



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION



NEWSLETTER VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2016

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**HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE MONKEY!!**

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT DRURY LANE OUTING!!** Mark **Wednesday, June 22, 2016** on your calendars for our next Drury Lane adventure. This time, the play will be a mystery/comedy, *Death Trap*, rather than a musical, and the cost for lunch and the show will be only \$42 per person. More details and registration forms will be in the April newsletter. Please note that seats will be assigned in order of registration receipt, that is, the early birds will get the best seats. Special needs will, of course, be accommodated. Please plan to join in the fun.

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

Many thanks to ***John Spinello***, Mary Ann (Stentz) Kaiser, Angie (Triolo) Jehlik, and Louis Weber for their recent donations. We appreciate your support.

**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.

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

We learned recently of the passing of classmate **Charlene (Reshoff) Luce** on June 28, 2015 in Sarasota, FL. Charlene and classmate ***Irwin Magad*** grew up together in the same apartment building. The Magads lived on the first floor and the Reshoffs lived on the second. Charlene's husband, Donald, lived in the neighborhood, too. In addition to Donald, Charlene is survived by her children: Mark (Deborah), Matthew (Peggy), and Dellene (Tony) Acampa. We extend our condolences to the Luce family.

We were truly saddened to hear that classmate **Norman Kazluski** passed away on December 25, 2015. Norm worked for Brach's Candy before being drafted in the United States Army where he served in Germany, France, Spain, and the Netherlands. Norm worked for Illinois Bell until retiring in the late 1990's. Norm was a generous supporter of this newsletter, as well as of our 50<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> reunions. Our hearts go out to his wife, Jeannie, son Keith, daughter Jennifer Sciascia, and grandchildren Isabella, Katrina, and Sammy.

A week later, on January 1, 2016, we lost **Pearl "Patti" (Piggott) Reichard**. Patti was active in her Indiana community as a Jaycee, a Girl Scout leader, a Boy Scout den mother, and a DeKalb sports and band parent. Survivors include her husband Richard, daughters Patricia (Dennis) Trubey, Victoria (Ross) Reihle, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, brother L. Douglas (Susan) and beloved dogs Teddy and Oreo. Rest in Peace, Patti.

## **ON BEING A COP:**

Jim Padar is pleased to announce that his book of father/son police tales based upon their forty-five years combined experiences as Chicago Police officers, is heading for its third printing. *On Being a Cop* contains fifty-three true short stories that take you on a roller coaster of tears to laughter. If you haven't read it yet, give yourself a treat and purchase it online at [www.OnBeingACop.com](http://www.OnBeingACop.com) or at Amazon (<http://amzn.to/1mD3o3G>), or order from your favorite book store. It's also available online in all eBook formats.

## **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.

## **AUSTIN HIGH MAY RISE AGAIN:**

The following was written by Lauren FitzPatrick for the Chicago Sun-Times on 11/10/2015:

Another community whose schools are shrinking is taking matters into its own hands, this time in Austin where parents and supporters are proposing to merge three neighborhood high schools with dwindling populations. “We’re excited to present it instead of it being presented to us,” said Mildred Wiley, who heads the Community Action Council group that wants the Board of Education to approve combining Austin Business and Entrepreneurship Academy, Austin Polytechnical Academy and VOISE Academy high schools. The idea began about a year ago, she said.

“We thought it might be in the best interests of this campus facility, making sure we could be a comprehensive high school ... starting in the 2016 school year,” Wiley continued from inside the schools’ library, joined by two of the affected principals.

The three open-enrollment schools share a building at 231 N. Pine and have only 412 students combined. Each of the three schools has its own principal but is under-enrolled and on intensive support. Organizers say a consolidation would rebrand them under one new school. Merging the schools would mean a single leadership team in the building instead of three. “The three principals support the merger plan,” Wiley said, a sign of how dedicated the men are to the well-being of their students.

The business school’s enrollment fell below 100 students this year, according to CPS stats. “That’s not enough students for the school to offer any electives,” said Randel Josserand, a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) supervisor who oversees a group of principals on the West Side.

“Merging them into a single school — as they had been as Austin High School more than a decade ago — will grant students a broader and richer education,” Josserand added. “A strong high school needs at least 270 students to offer a full range of classes and programs,” he said.

High schools were spared from the last round of school closings that shuttered a record 50 elementary schools CPS characterized as “half empty.” But with the growth of charter schools, many neighborhood schools have seen their populations plummet. With the five-year moratorium on school closings and more than half in a district scrambling for money, school communities have become more proactive in trying to solve their own problems.

CPS recently changed the rules for school closings that would permit such a merger and plan to announce which schools will be affected by Dec. 1. The Board of Education wouldn’t vote on any until the spring, according to the district.

[Editor Note] I did a computer search to see if any progress had been made with the merger. It appears the merger has not yet occurred, but I found a comprehensive plan presented by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford on the “Austin Talks” website: <http://austintalks.org/2015/12/time-for-a-new-austin-high-school/>. The details are too lengthy to include here, but following are the opening and closing statements of Rep. Ford’s plan.

“We have an opportunity to right an injustice that was done to the Austin community several years ago. The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) proposes a significant change to the secondary education options available to the greater Austin community by consolidating [the three small school high schools](#) into one Austin High School unit. The manner in which the Austin High School unit is reimagined and resourced is of particular concern to me, as I have been advocating for a new comprehensive high school for Austin since 2006-07, when the previous Austin High School was closed.” (The first community meeting on the [plan to consolidate](#) the three schools into one will be held 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Austin campus, 231 N. Pine.) “I envision that this new high school model will be designated as a Sustainable Community School. The designation means the school will be equipped with wraparound supports, an emphasis on blended learning and constructivist teaching models and not on excessive testing, a culturally relevant curriculum and robust parent and community participation in governance and everyday programming for the school community. We have an incredible opportunity to create a true lighthouse in Austin by providing the community with a sustainable community school. In the interest of advancing justice, fairness and equity, when we enrich the new Austin High School with resources and invest in the school community, we will have a positive impact on the whole community. I look forward to working with all interested stakeholders to help marshal the necessary support and resources for a great, successful community high school in Austin, and I encourage everyone to work with the Austin Community Action Council to help with the ongoing development of our restructured school.”

*Rep. La Shawn K. Ford represents Austin in the Illinois House of Representatives.*

## **USO TURNS 75:**

As the nation braced itself for World War II in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized that maintaining high morale in America's fighting force would be vital to the nation's success in battle. "Not by machines alone will we win this war," Roosevelt said. On February 4, 1941, he led the founding of the USO as the organization dedicated to keeping service members connected to family, home, and country throughout their service. At 75, the USO's mission is as vital today as it was in 1941. To mark its anniversary, the USO is inviting Americans to get reacquainted with today's USO. Some of the highlights coming as part of the yearlong celebration include:  
Global USO Center Celebrations - From cake-cuttings to open houses, our nearly 200 locations worldwide will celebrate on February 4, 2016.

USO Route 75 - The USO story team will travel to USO locations around the United States, to report stories that advance the dialogue on many issues facing today's military.

*ON★PATROL 75th Anniversary Commemorative Issue* -The magazine of the USO reflects on our organization's history, what we're doing today, and what lies ahead for the USO. Personal anecdotes from USO tour veterans and in-depth feature stories about the USO's long-term partnerships with Coca-Cola and the NFL are among the issue's many highlights. The digital edition of the magazine is available at <http://bit.ly/OnPatrol75>. (Check it out, if you can. There are interesting photos and YouTube videos.)

75th Anniversary Entertainment Tours - USO will continue to deliver its high-quality entertainment to locations around the world. To find out more about the USO, visit us online at [uso.org](http://uso.org). [Excerpted from the USO website.]

### **OUR REUNION JOURNEY (a Trip Down Memory Lane):**

Our 10 year reunion was held on May 8, 1965 at Ray Foley's in the Hyatt House (aka The Purple Hotel) in Lincolnwood. Attendees enjoyed a 7-course dinner and live orchestra music for \$15 per couple! The invitations were signed by Barbara Frejlach (does anyone know who/where she is?)

After the 10<sup>th</sup>, there were no reunions until Genny (Luisi) Schroeder and Fredell "Cookie" (Maranto) Covey decided to get the ball rolling for a 30<sup>th</sup>. They hired Class Reunion, Inc. (Judy & Shel Norris) to oversee the reunion and locate alumni (which was not very successful). They then held a meeting at Gen's house to form a Reunion Committee. Members were Myron Cohen, Harvey Diamond, Michael Feinberg, David Gotskind, Lois (Horwitz) Silverman, Ellen (Jastromb) Winstein, Myrna (Kaplan) Cloch, Peter Karas, Michael and Arlene (Cohen) Lavin, Rochelle (Levey) Wasserman, Beverly (Morreale) Dalesandro, Marlene (Zalutsky) Golembo, and Geri (Harris) Horak, who assembled the program book. The event was held on Friday, June 21, 1985 at Eugene's Fireside in Morton Grove.

Genny and Cookie again worked with Class Reunion Inc. and chaired the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion, with the help of Dorothy (Benson) Newman, Sigrid (Jensen) Benson, and Helen (Kaufmann) Skie. It was held at the Rosemont Convention Center on Saturday, July 22, 1995. Cost was \$52 /person. [Your editor danced with Mr. Rudy Macciocchi.]

About 12 years ago, Chuck Meyer started sharing with other classmates the advantages of using the computer for searching for alumni, maintaining an alumni database, and creating a Austin Class of 1955 website. He promoted running the reunion on our own. At Chuck's invitation, seven people gathered at what was then the Sheraton Hotel by Arlington Racetrack to plan the Austin Class of 1955 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. This group became known as "The Chicago Seven." The original members were Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma, Harry Kappos, Genny (Luisi) Schroeder, Joan (McConville) Leander, Chuck Meyer, Ken Rosko, and John Spinello, and were eventually joined by Phil Grossman, Shel Marcus, Irwin Magad, Nancy (Baggio) and Mike Pasquerelli, Ed and Geri (Harris) Horak, Chuck Larsen, and Jim Padar. This energetic group of 16 members and 5 auxiliary members meets at least four times a year to plan events and outings and manage the publication of our quarterly newsletters.

We are organized as an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation named "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.," with Ken Rosko as President, Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli as Vice President, Irwin Magad as Treasurer, and Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma as Secretary. Phil Grossman is our Agent, Chuck Meyer is our Database Administrator, and Jim Padar (Class of 1956) is our Webmaster. Our newsletter distribution team is Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli, Donna (Mayfield) Harder, Genny (Luisi) Schroeder (who also manages our Drury Lane events), and Joan (McConville) Leander (who is the one responsible for 1956 grad Jim Padar joining our committee). Our excellent newsletter proof-reader is Peggy (Mrs. Charles) Meyer. We chose the Chicago Marriott O'Hare for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, which was held on October 1, 2005, and were so pleased with the accommodations and services that we held both the 55<sup>th</sup> (on September 25, 2010) and the 60<sup>th</sup> (on September 26, 2015) reunions there. Classmate Louis Weber's company, Publications International, provided program books, photo name badges, napkins, signs and banners, as well as many gifts and door prizes for these last three reunions. Many Thanks, Lou! Your generosity has been invaluable. We look forward to continuing this "labor of love" for as long as we can.

## MARINA CITY BECOMES OFFICIAL CHICAGO LANDMARK:

Whether you see “corncob towers” or the petals of a flower, Marina City’s forms reflect Chicago’s natural and agricultural past. “In our 'cities within cities' we shall turn our streets up into the air, and stack the daytime and nighttime use of our land.” - Bertrand Goldberg

Downtown Chicago (the Loop) is now one of the fastest growing residential neighborhoods in the Chicagoland area. But downtown living hasn’t always been so trendy. When architect [Bertrand Goldberg](#) envisioned Marina City, it was an urban experiment designed with the intent of drawing middle-class Chicagoans back to the city after more than a decade of suburban migration.

By creating a city within a city, Goldberg hoped the convenience of living and playing close to work would help make Marina City a success. After all, the mixed-use development was so much more than just the two “corncob towers.” When completed in 1967 it included two residential towers, plus an office building, a theater, parking for your car or boat and plenty of retail space. But were Chicagoans ready to move back to the city from the outlying suburbs? YES! When the development opened, eight percent of residents worked within the development and 80 percent could walk to work. Learn more about this iconic structure that just became an official Chicago landmark.

[http://www.architecture.org/architecture-chicago/buildings-of-chicago/building/marina-city/?mc\\_cid=50a426f773&mc\\_eid=34988688a0](http://www.architecture.org/architecture-chicago/buildings-of-chicago/building/marina-city/?mc_cid=50a426f773&mc_eid=34988688a0)

## RANDOM THOUGHTS:

“If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.” - Will Rogers

“I don’t waste time worrying about my future. Worrying about my PRESENT is a full-time occupation.” – Ziggy

“There are those who are so scrupulously afraid of doing wrong that they seldom venture to do anything.” - Vauvenargues

“Last year, I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet...” - Unknown, but could be your Editor.

“I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John," and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the "Jim", this morning. - Unknown

**TELL US WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH YOU:** 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. Photos and items of general class interest to be posted on our website should be directed to [webmaster@austin1955.org](mailto:webmaster@austin1955.org).

**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**

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