



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2014

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR! – HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY! - HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

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

We are grateful to the following classmates for their generous donations to defray the cost of printing and publishing this newsletter. Many thanks to: Paul Abramchik, Walter Beckstrom, Robert Cusumano, Bernard Derango, Victoria (Dobrzynski) Petersen, Clifford Dorn, David Greenberg, Donald Gurney, Marcia (Hasselmann) Murphy, Robert Hedlund, Norman Kazluski, Dennis Keating, Louis Kaufman, Dolores (Lindquist) DeFazio, Ruth (Manaster) Richard, Julene (Neims) Brill (Class of 1956), *Nancy and Mike Pasquerelli*, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, Arlene (Rabin) Blum, Santina (Rubino) Warren, John Ruckrich, Angie (Triolo) Jehlik, Robert Udoni, Louis Weber, William Wire, and Carol Ann Wolf.

Thanks, too, to those who included notes from El Cajon, CA, Copperopolis, CA, Oakland Park, FL, Greer, SC, and Fairview, TX. We appreciate your kind words.

NOTE: Please remember to send your \$5 minimum newsletter donation A.S.A.P. The costs associated with publishing the newsletter (paper, ink, database and website maintenance, and **especially** postage) keep rising.

**Please make donation checks payable to “Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.”**, and mail them to our Treasurer, *Irwin Magad*: 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141. **Thank you, Ladies, for writing your maiden name on your checks.** It saves your editor lots of time.

**POSTAGE INCREASE ALERT:** New single-piece First-Class Mail prices, effective Jan. 26, 2014 include: Letters (1 oz.): 49 cents; Additional ounces: 21 cents; Postcards: 34 cents

For more information, check with your local post office or go to <https://www.usps.com/welcome.htm>

## **RESERVE NOW FOR LES MISERABLES on JUNE 4!!**

Since we had such a wonderful time last June at Drury Lane, we will do it again this year on Wednesday, June 4. Check in is at 11:00 A.M., lunch at 11:30 A.M., show begins at 1:30 P.M. Our special discount price for the lunch and show is a FLAT \$45 per person. This includes almost everything! Free parking, easy access with a minimum of stairs, beautiful surroundings, congenial company, all taxes and gratuities. Adult beverages are extra. Lunch will include a salad, choice of entrée, dessert, rolls and butter, and one non-alcoholic beverage. Wheelchairs are available upon request. Friends, family, and other Austin class alumni are welcome to join us. The more, the merrier! Sign up now with the form at the bottom of Page 4. **Reservations and payments MUST be in by May 1.**

## **A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”:**

Dear Fellow Austin '55 Alumni,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for all of your thoughtfulness, kindness, and generous support over the last several months. Cherie's death in September hit a lot of us very hard! She was such a positive, upbeat force to me, as well as to our fellow Reunion Committee members these past few years that we had together. So many of you were such an inspiration to me to KEEP GOING and continue to live life to the maximum!

THANK YOU ALL for that encouragement and direction! I feel so fortunate to be a part of this beautiful Reunion Committee family and fellow alumni! THANK YOU again for everything. Your kindness and sympathy are more appreciated than any words can ever express!

Sincerely, Ken Rosko, Chair-person of the Austin '55 Reunion Committee

## **ON BEING A COP:**

Jim Padar and his son, Jay, have published a book of father/son police tales, based on their combined 45 years as Chicago police officers. *On Being a Cop* contains 53 true short stories that take you on a roller-coaster of tears to laughter. Released in December, it is already in its second printing and can be purchased online at [www.OnBeingACop.com](http://www.OnBeingACop.com) or [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) or ordered from your favorite book store. It is also available online in all eBook formats.

## STROLLING DOWN CHICAGO AVENUE WITH CHUCK MEYER:

As promised, here is a continuation of the stroll we started in the July 2013 newsletter.

On the SW corner of Lavergne and Chicago was an amazing store we called Libby's. I'm not sure of its real name, but Libby Goldstein was the daughter of the Russian immigrants who owned the store – Max and Florence Dredze. It was a soda fountain (with several booths), cigar store, candy store, magazine store, newspaper stand. The owner's family lived upstairs and they all worked in the store. They all seemed to have assigned posts, but any of them could step in anywhere at busy times. I'm not sure what their official hours were, but personal experience indicates at least 6am to 10pm – seven days a week. I never saw that store when its lights were out. I can't imagine running a business with those hours.

On entering its corner front door and glancing right, you saw the front window with its magazine racks, and at the far end was the “front desk”. Papa presided here and dealt with tobacco, gum, packaged candy, and making sure you didn't browse too long at the magazines or comics.

Just inside the front door on the left, was the newspaper rack – all four dailies, plus a mysterious “WSJ”, and the stacks were refreshed every few hours by those fast-moving funny-looking newspaper delivery vans. Normally you paid for the paper at the front desk; but if things got busy, there was a metal tray on the top paper, where you could just toss your pennies and take a paper. And to get the latest edition, we learned to take the bottom paper – but only if Papa weren't looking.

Next to Papa's front desk was the soda fountain – complete with many syrups, a milk shake mixer, a counter freezer with a dozen flavors of ice cream, and those swan-neck faucets that dispensed plain or soda water. After delivering newspapers on a cold winter morning, it was very warming to stop here for a hot chocolate before heading home.

They had one milk-shake mixer with a heating element – they'd pour in milk and cocoa, “zap” the thing for a minute, then pass it thru the milk-shake blender. That was a real power drink.

Behind the newspaper rack were some display cases of penny candy, and this was Grandma's territory. Remember those little candy dots on an adding-machine tape? And sickly sweet drinks in tiny wax bottles? And individual bulls-eyes? This was where we got them.

All we had was slow food; fast-food restaurants had not been invented yet. All food and drinks were prepared after you placed your order. Nothing was “kept warm.”

Chicago Avenue had a number of places to eat, none of which would ever be considered “fine dining.” On the bottom of this food chain were *soda fountains* – serving anything that contained ice cream or pop. These were a feature in confectionary stores (Libby's) and some drug stores (LaRocca Drugs). They had a high, marble counter and stools that were bolted to the floor, and had wonderful plastic-covered seats that rotated. Sitting at the proper stool gave you a good view of the ice cream selection. And the various syrups let you try a cherry Coke or a Green River milk shake. Some of the places had booths – always dark oak.

Next up the food chain were *grills* or *lunch counters* - like soda fountains, but they also had a grill, a refrigerator, and always had booths. They could make hamburgers and many types of sandwiches. Walgreen's had one, Woolworth's did not. There was a bar on Central Avenue (NE corner, but I can't recall the name) that had a kid-accessible lunch counter in the front – they made the best hamburgers. While your hamburger was grilling, they sliced the bun and toasted the two slices by putting them on the grill; all that, and a nice slice of onion. And if you ordered French fries, a handful of frozen fries were tossed in the boiling grease. Delicious! What a come-down then to get a mush-bun burger with soggy fries in our school cafeteria.

At the top of the food chain was the *restaurant*. The only one that I can remember was the Chinese restaurant just west of the Symphony. It opened in the early 50's and soon thereafter, the neighbors noticed a decline in the stray cat population. Needless to say, I was never in that restaurant. And it was many years before I'd even *try* Chinese food.

More next time on “Street/Curbside Structures”.

## IN MEMORIAM:

We extend our sincere condolences to classmate **Jordan Baich** and his family, whose beloved wife of 51 years, Gladi, passed away in December after a long illness. Gladi did attend and enjoy our 2013 Drury Lane outing with Jordan. She leaves sons, Mark and Jeffrey, daughter Pamela, four grandchildren, and other loving family.

Also in December, we lost classmate **Ira Warshawsky**, twin brother of the late Ted. Ira and his brothers had a life passion for the auto parts business. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife Shari, daughters Mindy and Karen, and the rest of the Warshawsky family.

### **A “FAIR”-LEY OFFER:**

We are grateful to classmate **Richard Fairley** who sent us several Maroon & White annuals to be given to anyone who wants them. We have 1 for 1951, 1 for 1954, and 1 for 1956 left. If you want one, please contact Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli at 847-991-5656 to arrange for pickup or mail delivery (at your cost). Thanks, Rich!!

### **DOLORES (LINDQUIST) DE FAZIO WRITES:**

Hi all you Austin High Reunion people,

After reading your “back in those days”, I also remember when I was young, going with my mother to the green grocer (produce store), then on to the bakery, then the butcher, and finally the Jewel (canned goods), all on the same block on North Avenue just east of Austin Ave. What a different world today. I also might add we were walking with the good old grocery wheeled cart.

Pat Heiland, daughter of Coach Heiland (remember him?), was my good friend in grade school and she invited me to an Austin High football game. I fell in love with cheerleading. I made up my mind then and there that I was going to be an Austin High cheerleader. The cheerleaders at high schools today are at a completely different level. I don't think I would make the team today. Best wishes to all, and thanks for keeping me on the newsletter list.

### **VODKA SAVES ELEPHANTS:**

MOSCOW -- Circus trainers claim two of their elephants were saved from the deadly Siberian cold by vodka. Emergency ministry spokesman Alexander Davydov said that the elephants were in a trailer that caught fire outside the city of Novosibirsk, forcing trainers to take them out into the bitter cold before another truck arrived to deliver them to a warm gym at a local community college.

The Komsomolskaya Pravda Daily reported that trainer Leonid Labo had the animals, aged 45 and 48, drink 10 liters (2.6 gallons) of vodka diluted in warm water – and a veterinarian said later that only the tips of their ears were frostbitten. Although scientists say that alcohol can make humans feel warmer but actually lowers their core body temperature, Novosibirsk zoo director Rostislav Shilo told the Daily that the vodka saved the animals from frostbite and pneumonia, without harming or even intoxicating them. [from Huffington Post 12-14-13]

### **THOUGHTS TO PONDER:**

"Vegetarian" is an old American Indian word meaning, “Bad Hunter”.

"Time for a snow tire recall. I can't recall where I put them."

"The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone."

"If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all."

### **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.

### **SO – WHAT SHALL WE DO IN 2015?**

We really need your help. Please take a few moments to answer the questions below. Return your answers to any reunion committee member via email or to Ken Rosko via fax at 847-623-5885 or snail mail to: Ken Rosko, c/o JKR Financial Consultants, Ltd., 3233 W. Grand Ave., Suite 103, Waukegan, IL 60085. Thanks in advance for your help.

1. What events would you like the Austin 1955 Reunion Committee to organize for 2015? Play? Picnic? Race Track? Lunch? Dinner? Cruise? Land Tour?

What month(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ Day(s) of week? \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon? \_\_\_ Evening? \_\_\_

2. What kind of 60th year Reunion would you like to have in 2015? 1 Day? 2 Days? Weekend? Luncheon? Dinner/Dance? Entertainment? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)  
OR, mail to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 3800 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue N #103; Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2972**

NAME (1st, maiden, last): \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (Required): \_\_\_\_\_

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Les Misérables

# DRURY LANE

## Luncheon/Theatre: Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Drury Lane begins its 30th anniversary season with one of the world's most iconic musical classics - a sweeping tale of romance, passion, suspense and redemption.

**Check-In 11:00 AM -- Lunch 11:30 AM -- Play 1:30 PM**

Based on Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables* travels through three turbulent decades of 19th century France. *Les Misérables* is the recipient of over 50 international theater awards and is considered the world's longest running musical. **WINNER OF 8 TONY AWARDS**



**Payment due by Wednesday, May 1, 2014 (no refunds)**

**Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45\* = \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Select: Roast Loin of Beef \_\_\_\_\_ or Salmon Filet \_\_\_\_\_\*\*

**Irwin Magad**  
Austin Class of 1955 Reunion  
2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200  
Northbrook, IL 60062-6141

**\*\$50 after May 1**

\*\*Vegetarian meals are available upon request.