

# AHS Class of 63

## May 2018 Newsletter

### *Woolgathering Edition*

*Dateline: The Outpost. May 20.* So it's late in the month for finally getting out a newsletter. We have our little excuses. One is all the woolgathering it takes to come up with a good line of thought. Another is, didja know it's full blown spring out there? All those blossoms blossoming...it's stupid distracting. So nothing got done to produce a fun storyline for the merry month of May.

**Except** for the current crisis, which is a helluva story, and wild and woolly besides. We may even have developed a new moniker: Queen Bo Peep. How's that, you say? Here beginneth the story of

### **The Dastardly Email-Theivin,' Low-Down-Dirty-Rascals Disaster.**

Seven days ago we hit "send" on a perfectly wonderful email to the class about the latest development on the Class Reunion Legacy Project. Just like normal. But then it all started going sideways—all of the emails were being opened, and some berzerko program somewhere was UNsubscribing emails as fast as they were opened. In less than 5 minutes over 120 of our class list email addresses disappeared.

Sumbuddy was a-stealin' the sheep from the fold.



Just when we thought it couldn't get worse,  
we were locked out of the system  
as a "bad actor" ... *a spammer*.

Sweet baby peaches, THAT was a STUNNER.

We had been unceremoniously chumped into the Chimpmail dungeon.

That's when we pitched a Class 5 royal snortin snitfit.

Several hours later, after some hot questions for the Chimps, it turns out that AOL and Yahoo and others had upped their game a few weeks ago. They looked at the Reunion Project email subject line—which, thanks to our characteristic enthusiasm, had lots of words in all caps, and worse, there was a scary button inside for donations— and the email handlers went blotto.

Spam sniffing dogs took over and not only classified our email as a threat...  
they ***automatically UNsubscribed over 30% of the whole class list.***

Really. World-class FUBAR. Baaaah.



After 24 hours in the dungeon, they let us out because, after all, we're only writing for sweet little ancient high school classmates, fer cryin out loud. We dove into deep resubscribe mode to try to win back the Wretched One Hundred who had been snatched from our bosom.

But after a long week, 88 of our class are still out wandering the internet wilderness, MIA. And probably don't even know it. We're not sure why people aren't opening their AHS63 emails, but we are suspicious. Likely more foul play by Yahooian and other hooligans, a-holdin 'em hostage.



But. We can go from zero to hot rocket in nothing flat—and we are still zipping all over the internet universe to find them, one by one. It's what we do. Plan C is old fashioned phone calling. Let them try to take away our phone. Daggers may be involved.

So. The preshuss 200 of you who are left to read all of this are worth more than gold. Feel it. You are more than diamonds even (\$55K per gram). More than Antimatter (\$62.5 trillion per gram, bucko).

\*Antimatter has grams? 'somethin' seldom about that\*

Being able to stay loyal forever with you guys is a top priority. In fact, keeping us connected is good for us.

It's a mentally healthy thing to do. Spading up memories and tramping around on our common septuagenarian landscape on a regular basis adds meaning to life.

No small thing, that.

In a very real way, staying connected is what our class "legacy" project is all about. Keeping teen Maroons safe and healthy and together, holding 'em fast. Read on. And lissen up.



**First and last we must plead with you to send in donations for this class project.** Part of the money we raise is to refurbish Room 265 at Austin High where kids with problems learn how to talk to each other in a group setting with a crisis counselor. Where they learn how to get connected and get something to hang on to. The other part is for basic needs funding for students in trouble.

It's the best possible way to *lessen the chance* that one of **our** kids loses his way and doesn't get the help he needs ...and then makes bad decisions.

**Like the kid at Santa Fe High School.**

**Did last week's school shooting in Southeast Texas underline the importance of what we are doing in this class project?**

**You bet it did. Keep reading.**

In an effort to keep informed about what our students are thinking and feeling, AHS has been giving school climate surveys to every kid on campus for the last 6 years. It's good data. The counselors *know who* is feeling bullied, who is feeling less-than, who is on the fringe. And they are able to pull these kids together during the school day to talk. They're taking action. Kids can and do fall down holes. Literally.



And they could use some help.

Room 265 has ratty carpet with holes in it, no windows, and torture chamber institutional lighting. A castoff room. It's not right. Ideally, kids like to get comfortable sitting on the floor (new carpet, \$1500) or sprawling on cushioned chairs or hassocks (\$2200) to open up and talk. The lights need to be softer and dimmable (\$200 each). And the volunteer parent/interior designer suggested a wonderful mural on the wall of a lake and trees and sky (\$400-800). Finally, the counselors asked if maybe there could be extras like yoga mats and bolsters for stress management classes, or "meditation" for the non-squeamish. We do not squeam. We think learning self-control and good mental/emotional practices through yoga or meditation is an obvious curriculum for teens with problems. Or for anybody.

We want to do all of this for our Reunion 55 Class Project. Room 265 will have a plaque on the wall from the Class of 63 to all future classes asking them to stay connected, to others and to themselves, and add that we care because Loyal Forever Means Loyal Forever.

**It's gonna happen.**

And just as importantly, some of our donations will go to set up a fund for counselors to be able to help youngsters when they don't have basic things, like lunch money or a clean shirt or a temporary shelter. We're going to provide a year's funding cushion for that too, so teachers and counselors don't have to reach in their pockets. Maybe we can start a tradition for each class that comes after us to do that as a 55th reunion fundraising project. Paying it forward.

**Building a legacy. We are ON IT.**

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So, to recap, here we are, trying to reach kids and **keep** them in the fold, and trying to bring the rest of The Wretched 100 AHS 63ers in internet nowhere land **back** to the fold. Industrial strength woolgathering, eh.

Meanwhile, we feel compelled to say again to all of you who are here, *while we still have you*, how important it is to pull together and rally on this "legacy" project, because we're missing so many who surely would have helped.

**Actually, some of you are already pulling twice as hard. Two of you were able to open that "spam" message and doubled your donation and sent in A SECOND check.** God luv ya.

*Only two weeks left before we need to present a check to principal Amy Taylor at the Reunion June 3rd.*

***We need more giving to get the job done.***

*Please give. Every one of you. Whether or not you can come to the Reunion, this is the way to really show up.*

*This is the last class fundraiser.*

*No other class has ever had this kind of opportunity.*

***We can do this.***

***So let's DO IT!***

***DONATE!***

*Get out your checkbook. Make it out to AHS 63 Class Project  
c/o Marcy Howard, 7212 Running Rope, 78731.*

*Or. punch the DONATE button somewhere below.*

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*The last word: Staying in touch is important. Even as we speak from disaster ground zero, you know we will always try to find you if you get lost or snatched or fall down some godforsaken email rabbithole.*

***You're not in the Loyal Forever fold jus' fer nuthin'.***

*You Count.*



*We are baaaaada\*\* loyal, forever*

HIT THIS BUTTON TO DONATE!!



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**HARVEY'S  
HEROES**

A tribute to the Best of the Best heroes  
who came to the aid of the Crossroads  
after Hurricane Harvey. pg. 12

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Sunday • April 29, 2018



## From Georgia Fariss...

I'm sending this picture to you which is about the heroes from Hurricane Harvey. Carl Beck's church was one of the groups that made many trips to Victoria helping put our city back together. So glad they used Carl's picture on the cover of the Reader's Choice Award's magazine. I hope that he will be attending the June reunion so that I can thank him personally.

*We are going to find Carl—we still have time—and intend to buy his dinner if he can come to the Reunion...thank you Georgia for sending in this beautiful tribute.*

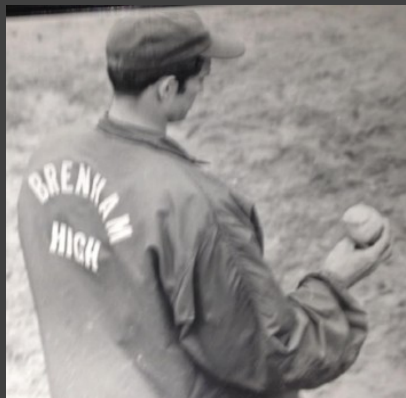
*A followup to the  
April superstition edition...*

### ***FROM THE DUGOUT***

*Coach Jim Raup  
(Age 24)*

My 1970 Brenham Cubs baseball team lost a game we should have won in Huntsville because the umpires did not know the rules and would not let me bring my star pitcher back into the game to stop us from losing a comfortable lead. In those days, only district champions advanced to the playoffs, and we simply could not lose another game.

We won 17 straight all the way to a State Championship (Brenham HS's first). As the streak progressed, my normal superstitions intensified. I tried to get dressed the exact same way I had for the previous game



(hmmm, left leg or right first? pants first or shirt?) and I did not change or wash the long white socks which one wears under the school colors stirrup socks.

Those white socks are called "sanitary hose," and by the time our winning streak culminated in the AAA state championship, those hose were anything but sanitary. To this day, I am convinced not changing or washing my socks and getting dressed in exactly the same way were critical to our victories.



## REUNION 55 COMETH JUNE 3rd

County Line on the Lake

4:30pm - Happy Hour & Non-Stop Visiting

6pm - Dinner Served Family Style

7ish - Anything Can Happen & Probably Will

**\$55 per person**

Send a check made out to AHS63 Class Reunion  
c/o Marcy Howard, 7212 Running Rope, 78731.

Deadline: May 25th.

Desperate Q's & Emergency Hall Passes: Call Terry at 512.796.7554  
or email [tbheller@gmail.com](mailto:tbheller@gmail.com)

**HAVE YOU DONATED YET? CLICK ON THIS BUTTON AND MAKE IT HAPPEN!!**

## From the AHS 63 NEWSROOM ...

Class of 63 Maroons were in the packed house at the Austin History Center this last Tuesday night for Kenny Roberts' reading from his book "The Cedar Choppers" Thanks to Linda Burk Kemp, Malone Hill, Steve Goodwin, Dudley Morse (Class of '64), Nancy Williams for representing the rest of us!



*And FINALLY, the big deal you always scroll alllllll the way down the page for  
THE MERRY BIRTHDAYERS OF MAY*

01 Norman Winters (45)  
06 Don Gregg (45)  
06 Johnny Coats (45)  
08 Eddie Dudley (45)  
08 Kris Nelson Staton (45)  
12 Helen Zander (45)  
13 Georgia Gann Flynn (45)  
16 Pebble Stone Moss (45)  
17 Suzanne Allen Gordon (45)  
17 Rhoda Torbron Spuhler (45)  
21 Terry Parker (45)  
23 Lucile Puett (45)  
24 Robb Southerland (45)  
24 Bill Barron (45)  
25 Wade Weiler (45)  
27 Don Bengston (45)  
29 Russ Sparenberg (45)  
29 Darryl Lee (45)  
29 Bill Benham (45)  
30 Ted Parrish (45)

*BTW: We don't delete people from the birthday list — we maintain the birthdays of those clever souls who were BORN to be Class of '63 Maroons, without designation for passing. AND, as usual, if you went looking here and didn't find your birthday anywhere, wellll...we don't just make those things up (except for Malone Hill, who was always magical anyway) ...*

*SO, for us to include your birthday, you gotta send it in. Okay? :) love, Terry*

**YOU'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH TO DONATE - WE NEED YOU!**  
**CLICK ON THIS BUTTON AND MAKE IT HAPPEN!!**



**LOYAL**  
**FOREVER,**  
**Y'ALL.**



**Our mailing address is:**

Loyal Forever  
2 Morton Street

Wiscasset, ME 04578