



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3 JULY 2012

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!**

The July storms appear to be over, but triple-digit temperatures continue. Here's an idea for keeping cool on the beautiful Chicago Lakefront.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

We have finalized plans for a luncheon cruise on the unforgettable **Odyssey** ship at **Navy Pier on September 27**. The cruise will include a sit-down plated lunch and a LIVE BAND, and will last about two hours. Boarding will begin at 11 A.M. Allow time to walk from the parking garage to the ship. Don't miss the boat! Cost will be \$45 per person. Parking is \$21 per car, but we are negotiating for a better rate. Other details are on the registration form on the last page. This promises to be a lovely afternoon. Please complete the form, and mail it with your check, payable to **"Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."**, to our Treasurer, **Irwin Magad**; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 22. There will be no refunds.**

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

We are very grateful to the following classmates who have donated \$5 or more this year to defray the cost of printing and publishing this newsletter. We couldn't do it without you. Many thanks to: Rita (Aniszewski) Simonaitis, Carol (Anselmo) Wolf, Carol (Beth) Ritter, Frances (Calamia) Hammerstone, Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Bernard DeRango, Francis Donohoe, Marvin Glick, Carolyn (Hering) Atchison, Barbara (Jacques) Mack, Nicholas Kallas, Norman Kazluski, Patricia Pecoraro, James Plastina, Sandra (Stackpole) Kirchoff, Concetta (Tosto) Fumarolo, Barbara (Swanson) Foreman, and Louis Weber.

**Please make donation 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. We appreciate your support!

## **AUSTIN TIMES, JUNE 14, 1957**

A big "Thank you" to **Anna (Montiforte) Mancini** for a copy of this 55 year old newspaper. Due to time and space limitations this quarter, we will include news tidbits from 1957 in future newsletters. Thanks again, Anna.

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

On April 15, 2012 Gladi and **Jordan Baich** Celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Jordan's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jordan turned 75 on April 10<sup>th</sup> and their anniversary is June 10<sup>th</sup>. Jordan was in the January 1955 class. Maureen and **Chuck Larsen** celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary while on a Baltic cruise in June and July with four other Austin classmates. (See "Having Fun Cruising the Baltic" by **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli** below.) Congratulations to the happy couples!

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

George Calvin Leddy, beloved coach of the 1954 City Baseball Championship team, died on June 7, 2012. He was at a hospice in Park Ridge since June 1. Shel Richmond, Don Gagliano, and **Mike Pasquerelli** visited him on June 2. Shel visited again with Marsh Hechter on June 3. Coach is survived by his ten children, 17 grand-children, and two great-grandchildren. He was a WWII veteran Naval Aviator and as an avid golfer, was a member of the "Hole-in-One" club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rose. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Leddy family.

We were saddened to learn of the passing on May 14, 2012 of classmate **Joseph V. (Montano) Montana**, former owner of Montana's Restaurant in Chicago. He is survived by his loving wife Anna, three children and eight grandchildren. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Anna and the family.

Classmate **Peter A. Trentadue** passed away on March 12, 2012. Peter is survived by his wife Lucy, his children Lisa C. Gariffo and Laura M. (Peter) Culafic, and five grandchildren. Our sincere sympathy goes to the family.

Classmate **Nancy [Hagemeyer] Gall**, passed away on January 12, 2012 after a 15-month battle with cancer. She is survived by her loving husband John, children Robert (Carol) Gall, Daniel (Billie Jo) Gall and Julie (David) Martinez, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Our deepest sympathy goes to John and the family.

Classmate **Anthony Francis Siragusa** passed away in December 2011. He is survived by his children Angela (Bruce) Hutcheon, Louis (Margaret) and Mary Grace (Brad) Moriarty, and five grandchildren. Anthony had a contagious smile and witty charm that warmed the hearts of all he met. Rest in Peace, Anthony.

Classmate **Edward Blumberg** died in early March, 2012. Survivors include his wife Ellen, children Jeffrey (Lynn), David (Beth), and Laura Baylen, stepchildren Elizabeth Kerndt and Peter (Shari Sitron) Levine, and 11 grandchildren. Ed was the oldest friend (since they were 4) of classmate **Irwin Magad**. Sincere condolences to Ed's family and friends.

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing on June 19 of Keith Baker, Tom and **Barb (Jarm) Baker's** youngest son. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy goes to Tom and Barb and the entire Baker family.

#### **MIA CULPA RE: INFORMATION, PLEASE:**

In the April 2012 newsletter, we listed various phone numbers you could call for FREE directory assistance. Unfortunately, your editor did not check out each number, and can find no record of the source. It turned out that the first one connected to a "stimulating conversation" offer. We sincerely regret this error, and will henceforth verify all information published in this newsletter, and will also note the sources. Please accept my apologies.

#### **HAVING FUN CRUISING THE BALTIC:**

Five couples took a wonderful fourteen day Baltic Cruise in June and July. The fun group was: Cherie and **Ken Rosko**, Anne and **Bob Schulman**, Maureen and **Chuck Larsen**, Penny and **Jim Lupo**, and **Nancy and Mike Pasquerelli**. The trip started in Stockholm, Sweden where they embarked on the Oceania Cruise Line on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Some of the ports and places they visited were: Helsinki, Finland; St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia; Berlin, Germany; Gdansk, Poland; and many other ports. The trip ended in London, England.

Although St. Petersburg and Moscow were extremely crowded, what we saw was well worth the trip. To see the Kremlin and Red Square brought the history that we read about come alive. Traffic was horrific wherever we went. Who said the economy is bad? People were all over the place and everything was very crowded.

Stutthof Concentration Camp in Gdansk, Poland, was a lesson in history. It was the first concentration camp to open outside of Germany during World War II, and was the model for the other 13 camps that followed. Seeing the gas chambers and other things in the camp was quite depressing. Everyone should see something like this once in their life, so that they would not forget that time in history.

Another lesson in history was seeing, "Check Point Charlie" in Berlin, Germany. Traveling throughout East and West Berlin was quite eye-opening. Most of the places had been rebuilt because of the bombing during WWII. It was quite amazing to see how freely we now moved between East and West Berlin, when years back, people had a very difficult time doing that – or could not even move from East to West Berlin.

Enough depressing stuff!! One of the most exciting things the women did (and some of the men) was to shop – for amber, scarves, chocolates, books, and other souvenirs. The ten of us ate fabulous and delicious food everyday.

There were two special occasions during the trip. One occasion was **Ken Rosko's** 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Schulman's hosted a surprise party in their suite. And Cherie, Ken's wife, had a surprise party at dinner with a delicious cake. The second occasion was Maureen and **Chuck Larsen's** 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. A good time was had by all.

The camaraderie was fantastic. What do you expect from the Austinites of the 1955 class?? We are now wondering where and when we will go on our next trip.

## **OTHER TRAVEL NEWS:**

Classmate **Tom Pekras** and his wife, Joanne, of Mount Prospect, Illinois got together for dinner recently with **Jim Vail** and his wife, Mary Ann (D'Amato, Class of '57), at Don & Charlie's Restaurant in Scottsdale, Arizona. Jim and Mary Ann live in Scottsdale. See a photo of them on our website <http://tinyurl.com/7ymgd8u>.

## **“My Father said he was from Kiev”**

Watch for *Irwin Magad*'s touching account of his visit to his father's place of birth in the Autumn newsletter.

## **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.

## **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 MESSAGES:**

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

"Due to current economic conditions, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off."

"How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?"

## **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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## **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER:**

*Chuck Larsen* has kindly offered to join the reunion committee. Welcome Aboard, Chuck!

**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 to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 3800 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue N #203; Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2974**

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

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**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955**  
**Fall Luncheon Cruise—September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Navy Pier—Chicago—The Odyssey**

Join us for an upscale luncheon cruise with your classmates on beautiful Lake Michigan, Thursday September 27, 2012. You will order a three course meal off the menu and enjoy listening/dancing to a live band. Coffee, tea, or iced tea is included. Other beverages may be purchased at a cash bar. We board the Odyssey at 11 AM for a two hour cruise along Chicago's beautiful skyline. Dress code is "smart casual." Please, no shorts, jeans, Tees, flip-flops, or athletic shoes. Cost will be a special rate of \$45 per person, which includes a subsidy provided by funds from your reunion committee treasury. Parking on the Pier is \$21; however, your committee is attempting to negotiate a discounted rate for our group. Please complete the form below and submit no later than August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your committee must guarantee the final reservation, so there can be no refunds.

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_ @ \$45 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd." for the full amount so that it arrives by **August 22** to:  
**Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd; Irwin Magad; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141**