

# AHS63 April 2023 Newsletter

## Goin' Easy Edition

*Northern Outpost, Wiscasset, Maine. April 8th, 4:something am, coldish, 28°, brilliant fullish moon. It ain't easy being queen in Whiskeysit these days. The daughter now calls it Lake Woebecasset. She's not far off the mark for goofy small town drama. 'The last two weeks, this village has been in full riot mode. The little historic Episcopal church in the 'hood decided to let a drug addiction recovery organization use an office to offer counseling. On top of that, the same outfit has a million dollar grant to finish out the cavernous parish hall attic for workforce (aka affordable) housing. But the neighbors are having none of it. As a result I'm pretty much winning the Mudville Trifecta: I'm on the church staff (piano player). And am a town selectman ... up for re-election [or not] June 13th. Annnnd I live smack dab in the middle of the village—most of my dear neighbors are armed with pitchforks against the church and town hall. Checkity-checkity-check. It's a heckuva pile-up. Which might also explain why this newsletter is seven days late—but that hardly matters because it's a mortal sin to miss publication of birthdays before they occur. I owe huge apologies to **Jimmy Wilson, Warren Webb, Ronny Jones and David Mojica**. Happy Late Birthday guys—it's a big deal to me that you're still on the planet and I hope life is goin' easy forya. 'Maybe send some of that? Back to the trainwreck. It wouldn't be so bad if everybody didn't already know that the church is running out of money. Many churches are. St. Phil's is down to about 45 members thanks mostly to the pandemic—\$7500 a month would pretty much save this 200-yr old church. Not exactly 30 pieces of silver, but it's been a handy line for a lot of clever quippers this week. The thing is, the*

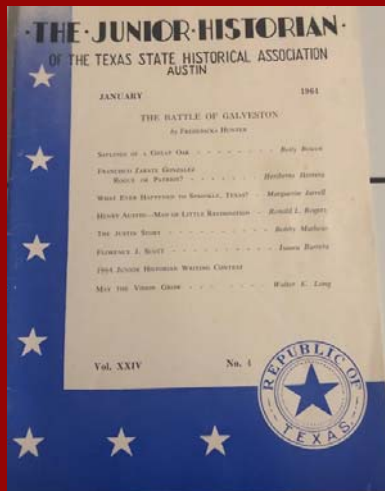
*counseling program and affordable rooming house plan are right in line with what the church has been doing all along. Tiny St. P's has been doing its food pantry program for over 40 years and its bargain basement for almost 70. Cars line up every week to take groceries to about 55 families in Lincoln County. The bargain basement sells lots of things, but people who need something get it free. The church doors don't lock—every year for the last however many, one or two folks sleep on a pew or in the library when there's no place else to go. Whaddaya know—a church that has totally been acting just like a church is supposed to act. Howsomever, as of this week, I'm on a new church policy gang of three to come up with a plan for keeping the doors open without being unlocked (tricky, eh?)—because suddenly it's unsafe. REALLY? I would ordinarily hoot and snort in a most unqueenlike manner, but ... my pitchforking friends are good people, every last one of them, even if temporarily deranged. So, my latest offer is to teach them how to write new ordinances against the things they simply cannot abide. And send 'em to the select board. It's a democracy, fer crying out loud. Use it, I say. Quit yelling and start writing. But y'know ... for the "prettiest village in Maine," it's going to look kinda odd on paper: "No normalcy counseling for 'recovering' addicts, nor shelter for people who can't pay their heating bills or get kicked out of the house etc., nor cars lining the street for handouts, nor housing for people with jobs who can't afford to live here ... are allowed in the village." Guess we'll see how that plays out. My bet is on the better angels showing up. ~Love, Queenie.*

“The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely, they will be, by the better angels of our nature.” Lincoln's 1st Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.

# Kelly Ludeke on the Teacher Who Made a Difference

Franklin Mendez's lovely article about my mother, Mrs. M. Jarrell, and her influence on his life and work motivated me to write a tribute to an AHS teacher who made a big difference in my life. It took me 30 years and a trip back to Austin for our Reunion in 1993 to pick up the phone, call Dr. Frances Nesmith, and thank her for all she did for me and share the many memories I had of her incredible Texas History course!

I was a student of Dr. Nesmith for only one semester, Spring, 1963. But during those few months she stirred in me a passion for history and the pride of being a Texas; the excitement of "digging" in ground that had previously sat undisturbed; and the love of writing about all I had discovered! She was the most encouraging mentor who cheered her students on and challenged us to "dig" deeper. We learned how to do original field study research which I, in turn, taught my elementary social studies students. I will always be grateful for the "fingerprints" Dr. Nesmith left on my life.



Franklin Mendez took first place in the Wesley Art Show at Laguna Gloria in the spring of 1963, which came with a scholarship award of \$100. That was the equivalent of the tuition for one year at UT. My term paper "What Ever Happened to Sprinkle, Texas?" was submitted by Dr. Nesmith and published in *The Junior Historian*, January, 1964. Franklin and I were both blessed by teachers who inspired, encouraged and cared about us.

What a privilege it is to be a graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School, and we will

always be ... LOYAL FOREVER!

## FROM JIM RAUP — THE 60TH REUNION CLASS PROJECT



*AHS "Project Committee" with Sherri Grubb, counselor.  
Mary Ann Mellenbruch Meigs, Barbara Huber Ward, Mollie Gregory  
Tower, Sherri Grubb, and Jim Raup*

On March 2, several members of the Class met with Sara Stewart, AHS Librarian, to discuss if and how we can help her. Her immediate pressing need was with Austin High's archives, which are stored in a large room in the Library. Money for materials would be helpful, but what she really needed was personnel help to organize, categorize, manage, shelve, and store the materials and items Austin High grads donate each year. At the present time, the archives area is a bit of a mess.

We were in luck! Linda Burk spent her entire career as TEA's Librarian, and Tina Lawson retired as Supervising Archivist of the LBJ Library. Tina pointed me in the right direction at UT, and I started firing off emails. The School of Library Science is no more; the programs are encompassed within UT's School of Information (ISchool). I will not bore you with my bumbling around within the ISchool, but I finally found/was directed to the right person.

Lindsey Wilson was the Graduate Career Coach, and she supervised masters-level student archivists. She was enthusiastic about the UT student archivists' helping with the Austin High archives. She suggested making this work a Capstone project for UT's student archivists next fall and for every semester to follow. A Capstone project is the final academic requirement for these student archivists, and the students must successfully complete the work in the real world to earn the masters degree. This is perfect, and Austin High's Principal quickly approved the project.



On April 6, Lindsey and Sara met via Zoom to discuss and to plan for the Capstone project next fall. Lindsey told me the meeting went very well, but I have not heard from Sara yet. I am hopeful our great Class has enabled the school Librarian to obtain ongoing expert student help with the ever-growing archives collection at Austin High. Loyal Forever? Yes we are!



*Meeting with Sara Stewart in the "Safe Room."*

Okay people.

I have several reminders from the Reunion Gang.

First, the THIRD invitation to the 60th on the 30th (April)  
is coming out next week. Look for it. Send in your check!!

**60th Reunion - April 30th - County Line - 5pm**

**\$60.00 per person**

**CHECKS ONLY - IN ADVANCE ONLY - BY APRIL 15th**

Your check is your reservation!

Make check payable to:

**AHS '63 CLASS REUNION**

And send it to:

c/o MARTHA SANSOM  
4301 BARKLEY DRIVE  
Austin TX . 78727

**Questions?**

Call **Nancy Williams** at **512.657.7882**.

Second, check out the **60th Reunion Facebook page** and  
see the list of people who are coming!  
Sort of a fun thing to do, and hopefully YOUR name will be on it.

I went off and dug up an FB logo  
and loaded it with the link  
and stuck it on here so you'd

**CLICK ON IT.**



SO CLICK ON IT ALREADY.

**AND FURTHERMORE,**

we have a class website with our own webmaster

**Bonnie Isaac**

who does a bang up job of keeping every scrap of information  
on our class—from newsletter archive to the In Memoriam list.

**CLICK ON MR. MAROO**





FOR THE CLASS WEBSITE PAGE



## **April Birthday Kids**

**04 Jimmy Wilson (45)**

**04 Warren Webb (45)**

**05 Ronny Jones (45)**

**07 David Mojica (44)**

**12 Mike Butler (45)**



**16 Linda Holliday Boyd (45)**

**16 Becky Maufrais Leggett (45)**

**18 Camey Spaulding Stewart (45)**

**18 John Yeager (45)**

**18 Mary Ann Mellenbruch Meigs (45)**

**21 Kelly (Marguerite) Jarrell Luedeke (45)**

**23 Charlie Morton (45)**

**25 Shirley Zenkner Scott (45)**

**28 Chuck Newell (45)**

**30 Larry Burk (45)**

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**And here's the new deal for You Birthday People:**

On your birthday or during this birthday month, take a minute  
and maybe think back 60 years to your birthday month  
during your senior year at Austin High.

What was going on? Is there something that sticks out in your mind?

That's what THIS MONTH'S birthday kid Kelly Luedeke did!

**So. APRIL Birthday People—lissen up.**

**It's your turn.**

Please tell me what **you just remembered** while you were reading  
Kelly's story about the teacher that deeply influenced her life ...  
and then **send it to me at the link below.**

***Pretty please? Sugar on it?***

**[CLICK HERE](#)** TO SEND ME A STORY

Actually, this kind of remembering is one of the best parts of getting together at reunions. But not everyone can come, and so we miss a voice and a connection.

Now's the time to do this ...

**...while we're all still here having birthdays.**

Got it?

Got a birthday? Don't see it? Just hit reply and send me your birthday/year and you'll make the big time right here. Guaranteed. Q.



Bob Bodoïn, Mary Williams, Kenny Roberts, Lulu Peal, Hank Hundley,

Meiling Lung, and Malone Hill

# LOYAL FOREVER Y'ALL

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You are on this list because you are brilliant & still drink from the fountain of youth known as Loyal Forever  
- the AHS Class of 63

**Our mailing address is:**

Loyal Forever

2 Morton Street

Wiscasset, ME 04578

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***Loyal Forever***  
**means**  
***LOYAL FOREVER!***

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