



AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 18 ISSUE 4 - FINAL AUTUMN 2022

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



MESSAGE FROM KEN ROSKO, AUSTIN REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Hi all!! The following are the most challenging words I have had to put together for our group!! I am not a writer, but I will try to share with you our remorseful feelings. This is our LAST NEWSLETTER!!

Over the past year, due to physical illness, mental challenges, and deaths, we have lost half of our operating committee!! Therefore, after all these memorable and fun years, we must bring our activities to a close on December 31, 2022. So many of you have given of your time, talent, and dollars, I am afraid I would miss someone by not listing all of you, so please accept these words as our way to say, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your wonderful support & beautiful friendships over the past 60+ years.

Please take good care of yourselves and keep in touch. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

OUR WEBSITE AND EMAIL MAILBOX ARE CLOSING:

December 31, 2022, is the last date to visit our website austin1955.org or send/receive email to reunion@austin1955.org. You may want to visit the website before year-end to review some of the newsletters from the past 17 years and/or view the photos from many of the reunions and other special events, including those from the last Classes of the Fifties Reunion in October 2021. You might also enjoy the old newspaper articles about Austin. Reviewing the website may ignite fond memories of the good times we had together.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Although this is our last official newsletter under the auspices of the Austin High [Chicago] 1950s Alumni, I think/hope some of us want to keep in touch. I'm thinking about establishing a Facebook page (name to be determined), or a personal email group, through which we can continue to communicate. If you are interested in either of these, please send me your name, class, email address and/or your Facebook link. I regret paper communication will no longer be possible. I look forward to hearing from you.

Meanwhile, **Happy Hanukkah**, **Merry Christmas**, and **Best Wishes** for the **New Year!!**

Kaye Aurigemma at kaurige1@att.net or write to **10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021**.

SPECIAL THANKS must go to several people who have contributed mightily to the development and maintenance of our website, databases and newsletters. **Charles (Chuck) Meyer '55**, the developer of the Class of 1955 database and website; **Marshall Hecter '56**, the developer of the Class of 1956 database; **Peggy Meyer**, wife of Chuck, who is not an Austin alumna, but who has a keen eye and command of the English language, and who, along with **Arthur Fumarolo '55**, has kept this newsletter mostly free of punctuation, spacing, and typographical errors throughout its inception. Additional kudos to **Arthur Fumarolo '55**, who took over the maintenance of the 1955 and 1956 classes databases upon the retirements of Chuck Meyer and Marshall Hechter. Kudos also to **Chris Padar**, son of the late **James Padar '56**, who took over the maintenance of the website after we lost his dad. Not to be forgotten are the faithful members of the "stuffing and fluffing" crew, who gathered over the years to stuff, stamp, and seal thousands of written communications.

SPECIAL THANKS (cont'd):

Thank you **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli '55, Marshall and Joan Hecter, Donna (Mayfield) Harder '55, Genny (Luisi) Schroeder '55**, who was also instrumental in organizing several early Class of '55 reunions, as well as coordinating many Drury Lane Luncheon/Theater events, and **Shel Marcus '55 and Harlene Dunitz**.

In addition to the above faithful “workers,” the Committee and, we’re sure, all the alumni members, want to acknowledge the work of our fearless leader **Ken Rosco '55**, President of the Reunion Committee who, with unstinting devotion to duty, continuously fulfilled his role with care and good humor. We also acknowledge **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma '55** for her tireless work serving as the Committee Secretary by taking and writing the committee meeting minutes, preparing almost all the material for these newsletters (writing, typing, and composing the pages), working with our printer, and leading the “stuffing, fluffing, and mailing” crew. Also vital to the Committee operations have been **Irwin Magad '55** and **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli '55** who served as our Treasurers and did a wonderful job of keeping the books in balance. We also express our gratitude to **Shel Marcus '55** for being our 1st Vice-President and Chairman and Major Domo for several of our latest reunions, and **Arthur Fumarolo '55** for taking on the role of 2nd Vice-President and Database Administrator. Thank You to all of them.

The Committee is grateful to all who made donations to support our efforts and to all those who were able to attend our various reunions and activities. Your support has been greatly appreciated. THANK YOU ALL!

ALUMNI MESSAGES:

Please tell our faithful Reunion Committee members how grateful I am for their service to our class for decades!!! I don't know of any class that has had so many wonderful get togethers after graduation, and that is due only to the faithful commitment of each of the committee members. It is sad to bring this to an end, but inevitable now that we are in our very senior years!! I will always remember the gala events you all planned with such great detail. We loved them all. God bless you all. Gratefully, **Suzanne (Johnson) Peterson '55**.

Many, many thanks for the efforts these many years! - **Dr. Ron Gibbons '55**.

Thanks for doing all this - **Donald Segal '56**.

Thank you to all who worked to keep everyone up to date. Wishing you well. - **Anita (Basinger) Malcom '56**.

Thank you everyone who has made all our reunions, Drury Lane events, cruises on Lake Michigan, and all the other events very successful. It all happened because of our dedicated committee members who contributed many hours of work that they enjoyed doing. We made many friends along the way. Many of our committee members became very close friends. We took fun trips together and went out to lunch or dinner together. So it is with a heavy heart that we must end this fantastic journey.

I want to also thank everyone who came to our great events and donated much money. We couldn't have done it without you. I hope that I'll be able to stay in touch with many of you. I am proud to say that I was a member of the Austin High School Reunion Committee. Please stay healthy and continue to have fun with the rest of your life. Pray for peace in this world! - **Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli '55**.

It's time... not good-bye, but 'til we meet again!

For the last 19 years I've had the privilege and honor of being on the Austin High School 50s Alumni Reunion Committee and having fun working with new and old friends from Austin. It's been wonderful, particularly being the event coordinator for four fabulous Class of 1955 reunions: the 50th (2005), the 55th (2010), the 60th (2015), and the last one, the 65th (2021), which included all classmates from the fifties. The additional social and tour events held over the years I will never forget. Most important was the many new people I met. My life has been enriched with so many new friends. As I close the book on this wonderful experience in my lifetime, I wish to all who I met that they feel their life was enriched by our meeting and if we brought any joy to them by recalling our wonderful days at Austin High, then the effort was well worth it. It was an era we will never see again, but it was a wonderful time to grow up and live in. To all, stay safe and enjoy each day, because it's a blessing. **GOD BLESS AMERICA** and for one last time **“GO TIGERS”!** - **Shel Marcus '55**

ALUMNI MESSAGES (Cont'd):

I want to express my appreciation for all the work that all of you have put into the newsletters and gatherings over the years. I was able to attend the 50th Reunion and really enjoyed myself, however due mostly to health problems have not been able to attend all the other events. The newsletter has been fantastic and helped keep me informed about members and events. Thank you again, **Gerry (Erdmann) O'Rourke '55**.

IN MEMORIAM:

Arlene (Behr) Harris '56 died on August 29, 2022. Wife of the late Arne; mother of Lyle (Estefana); Craig (Laurie); and the late Keith; grandma of Luna, Matthew, Olivia, and Joseph; sister of the late Annette (Joe) Moss and Irving "Red" Behr; treasured aunt, cousin, and friend of many.

Robert S. Duffin '56 died in November 2021.

Joel Goldsmith, '56 died in February 2022 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Barbara, and his sons Evan de Board of Ft. Lauderdale, Fl and Derek Goldsmith of Chicago. Joel was a legend in Advertising, beginning his career as an accomplished copywriter, then a Creative Director; he quickly rose through the ranks of the top agencies in Chicago and Los Angeles to VP Executive Producer. To everyone who knew him he was the GOAT. Dapper, witty, charismatic, charming, sharp, and a dedicated mentor, Joel was beloved by colleagues and friends who often compared him to his on-screen doppelganger Dudley Moore.

Ann (Krantz) Sproat '55 died on April 7, 2022, at her residence. Wife of the late Richard; mother of Steven (Debra), David (Lisa), Christina Sadlick, and Mark (June); grandmother of 12; great-grandmother of 13.

Roberta (Natker) Pearson '56 died on August 2, 2022. She and her partner Mike Ebert were co-owners of Columbia Pine Cones in Colorado. Her positivity, energy, and genuinely kind heart will be missed by many.

John P. Rozinsky '56 of Crest Hill, formerly of Westchester, died on Friday, November 18, 2022. John was one of the leaders of the Austin Class of '56 Reunion Committee, an active member of the combined Austin Classes of the '50s Reunion Committee, and a treasured friend of this writer. John was the Assistant Controller for Borg Warner in Chicago, a past President and board member of the University of Illinois Commerce Alumni Association, past board member of the Illinois CPA Society, and was also a lifelong Chicago White Sox fan. He is survived by his wife Diane; sons John (fiancée Nina Malina), and James (Maegan); brother Eugene; and three grandchildren. Donations in his memory to the Les Turner ALS Foundation (lesturnerals.org) appreciated. Rest in Peace, Dear John.

Sandra (Youngman) Feiler '55, passed away on April 6, 2022. She is survived by her sons, Gary (Cindy) and Corey; her grandsons, Matthew and David; and her sister Joyce Heiteen.

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA:

Christmas Around the World at the Museum of Science and Industry **began in 1942** with a single tree, newly decorated every day for 12 days to represent the countries fighting alongside America during World War II. The tree was a wartime tribute to the Allies, but it also symbolized hope during the uncertain times. By bringing together so many ethnic holiday customs, the display was a reminder that there is more to join us than divide us. Since its first year, the display has certainly grown but this spirit remains unchanged. It's what makes MSI the perfect place to tour a world of traditions during the holidays.

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major problem -- funding the project. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large iron kettle into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA (Cont'd.):

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas. Six years later, the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area. That year, the combined effort nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years. Today in the U.S., The Salvation Army assists more than four-and-a-half million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods.

Captain McFee's kettle idea launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but all across the world. Everywhere, public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten.

[\[https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/red-kettle-history/\]](https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/red-kettle-history/)

Every year since 1947, Oslo, Norway, has presented London with an enormous Christmas tree that stands at the center of Trafalgar Square. The tree serves as a token of gratitude to Britain for its assistance to Norway during World War II. The tree, which usually measures more than 60 feet tall, travels more than 1,000 miles from the forests surrounding Norway's capital to London. [Travelquiz.com 10-20-22]

HANUKKAH TRIVIA: Think you know all there is to know about Hanukkah? Even those of Jewish faith who celebrate Hanukkah each year might be stumped by a couple of these trivia questions.

1. Which day of the week can Hanukkah NOT begin on? **Tuesday**
2. Latkes, or potato pancakes, are a traditional food served at Hanukkah. Before latkes were made of potatoes, what were they primarily made of? **Cheese**
3. How many different ways can "Hanukkah" be spelled? **16**
4. What does the word "Hanukkah" translate to? **"Inauguration" in English and "Dedication" in Hebrew**
5. Which act is prohibited during the eight nights of Hanukkah? **Fasting**
6. Who was the first U.S. president to light a menorah? **Bill Clinton**
7. Which oil is traditionally used to light the menorah? **Olive oil**
8. What are the names of the Heroines of Torah Study? **Hannah and Judith**
9. How many times is Hanukkah mentioned in the Torah? **Zero**
10. What is the name of the astronaut who celebrated Hanukkah in outer space? **Jeff Hoffman**
11. How tall is the national menorah in Washington DC? **30 Feet high**
12. What is the actual name of the object Jewish people light on Hanukkah? (NOT a menorah!) **A hanukkiah, a lamp with nine branches.**

SOME SENIOR HUMOR:

"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable." - Oscar Wilde

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for." - Will Rogers

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened." - Mark Twain

SOME SENIOR HUMOR (Cont'd):

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more and more repairs and replacements are necessary." - C.S. Lewis

"Always be nice to your children because they will choose your retirement home." - Phyllis Diller

"I don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet." - Rita Rudner

"I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do." - Phyllis Diller

"Nice to be here? At my age it's nice to be anywhere." – George Burns

"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up." - John Wagner

"First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down." - Leo Rosenberg

"I have successfully completed the thirty-year transition from wanting to stay up late to just wanting to go to bed." – Unknown

"The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down." - T.S. Elliot

"When I was young, I was called a rugged individualist. When I was in my fifties, I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and saying the same things I did then, and I'm labeled senile." - George Burns

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." - Andy Rooney

"The older I get, the better I used to be." – Lee Trevino

"You know you're getting old when you can pinch an inch on your forehead." - John Mendoza

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me—they're cramming for their final exam." - George Carlin

"I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap." - Bob Hope

"Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative." – Maurice Chevalier

"I have reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to." - Albert Einstein

"You know you are getting old when everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work." - Hy Gardner

"When your friends begin to tell you how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old." - Mark Twain

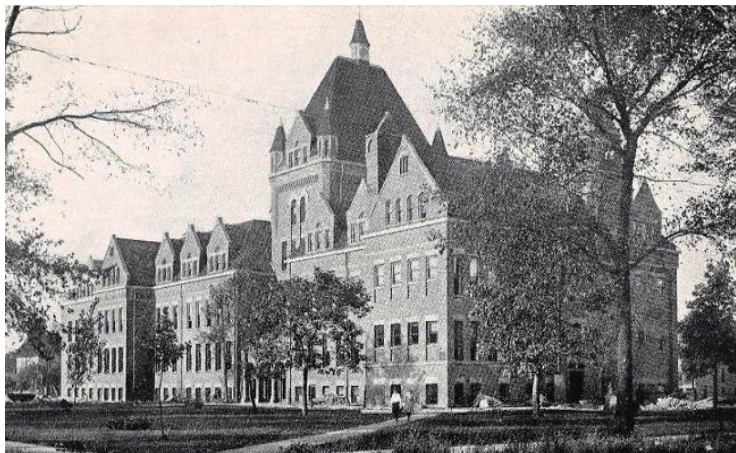
"You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks." - Joel Plaskett

"At my age 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for." – Unknown

"You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there." - George Burns

"Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician." - Anonymous

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL, THEN AND NOW:



The East "Old" building was used from 1890 to 2007. It has since been demolished. Its additions in 1898, 1906, and 1915 were noticeable by the stairs or ramped floors connecting them. When the original building opened, it served 72 students.



The Austin campus in the 1950s. In the foreground is the West "New" building which opened in 1930 and is now named the Austin College & Career Academy High School. The campus and the East "Old" building" are behind it. In 1931 the student body consisted of 6,815 students.

The Green Grill opened across the street from the East/New building, on West End Ave., in 1930.

Bill Heiland became the football coach in 1936 and served until 1966. He was the father of a member of the class of 1955, Patricia (Heiland) Wise.

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”

AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI REUNION COMMITTEE

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