



# AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2021

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



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!** We hope everyone is well, warm, and safe.

We have much to report this quarter, so we'll start with Reunion Committee and 2021 Gala Reunion news:

## MESSAGE FROM KEN ROSKO:

As we continue to address our COVID-19 mandates, it appears we are within reach of getting the COVID-19 Vaccines! HURRAH!! Therefore, we are moving forward with plans for our **October 1-3, 2021** Austin 1950s Alumni gathering at the Drury Lane Theater/Restaurant complex! Also, at this time, I want to announce the new slate of Reunion Committee officers, and acknowledge the contributions that **Marshall Hechter '56** and **Irwin Magad '55** have brought to our Reunion Committee. A huge "Thank You" to both for all their hard work and dedication over these many years: Marshall for keeping the '56 Class Database always current, and Irwin for his careful maintenance of our financial records as our Treasurer! Due to their desire to remain members of the Committee, but in less-demanding roles, **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli '55** will step in as our Treasurer going forward, and **Art Fumarolo '55** will assume the management of both the '55 and '56 Databases.

The following slate of officers for 2021 was confirmed via email on Sunday night, January 31, 2021.

President: <b>Ken Rosko</b>	First Vice President: <b>Shel Marcus</b>	Second Vice President: <b>Art Fumarolo</b>
Treasurer: <b>Nancy Pasquerelli</b>	Assistant Treasurer: <b>John Rozinsky</b>	
Secretary: <b>Kaye Aurigemma</b>	Assistant Secretary: <b>Sue Rosko</b>	

## REUNION UPDATE FROM SHEL MARCUS:

**CIRCLE THE DATE: OCTOBER 1-3, 2021 for the Austin High School '50s WEEK-END GALA REUNION!!!!**

The former 2020 Reunion event has been rescheduled to Oct. 1-3, 2021 at the Drury Lane Theatre/Restaurant Complex & the Chicago Hilton Oakbrook Suites Hotel. Look for your official registration form that will be coming in the mail soon! Once again, we will be offering a week-end of fun, food, music, memories and renewing friendships. There will be a beautiful sit-down dinner on Friday evening, an optional choice of tours on Saturday afternoon, and a casual Chicago 50's buffet Saturday evening, with games and prizes. The week-end festivities will end with an optional Sunday farewell breakfast buffet. For those who registered for the 2020 Reunion and were disappointed, your committee is ready to do it again for 2021....we deserve a great party in 2021. Look for your Registration form coming in the mail in March, and send in your deposit or full payment to guarantee your space. **REMEMBER, CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1, WILL RECEIVE A FULL REFUND!**

If other members from your class year plan to attend, get a group of ten together, and we'll reserve a table for you. If you know any other alums from the classes of 1950-1959, they will find additional registration forms on our web-site at [www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) after March 31. We look forward to seeing you.

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

We are grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: **Rita (Cimino) Reczek '55**, and **Louise (Marganti) Lutzow '54**.

**Special thanks** to those who made extra-generous donations: **Paul Abramchik '55**, **Marie (Cerullo) Niedzialek '56**, **Allen Kovin '56**, **Donald Salinger '55**, and **Marlene (Zalutsky) Golembo '55**.

Remember to mail your annual \$10 newsletter donation, payable to **Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.** to our new Treasurer, **Nancy Pasquerelli**, at 5145 Barcroft Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60010.

## MISSING PERSONS:

Several 1956 classmates have not been located or we have recently lost contact with them. If you have information about any of them please contact **Marshall Hechter** at [marshech@comcast.net](mailto:marshech@comcast.net) or call him at 847-903-4221. We will follow up and update our records.

**Anna (Amelio) Giacobbe, John Charles Anderson, Robert Samuel Butler, Jack S. Diamond, Nicholas A. Fedoruk, Roberta (Friedman) Roth, Norman W. Johnson, Mary Ann Krajceck, Marvin Oster, Evelyn Potosky, Joel Aaron Smith, Bob Walksler.** Thanks in advance for your help.

## CLASS OF 1956 NEWS:

Last November, **Marshall Hechter** notified the email list on the '56 database that he was "retiring" and turning over the class of 1956 record-keeping as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to **Art Fumarolo ('55)**. Marshall thanks all those who responded with notes of appreciation, and the following personal news items:

- William and **Sophia (Maduros) Simios** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary April 24, 2020.
- Susan and **Ralph Larsen** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> on November 25, 2020.
- **Bruce Harmel** keeps busy with gardening in the warmer months, "(native plants are my interest), and genealogy/family history during the colder months. These are long term interests."
- **Elaine (Schaezlein) Ahlgrim** checked in saying, "I get your emails. Thanks for all you have done."
- **Shirley (Harvey) Dane** is happy to get the newsletters and emails. She hopes to see us in 2021.
- **Raymond Caruso** is hoping a classmate may be able to direct him to the right resource to verify if his father **Salvatore Caruso's** High School was Austin. "I think he would have graduated sometime between 1916-1919. Can you direct me on how to locate the date?" He said, "Thanks for keeping us connected. I look forward to the newsletter."
- **John La Galante** is doing well, enjoying each day, and looking forward to the end of the pandemic. John said, "My wife Janet and I have been masking up and following the rules to keep ourselves safe. These days, a day out is a trip to Costco."
- **Rosalie Olivo** corrected our record of her Grammar School.
- **Lois (Karno) Pitalis** reported that: "People aren't looking to travel at this time, so my role as a travel consultant has been put behind me. After 45 years I've decided to involuntarily retire."
- **Anne Marie (Caldrone) Farris** wished us all good times at holidays and family gatherings.
- My baseball team Captain, **Ray Youngdahl** offered blessings to us all and reported that he and Kathy are well.
- **Harvey Shepard** told us that: "We moved to NYC one year ago to be with our two sons and two grandchildren. When we moved, I was recovering from a pelvic fracture and I've been doing physical therapy and am now in good shape. But there are still assorted health issues at 82. Chicago feels so long ago. My sister Lorna lived in Chicago for a while. She died in April of this year in Los Angeles."
- **Al Meyer** reports that: "Susan and I are both well and enjoying our children and grandchildren in Fullerton, CA. Susan is golfing, and I was bowling until the shutdown due to the Virus."
- **Shelly Chapman** waxed on philosophically: "I'm alive! and surviving all the medical woes that happen to an 82-year-old single bachelor. 'Would love to see our gang at another reunion; we were a fabulous bunch of kids.'"
- **Charlene (Bero) Stade** is happy to get the newsletter and appreciates what goes into getting those out.
- Checking in, was **Paul W. Balle** of Atlanta.
- **Ron Kopke** told us that, "I retired many years ago and during my retirement I was a city councilman for 16 years in Spring Grove, Illinois. After moving to Dublin, Ohio in 2015 to be near our kids, I became a director and President of our Homeowners Association. I have always enjoyed serving the community, so I understand the passion for the Austin High School Alumni. During the last year, my wife and I have tried to stay healthy by bike riding throughout our community which has over 150 miles of paved paths. Golf is also a welcome activity. We have eliminated travel during 2020 but hope the new vaccines will bring our lives back to normal."
- **Bobbie (Wolfson) Piell** says, "I always read the newsletter. I've been doing what most other people are doing: zooming, reading, watching tv and playing mahjong on-line. I'll be glad when this is done. None of my kids are here so I get blue sometimes and try to keep my spirits up."
- And **Herb Kanter** from the '57 class reported a new address – "We moved from our home of 45 years in west Highland Park to a condo in east Highland Park. Phones numbers are the same. Thanks."

### **GREETINGS FROM MAUREEN & CHUCK LARSEN ('55):**

The Larsens moved cross-country last Spring from their Brookfield, IL home, which had been in the family for 57 years, to their daughter Colleen's home in Oregon. Their new address is PO Box 1130, North Plains, OR 97133. Home phone: 503-433-7874; Chuck cell: 312-502-1383; Maureen cell: 312-502-6893.

Chuck fractured his hip last February, resulting in a full replacement, and developed pulmonary emboli in the fall. He enjoys many golf cart rides around the property and exploring Prime video. Maureen is delighted to have many fewer responsibilities and enjoys walking to the barn every day.

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

We were recently informed by **Ed Schwartz ('51)** of the passing of **Eddie Abrams ('51)**, **Martin Altman ('50?)**, **Arnold Ornoff ('51)**, **Sheldon Rothman ('51)**, and **Jerry Schor ('51)**. Thank you, Ed.

Belated condolences to classmate **Elizabeth (Wachs) Hassels ('56)**, whose husband James Hassels passed away on April 24, 2010.

Sincere sympathy goes to **Judy (Spero) Levin ('56)**, whose husband David passed on January 11, 2021.

### **Condolences to the families and friends of the following classmates who passed away:**

**Michael Battista ('56)** passed away on January 21, 2021. He served in the USMC in the 1950s and enjoyed a career as an executive with Max Factor in Los Angeles before settling in Florida. He was a pioneer of downtown New Port Richey, FL, purchasing, refurbishing, and operating the historic Hacienda Hotel in the 1970s. He also helped lead the resurgence of Ybor City in the 1990s as the owner and operator of Rough Riders Restaurant in historic Ybor Square. He is survived by his wife Debra, seven children, and 13 grand-children.

**John Beatty ('56)** passed away on July 18, 2020 in Sarasota, FL. He is survived by his husband of 52 years, Robert Baker, his older brother **Edward ('56)**, his younger brother Richard, and his sister Merritt Beatty Schultz. John served in the US Air Force during the Cuban Missile Crisis and had a 40-year career in banking at the Northern Trust. His final position was Vice President and Manager of the Private Wealth Management and Resources Division. John savored life, shared love, and inspired many. He is greatly missed.

**Marilyn (Curcio) DeLuca ('56)** passed away on July 26, 2020. Marilyn graduated from College of DuPage and worked as a computer analyst. She was proud to say she got two pensions from her jobs. She was known for her quick laugh, strength, and enthusiasm for sweet breakfast foods. She loved to attend church, shop for bargains at Target, hold garage sales, and work puzzles. She is survived by her four strong daughters, one handsome son, and 16 grandchildren, with whom she loved to spend time.

**Brenda (Felt) Sorensen ('57)** passed away in March 2005. Brenda taught for 32 years at Morton High Schools, retiring in 2000. She is survived by three sons, one daughter, four grandchildren, and two siblings.

**Florence (Kinnas) Regas ('56)** passed away on December 11, 2020 in CO. She was a dedicated church member and a gifted musician. She began playing the church organ at age 12. She met her husband George at church, and moved to Colorado, where she was a successful realtor in Denver and assisted in the family business, Bowlero Lanes, in Lakewood, CO. Florence is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

**Charlene (Soibel) Urow Degraff ('56)** passed away in November 2019. Charlene is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, a sister, and her best friend Marshall Sokol.

**Phyllis (Warshawsky) Tannebaum ('55)** passed away on November 17, 2017. Beloved wife of 52 years to Melvin, mother of one son, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

In honor of what would have been his 107<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 6, 2021, arguably the best Ronald Reagan quote, "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, leave the rest to God." [Elizabeth-Burns-Thompson]

## **FOOD FACTS:**

Commonly called “bounce berries,” ripe cranberries are firm and have air pockets inside, causing them to bounce. Farmers often use a bounce test to determine if their berries are ready for harvest.

Potatoes absorb and reflect radio wave signals the same way that humans do because of their water content and chemistry. So, in 2012 when Boeing needed to test their in-flight WiFi signal, scientists used 20,000 pounds of potatoes for their experiments. This project was aptly named SPUDS (Synthetic Personnel Using Dialectic Substitution).

When it comes to eating moldy cheese, it all depends on the type. Some cheeses, like Brie and Camembert, are actually made using types of mold and are perfectly safe to eat. However, soft cheeses like ricotta and cottage cheese should be discarded if found moldy. Hard and semi-soft cheeses, like cheddar and Parmesan, can be eaten after the moldy parts are cut off.

Unprocessed pistachios are dangerous. Under the right conditions, these oily, green seeds (commonly mistaken for nuts) can heat up enough to spontaneously combust. Because of this, there are strict shipping codes for pistachios.

**TELL US YOUR NEWS:** Send news to share to *Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma* at [kaurige1@att.net](mailto:kaurige1@att.net) or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021. Photos and other website items should be sent to Chris Padar at [austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com) or 408 Nawata Place, Prospect Heights, IL 60070.

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org) or mail to: Art Fumarolo, Austin High [Chicago] 1950s Alumni; 5365 Fox Path Lane; Hoffman Estates, IL 60192.

NAME (print) _____	GRAD. YEAR _____
(First, Maiden, Last)	
STREET ADDRESS: _____	CITY, ST, ZIP _____
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