



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2014

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



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to Shyla Ehredt, Susanne (Ferrari) Block, Ottavio Finaldi, Neal Gunther, Edward Handzel, Raymond Hoffmann, Norman Kazluski, Claramarie (Muratori) Rio, Theresa (Pecord) Graham), and Angel (Plotkin) Newman for their support of this newsletter. Special thanks to John O'Rourke and Myra (Polifka) Dickens for their extra generous donations.

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.

RESERVE NOW FOR WEST SIDE STORY on Wednesday, March 18, 2015!!

Drury Lane is mounting the perfect play for our 60th anniversary year: An American musical with libretto by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and conception and choreography by Jerome Robbins, inspired by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, the story of two teen-age lovers.

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 \$50 per person. This includes almost everything! Free parking, easy access with a minimum of stairs, beautiful surroundings, congenial company, all taxes and gratuities (but a little extra never hurt for great service). Lunch will include a salad, choice of entrée, dessert, rolls and butter, and one non-alcoholic beverage. Adult beverages are extra. Wheelchairs are available upon request. Friends, family, and other Austin 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 February 16.**

THE END OF AN ERA:

52 years ago, on Sept 30, 1962, radio passed the torch to television as the primary broadcast entertainment media. Since the rise of the radio networks in the 1920's and 1930's, radio had become a dominating force in bringing the nation together with the ability to share information on a large scale. It also helped to unify American Culture by making the same high quality entertainment available from coast to coast.

On this day, the Mets were at Wrigley Field and got beat by the Cubs, 5-1. Meanwhile, the United Farm Workers was formed by Mexican-American Labor leader Cesar Chavez, but most of the nation's political attention was focused on Oxford, Mississippi. James H. Meredith was trying to become the first African-American to attend classes at "Ole Miss". Meredith was accepted to the University, but then denied enrollment when his race was discovered. His admission was finally ordered by a federal court and enforced by federal marshals, but when he attempted to attend classes, a riot involving more than 3000 people erupted. [President Kennedy](#) addressed the nation that evening over radio AND television.

Television was set to take over, not because TV was a better way to share information and entertainment than radio, but because the sponsors believed it was the wave of the future. In actuality, the expense and technical complication of television placed limits on the quality of programming, arguably causing an overall "dumbing down" of mass media. [Old Time Radio Catalog: OTRCAT.COM]

SAVE THE DATES!! Mark your calendars for our 60th (yes, 60th!) reunion the weekend of September 25-27, 2015. With your help, location and activities will be firmed up as we approach the dates. Please stay healthy and plan to join in the fun. **GO YOU AUSTIN!!**

FOUR COUNTRIES IN THREE WEEKS:

Classmate *Irwin Magad* reports that he and his wife Linda celebrated his June 17 birthday by doing a bit of globe-trotting, ending with a visit with their grandson in Jerusalem. Following is their trip report.

LONDON, ENGLAND: 46 colleges comprise the Oxford University. We walked around the various college buildings but couldn't go inside because it was the time of year that exams were being taken. We did see the famous Quad and buildings that were built many centuries ago, among them Christ Church.

Next stop was the Cotswold's, a beautiful area in the English countryside. Most of the homes had thatched roofs. We had lunch in one of the towns (can't remember the name, but we did eat some very tasty Fish and Chips).

Then on to Stratford-on-Avon and William Shakespeare's birth home. There, in its courtyard, actors performed scenes from any of his plays upon request. The next day we toured the Globe Theater in London. We were told that the building we were in was not the original because both the original and the second building burned down. We also took a day to visit Stonehenge. I still don't understand how they got those rocks placed the way they were.

GREECE: After a very early morning flight from London, we arrived in Athens. We had the balance of the day to ourselves, so we walked around the area of the hotel at lunch time and found a very nice outdoor restaurant where we enjoyed a fabulous lunch. The next day we were picked up for a tour of Athens which included the Acropolis, and the Zeus and Nike Temples. We stopped for lunch in the Plaka, the historical neighborhood of [Athens](#).

The Plaka is clustered around the northern and eastern slopes of the [Acropolis](#), and incorporates labyrinthine streets and neoclassical architecture. It is known as the "Neighborhood of the Gods," due to its proximity to the Acropolis and its many archaeological sites. The Acropolis was being remodeled, not really changing anything, but repairing some of the columns that had crumbled after many years. Getting up there via mostly rock paths was a challenge. Thank the Greeks for putting in a few hand rails. From the top of the Acropolis you could see all of Athens. What a beautiful sight! From there we went to the Zeus Temple, where many of the columns had fallen down. We also drove by the Nike Temple and stopped at the first amphitheater built in the side of a mountain. The first Olympics were held there. The following day we were picked up and taken to the Port of Lavrion where we boarded our ship for our cruise to Istanbul.

TURKEY: We arrived the next morning, and after breakfast, we boarded our buses for a tour of the Blue Mosque. This is a beautiful building, both inside and out. Before entering the Mosque, we had to take off our shoes, and the women were given head and body covers if their body was not covered properly. From the Mosque, we walked to St. Stephens Greek Orthodox church which was no longer used as a church. After lunch, we went to the Grand Bazaar with over 5,500 shops. What an experience that was! Thousands of people were walking around, looking into the various shops. I could not handle the crowd, so I left to go outside with the rest of the husbands while our wives were in heaven - shopping! Outside the Bazaar, we encountered some children who were begging. They were refugees from Syria. Most of them were girls, and very persistent. How sad that was to see. From the Bazaar, we returned to our ship for dinner and a show and on to the next port, Kusadasi and the ancient city of Ephesus.

After cruising all night along the Aegean coast of Turkey we arrived at the port of Kusadasi early the next morning, and started our tour after breakfast. A 5-minute walk from the harbor took us to another bazaar, the fish market, and local Turkish delicacies. As we walked, we were facing the Kervanseray (long ago it was used as a rest stop for camels and their drivers on their long treks through Asia Minor). At this bazaar, we purchased some very tasty nuts that we brought home with us. Ephesus used to be a wealthy town because of the port, which was the most protected port until the middle of the 3rd century AD. We toured through this area for several hours and then returned to the ship.

Our arrival in Santorini the next morning revealed what many refer to as the most beautiful of all the Greek Islands. The water in the Aegean Sea is a beautiful deep blue color. We toured the Island for several hours and did have some free time to shop. Our cruise then took us to Crete, Rhodes, Chios and Mykonos. Each one of these islands was different and had its own beauty. On the day we returned to Athens, we took a tour to Delphi. After one day on our own, we flew to Israel.

ISRAEL: Our main reason for this stop was to see our grandson Daniel who had been in Israel since May doing some touring before beginning his internship for his political science major at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

We spent most of the time in Israel in Tel Aviv, except on my birthday we traveled to Jerusalem. Our first stop was the Western Wall where we did pray and thank G-D for bringing us back there again. In the evening, our cousins took us out for dinner in the old city to a Moroccan restaurant where we had a great meal. The entire wait staff sang Happy Birthday to me in Hebrew with the aid of a beautiful young lady who could really shake it up. This was a birthday I will never forget.

BUT WAIT – THERE’S MORE!!:

Classmate Chuck Meyer now takes us farther West on Chicago Avenue.

The Chicago Avenue streetcar ran west to Austin Blvd. You could walk across Austin and hop on a West Towns streetcar (for another fare – no transfers here) and go west, across Oak Park, to Harlem Avenue. This was the most northerly of the Chicago & West Towns (C&WT) routes, and many years earlier, it ran east from Harlem all the way to Cicero Avenue. As Moreland and Austin were annexed into Chicago, the C&WT routes were correspondingly pruned and grafted into the Chicago Surface Lines (later to become the CTA).

In Oak Park, Chicago Avenue was mostly residential, and included at least four houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright – one of which was his residence from 1889 to 1909. Near Harlem Avenue, on the north side of Chicago Avenue, was Petersen’s Ice Cream parlor. They made their own extra-smooth, extra-rich ice cream – their Peach was the best – and their recipes have not changed in 95 years! Even after I had left the Chicago area, a trip back always meant a visit to Petersen’s, which opened in Oak Park in 1919, and moved to its current location in 1931. It has been there ever since, although they now close that store during the winter months. A few years ago, they opened a second store – in Scottsdale, Arizona! That store is open all year.

See <http://www.petersenicecream.com/> for the story of Petersen’s.

Continuing west on Chicago, you passed through River Forest, and then the Forest Preserve which surrounded the Des Plaines River for most of its length in Cook County. The stretch from Madison Street to North Avenue was known as Thatcher Woods (or just Thatcher’s). Just south of Chicago Avenue was the Trailside Museum. It was a great place for a city kid to learn a little about the local wildlife. On the north side of Chicago Avenue was a parking lot that was taken over on Saturdays by model airplane flyers. Before remote control planes, there were control line planes that just flew in circles (actually hemispheres) around the controllers. Listening to the high-pitched scream of those little engines, I never dreamed that I’d ever fly a small jet plane with a similarly high-pitched scream – the T-37 Tweetie-Bird. (“Tweetie-Bird” was a pejorative that was never used in flight school.)

And further west led to First Avenue, Maywood, and...BOONDOCKS!

IN MEMORIAM:

We are sad to report the passing on July 1 of classmate Carol (Yale) Kaplan Silver, of Libertyville, IL and Scottsdale, AZ. She is survived by her husband Larry Silver, her children Alan (Patty), Janet and Lawrence (Deni) Kaplan, six grandchildren, and her faithful four-legged companion, Yoda. She will be greatly missed! A Memorial Service was held on July 3rd. Our condolences go to the Yale, Kaplan, and Silver families. Rest in peace, Carol.

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.

LAST CALL FOR IDEAS FOR OUR 60th REUNION WEEKEND:

Please take a few moments to tell us what extra weekend activities you would like for our 60th reunion in September: Discount Shopping? Casino Gambling? Chicago Architectural Foundation boat tour? Bungee-Jumping? Return your answers to Ken Rosko via email at jkr.financial@gmail.com or fax at 847-623-5885 or snail mail to: Ken Rosko, c/o JKR Financial Consultants, Ltd., 1790 Nations Drive, Suite 216, Gurnee, IL 60031. Thanks.

Your Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

NAME (1st, maiden, last): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE (Required): _____

PLEASE NOTE KEN ROSKO'S NEW OFFICE ADDRESS:

Ken Rosko's office address is: JKR Financial Consultants, Ltd., 1790 Nations Drive, Suite 216, Gurnee, IL 60031. Phone (847-623-5800) and fax (847-623-5885) numbers remain the same.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

- Brain Cells come and go, but Fat Cells live forever.
- I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.
- Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing; and your attitude when you have everything.
- I used to Skinny Dip – Now, I Chunky Dunk!
- If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way Mom told you to in the first place.
- Your mind is a garden; you thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds.
- Happiness is always an Inside job.
- My Uncle Frank was a staunch Conservative, and voted straight Republican until the day he died in Chicago. Since then he has voted Democrat. ☺

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Luncheon/Theatre: Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Drury Lane closes its 30th anniversary season with the award-winning adaptation of the classic romantic tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet".

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

West Side Story features an electrifying Latin and jazz-infused score including "Somewhere," "Tonight," "I Feel Pretty," and "America" in one of the world's greatest love stories.

*****WINNER OF 3 TONY AWARDS*****



Payment due by Monday, FEB. 16, 2015 (no refunds)

Please mail to:

Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."

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

Name(s) _____ X \$50 = _____

Phone number: _____

Please Select: ___ Roast Strip Loin (Beef) or ___ Salmon Filet *

*Vegetarian meals are available upon request.