



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2015

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



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

Many thanks to Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Mildred (Handy) O'Brien, Norman Kazluski, Adrienne (Lieberman) Reimer, and Carol (Pedersen) Groble for helping keep the Austin '55 Newsletter financially secure. Donations such as yours are needed to keep this newsletter going and maintain the information flow to all of our Classmates, especially those who do not or cannot use a computer. Special thanks to Lawrence Manelis and Louis Weber for their extra generous donations.

**Please make donation checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."**, and mail them to our Treasurer,

***Irwin Magad***: 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060

**Thank you, Ladies, for writing your maiden name on your checks.** It saves your editor lots of time.

## **LAST CALL TO RESERVE FOR WEST SIDE STORY on Wednesday, March 18, 2015!!**

Drury Lane is mounting the perfect play for our 60<sup>th</sup> 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. Wheelchair seating must be requested with your reservation. Friends, family, and other Austin alumni are welcome. Join June and **Paul Sengpiehl**, who were first to reserve, and the ten other early birds, for a delightful afternoon. **Reservations and payments MUST be in by February 16.** Sign up now with the form on page 3.

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

We are delighted to report that we have lost no classmates in the last quarter. This is a **FIRST**, but we hope not an "only".

**MAKE PLANS FOR OUR 60TH REUNION !!** Mark your calendars for our 60<sup>th</sup> (yes, 60<sup>th</sup>!) reunion the weekend of September 25, 26, & 27, 2015. We will be returning to the Marriott Chicago-O'Hare where we gathered in 2005 for our 50<sup>th</sup> and in 2010 for our 55<sup>th</sup> reunions. There will be a casual Friday night Italian Buffet, where we can relax, renew old friendships, and enjoy each other's company. The Saturday night gala will include a four-course deluxe dinner, plus memory books, keepsakes, door prizes, and entertainment by Radio Hall of Famer Chuck Shaden. Those staying over Saturday night can reminisce at a casual Sunday Brunch in a separate area reserved for our group. The special discounted room rate for Austin Alumni will be \$135 + tax per night. The Rivers Casino is five minutes away from the hotel and provides a free shuttle service. Fashion Outlets of Chicago is ten minutes away. More details and reunion reservation forms will be in the Spring 2015 newsletter. Please stay well and plan to join in the fun. **GO YOU AUSTIN!!**

## **REMINDER RE: UNWANTED ANNUALS:**

If you are down-sizing or otherwise wish to dispose of your old Maroon & Whites, they may be sent to:

**Ken Rosko** at JKR Financial Consultants, Ltd., 1790 Nations Drive, Suite 216, Gurnee, IL 60031, where they will be stored for free distribution to anyone who wants them.

## **SENIOR CITIZEN PRAYER:**

Lord grant me the serenity to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. ☺

## CLASSMATES UP THE RIVER:

On September 5, 2014, classmates **Donna (Mayfield) Harder** and **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma** embarked on an adventure that included a river cruise up the Rhine from Germany to Holland. What a time we had! The weather was perfect, the land accommodations “interesting” (modern German plumbing was a challenge), the TUI ship beautiful, immaculate, and well-appointed, and most of the guides excellent. The ship’s 6-person kitchen, headed by the only female chef on the riverboats, prepared three fantastic meals plus delicious snacks each day. One day, we enjoyed a dessert buffet that, in addition to the usual cakes and pies and cookies, included *real* ice cream sundaes in tulip glasses, just like the ones in old fashioned ice cream parlors. (Donna had two!) At each meal, there were excellent vegetarian options. We ate like piggies, and came home two and three pounds lighter than when we left. We walked a LOT: Donna in the fast group, Kaye in the pokey one.

Donna was delighted to mark another item off her bucket list with the river cruise, and because Kaye’s heritage is primarily German, she was in her glory, visiting 11 German cities. We toured Berlin, Potsdam, Dresden, Weimar, Frankfurt, Rudesheim, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Bonn, Heidelberg, and Munich, learning lots of history we didn’t learn (or pay attention to) in school. In Holland, we visited Rotterdam, Gouda (pronounced “Gowda”), The Hague, Delft, Amsterdam, and Arnhem. Each city had its own historical significance and unique flavor.

Potsdam, just outside of Berlin, was the site of the 1945 Potsdam Conference, attended by Churchill, Stalin, and Truman. The conference took place in Cecilienhof Palace, formerly the home of [Emperor Wilhelm II](#)’s oldest son, [Wilhelm](#) (William) and his wife, Duchess [Cecilie](#). We saw the actual room where the conference was held. We also visited Schloss Sanssouci, Frederick the Great’s Summer Palace and ultimate burial place, where visitors place potatoes on his grave in memory of his introducing them as a staple of German cooking.

One of the most impressive sites we visited was the Arnhem/ Oosterbeek War cemetery for soldiers lost in the liberation of Arnhem. We were there just before the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Each grave is assigned to a primary school student to maintain for a year. This ritual by the Dutch is to keep alive the memory of the men who died trying to liberate them. What a great way to teach history!

Near Amsterdam, we saw how wooden shoes and Delft porcelain are made, visited a working windmill, “The Cat”, and took an evening canal tour, where we saw how people live on the boats. Because real estate in Amsterdam is VERY expensive, people live on the canals, where mooring charges are reasonable. The lights were on in many of the boats and we could see people preparing dinner, watching T-V, just going about their evening business. The boats were beautifully appointed, with crystal chandeliers and lovely artwork on the walls. It seemed nearly everyone rides a bicycle in Amsterdam, and pedestrians must beware. They really fly!

In Munich, we visited BMW World, a huge facility where we saw the latest model luxury cars. Donna wanted one. We also saw the huge tents that were set up for Oktoberfest which was to begin the day after we left. Our tour ended with a typical Bavarian dinner of roasted pork with dark beer sauce, potato dumplings, cabbage-bacon salad, apple strudel with vanilla sauce, and BEER. In Kaye’s opinion, there is nothing like German beer. It is clean and light and WONDERFUL! Entertainment included an Oompah band, Bavarian dancers, and young men who jumped up on the tables and cracked VERY long whips in time to the music. *That* got our attention.

We were also very impressed with Lufthansa. Service was great! We had the very novel experience of finding the baggage carousel in a room located right near the exit from the plane! There is much more to tell, but time and space do not allow. Suffice it to say we had an absolutely marvelous travel experience. We recommend it!

## 2015 JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

January 7, 1955 – Marian Anderson debuts at the Met in Verdi’s *Un Ballo in Maschera (A Masked Ball)*.

January 30, 1965 – Peggy and **Chuck Meyer** tied the knot. They celebrated a bit early last fall by retracing their steps of 50 years ago on the West Coast, visiting their old Air Force stomping grounds and their first apartment in the Hawaiian Village in Tacoma. Congratulations, you kids! Long may you love!

## RANDOM THOUGHTS:

“Believe you can, and you’re halfway there.”

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak out. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

“Kindness and politeness are not overrated at all. They’re underused.”

“Thanks to the internet, you can get hopelessly in debt without ever leaving your house.”

“Those who say “there is no such thing as a stupid question”...have never worked in Customer Service.”

“Get at least eight hours of beauty sleep – nine, if you’re ugly.” [Betty White]

“Silence is the best reply to a fool.”

**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.

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

**Austin 1955 Reunion Committee**

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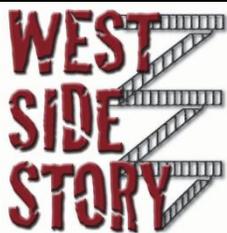
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**PLEASE NOTE:** Chuck Meyer's and Irwin Magad's new email addresses and Irwin's new mailing address.



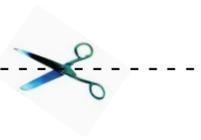
**Luncheon/Theatre: Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

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  
3714 Monticeto Circle  
Mundelein, IL 60060**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please Select:** \_\_\_ Roast Strip Loin (Beef) or \_\_\_ Salmon Filet \*  
\_\_\_ Need wheelchair seating? \*Vegetarian meals are available upon request.