

# AHS63 August 2023 Newsletter

## *Lions 1, Christians 0 Edition*

*Northern Outpost, August 1st, 72° ... y'all need to come up for a spell ... but then, the villagers are bringing some heat here, so maybe take your lobster roll down to the docks, okay?* 'Land sakes, as my mother would say. Not sure about the expression, but Mom's words seem just right for venting a little Christian exasperation. It's been a coupla weeks. The dust is still settling since the Great Whiskeysit Showdown between the village nimbys and little St. Gufi's (everybody gets an alias in this column). 'Thought it was going to be more like a proper shootout at the OK Corral. But—spoiler—the bad guys won, which is definitely not the great 'merican western scenario. More like 4th century Rome with angry lions prowling the arena and rabble in the stands. (Where the hell is Daniel when you need him?) 'Thought I was gonna die. Eighty people showed up for the selectboard meeting Tuesday-week ago. You can't get more than 60 people in Town Hall, so they were standing in the vestibule and outside the door, probably hanging from the lamp posts. Nobody remembers that many people coming to a selectboard meeting. Ever. The agenda item in question was about approval of a business license for a recovery center to be housed in one of the offices of the church. One-on-one peer counseling for people in recovery from drug addiction. Plant the words "in recovery" firmly in your mind. As in AA. These are people who are clean already. The program application was approved by the county planner and the town planning commission. Pretty much a rubber stamp item for selectboard action. Board members were heard to say before the meeting that it was a done deal. BUT. THEN. Neighbor #1 stood up and said she was afraid of drug dealers sleeping on the steps of the church. I thought, WHAT? Neighbor #2 said that if her property values were going down 50% then she was only going to pay 50% of her taxes. Unbefreakinglievable. And THEN #3, a PA who assumed he was a real doctor, got up and talked about needles on the streets and little children and mental instability and axe murders. REALLY PEOPLE? What's next? The Texas Chainsaw Massacre? It was the stuff of nightmares in small town politics. I had

heard it all before of course—and had given the neighbors the factsheets on the program. So it had been quiet for weeks. Right. They'd just gone underground. Meanwhile, back to the meeting—the chairman lost her nerve and gaveled down the uproar, Mr. Roundhead moved to table and Mz. Librarian quickly seconded, which pretty much deep-sixed the program. I had recused myself from the discussion and vote since I'm a regular at St Gufi's playing the piano. Which would be perceived as tainting my ability to call a chainsaw a chainsaw. Which is a pile of horsepucky. Whatever. They say I appeared calm, but they didn't know I had bulletproof pancake makeup on my cheeks to keep them from flaming up like they always do when people say stupid things. I can't play poker without four layers of Beauty Counselor kevlar. Anyway, next day, Mr. White Hat, the recovery program CEO, pulled the plug and is taking his program to the next town. There goes \$1500 a month for the church. BUT. He's not really going anywhere. 'So happens that St Gufi's has a million dollar contract with White Hat on a state-funded affordable housing project. And this time, WH has lined up the big guns from Maine Housing to come to town. Turns out, it's one of the governor's signature programs. *Whoa, Nellie. It sooooo ain't over. Maybe y'all stay well south of Lincoln County ME for awhile ... might be cooler in Texas.*

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### *A Note from Kelly Marguerite ...*



Terry:

Could you mention that we are gathering updated contact information that can be accessed online eventually? We might also have new directories at the 80th Birthday Bash (—still thinking on it). [SO MENTIONED! :) ]

**Please ask everyone to respond to Kelly via email [[Click HERE](#)] even if their contact information has not changed. We want to know that our classmates are okay!**

We also want to be aware of life-changing information: death of spouse or family member; illness or surgery, etc. (There are prayer warriors in our class who would lift up these concerns!)

This is all to check in with everybody and stay connected! [GOT IT! CHECK!]

And I was thinking how fun it would be to have a recent photo (or near recent photo) of our classmates engaged in something they love to do ... just a thought for the directory. [CHECK! PHOTO!]

And tell everyone:

**We're having an 80th Birthday Bash,  
Spring of 2025!**  
Send in your ideas to make it a true celebration!

Love you! [LOVE YOU BACK!]  
Kelly

PS! We're creating a legacy project: Did you have grandparents, parents or children who graduated from AHS? It would help us if you would include the graduation year and maiden name of the female (mother/daughter etc) graduates.

[OKAYYY! get ready for another email clicker: [CLICK HERE](#) to send legacy project info ... parents/children, etc, who graduated from Austin High, include graduation year!]

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*Ya kno, I just added it up ... if everyone clicks on each link above and sends in info, Kelly is going to get 568 emails!*

*Heh. I say GO for it! It'll shake up that little San Miguel laptop pretty good ... 'bet it quivers for days ...*

*A Note From Franklin ...*



Terry, I wanted to share this event with the class as it is a collection of my art since high school—the culmination of a lifetime of work—at the invitation of the Old Emporium Bakery and Gallery. I am humbled and grateful that I am given this opportunity to show my work here in my community.

I hope you are well.  
Loyal Forever  
Frank

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*I love keeping up with you, Frank—what a cool thing for an artist to get to see his life's work all lined up on the walls. I hope everyone can go see it sometime during September or October.*



## August Birthday Kids

**04 Mina Hawkins Doshier (45)**

**Happiest Birthday Mina Jo! I'm sorry I missed it by publishing a day late, but you are soooo loved !!!**

**07 Michael Pendley (45)**

**08 John Calhoun Miller (45)**

**15 Carl Beck (46)**

**15 Rodney Smith (45)**

**18 Bob Schoen (45)**

**22 Roxanne McCown Keel (45)**

**23 Nancy Douglas Moore (45)**

**23 Jo Ann Johnson Weston (45)**

**25 Bonnie Isaac (45)**

**28 Mary Jo Culp Parker (45)**

**30 Georgia Lochridge (45)**

**30 Kathy Shive Matthews (45)**

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HEY!

I can come up with Whiskeysit stories all day but  
wouldn't it be GREAT if you birthday kids sent in some fun stories?  
or just check in with the rest of us about what's going on?  
maybe you're taking a trip of a lifetime (I know at least ONE!)  
and this is a good time to tell about it!

WHAT ELSE WERE YOU GOING TO DO  
WITH ALL OF THAT GREAT STORY MATERIAL?

Send it in, how bout it?

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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.

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Bob Bodoïn, Mary Williams, Kenny Roberts, Lulu Peal, Hank Hundley,  
Meiling Lung, and Malone Hill

## ***LOYAL FOREVER Y'ALL***

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- the AHS Class of 63

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