



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2 SPRING 2016



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

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

REGISTER NOW 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 the reunion-subsidized price of only \$42 per person. Friends and family and other Austin classes are welcome. As always, parking is free. Please note that seats will be assigned in order of registration receipt, so, the early birds will get the best seats. Every effort will, of course, be made to accommodate special needs. Please plan to join in the fun. **REGISTRATION FORM IS ON PAGE 4. MAIL TO IRWIN MAGAD BEFORE THE MAY 25th DEADLINE.**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, and LouisWeber for their recent donations. We appreciate your support.

REMINDER: If you enjoy this newsletter and wish to continue receiving it, we ask that you make a \$5 donation each year to defray the cost of paper, envelopes, stamps, and database and website maintenance.

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.

CLASS OF 1956 60 YEAR REUNION:

The Austin Class of 1956 will hold its 60 Year Reunion the weekend of September 15-17, 2016, culminating with the reunion dinner at the Belvedere Event-Banquets in Elk Grove Village. Multiple events are planned, including a bus trip to Arlington Park Racetrack, a tour and wine tasting at Lynfred Winery in Roselle, IL, a casual get-together at the RealTime Sports Bar in Elk Grove, and bus trips to Rivers Casino and Fashion Outlets of Chicago Mall in Rosemont. For more information and a Registration Form, contact John Rozinsky at 708-492-0216 or jrozcpa@aol.com or Marshall Hechter at 847-383-6470 or marshech@comcast.net.

LEAP YEARS:

The number four seems to play a special role in the passage of time. The time of year can be defined by one of four seasons, there are four phases of our Moon, and our measurements of time are all divisible by four. We also tend to experience major world-wide events in a four-year cycle: the Olympics, the World Cup, and the Leap Year. We see February 29 come and go, but have you ever wondered why it's there? Why is there an extra day added? Why not keep it simple with 365 days every year?

It begins with the length of time it takes the Earth to complete a full circle around the Sun, also known as the solar year. It turns out our lovely Earth takes approximately 365.242 days to complete its orbit. Rather than adding a quarter of a day every year, a whole new day is added to the calendar year every four years. This correction was first introduced in 46 BC with the introduction of the Julian calendar. If a year could be divided by 4, it was a Leap Year. Now you know (if you didn't already). [from SpringboardAmerica.com]

IN MEMORIAM:

We learned recently of the passing on November 10, 2015 of classmate Robert A. Leady. Condolences may be directed to Robert Schnuckel at duchessdog43@yahoo.com. Rest in Peace, Robert.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to classmate **Genny (Luisi) Schroeder** for the loss of her beloved sister Salvatrice (Tina) Cancilla on March 19, after a long illness. Services have been held.

AUSTIN HIGH UPDATE:

It's a done deal. [Austin High School](#) is a single campus again following a vote by the [Chicago Board of Education](#) to consolidate the campus from three schools to one. The new school will open this fall under the [VOISE Academy](#) name. The combined enrollment for all three schools has dropped by about 50 percent in the last five years, from roughly 1,100 students in 2011 to 558, according to the most recent School Report Cards.

It's a win for those in the Austin community who never supported the school's conversion several years ago to a charter school model. "I wanted it to be a neighborhood school," said Susan Hickey, a 1966 Austin High graduate. Hickey, a retired Chicago Public Schools social worker, spoke during public comments at Wednesday's meeting. CPS closed the campus and many other under-performing schools citywide in 2004. Hickey said she never believed the charter school model would work at Austin High. "I went into mourning because that was my school. When they changed it to those small charter schools, we knew it wasn't going to work. They're not really going to be open to kids from the community. It was a damn good neighborhood school."

The campus's other two charter schools, [Austin Polytechnical Academy](#) and [Austin Entrepreneurship and Business Academy](#), will be phased out, with the students from those schools accepted into VOISE. Some teachers, staff and administrators from the two charters will also likely join VOISE, according to CPS officials. The principals at Austin Polytech and the Business Academy will be let go, but teachers and administrators from those schools will be able to apply for jobs at VOISE Academy. As required by law, teachers at the two schools will receive Reduction In Force (RIF) notices before being allowed to apply.

37th Ward Ald. Emma Mitts spoke in support of the consolidation plan at Wednesday's meeting. She joined Mildred Wiley and Dwayne Truss of the Austin Community Action Council during public comments. Mitts said the charter model for Austin High was simply flawed. "It was community groups who thought that it would be better to separate and put the three schools in. That may not have been good thinking at the time," Mitts said. "It really didn't turn out, overall, to be a good plan. It's better to have one school with the kids under one principal so you don't have them going in different directions."

CPS officials acknowledge that some families had begun enrolling their children at schools outside the neighborhood. Hickey, however, said CPS will never admit that their charter school model failed. "They'll never say they were defeated. They'll say, 'Well, we're just going to a different model.' Or they'll blame it on the previous administration; they're a new administration, and they'll do things better."

Wiley said the next step is for CPS to "put the money in so we can make this school great." "We want technical support on getting back to one school," she said. "We want the investment in the curriculum and supportive services for the students because our children need a lot more of those services." [Excerpted from Terry Dean's article at <http://austintalks.org/2016/02/chicago-board-of-ed-approves-consolidation-of-austin-high-school-campus/>]

WHEATON COLLEGE CLASS OF 1959 CENTENNIAL BOOK:

In early May, 2009, Paul Sengpiehl attended his 50th College Class Reunion. At that reunion, he circulated his just published 90-page book entitled, *The Centennial Graduation Class of Wheaton College, The Class of 1959 Remembered*. Should you wish to order a copy, Paul will be happy to send you one for \$3.00 to cover the cost domestic shipping. Contact Paul at sengpiehl@yaho.com or (708) 383-8859.

PUNNIES:

- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A lot of money is tainted -Taint yours and taint mine.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT!!

Early in September 2015, classmate Bob Schulman’s wife, Anne, of Caption Associates, LLC, emailed a press release about our upcoming reunion to all major media in the Chicago area. She also wrote to the White House. Unfortunately Chicago media did not see fit to publish our story, but although the wheels of government turn slowly, Anne finally, at the end of January, received something better than a newspaper article. Here is our letter of congratulations from President Obama.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 14, 2016

I am pleased to send greetings as you gather for your 60-year reunion.

Reunions allow us to share stories of our lives since graduation and to reflect on days that helped shape who we are today. As you reunite with former classmates, I hope you cherish your time continuing old traditions and reminiscing about moments from past days.

I wish you all the best for a rewarding reunion. May you reconnect with friends and create new memories together.



Thank you a BIG bunch, Anne, for your efforts. This is very special!

MISSING PERSONS:

Classmate Peggy Miller writes: “Does anyone know where Norma Nelson is and also Beryl Shapiro? I would love to visit with both of these girls....I appreciate your help. Thank you.” If you know the whereabouts of either of these gals, please contact Peggy at PeggyMillerbsn@aol.com or Home Phone: 972-807-6769 or Cell: 214-404-8088.

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. Contact Ken if you want any.

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

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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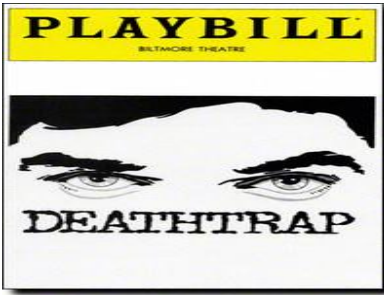
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DRURY LANE LUNCHEON/THEATRE PARTY



“Deathtrap” is a play within a play, written by Ira Levin in 1978, with many plot twists, gasp-producing thrills, and spontaneous laughter. It holds the record for the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway, and was a Tony Award nominee for Best Play. It was adapted into a film, starring Christopher Reeve, Michael Caine, and Dyan Cannon in 1982.

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

Payment due by Wednesday MAY 25, 2016 (no refunds)

Payable to: “Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.”



Name(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Number of people _____ X \$42 = _____ Check # _____ enclosed

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Select Entrée(s): # ___ Roast Beef # ___ Pecan-crusted Tilapia # ___ Vegetarian

Wheelchair seating Y/N: ___ How Many? ___

Please mail to:

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3714 Monticeto Circle
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