



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION



NEWSLETTER VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2015

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



Spring is Sprung, the grass is ris', and we know where the flowers is.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to James Connelly, Clifford Dorn, Marvin Glick, Marilyn Haslam, Robert Herbst, Thomas Iacono, Evelyn (Karger) Lyons, Norman Kazluski, Angie (Triolo) Jehlik, and William Wire for helping keep the Austin '55 Newsletter financially secure. Donations such as yours help us keep this newsletter going and maintain communication with all of our Classmates, especially those who do not or cannot use a computer. Special thanks to Helen (Georgulis) Tsaggaris, Sandra Gnippe, Patricia Pecoraro, Victoria (Dobrzynski) Petersen, **J. Kenneth Rosko**, 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.

RESERVE NOW FOR OUR 60TH REUNION!! Austin High in the 50's was a wonderful place to be at a great time for our country and for us. *Those were the days* we love to remember. Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 25, 26, & 27, 2015. We will be returning to the Marriott Chicago-O'Hare where we gathered for our 50th and 55th reunions. There will be a casual Friday night Italian Buffet, where we can relax 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 Schaden. 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. **SIGN UP NOW with the reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter or coming in the mail.** Stay well and plan to join in the fun. **GO YOU AUSTIN!!**

IN MEMORIAM:

We were saddened to learn of the passing on February 20, 2011, of classmate **Marilyn (Rutledge) Knorps** of Palmetto, FL, formerly of Berwyn, IL. We offer belated condolences to her husband Edward, sons Tom and Steve, sister Carol Rutledge, eight grand-children and ten great-grand-children.

We also learned recently of the passing on October 3, 2011 of classmate **Alexander Kouvalis**, beloved husband of Magdalena, father of Demetrios and Amalia. Alex was known as the "Savior of the Patio Theater." Read about how Alex and his son brought this historic old movie palace back to life with help of many friends and movie buffs at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1911305952/save-the-historic-patio-theater>. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Magdalena and his children Demetrios and Amalia.

Classmate **Hugh R. Fleming Jr.**, age 77, passed away Sunday, November 2, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara (Stopka) Fleming; children, Scott (Rosemarie) Fleming, Julie (Duane) Johnson, Jennifer (James) Carratt, Valerie (Jason) Louthan; grandchildren, Nicholas, Christina, James, Eric, Brian, Faith, Megan, Ryan and Connor; one brother, James (Thelma) Fleming. Hugh was a U.S. Marine Veteran, retired from NICOR.

Austin alumna, **Sophie (Davidovich) Spinello**, Class of 1931, passed away on January 28, 2015, less than a month before her 100th birthday. Loving mother of JoAnne (the late Edward) Betti, **John O. (Madeline) Spinello**, the late Marilyn Rose, Lorraine (Kenneth) Masick, and Karen (Anthony) Verga; grandmother of nine, great grandmother of 16; companion to three kitties, Oscar, Charlie, and Roxanne. Rest in Peace, Sophie. Your family will cherish your memory.

We must also report the recent passing of classmate **Bert R. DeLegge**, beloved husband of the late Geraldine, loving father of William (Angie), Robert and Carol (Roger) Demastus, beloved papa of six and cherished great-papa of five. Bert was a retired member of I.B.E.W. Local #134, and member of Riverside Lodge #862 A.F. & A.M. and West Suburban Shrine Club. We extend our deepest sympathy to the DeLegge family.

Classmate **Louis Molinari** passed on January 3, 2015. Unfortunately, we have no other information.

GREETINGS FROM DEL LIERMANN:

In response to a note requesting verification of information on our database, Del wrote: "Please keep me in the loop of any news and I hope it is quite a while before I make your obits. Take care and be happy. Please tell Miss or Mrs. or Ms. Lieberman I said Hello. That should test her memory." [Editor note: Del is on page 42 of the 1955 M&W, preceded by three Lieberman girls. Rodelle is no longer with us, but perhaps Adrienne or her sister Linda might want to contact Del. His email is Liermanns@aol.com.]

MAN'S CLASS RING WANTED:

If you have a man's AHS55 class ring you no longer want, *Harry Kappos* may take it off your hands. Contact Harry at (847) 271-2503 or (847) 515-8693 or hgk1937@comcast.net. Size is not important.

GREETINGS FROM JACKIE (PEDJAS) JONES:

Thanks for getting me back on the mailing list. I only wish I could join this group, but I'm currently in a hospital with lung issues in CA and won't be going anywhere until things improve dramatically. But I sure enjoy hearing about them. I'm good friends with Millie Handy O'Brien and she is in Florida until March. I've asked her if she is going to the reunion this year and she can't decide. If she goes, I'll start planning my trip back there. I'm attending grandchildren's graduations in Ohio in both May and August if all goes well. Busy year!

My husband was reared in Moose Lake, MN and has 6 siblings there. It is really a beautiful State - so much greenery - we landed in MN shortly after marriage. I had lived in Chicago for 20 years, 2 years in Arizona, 2 years in San Francisco, 1 year in Korea (working and finding my husband, a military man), then San Diego, Clinton, MD, San Diego, Virginia Beach, VA, and finally retired in Walnut Creek, CA in 1970. After that, my husband decided to grow roots and we've never left.... even though he passed 5 years ago, I'm still here, same house, great area, wonderful weather!!

By the way, Rita Moreno lives in the next town, Berkeley, CA and still looks great and appears in a few local productions... Ever the star! Actually, I heard from a local media person that she had interviewed Rita but it was in a beautiful home in Orinda, CA (very upscale). Don't know who is right, but you can google her name - Rita Moreno Berkely - and get lots of information wherever she is living now. But she is definitely living in this area.

GOOD NEWS FROM LOLITA (QUINY) FRASER:

I am coming up on my year anniversary of my battle with ovarian cancer and am now a little over 3 months out of chemo and doing well. I have been very lucky that I did not have a hard time with my treatments. My surgery was at the City of Hope in California on March 28th of 2014. My attitude was always positive and because of staying in shape by doing Pilates, going to the gym, and dancing, my good physical condition put me in fighting shape and spirits. My doctor said I was amazing! The support system of my family and friends also made life easier for me. But, most of all, I thank God and my wonderful doctor for getting me through all of this. I met my sister and my great-niece in Las Vegas to celebrate my January 12th birthday, my sister's decade birthday (I won't say which decade or she'd kill me), and my great-niece's 21st. My great-niece is now able to drink and gamble! A grand time was had by all. We had great food and saw "Michael Jackson One" and the Cirque du Soliel's "The Beatles' Love". Both were excellent, but we all preferred the Love show. I've gotten this wonderful second lease on life and I will appreciate every minute of it! I hope I'll be able to make the reunion in September, but I am just taking one day at a time now! Glad to be healthy again!!

I REMEMBER ERNIE:

With the passing of "Mr. Cub" on January 23, 2015, your editor was reminded of the time she met him in October 1989. "I was in New Orleans for a teller system user conference, and on the day we were to leave, we found a letter slipped under our door at the hotel by some catalytic converter group, inviting us to meet Ernie Banks and get an autographed baseball. Apparently that group was going to occupy the floor of the hotel that we were vacating. My lady friend, an avid baseball fan, and I decided "what the heck - we've been invited - let's go!" We went to the designated place, got in line with all these guys in suits (we were dressed kind of casual), met Ernie, had our photo taken with him, and each got an autographed baseball. Ernie was an absolute dear, engaging us in conversation. He asked me about my kids, told me I shouldn't charge the "the baby" who was still living at home, rent. I left my business card with the hosts of the event, so they could send me the photos. A few weeks later, I received the photos, and sent them a "Thank You" letter on Harris Bank stationery. I didn't tell them we had crashed their party. It was a truly memorable experience. I still have the baseball, the photo, and a copy of the "Thank You" letter, and I know where they are!

ANOTHER DRURY LANE HIT:

On March 18th, 41 classmates gathered to experience a superbly choreographed Drury Lane presentation of the 1957 Broadway classic: *West Side Story*. As is usual at Drury Lane, the lunch was excellent [your editor ate THREE desserts!], and we had plenty of time to enjoy each other's good company before the show.

REMINDER RE: UNWANTED ANNUALS: If you 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.

MARCH & APRIL 2015 ANNIVERSARIES:

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery.

50 YEARS AGO: March 2, 1965 –The film premiere of *The Sound of Music*, starring Julie Andrews, was a revelation. *TIME* wrote in its original review, "The movie satisfies nearly all the requirements for what moviemakers tout as wholesome family entertainment."

March 7, 1965 – Martin Luther King Jr.'s first march from Selma.

150 YEARS AGO: On April 9, 1865 – The Civil War ended. On April 14, 1865 – Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. He died at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865. He was the first United States president to be assassinated.

RANDOM THOUGHTS:

"Any day above ground is a good day." [Original quote by Punxsutawney Phil]

"Life is short, live it. Love is rare, grab it. Anger is bad, dump it. Fear is awful, face it. Memories are sweet, cherish them." [Source Unknown]

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 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

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): _____

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1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

60th ANNIVERSARY REUNION
SEPTEMBER 25 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2015
CHICAGO MARRIOTT O’HARE

REGISTRATION & ENTRÉE SELECTION
FRIDAY EVENING ITALIAN BUFFET - \$50 PER PERSON
SATURDAY NIGHT SIT-DOWN DINNER - \$90 PER PERSON

To reserve a place at the Friday night casual buffet, the Saturday night dinner and entertainment, or both, please send your **deposit of \$50 per person or full payment by July 31**. The payment will ensure your name and photo will be in the Reunion Memory Book. The **balance**, if any, will be **due by August 31**.

Please send this completed page with your check payable to **“Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.”**, to our Treasurer, **Irwin Magad**: 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060. Remember, deposits of \$50 per person are due by **July 31**. Final payments are due **no later than August 31**.

NAME(s): _____
(Ladies – Please include your maiden name in parentheses.)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER(S): HOME: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____ SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

EVENTS: September 25 Friday Night Buffet Supper # of people attending: _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

September 26 Saturday Night Dinner # of people attending: _____ x \$90 = \$ _____

TOTAL= \$ _____

LESS DEPOSIT # of people attending: _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

BALANCE DUE = \$ _____

September 27 Sunday Farewell Breakfast (select from menu – pay on your own) # of people attending: _____

_____ Sorry, I/We am/are unable to attend, but keep me/us posted on future events.

SATURDAY DINNER ENTREE SELECTION: Please select one for each person dining.

#___ Lemon-cruste Chicken #___ Seared Salmon #___ Filet Mignon #___ Grilled Vegetable Ravioli (no meat)

Mail this completed form with your check, payable to: “Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.”, to Irwin Magad, Austin Class of 1955 Reunion, 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060

Amount Enclosed: \$_____ Check # _____ NOTE: Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt. Should you need to cancel, refunds will be made up to September 1.

REMEMBER to make your room reservation BEFORE AUGUST 25 by calling 1-888-236-2427. Ask for the “Austin High School 60th Reunion” rate of \$135 + tax. QUESTIONS may be directed to Ken Rosko, 847-623-5800.