 or more to defray the cost of printing and publishing this newsletter. We couldn't do it without you.

Charles Cimaglia, Clifford Dorn, Donald Gagliano (Class of '54), Robert Herbst, Evelyn (Karger) Lyons, Gene Kout, Earl Lassen, Marshall Levin, *Sheldon Marcus*, James McCarthy, Claramarie (Muratori) Rio, *Ken Rosko*, Robert Schulman, Robert Skow, Toby (Speck) Gordon, Mary Ann (Stentz) Kaiser, Myron Stone, Rosette Wright. Special thanks to Raymond Hoffman who sent us a unique donation of both cash and postage stamps.

NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, donations received after February 13 will be acknowledged in the July newsletter. We apologize for the delay.

**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!

## ATTENTION AUSTIN BASEBALL PLAYERS:

To celebrate the great 1954 City Baseball Championship, we're planning A Day at the Ballpark. We have reserved a block of 20 tickets for teammates at Wrigley Field for the 1:20 PM Cubs/Marlins game on July 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Gate F, on the corner of Addison & Clark streets at 12:30. Coach Leddy and the team will be acknowledged on the scoreboard during the game.

The plan: A Day at the Ballpark. The cost: \$32 for the ticket and scoreboard announcement fees.

Optional: A contribution of \$5 or \$10 would be appreciated to cover other expenses associated with the outing.

Response Deadline: May 1, 2012 – earlier is better. Reserve your ticket by sending a \$32 check, payable to: Don Gagliano, 5402 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047.

If you would like to be on a "wait list" for non-baseball team Austinites, contact:

Don Gagliano '54 - 847-821-0355, Marshall Hechter '56 - 847-945-4221 [marshhech@comcast.net](mailto:marshhech@comcast.net) 847-903-4221, Shel Richmond '54 - 847-530-1649, or Mike Pasquerelli '55 - 847-991-5656 [mjp1937@comcast.net](mailto:mjp1937@comcast.net) ASAP.

We will try to accommodate, if possible. Thanks.

NOTE: Coach Leddy moved recently to: Belmont Village, 2200 Golf Road Glenview IL 60025. Phone number is: 1-847-657-7100, Room 142.

## GYPSY:

Our "Gypsy" outing at Drury Lane Oakbrook on Thursday, March 15, 2012 was a rousing success. 36 classmates, spouses, and friends enjoyed a delightful lunch of Chicken Marsala or Sirloin of Beef with all the trimmings in the beautiful Drury Lane dining room. The food was terrific, the service and atmosphere were great, and Drury Lane provided a complimentary birthday cake for one of our guests. The play, for which we had great seats, was outstanding. Klea Blackhurst, who played "Mama Rose", could well be a reincarnation of Ethel Merman. What a voice! A special "Thank You" must go to our event coordinator, *Genny (Luisi) Schroeder*, for a wonderful afternoon. Based on attendee comments, the consensus is, "Let's do it again!"

## OUR NEXT OUTING:

We are now planning our next exciting event, "The Fallish Thing". Shel Marcus is gathering information on a lunch or dinner cruise on Lake Michigan for the end of September, 2012. As soon as the details are finalized, we will send a mailing to everyone. If you think you would be interested in joining us, please call or email one of the committee members. Our contact information is listed on the last page of this Newsletter. Let us hear from you!

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

We are saddened to report the passing of **Anna (Vatta) Smith** on July 15, 2011. Anna was a diehard Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed football, opera, and ballet. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Robert, her two children, and her three grandchildren.

We also learned recently of the passing of **Lydia (Kachmarik) Miller** on July 20, 2011. Our sincere sympathy goes to her son Scott and the rest of the Miller family.

**William Mologousis** a longtime resident of Bloomingdale, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife of 50 years, Sue, and to his children Catherine Sanzeri and Michael and his eight grandchildren.

### **SHE'S BAA-AACK! (maybe):**

The "Purple Hotel" in Lincolnwood, vacant since 2007, may rise again. The June Class of 1955 held its 10<sup>th</sup> reunion there, and it was very nice. However, over the years it became a hangout for unsavory characters and fell into general disrepair. A Chicago Tribune article on January 22, 2012 indicates the property may be saved from the wrecking ball by North Shore developer Jake Weiss of Weiss Properties, a Skokie development firm that specializes in resurrecting vacant properties. Weiss, who has partnered with North Capital Group, might redevelop the property into a boutique hotel with a convention center and retail space. Built in the 1960's by the Hyatt Company, guests included Perry Como, Barry Manilow, and Roberta Flack. Legend has it that Michael Jordan stayed there on his first night in Chicago after being drafted by the Bulls in 1984. Darker stories include the 1983 shooting of a mobster and associate of the late Jimmy Hoffa in the parking lot. In the 2008 corruption trial of Rod Blagojevich fundraiser Antonin "Tony" Rezko, political "fixer" Stuart Levine testified to taking part in frequent drug binges at the hotel. See the whole Tribune article at [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-01-22/news/ct-met-purple-hotel-20120122\\_1\\_lincolnwood-boutique-hotel-purple-hotel](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-01-22/news/ct-met-purple-hotel-20120122_1_lincolnwood-boutique-hotel-purple-hotel).

### **JIM PADAR'S BLOG, A "MUST READ":**

Jim Padar's blog is closing in on the 50,000 view mark. It's mostly cop stories from his days as a Homicide Detective, but this month he published a story about a "Camelot Day at High School." Could it be our Austin? Take a look by pointing your browser to [www.onbeingacop.org](http://www.onbeingacop.org).

### **A DINING TIP FROM ELSIE (HAUG) SORENSEN:**

Greek Islands in Lombard gives a 25% discount from 2 to 4 P.M. on weekdays only. Such a deal!!

### **SPEAKING OF GREEK:**

Did you know that Constantine "Gust" Papanicholas, who passed away last June at the age of 79, grew up in the Austin area and attended Austin High School? His family was well-known in Greek-American circles for offering immigrants their first step up on the American ladder. Mr. Papanicholas was known as "The Coffee King". With one sip, Gust could analyze a cup of coffee the way a great vintner could assess a glass of wine, naming the country of origin, what percentage of the beans came from Arabica plants grown near the tops of mountains, and what portion were Robusta – the lesser quality bean from lower altitudes. He was also called "The Count" for his dapper dress, and was known to mow his lawn in a three-piece suit. He was president of Aroma Coffee Company for three decades. Aroma, founded about 1906 by Gust's great-uncle, Stavros Cantzas, as Overland Coffee Company, was located at 1107 West Van Buren from 1935 to 2002, when they moved to Forest Park, Illinois. The name changed to Aroma in the 1920's. Aroma helped out an upstart coffee company when their roaster burned down in the 1970's. Gust and his brother Nick roasted coffee for them until they could get back on their feet. The upstart company was **Starbuck's!** Nick's descendants own the Papanicholas brand of coffee now sold in grocery stores. This writer loves the brand. For the complete story of Constantine "Gust" Papanicholas, visit <http://www.suntimes.com/news/obituaries/6211288-418/businessman-constatine-papanicholas-knew-all-about-coffee.html>

### **AARP DISCOUNTS AT DUNKIN' DONUTS:**

There is a hot deal being offered nationwide by Dunkin' Donuts to give any senior with a valid AARP membership card a free donut to enjoy with any large or extra large hot coffee they purchase. The deal kicked off on March 1 and will continue through February 28, 2013.

## **SPENCER ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY:**

Those of you who attended Herbert Spencer Elementary School (which this writer's mother attended from 1907 to 1914 or so) might be interested to know it is now a Technology Academy, one of 62 schools to join a Chicago Public Schools iPad initiative. Spencer uses its iPads every day. On February 1, Chicago Schools CEO Jean-Claude Brizard visited Spencer school. His introduction was simple, unassuming and inspiring: "My name is Mr. Brizard. I love astronomy. I love teaching about the solar system." So began a unique digital lesson taught by Mr. Brizard, a former New York City physics teacher, in celebration of the nation's first digital learning day. For many kids at Chicago's Spencer Technology and 10 other Chicago public schools, the lesson was special because Brizard was teaching it.

"I thought it was exciting that the CEO came to our school ... and taught a science lesson," said Lucretia Woods, 13, one of the Spencer seventh-graders who got to see Brizard teach live Wednesday. "My principal said it was historic." Spencer students and kids in 19 other classrooms across 10 other CPS schools simultaneously used iPads equipped with a free app, called Orbits HD, during a lesson taught by Brizard on gravity and the solar system. Brizard clearly seemed at home in the classroom and at ease with the technology, although he confessed "I've never taught a class with an iPad before. My two-year-old son is better with an iPad than I am."

Students discovered that as they increased the mass of the sun on their apps, planets orbiting around the sun were pulled closer and closer to it, finally crashing into it. As Lucretia bent over her iPad, so did students across the other classrooms joined to Spencer by videoconferencing. Live scenes from two remote classrooms — at Dawes and Goudy Schools — flashed on a projector screen in Lucretia's classroom, as did a running list of questions for Brizard from the remote locations. Brizard plowed through a few of them ("Why is it dark in outer space when the sun is there to give light?") but never got to others, such as "Do you believe God formed the universe?"

As one of 62 schools to join a CPS iPad initiative, Spencer uses its iPads every day. Pierre Easley, 13, said he likes the fact that he can touch the iPad screen during a lesson. Without an iPad, he said, "we wouldn't get the full experience we're getting now". "They were so excited when other kids in other schools were asking questions," said Dawes eighth-grade teacher Amani Abuhabsah. "They absolutely loved it. They were enthusiastic. They were engaged. It was amazing to have our CEO do something like that with our students." Chicago Sun-Times 2-2-12.

## **INFORMATION, PLEASE:**

Avoid the \$2 directory assistance fee by using one of the five FREE directory assistance numbers that provide the same information. A few of the services play a short five to ten second advertisement before connecting callers with the party they select. Others list the address and phone number of the party, but don't automatically connect caller.

**1-800-463-6327** – This is the only free service that connects callers with a live operator for both business and residential listings. It will automatically connect callers with the party they are calling.

**1-800-373-3411** – This system provides free residential, business, and government listings, but does not connect callers with the party they select. This system can also send a text message with more information.

**1-800-935-5697** – AT&T provides this free service, which lists only business and government phone numbers. The service does not connect callers with the party they select, but will list the phone number and address.

**1-800-466-4411** – This Google service provides business listings for free. For wireless callers, Google can send a text message with more details and a map of the neighborhood where the business is located. There is no advertisement before being automatically connected.

**1-800-555-8355** – Callers do not have to listen to an advertisement before being connected with the business they select. The service, called Tellme, can also provide free driving directions.

## **JUNK MAIL & PHONE CALLS:**

To stop telemarketing calls, register your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry at [donotcall.gov](http://donotcall.gov) or call 888-382-1222. To stop junk mail for five years, contact the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service at [dmachoice.org](http://dmachoice.org) or mail your request with a \$1 processing fee to DMA-choice, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512. To cut down on email advertising, you can register at [dmachoice.org](http://dmachoice.org) to stop commercial email from marketers that adhere to the group's Email Preference Service. To complain about solicitations, go to the FTC's website or call 877-FTC-HELP.

**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](mailto:webmaster@austin1955.org) or via snail mail to 5426 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646.

**CLOSING MESSAGE:**

"The most wasted day of all is one in which we have not laughed."

**TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU:**

Photos and items of general class interest should be directed to [webmaster@austin1955.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 107<sup>th</sup> Av N; Minneapolis, MN 55443-5902*

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_