



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2016

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



**GOAT: Greatest Of All Time!**

**REGISTER NOW FOR OUR NEXT DRURY LANE OUTING!!** Mark Wednesday, March 15, 2017

on your calendars for ***SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, THE MUSICAL***. Music and Lyrics by: The Bee Gees. Songs from the 1977 movie include "Stayin' Alive" and "More Than a Woman." Grab your bell-bottoms and take a trip back in time with "Saturday Night Fever." Feel free to invite other Austin alums, family, friends, and neighbors. The more, the merrier! This is a nostalgic classic that will have you dancing in the aisles. (Well – maybe tapping your toes.) Join us for a delightful afternoon of good food, great entertainment, and friendly fun. And remember, 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. **COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 5, AND MAIL TO IRWIN MAGAD BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 10th DEADLINE.**

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

We are grateful to the following classmates for their generous donations in support of this newsletter: Rita (Cimino) Reczek, James Connelly, Regina (Daniel) Katz, Lois (Horwitz) Silverman, Gloria (Jaconetti) Colella, Donald Martin, Gail (Newman) Goldstein, Claire (Olson) Potter, Myra (Polifka) Dickens, Esteen (Blumberg) Portnoy, Robert Schulman, Margaret (Smith) Hayburn, Patricia (Spero) Gozzola, Robert Stefl, Lee Stone, Connie (Tosto) Fumarolo, Angie (Triolo) Jehlik, and Louis Weber. Special thanks to the **Austin Class of 1956** who donated the balance in their treasury. We also truly appreciate all your kind words about the newsletter. Thank you!

**Please make your annual \$5 (or more) donation checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd."**, and mail them to our Treasurer, **Irwin Magad**: 3714 Monticeto Circle, Mundelein, IL 60060.

## **CLASSMATE NEWS:**

Peggy and **Chuck Meyer** are slowly squeezing into their new home. We wish them good health, peace, and happiness. **Please note the new address and phone number shown on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.**

**Bill Wire** writes, "We are sorry my wife and I missed the reunion as we were in Italy at the time."

**Jackie Jones** writes she wishes she were closer, so she could help out with events.

**Bonnie (Mills) Andrise** is delighted to hear that Austin is a single campus again.

On July 27, 2016, **Lee Stone** (Class of '55) wrote: "I just wanted to update our lives. Bonnie and I just celebrated our 55th anniversary. We took our family to the Hilton Hawaiian Village for some fun and just good old hanging out together. FANTASTIC! I retired from my private pediatric practice 11 years ago and I am enjoying life. However, I must say I retired from one profession and moved laterally to my other profession. While I was in pediatrics I was also a private art dealer. So, as my wife says, I really didn't fully retire. I have specialized in American Art for about 40 years while I was a pediatrician. I have a big web site and I participate in major art fairs across the country. It is a passion, and I keep busy with artists, artists' estates I represent, print fairs and researching art work. Life is good. Thank you and of course, Stay Well.

- Soon, we old folks will use cursive writing as a secret code.
- Kids today don't know how easy they have it. I had to walk through nine feet of shag carpet to change the TV channel.
- Confucius say, "To err is human. To rub it in is divine!"

## IN MEMORIAM:

Our deepest sympathy goes to classmate **Edward Handzel** and family on the passing of his wife of 52 years, Carolyn. The mother of their four daughters, Carolyn was an interior designer, whose work brought beauty and richness to the homes of thousands of clients. In addition to daughters Cathy (Eric) Brungardt, Cindy (Jack) Conley, Chris (Rick) Pusateri, and Carrie (Billy) Worthington, Grandma Giggles leaves grandchildren Carly and Jared.

We were saddened to learn of the passing on December 12, 2015 of classmate **Anthony S. "Tony" Kapica**. Tony was a very dear friend of many, but especially, the late Pam Pouse. As a youngster, he delivered newspapers and worked in a bowling alley as a pin setter. He went on to be a professional painter for the Water Reclamation District. In his free time, Tony was a life-long Cubs fan, talking about the team as often as possible. His favorite pastimes were golf, fishing and telling a good joke.

## CLASSMATE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Congratulations to **Toby (Speck)** and Ed **Gordon** who celebrated their **60th** anniversary on July 21<sup>st</sup>, which was also **Toby's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**. Happy, Happy Birthday, and long may you LOVE!

Classmate **Irwin Magad** was the first in our class to celebrate his **80<sup>th</sup> birthday**. Family and many friends gathered on June 17<sup>th</sup> (his actual birthday) to honor him and observe Shabbat.

## OTHER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

**Celebrating 30 years of Designated Driver.** In 1986, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) introduced the country to a new concept and phrase – the designated driver- to describe the role a non-drinking driver plays in ensuring everyone gets home safely after a celebration or event with alcohol. That same year, MADD launched Project Red Ribbon, later renamed *Tie One On for Safety*®. [MADD enews 11-3-16]

**The Bikini turned 70** on July 5. 20 years after its 1946 debut, actress Raquel Welch rocked a version in fur.

**The Nuremberg Trials of Major War Criminals ended 70** years ago on October 1, 1946.

**Mount Rushmore turns 75.** South Dakota historian [Doane Robinson](#) is credited with conceiving the idea of carving the likenesses of famous people into the [Black Hills](#) region of South Dakota in order to promote tourism in the region. Sculptor Gutzon Borglum rejected the original Needles site because of the poor quality of the granite and strong opposition from Native American groups. They settled on the Mount Rushmore location, which also has the advantage of facing southeast for maximum sun exposure. Robinson wanted it to feature [western](#) heroes like [Lewis and Clark](#), [Red Cloud](#),<sup>[5]</sup> and [Buffalo Bill Cody](#),<sup>[6]</sup> but Borglum decided the sculpture should have a more national focus and chose the four presidents. Construction began in 1927, and the presidents' faces were completed between 1934 and 1939. Upon Gutzon Borglum's death in March 1941, his son [Lincoln Borglum](#) took over construction. Although the initial concept called for each president to be depicted from head to waist, lack of funding forced construction to end in late October 1941.<sup>[8]</sup> Between October 4, 1927, and October 31, 1941, Gutzon Borglum and 400 workers<sup>[16]</sup> sculpted the colossal 60 foot (18 m) high carvings of U.S. presidents G. Washington, T. Jefferson, T. Roosevelt, and A. Lincoln to represent the first 130 years of American history. These presidents were selected by Borglum because of their role in preserving the Republic and expanding its territory.<sup>[14][17]</sup> Thomas Jefferson was originally intended to appear at Washington's right, but after the work there was begun, the rock was found to be unsuitable, so a new figure was sculpted to Washington's left.<sup>[14]</sup>

Walt Disney's fourth animated film, and the first set in America, **Dumbo**, was released **75 years ago** on October 23, 1941. The loveable baby circus elephant was ridiculed for his enormous ears – but assisted by true friend Timothy, the tiny mouse, Dumbo eventually discovered he could use them to fly! In the original story, *Dumbo the Flying Elephant*, Dumbo's sidekick was a bird, not a mouse. The line in the movie, "Lots of people with big ears are famous," was a reference to **Clark Gable**. [Parade Magazine & The Perth (Australia) Mint]

## **REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!**

“December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy... No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in the righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.”  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt, December 8, 1941.

**Did You Know?** Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana cast the single vote against Congress's declaration of war against Japan? Rankin was a pacifist who had also voted against the American entrance into World War I. "As a woman," she said, "I can't go to war, and I refuse to send anyone else."

Read more at: <http://www.history.com/news/5-facts-about-pearl-harbor-and-the-uss-arizona>

This year marks the **80th anniversary** of *Consumer Reports*, a nonprofit organization providing unbiased product ratings and reviews since 1936. They put over 4000 products through rigorous testing each year.

## **FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC WILLOWBROOK BALLROOM:**

The nearly century-old Willowbrook Ballroom, a legendary dance hall and a scene for one of the Chicago area's most enduring ghost stories\*, was gutted by fire on Friday, October 28. This August, the ballroom marked its **90th birthday**.

"The loss of this historical building is a loss to the community," said Willow Springs Fire Chief Daniel Niemeyer. "A thorough investigation of the cause of this fire has begun and will be ongoing."

This is the second time the ballroom was destroyed at the same location. The building was rebuilt after a fire in 1930 and it still hosted dances with live orchestras. Founded in 1921 by John Verderbar as an outdoor dance hall known as Oh Henry Park, the establishment came to grow and flourish through the 1920's, until 1930, when disaster struck and the complex burned to ground-level ruins. Out of the ashes rose the Oh Henry Ballroom, built at the then staggering cost of \$100,000. The 1930's and 40's found hundreds of thousands in the mood to swing, as the ballroom became home to the biggest and best bands of the day, complete with its own restaurant, soda fountain and flower shop.

\* The Resurrection Mary story goes that Mary had spent the evening dancing with a boyfriend at the [Oh Henry Ballroom](#). At some point, they got into an argument and Mary stormed out. Even though it was a cold winter's night, she thought she would rather face a cold walk home than spend another minute with her boyfriend. She left the ballroom and started walking up Archer Avenue. She had not gotten very far when she was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver, who fled the scene leaving Mary to die. Her parents found her and were grief-stricken. They buried her in Resurrection Cemetery, wearing a beautiful white dancing dress and matching dancing shoes. The hit-and-run driver was never found.

Jerry Palus, a Chicago southsider, reported that in 1939 he met a person who he came to believe was Resurrection Mary at the Liberty Grove and Hall at 47th and Mozart (and *not* the Oh Henry/Willowbrook Ballroom). They danced and even kissed and she asked him to drive her home along Archer Avenue, exiting the car and disappearing in front of Resurrection Cemetery.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1973, Resurrection Mary was said to have shown up at Harlow's nightclub, on Cicero Avenue on Chicago's southwest side.<sup>[5]</sup> That same year, a cab driver came into Chet's Melody Lounge, across the street from Resurrection Cemetery, to inquire about a young lady who had left without paying her fare.<sup>[6]</sup>

There were said to be sightings in 1976, 1978, 1980, and 1989, which involved cars striking, or nearly striking, Mary outside Resurrection Cemetery.<sup>[7]</sup> Mary disappears, however, by the time the motorist exits the car. [Wikipedia]

## **Happy 130<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lady Liberty!**

A gift from France, the statue was conceived by Édouard de Laboulaye and designed by Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, to symbolize friendship between the two countries and their shared love of liberty. It was dedicated Oct. 28, 1886, and welcomes about 4 million visitors every year. [USA TODAY - 10-28-16]

## **WHAT IS ROTC?**

In response to this question asked at our 60-year Reunion last September, classmate **Paul Sengpiehl** writes: “The official definition is Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. During our years at Austin High, many schools in Chicago had a ROTC program. At Austin, all male students had an option – ‘Gym’ or ‘ROTC’.”

The ROTC class and activities were like Basic Training in the U.S. Army. There was a competition among Chicago High School ROTC programs in precision marching drill and rifle marksmanship. Every year, there was a formal Military Dress Review of all Austin ROTC Cadets at Merrick Park. At the beginning of every Student Assembly in the Auditorium, the ROTC Honor Guard formally presented the U.S. and Illinois flags. Our Commencement Ceremony included that same formal presentation by the ROTC. Honor Guard. The highest-ranking officer in the Austin ROTC was a Lt. Colonel. John Fascia, Jan. ’55 graduate, was our Lt. Colonel during his senior year. Then, Ed Handzel from the June ’55 class became Lt. Colonel, Don Knuth was Major, and Paul Sengpiehl was Captain. At the end of our Austin ROTC years of service and graduation, many of our ROTC Cadets were offered an honorary position appointment to the Illinois National Guard. John Fascia accepted this appointment, and worked his way up the ranks to become Brigadier General in the Illinois National Guard. The Illinois National Guard is the official Illinois State Military and is under the Governor’s authority. It is used for State emergency purposes and was sometimes also used in national war efforts.

The ROTC program provided an important beginning of identity with our country to our young men at that time. It also started our appreciation for the military men and women who served our country and gave their lives for our independence and freedom.”

## **BEWARE OF PHONY IRS SCAMS:**

*Irwin Magad* reminds us the IRS has announced that there is a new scam. From the *Wall Street Journal* article on October 1, the taxpayer would receive in the mail or via email, a form CP-2000. The form will request payment to the IRS service center in Austin Texas. (FYI - The IRS does have a large center there). It requires payment to an IRS Post Office Box, but this P.O. Box is not controlled by the IRS. It also requires that checks be written to the IRS and not the Department of the Treasury. Be VERY careful when reviewing IRS notices. The IRS advises taxpayers to first call the IRS before paying a bill (ha-ha if you ever get to talk to anyone). The IRS says that the notices look real and millions of people have received them. Also, **under no circumstances**, respond to a phone call that purports to be from the IRS. They DO NOT call. It’s a scam!

## **HISTORIC DEFINITIONS:**

- The French Revolution - European Ferris Wheel
- The Spanish Inquisition – Quiz show from Madrid
- The Reformation – Half-time Sports Strategy [TIME Magazine 8-1-16]

**TELL US YOUR NEWS:** If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) to share, email *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* or write to 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021. Photos and other items for our website should be directed to Jim Padar at [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; 5800 St. Croix Ave. N – Apt. C610; Golden Valley, MN 55422.**

NAME (1st, maiden, last):

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STREET ADDRESS:

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CITY, STATE, ZIP:

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PHONE (Required): \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DRURY LANE LUNCHEON/THEATRE PARTY  
MARCH 15, 2017**



Based on the 1977 hit film, the story follows Brooklyn teen, Tony Manero, in his attempt to escape his tribulations by spending weekends at the local discotheque. Watch as Tony tries to win the admiration of the crowd, as well as his heartthrob, Stephanie Mangano, with his electric moves.

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

**Payment due by Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (no refunds)**  
**Payable to: "Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd."**



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ X \$47 = \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Select Entrée(s): # \_\_\_ Lemon Sole # \_\_\_ Chicken Marsala # \_\_\_ Vegetarian

Wheelchair seating Y/N: \_\_\_ How Many? \_\_\_ Please mail to:

**Irwin Magad,  
Austin Class of 1955 Reunion  
3714 Monticeto Circle  
Mundelein, IL 60060**

**[Seats cannot be guaranteed if registration is received after February 10<sup>th</sup>.]**