



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2013

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!**

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: Charles Doty, Robert Haslam, Louis Kaufman, Norman Kazluski, Ronald Kenyeri, James Lupo, James McCarthy, Angel (Plotkin) Newman, Seymour Teitelbaum, Louis Weber, and Richard Wolnik. 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!

SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 19!!

Your reunion committee thought it would be fun to celebrate the 58th anniversary of our graduation. Because all who attended last year's Drury Lane luncheon and *Gypsy* really enjoyed it, we have arranged to see the award-winning classic farce, *Boeing, Boeing*. It is the flighty tale of Bernard, a jet-setting architect living in 1960's Paris who is juggling three flight attendant fiancées with the help of his reluctant housekeeper. The regular cost for the lunch and show is \$45, but your Austin 1955 Alumni Association is subsidizing \$10, for a final cost of \$35 each. Family and friends are welcome to join us on what promises to be a delightful afternoon. Details will follow in the April newsletter. **Note the June 19 date and 11 a.m. check-in time!**

IN MEMORIAM:

We are truly saddened to report the passing on December 27, 2012 of Marie Iversen, beloved wife of Mr. Kenneth Iversen. Marie and Ken celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary this past June. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Iversen and the Iversen family.

We also extend our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Gus P. Skizas who passed very recently. He leaves his wife Tessieann, daughter Valerie (Tom) Papastefan and son Peter (Stephanie) Skizas, and five grandchildren.

GREETINGS FROM MARY (DATTOMO) LYONS:

"I retired from my job and moved to New Orleans in April, 2012. I take care of my grandson, Monty, while his parents work. 'Went thru Hurricane Isaac, thank God, with no problems. If there are any other Austinites living in the Crescent City area, please let me know. You may e-mail melyons@att.net or snail mail **Mary C. (Dattomo) Lyons**, 816 Philip Street, New Orleans, La. 70130." According to our database, Mary is not only the sole Austin Class of 1955 alumna living in the Crescent City area; she is the only one in the whole state of Louisiana!

PARTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE:

At a recent Austin High Reunion Committee meeting, the talk turned to a discussion of how replacement parts of the human body are becoming more and more common. As we grow older, many of us are acquiring new parts for our fantastic bodies, so we can keep on keeping on. For example, our illustrious treasurer, **Irwin Magad**, had a knee replacement on November 12, and is now walking better than ever. Our good friend **Mike Pasquerelli**, had his left hip replaced on January 16 and was out of rehab by February 7. His wife Nancy reports that he's almost ready to get behind the plate and renew his days as catcher of Austin High's 1954 City Championship Baseball team. Last February, classmate **Harry Kappos** acquired a new knee and it's working fine. We are becoming BIONIC! Anyway, we thought that other classmates might want to share stories of their new parts and how their lives were affected. Success stories from fellow alums might encourage others to consider taking action to relieve their discomfort and improve their quality of life. Let us hear from you!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR NEW PHOTOS:

Many thanks to **Phyllis (Grebel) Wehrs** for the photos from our September 27, 2012 cruise on the Odyssey. Thanks, too, to **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli** for the 1951 photo of her Morse Elementary School 8th grade class.

YMCA CLOSURE A BLOW TO AUSTIN:

The Austin YMCA shut down on October 1, 2012, because of “diminished membership use, coupled with an aging facility”, according to an emailed statement by a spokesman for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. “At the time of its closing, the Austin YMCA had only 175 members, and on many days, only five or six members came to the facility,” said Jill McDonnell. According to the statement, the Austin Y offered financial assistance and no one was turned away due to the inability to pay. Ownership of the Austin Y’s housing facility was transferred to the Single Room Housing Assistance Corporation (SRHAC). Open since 1925, the Austin Y is a landmark on the West Side, and it stood as a beacon of hope. “When you consider the violence and the dense population in Austin, this is the last community area that should be closing the YMCA,” said the Rev. Marshall Hatch, pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in West Garfield. Obviously, the YMCA can’t operate without members, and an 87-year-old building likely needed more work than the YMCA could afford. Still, the community should at least have been given an opportunity to launch a capital campaign before the doors were closed. Shutting down the Austin Y is like someone walking out on a friend when he or she needs you the most.

(Excerpted from Mary Mitchell’s October 7, 2012 column in the *Chicago Sun-Times*.)

THE GAMES WE PLAYED:

Do you recall playing these games? Today’s kids probably never heard of them. Anna (Montiforte) Mancini, Class of ’56, writes: “These were the games we played, primarily in the Jane Adams housing projects on Taylor Street, from Racine to just east of Loomis and from Cabrini Street to Roosevelt Road.” How many can YOU remember? Ring Around the Rosie; Icky-Bicky Soda Cracker - Icky Bicky Boo; Movie Stars; Three Feet Over the Mud Pile; Not It (tag); Crack the Whip; Statues; Kick the Can; Runner Timer; Hot Beans; Red Rover, Red Rover; Girls Chase Boys or Boys Chase Girls; Roly-Poly; Jump Rope (Double-Dutch); Button, Button – Who’s Got the Button?; Mother, May I?; Hop Scotch; I See Something; Hide and Seek; Pinners; Marbles; Roller Skating (in Peanut Park); Cut-outs; Baby in the Hole; Ring-a-Levio; Buck, Buck; Peg and Stick; Eat the Peg; and My Mother Made a Chocolate Cake, and Someone Stuck Their Finger In.”

AUSTIN TIMES, JUNE 14, 1957:

More news from this 56-year-old newspaper: Headline: “14 Former Austinites Rate Dean’s List at IIT.” Among the 14 were **James Dayton**, **Donald Gurney**, and **Eugene Kout**, June 1955 graduates, and Donald DeKoven, Jack Greespan, Sandra Kaplan, and Gerald Muszalski, June 1956 grads. Advertisement: “White Orchids \$4.00 Special to All Austin Students. Shaeffer’s Floral Shop, 5534 W. Chicago Ave., MA 6-7616”.

Many thanks to Anna (Montiforte) Mancini for the trip down memory lane and the 1957 Austin Times.

THE ROSKOS ON CENTER STAGE:

Cherie and Ken Rosko were featured in the January/March 2013 issue of the Goodman Theater’s *On Stage* publication, with a photo and all! They were interviewed about why they support the Goodman, which productions and actors were their favorites, and how they would describe the Goodman to others. “The Goodman is the best theater in Chicago, presenting diverse, and sometimes risk-taking, productions.” was the answer.

POSTAGE STAMP TRIVIA:

In December 1962, Americans were flocking to their post offices to buy the first-ever United States Christmas stamp. Various groups had been waging a campaign for a Christmas stamp since the 1940’s. The 4-cent stamp was a runaway success and about 2 billion of them were eventually sold. Since the population of the U.S. then was about 180 million, that represented a lot of Christmas cards per head. The postage stamp cost 3 cents from 1932 to 1958 (26 years)! This is interesting in light of what is happening today. \$.46 and no Saturday mail delivery!

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

"If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished."

"Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to go today."

"How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?" "The best vitamin for making friends..... B1."

A GOAL TO AIM FOR:

From the November 7, 2012 edition of *Suburban Life*: “Six members of the Lyons Township High School Class of 1940 celebrated their 72-and-a-half-year reunion at Plymouth Place in LaGrange Park with a luncheon”. WOW!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT:

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, 2012 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 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
kaurige1@att.net
708-562-6642

Phil Grossman
phillipgrossman@pgrossman.com
847-607-9303

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

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

Charles Larsen
CWLarsen@earthlink.net
708-485-8328

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@yahoo.com
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
maddie65@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 to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 3800 85th Avenue N #203; Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2974**