



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

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**HAPPY AUTUMN!!**

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!**

Autumn has arrived at last, and the heat and humidity are finally behind us. And aren't the trees beautiful?

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

We are grateful to the following classmates who have donated \$5 or more to defray the cost of printing and publishing this newsletter. Many thanks to: Patricia (Callahan) D'Amato, Nancy (Davis) Sandquist, Frank Donohoe, Shyla Ehredt, Norman Kazluski, Bonnie (Mills) Andrise, Paul Sengpiehl, Angie (Triolo) Jehlik, and Louis Weber. We couldn't do it without you.

**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!

## **SEPTEMBER CRUISE REPORT:**

Thursday, September 27, was a perfect day on the lakefront, when 40+ classmates, friends, and families sailed, dined, and danced aboard the beautiful ODYSSEY cruise ship. **John Smith** says, "The food was delicious and we couldn't have asked for better weather. We always enjoy getting together with our Austin friends." **Ken Rosko** comments, "What a BEAUTIFUL DAY we had! What a SMOOTH CRUISE! What GREAT FOOD! What a GOOD BAND (and vocalist)!" **Shel Marcus** says, "It was wonderful seeing everyone at our recent Odyssey luncheon cruise. It reminded me what a unique and wonderful relationship we all had beginning, in those wonderful days at Austin High. Here it is 50 plus years later and there is a genuine warmth and feeling among all of us that began in high school. Even friends of ours new to the Austin High reunion committee feel they've been part of that Austin High atmosphere, even if they haven't attended the school. It's truly special to be part of it. It was a joy to be able to organize this experience and see good friends. Every day is a blessing and the Lord blessed us with a beautiful day. May we celebrate more enjoyable events together in the future. Go You Austin, Go! Regards and good health to all!" Many thanks to Shel for negotiating a good price and making the cruise arrangements. We wished it could have lasted longer. And, CONGRATULATIONS to **John Spinello** who won a pair of Champagne flutes in the door prize drawing. (Editor's note: Let's make this an annual event.)

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

As promised in the July 2012 newsletter, here are some news items from the 55 year old newspaper. There are lots of articles naming people you probably know, so we will include them in this and subsequent newsletters. Here is some Faculty News: Eight teachers are leaving Austin this semester, either for new positions or for retirement. Four are coming in the fall semester to fill vacancies. Mr. Albert Milanese will return to the language department after a year at Waller. Miss Eileen O'Brien will return to the Austin girls' gym department after filling the same position at Marshall for a short time. Mr. Leslie Cook, an algebra and drafting teacher here, has resigned due to his wife's ill health. Mr. Cook came to Austin from Crane in 1951. Mr. Hyman Criz is leaving after being a teacher in the boys' gym department. He will teach general science at Roosevelt. Miss Lois Fischer has taught Latin and a little math here at Austin for eleven years. She intends to travel "where I please, when I please" to such places as Alaska and Texas. Miss Gladys Hansen started her teaching career here and, after 15 years spent mainly at Austin, she intends to end her teaching as a member of the AHS staff. Mrs. Anne M. Lindenbaum is being transferred from the girls' gym department here to the same position at Senn, since she lives near Senn. Miss Sylvia Regent is retiring after having taught civics here for eight years. She intends to just stay home. Miss Louise Rowlands has been teaching civics and modern history for "a short four years" here at Austin. She will retire to her home in Oak Park where she has lived for the past 38 years. Mr. John Whitaker will leave Austin at the end of the semester for a position at Wheaton College in the Physics department. In his 28 years here, he has taught general science, geometry, algebra, physics, and chemistry." A big "Thank you" to **Anna (Montiforte) Mancini** for a copy of this treasure. We will include more news tidbits from 1957 in future newsletters. Thanks again, Anna.

### **GREETINGS FROM RUTH (MANASTER) RICHARD:**

Hi! My name is Ruth Jean (Manaster) Richard and I graduated from Austin High School in January of 1955. I have been receiving the alumni newsletters and want to thank everyone involved for taking the time and effort to put them together. Good work. Here is a short update of my life (that is an oxymoron).

While at Austin, I was involved in Senior Choir as a second soprano, and remember taking 4 years of history with Mr. Hager, because he was such a fascinating teacher. I also took German as my language and was best friends with Mary (Nagel) Wisz and Gwen (Davies) Urban, both of whom unfortunately have died. I miss them both. We were the "three Musketeers". Austin was a great school and I will always treasure my years there.

After high school, I went to the U of Illinois at Navy Pier and then U of Illinois at Urbana. My graduate degree was from U of Chicago in Human Development and I spent many years of my working life as a social worker and a family therapist.

I moved from Chicago to San Francisco in 1962, married my first husband, Louis Loewinsohn, there and had two children with him. After our divorce, I moved to the Washington DC area in 1975 and worked for AARP for 18 years in their "Social Outreach and Support" (SOS) section, working on mental health issues. I wrote a book, *Survival Handbook for Widows*, under my married name (Loewinsohn).

In 1978, I met my second husband, Ron Richard, whose name I still use. We were together for 20 years, and spent our spare time sailing. We bought a sailboat, *Last Unicorn*, and spent many months in the Bahamas in 1997.

Unfortunately, Ron died in December of 1998 when we had just started our full time sailing plan.

After his death, I brought *Last Unicorn* to Florida, and lived on her in Fort Lauderdale. I met Stan Snyder in 2002. He is a sailor and he and I sailed from Florida to Venezuela on a 16 month journey on *Last Unicorn* from 2005-2006. We returned to Fort Lauderdale, where we currently live together. I had to sell *Last Unicorn* a couple of years ago (as it was getting too hard to get up and down on it). Last year we took a trip to Israel, and we hope to go back next year. This year, for my 75th birthday in June, I got to know a dolphin, up close and personal, at the Miami Seaquarium. It was a fantastic experience.

That is my life, (short version). If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ruth (Manaster) Richard [lastunicorn99@yahoo.com](mailto:lastunicorn99@yahoo.com) 954-907-8757

### **A TRIBUTE TO THE 1954 CHICAGO PUBLIC LEAGUE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS' COACH:**

On July 19, 2012, the Austin Tigers 1954 Chicago Public League Baseball Championship Team met to honor Coach **George C. Leddy**. We held the reunion at Wrigley Field, where we won the Championship in June of 1954. The Cubs played the Miami Marlins, and WON the game! There were eighteen Tigers from years 1953 through 1958, reunited and renewing old friendships. We were joined by four of the Leddy's: daughter Nancy, sons Rich and George D., and granddaughter Isabella Iatarola. The idea for this reunion to honor Coach Leddy came to us after a group of the 1954 team visited him on January 29, 2012. Shortly thereafter, Don Gagliano, Sheldon Richmond, Marshall Hechter, and Mike Pasquerelli met and worked up plan to re-unite our Teammates and honor our Coach. We had hoped Coach Leddy could be with us at the game, but knew time was short because of his deteriorating health. **George C. Leddy** passed away on June 8, 2012. The Leddy Family held a memorial service on July 14, 2012. Photos of our celebration of Coach Leddy and the 1954 Chicago Public League Champions at Wrigley Field are posted on our web site. Go to [www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) and click on "Latest Pictures."

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:**

We are delighted to report that (Myron) Lee Stone and Bonnie (Melnick) Stone celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary in June 2012. They are still having lots of fun and enjoying life. Congratulations to the happy couple!

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

We learned recently from classmate **Bonnie (Mills) Andrise** that her dear friend and classmate **Natalie (Kolof) Nank** passed away on March 15, 2009, the same day as Bonnie's brother, Ron. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bonnie for this double loss.

### **THOUGHTS TO PONDER:**

"Never look down on anybody, unless you're helping them up."

"If you die in an elevator, be sure to push the Up button."

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

Classmate *Irwin Magad* and his wife Linda crossed one more item off Irwin’s “Bucket List” in May 2012. Here is a recap of his heart-rending trip journal.

Sunday, May 13: Well, this was a wonderful day. We were picked up at 9:30 this morning by the very best guide and driver in the world. We had a short city tour of Kiev and then drove 1.5 hours east of Kiev to Brusilov which was the birth home of my Father. <http://www.iajgsjewishcemeteryproject.org/ukraine/brusilov.html>

There, we went to the home of the oldest couple in town. He is 87 and his wife is 86. The house they live in is very small: 4 rooms; the largest room was 8 by 8. No toilet that we could see. Inasmuch as my father's family left the town to come to the U.S. in 1920, the old man did not know them, nor had he ever heard of the "Magida" family. (That was the original name before it was changed.) We spent about an hour there talking. He spoke in Ukraine and the guide translated. Most of the discussion was about World War II and what happened when the Nazis marched into town in 1941. The first thing they did was kill all the Jews. He went into detail how they did that, which I will not repeat to you. It was bad. There were no traces of anything Jewish left in the town. Not even a cemetery for Jews. The Nazis took care of that also. In 1920, there were around 7000 people in the town; now there are 3000. No Jews.

Then, we returned to Kiev. Not far from the center of Kiev is Babi Yar. This is another place where the Nazis murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews. There is a memorial there for the Jews. Very sad. After Babi Yar, our driver and guide dropped us off at a Ukraine restaurant for dinner. Yes, I did have chicken Kiev.

Thursday, May 17: We are cruising down the Dnieper River. Today, we stopped at Zaporozhye, an industrial town and the former home of the Cossacks. <http://ukrainetrek.com/zaporozhye-city>. The name Zaporozhye means "beyond the rapids". The city was founded in 1770, at the peak of Cossack power. We traveled to an island where they used to hide. There, we watched a Cossack Horse Show. We visited the Khortitsa Museum which described how the Cossacks lived. They were fabulous horse men and the Cossack horse show was wonderful. Tomorrow we dock in Kherson at the mouth of the Dnieper River, then into the Black Sea. Kherson was founded in 1778 by order of Catherine the Great. <http://www.mapofukraine.net/kherson/kherson-ukraine.html>

Sunday, May 20: Today, we arrived in Savastopol, Ukraine. Savastopol is a very large naval port shared by the Russians and the Ukraine Navy. Surprisingly, there is no security. We are tied up within 500 yards of a Russian war ship. No problem. The Crimean War was fought within an hour’s ride. Yes, the "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place here. We drove past the battlefield today. Everywhere we have gone on this trip, we have seen monuments to heroes of World War II. The Russians lost millions of people. Tomorrow, we sail for Yalta.

Monday, May 21: This morning, we did a Yalta city tour, which included the White Palace in Livadia. This was the summer palace of Czar Nicholas 2. We saw the family’s living quarters, and heard their story. Yalta is where Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin met in February 1945 to discuss the division of Germany after the war. Stalin had the upper hand, and this is what caused the Cold War, which started in the early 1950's. We stood in the conference room where they met. We saw the bedrooms where they slept. We saw the library and study where they worked and, of course, where they posed for that famous picture. It was magnificent. After that, we returned to the ship for lunch. After lunch, we visited Anton Chekhov's home, where he entertained his friend Tchaikovsky.

Tuesday, May 22: Today, another Yalta tour. We visited The Alupka Palace <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alupka>. This is one of the oldest and largest residential palaces in all of Crimea. A Russian Count had it built in 1828. In 1941, it became the headquarters of a Nazi field marshal and was spared destruction. This is all for today. We will just have some leisure time. We have met some very lovely people on this tour. One couple, Nicky and Sharyn, is from London. They are younger than us (mid sixties). So, our group has expanded to eight. We usually all eat lunch and dinner together. Tomorrow we sail for Odessa, our last stop.

Wednesday, May 23: When we arrived in Odessa, we took a city tour. Odessa is still a very beautiful city; next in beauty to Paris. We toured Jewish Odessa. Before WWII, Odessa had a large Jewish population, most of whom were murdered. The Odessa Opera house is very beautiful. We went there and saw a beautiful opera. It was short and all in Russian, but it was Tchaikovsky’s *Iolanta*. I never heard of it before we saw it but I did enjoy it very much; Linda did not. Odessa, like much of Ukraine, has many stories of the Holocaust. That is one theme we had followed all through this trip. So many stories of how the Nazis killed Jews. Today there is still a large Jewish population, approximately 60,000, and there are still working synagogues. To summarize: We were gone for two weeks. I went to my Father’s village where he was born and lived until he and his family immigrated to the U.S. I spoke with the eldest of the town and he had no knowledge of my family. The town of Brusilov in Ukraine, had 7000 Jewish families in 1920. Today, there are none. There was no trace of anything in the town that had been Jewish; not even the cemetery. The Nazis did a good job. Today the town has a population of around 3,000 people. No Jews. This was a very emotional trip, but I’m glad I made it. “My father said he was from Kiev.”

### **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.

### **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.

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