



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXIX, No. 4

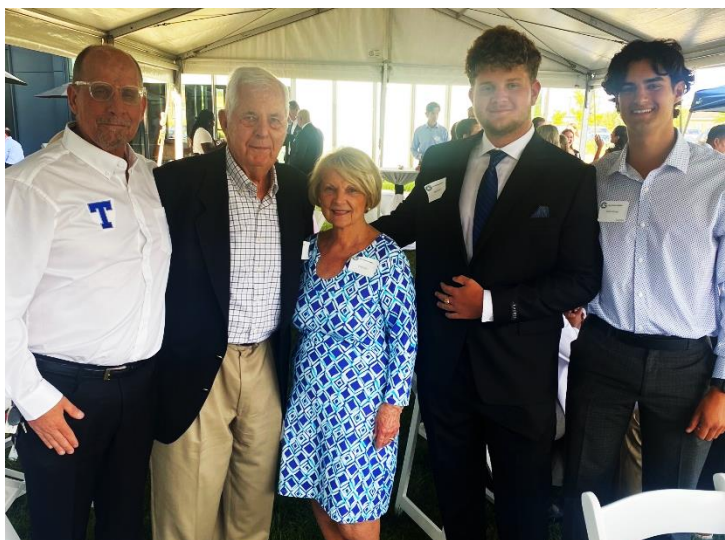
Fall 2023

Capital Improvements at Taft

Over the summer, Taft saw a number of capital improvements including the installation of two decorative brick corner walls, a nine-hole artificial turf putting green to be used by the golf team and PE classes, and the planting of fifty trees at the varsity campus with help from Alderman Anthony Napolitano.



At the corner of Natoma and Bryn Mawr, the wall will display signage stating, "William Howard Taft High School Est. 1939. Home to the Musical Grease. Donated by the Class of 1959," and at the corner of Natoma and Hurlbut, "William Howard Taft High School Est. 1939. Home to the Musical Grease. Donated by the Taft Alumni Association."



Attending the Chick Evans Scholarship Reception held at the Western Golf Association's headquarters in Glenview are Principal Mark Grishaber with Evans Scholar John Grud (June '58) and his wife, and David Jozwik (2022) and Martin Krongo (2021), both of whom attend University of Wisconsin on the Evans Scholarship.



Marty Paluga (June '58) donated \$25,000 toward the cost of the putting green. Paluga is one of 37 Chick Evans Scholars from Taft. A bench will be added to pay tribute to the program for caddies and its many Taft recipients.

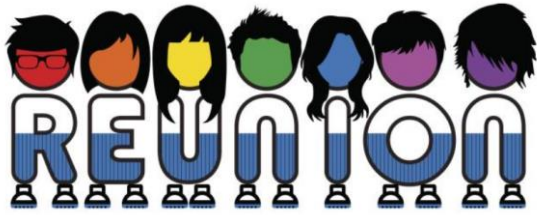
Taft Cheer Boosters

GIMME A "T"! GIMME AN "A"! Are you a former Taft cheerleader? Looking for a way to connect with the cheer program? The new Taft Cheer Booster Club would love to hear from you! Follow them on Facebook (Taft Cheer Boosters) and Instagram (@taftcheerboosters).



Dues Increase Coming

We knew it was inevitable, but we held out just as long as we could. Back in February 2001, Taft Alumni Association membership dues were increased from \$10 to \$15 for a two-year membership, and couples' memberships were introduced at \$20. Effective January 1, 2024, due will be increased to \$20 for singles and \$25 for couples for a two-year membership. Renew now to beat the increase!



Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, October 28, 2023, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

New Location: Beardsley Recreation Center Patio, 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Contact: Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com); Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com)

Details: \$5 per person (includes a raffle ticket), bring a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers. TAA baseball cap raffle. Families welcome.

14th Annual Taft All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 6:00 pm

Location: Moretti's Edison Park

Taft Class of 1974 50 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024

Location: Moretti's Edison Park

Contact: Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhelloworld@hotmail.com 858-353-3559), Sharon (Kasluga) Biernat (Sharon.biernat@gmail.com 847-644-1030), Donna (Schaller) Evans (Evans56@sbcglobal.net 847-271-4011 text only), Phyllis (Sust) Clare (pclare77@gmail.com 469-237-9509), Lynne (Michalek) Donald (lmdonald@hotmail.com)

Oriole Park Class of June 1961 Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2023, 5:00 pm

Location: Moretti's Rosemont, 9519 W Higgins Rd

Contact: Nancy (Wendt) Gunning (grannynanny1947@gmail.com)

SoCal All Class Get Together



Front: Ursula (Walczynski) Clancy '76, Gail Uhlar-Murray '76, Gail (Steelhammer) Cohen '64, Gail (Ponce) Bixler '68, Jan (Ostromencki) Savage '74. Back: Bronwyn (Strass) Estephan '76, Linda (Gawlik) Newell '76, Carol (Chapas) Warpinski '76, Mindy (Mirek) Bortness '77, Patrick Raetzman '57, Patrick Collins '68, Jim Bixler '66, Scott Turcotte '72. Also attending

were sisters Vicki (Bollman) Sturo '76 and Cindy Bollman '75. A special thanks to Mike Day '60 and Paul Lucinda '61 for starting our annual get-together!



A Convocation of Eagles

It was another successful Taft All-Class Reunion that took



place in Schiller Woods on August 19. Said Angela Yates-Baker (1989), "When the Eagles link up, it always a grand



time!" They just can't hide their Eagle Pride. While the event attracts a "younger" crowd from the 80s and 90s, it did not stop these unnamed alumni from joining in representing the classes of '60, '62, and '65.

Class of January and June 1963



Front: Barb (Puccinelli) Montsvil, Kathy (Adreani) Thiel, Madge (Fizzell) Pierce, Ellamae Braun, Cheryl (Henninger) Krupa. Back: Karen Nothacker, Ruth Ellen (Frame) Van Reken, Sharon (Olson) Rainey, Art Seplak, Marge (Stewart) Doud, Ray Bebee, Alice (Ackert) Davenport, Donna

(Griessmer) Catlett, Wayne Andersen, Jeanette (Olsen)
Gilbertson, Alice (Mohrman) Kosnik, Gloria (Ryza) Winter

Celebrating our 60th Reunion in Northbrook, IL with a feast of Lou Malnati's Pizza and Salad. We even sang the Taft Fight Song and shared good memories of Taft days. We also provided a Zoom call for those who couldn't make it.

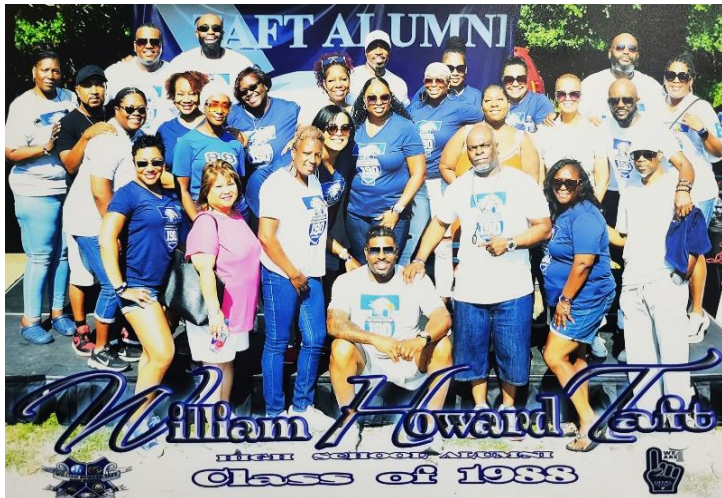
Cheryl (Henninger) Krupa

Class of 1971 Mini Reunion

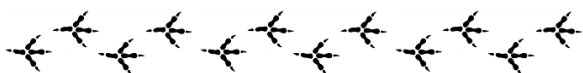


It's always fun when the Taft Class of '71 gets together for a mini-reunion — this one at the Garage Bar on Milwaukee Avenue. We do this a couple times a year, and last night perfect weather and a larger turnout.

Class of 1988 35 Year Reunion



These Eagles celebrated 35 years at the annual All-Class Reunion at Schiller Woods on August 19.



Class of 1993 30 Year Reunion



Class of 1993 rocks around the clock during a school tour.

Messages from Our Members

I just finished reading the Spring issue. Interested in the article on "Grease" as in 1983 I was in Chicago visiting with my mom and was thrilled to see "Grease". I guess the class of June 1951 isn't having anymore reunions. But classes from the 40s are still meeting. We Midwesterners are pretty healthy.

Myra (Andres) Fisher, June '51

I am happy to enclose a check to renew my 2-year membership and a small contribution to the Association. I am 91 and still writing. Cheers!

Sheldon Mehr, January '49

My thanks to the Board of Directors for all you do!

Louise (Andersen) Handley, January '65

Keep up the good work you all do for us!

Deby Nyberg, 1971

Still going strong. Just celebrated our 48th anniversary, both being retreads. Our oldest kids are all retired, grandkids in their most interesting years. One grandson retired from the military and is following in Paul Rebscher's [January '53] footsteps flying cargo 777s all over the world. Fourteen grandkids, 15 great-grandkids, and two adopted families, another 5 "grandkids" to enjoy. Still broadcasting on WGN after 63 years, and still writing for trade publications. We enjoy the newsletter and hearing what our classmates are up to.

Jim Fizzell, January '53

Member Activities



Dr. Margo Apostolos (Jun 1967) announced the release of her second book "Dance as a Catalyst" by Kendall-Hunt Publishers. As this year's President of Faculty, she carried the ceremonial mace at the August USC Convocation.

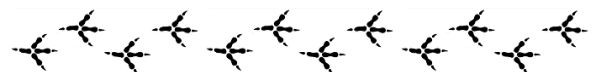
During his recent visit to Washington DC through Honor Flight Chicago, Bob Royce (Jun '67) stopped at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial where he located the name engraved on the wall of classmate Spencer Goethe (Jun '67) who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1970



In July, Taft alumni gathered for a "White with a Splash of Color" all-class cruise, rocking the yacht aboard the Anita Dee II out of Navy Pier.



Frank Schmeda (1986) generously offered free clothes, snacks and water to asylum seekers visiting the nearby Illinois Department of Human Services office. Soon his neighbors all joined in the effort. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago





TAA Interim President and Treasurer John Prochaska (Jun '61) was honored in the 2023 Park Ridge Memorial Day Parade for his 48 years of service as the chairman/organizer of the parade from 1974 to 2022.



Ernie Day (2020) was drafted in the 14th round of the MLB draft by the Seattle Mariners in June. He is a right-handed pitcher who joins big-name

players like Jack Suwinski of the Pittsburgh Pirates to be taken in the MLB Draft after attending Taft. Day credits Taft Head Coach Richard Pildes for his success.

On July 25 Leo Drummer (Jan 1957) celebrated the 24th anniversary of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at White Sox Park! "Hot Dog!" said Drummer, "It brought back the old days of pitching at Taft in the mid 1950's, with a great team, and the outstanding coach, Jim Smilgoff. (By the way, I'm a Cubs fan!)"



Double Celebration!

We are pleased to invite you to the Ninth Induction to the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame, and the Ozaki Garden Dedication on the main campus.

Date:

Taft Homecoming, Friday, October 13, 2023

Time:

5 PM Ozaki Garden Dedication and presentation of plaques to HOF inductees or their representatives who are invited to say a few words. Light refreshments will be served.

7 PM Homecoming Football Game.

Location:

Taft High School (6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631) in the Forum (Room 162) overlooking the Ozaki Garden, located at the northeastern corner of the campus, close to the corner of Hobart and Northcott (half a block south of Avondale and half a block east of Hurlbut Street). Attendees will be able to enter the building by walking through the Ozaki Garden and entering through Door 3B.



1940s

Jeannine (Forrest) Gibbens (Jun 1948) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Tulsa, OK, BS Educ, is a retired teacher.

Robert Machon (Jun 1948) married Marillyn Kane, deceased (Jun 1948), has 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Madison, WI, MSU BA '52, Northwestern BA '68; US Air Force, 1st Lt, Korean War 1952-54, is a retired insurance agent.

Sheldon Mehr (Jan 1949) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Locke, lives in Los Angeles, CA, UCLA BA Music, Educ, Cal State U MA '59, is a music educator.

1950s

Dale Kendrick (Jun 1950) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Libertyville, IL, Wright Jr College; NIU DeKalb; US Army, is a semi-retired owner/operator of Barnaby's Restaurant in Des Plaines since 1969.

Ed Archambault (Jun 1951) has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Haddam, CT, DeVry '53; US Army Signal Corp - television engineer, is a retired senior technical director for WGN Broadcasting.

Carol (Dehlinger) Doyle (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, Illinois State College BS Edu '55, Nat'l College of Educ '82, is

a retired teacher of PE and special needs at Skokie Jr. High, Jan '51 was a small class, June a bit larger--was this the last of the "small" graduation classes 72 years ago?

Myra (Andres) Fisher (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Woodland Hills, CA, Ohio U BSJ; UCLA Ext PR certification, is a retired freelance writer of Hospital Employees Newsletters, et al, met Joanne (Dass) Black the first day of school in September 1947 and Facetimes with her daily.

Nancy (Zuehlke) Winkates (Feb 1952) married Bob Winkates (Jan 1952), has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is retired.

Bob Winkates (Feb 1952) married Nancy Zuehlke (Jan 1952), has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Northwestern U BA, is retired.

Joyce (Christensen) Johnson (Jun 1952) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired receptionist, enjoys life and family.

Verelle (Murphy) Leaton (Jun 1954) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Edgebrook, lives in Carbondale, IL, Beloit College, UI BS '58, is a retired teacher.

Ray Whitehead (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Landrum, SC, DePaul U BA; UI MA, EdD, is a retired musician, educator, and insurance agent.

Robert Yates (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Huntley, IL, is retired.

Mary (Pastuszka) Sikorski (Jun 1955) married Fred Sikorski (Jun 1959), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended St. Constance, lives in Mundelein, IL, Wright Jr College AA, is a retired office manager and homemaker, celebrated 65 years of marriage.

Jean (Young) Sliwa (Jun 1955) attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired auto mechanic.

Marilyn (Treadway) Armentrout (Jan 1956) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Irvine, CA, U of Chicago BS '59, is a retired director of personnel at UC-Irvine School of Engineering.

Ruth (Mathisen) Blomquist (Jan 1956) married James Blomquist, deceased (Jan 1956), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Lakemoor, IL, North Park College 2 years, is a retired FDIC investigations tech.

Carol (Anderson) Montgomery (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Beaubien, lives in Colorado Springs, CO, MA Edu, is a retired educator.

William Weiskopf (Jan 1956) married Carol Soderstrom, deceased (Jan 1956), has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Denver, CO, Northwestern U BS BA '60, MBA '67, is a retired CPA.

Allen Meskan (Jun 1956) has 3 children, 26 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Addison, IL, BS Mech Eng, is a foundry engineer.

Leo Drummer (Jan 1957) has 1 child, attended Oriole Park, lives in Geneva, IL, Wright Jr College, UI Urbana, is a retired regional ice cream sales and plant manager.

Susan (Goetz) Aldous (Jun 1957) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Sauganash, lives in Salt Lake City, UT, Northwestern Dental School, is a retired registered dental hygienist (RDH).

Priscilla (Deck) Woodworth (Jun 1957) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, NIU 1 year, cosmetology school 1 year, is a retired cosmetologist and school bus driver.

Roger Blocks (Jan 1958) married Marjorie Eaton, deceased (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Three Lakes, WI, Purdue U BS Metallurgical Engr; US Army Corp of Engineers, Captain, 1962-69, is registered engineer and retired president/chief engineer at Chem-Al, Inc.; teaches aerospace to civil air patrol cadets, played a key role with the Saturn V exterior controls, prelaunch, space shuttles; Wall of Fame, at The Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia; remarried Barbara Weber.

Sharon (Hinds) Nystrom (Jun 1958) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Barry, lives in Westlake Village, CA, is retired.

Dorothy Engels (Jun 1959) attended Norwood Park, lives in Chicago, IL, Drake U BFA '63, is a retired UAL flight attendant of 38 years.

Penni (Eichin) Isaacson (Jun 1959) attended Wildwood, lives in Deerfield, IL, UI 2 years; Moser Secretarial, is a retired needlepoint designer and shop owner.

1960s

Paula (Brockstein) Adams (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Montgomery, TX, BS, MS Science; Museum of Fine Arts Certified in Watercolor Painting, is an artist and retired teacher, was married 50 years to Dave Adams, now in a relationship 5 years.

Rich Swanson (Jan 1960) has 1 child, attended Ebinger, lives in Liverpool, NY, IIT BS Math '64, NEIU MA Math Edu '68, OSU PhD Math Edu '72, is a retired author, mathematics education professor and school district supervisor, we've slowed down but continue to enjoy travel and cruising including US river cruises; we visit Chicago most Septembers and would love a mini reunion.

Mike Day (Jun 1960) attended Garvy, lives in Vista, CA, UI BS Bus, CPA, CFP, Series 7 Lic. (Investments), Life Ins. Lic., is a retired CPA and financial planner, happy to have helped to start an All-Class Reunion in the San Diego area several years ago and reconnect with several classmates.

Ray Fairbank (Jun 1960) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Des Moines, WA, Golden Gate U MS Communications; LSU Amer Stud; US Navy, Aviator, Vietnam; US Air Force, Captain, Medical Service Corp Desert Storm, is a retired insurance broker/owner; VFW and American Legion commander, married Linda, a former Air Force flight nurse in Desert Storm.

Lorna MacLeish (Jun 1960) attended Norwood Park, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Ripon College BA '64, is a retired office manager.

John Majka (Jun 1960) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Louisville, KY, UIC BS Engr; US Army Sgt E-5 3 years, Vietnam 2 years, is a retired engineer and educator, has been a ham radio operator on K9AAN for 63 years.

David Orland (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Rio Vista, CA, studied Business Admin., is a retired rancher, DOD/Housing Dir., architect, and general contractor.

John Turk (Jun 1960) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in McKinney, TX, UI 2 years, is a retired tool engineer.

Holly (Nielsen) Rogers (Jan 1961) attended Ebinger, lives in St Helena, CA, St. Olaf College 1961-63, North Park College BA '66, is retired, plays flute, and manages the St. Helena Community Band.

Linda (Leshuk) Davidson (Jun 1962) has 6 children, 12 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Palatine, IL, Wright Jr College; U of WI, is semi-retired from building management.

Pamela (Kostenko) Kramer (Jun 1962) attended Lincoln Pk Ridge, lives in West Chicago, IL, BA, MLS, Advanced Certification, is a retired school library consultant.

Ken Lindenau (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Royersford, PA, is retired from advertising.

Phyllis Miller (Jun 1962) has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Crescent City, FL, Roosevelt U BA Eng, UI MSW, is a retired executive for the State of Illinois Dept of Public Aid.

Ray Setzke (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Wimauma, FL, US Navy '62-'66, is retired, plays softball, pickleball and travels.

Raymond Bebee (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in West Chicago, IL, Elmhurst College 3 years Bus Mgmt; Diakonia 2 years Theology; USAF 1966-1970, is a retired manufacturing manager and self-employed, married Laura Maas from Detroit, Michigan.

Ellamae Braun (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Carpentersville, IL.

Linda (Schneider) Koziol (Jan 1964) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Glendale Hts, IL, Roosevelt U BA, NIU MS, is retired.

Bill Mazurek (Jan 1964) has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Westcliffe, CO, Air Force Academy BS, Capital U MBA; US Air Force 5 1/2 years, is retired.

Michael Parquette (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, attended Our Lady Of Victory, lives in Wonder Lake, IL, US Army '65-'67, is a retired field operations manager with Ameritech.

Jayne (Drummer) Rains (Jun 1964) has 1 child, attended Oriole Park, lives in Gilbert, AZ.

Dale Schunk (Jun 1964) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Greensboro, NC, Boston U Med '74; Stanford U PhD '79; Captain, US Air Force 1968-74, is a professor, was inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Richard Anderson (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Telecomm technical training; US Army '66-'68 active, is retired from telecommunications.

Lou (Andersen) Handley (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, EIU BS Ed '69, is a retired secondary English teacher.

Al Kamradt (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Cary, IL, IU BS Phys Ed; NIU MS Edu, is a retired physical education teacher, coach, and department chairman at Barrington HS.

Laura (Valters) Schultz (Jan 1965) has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Montague, MI, is retired.

Joan (Johnson) Walendy (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Bloomingdale, IL, UW BA, Lewis U Med, is a retired elementary teacher.

Rita (Golterman) Barth (Jun 1965) lives in Park Ridge, IL, is retired.

Marie (Wittendorfer) Goodkin (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Barry, lives in Chicago, IL, BA Music '69, MMus '72, is retired, lives half time in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Joyce (Luster) Luster-Donner (Jun 1965) attended Onahan, lives in Schaumburg, IL, M Ed Adult Education, is a retired software implementation trainer/specialist.

John Placko (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Goodyear, AZ, U Iowa BSPH '71, Florida Inst Tech MSPP '86, is a retired pharmacist.

Wayne Willems (Jun 1965) has 2 children, attended Prussing, lives in Dallas, TX, WIU BA Bus '74, Northwestern U Kellogg School MBA '74, is retired.

Kathie (Yehling) Haber (Aug 1966) has 1 child, lives in Petersburg, TN, BS Secondary Ed Math '70, is a retired high school math/comp teacher, fully retired after closing the farm in 2019.

Bob Olsen (Jan 1966) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Medinah, IL, UIC BS Eng, is a retired production design

engineer at ITW Hi-Cone, is a member of ITW Patent Society's Hall of Fame.

Dave Bergbreiter (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in College Station, TX, Michigan State BS Chem '70; MIT PhD '74, is a Regent's professor of chemistry at Texas A&M.

Don McKenzie (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Topeka, KS, KU BA Hist '70, is retired.

Ida (Webb) Carlson (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Bonita Springs, FL, is a retired journeyman meterman, and enjoys traveling.

Fred Wordell (Jun 1967) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Goodyear, AZ, WIU BS Geo '71; US Navy 1971-75, is retired from technical sales and sales management, chief cook and bottle washer for Estrella Trailblazers Hiking Club, celebrated 50 years of marriage with Jo-Ann, York HS '67.

George Bergstrom (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Germantown, TN, Grinnell College BA '72; U Iowa MA Hospital and Health Admin '74, is retired from health/hospital administration.

Barbara Gron (1968) has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Northbrook, IL, NIU, Northwestern, is a philanthropist and humanitarian.

Andrew Maday (1968) lives in Chicago, IL.

Woody Powers (1968) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Burlington, WI, is retired.

Roy Bergstrom (1969) attended Ebinger, lives in San Francisco, CA, Knox College BA '73; UI AM '75; U of the Pacific MBA '00; UI PhD '80, is a retired university professor and administrator.

1970s

Jerry Herreweyers (1970) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in San Diego, CA, BS Computer Eng '74, MS EE '81, is retired, married to Janet.

Deby Nyberg (1971) attended Wildwood, lives in Long Beach, CA, U of Phoenix BA Bus Admin '93, is joyfully retired, loves pickleball.

Bob Boyle (1972) attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Des Plaines, IL, UI Champaign/Urbana BS, MS, is retired.

Nancy Stevens (1972) attended Edgebrook, lives in Clearwater, FL, UI BS '77, U South FL MA '89, is a retired teacher and guidance counselor, loves retirement; is a docent at the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art in St. Pete, Florida.

David Swoch (1972) has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, UIC BSEE; DePaul MBA, is a retired electrical engineer.

Randy Cygan (1973) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in Albuquerque, NM, UICC BS Chem '77; PSU MS Geochem '80, PhD '83, is a retired research geochemist.

Barbara (Sullivan) Kopolovic (1973) has 3 children, attended Wildwood, lives in St Pete Beach, FL, UI BS '77, BSN '80, MD '89, is retired.

Robert Donald (1974) married Lynne Michalek (1974), attended Garvy, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is president of an IT consulting firm.

Lynne (Michalek) Donald (1974) married Robert Donald (1974), attended St. Eugene, lives in Arlington Heights, IL, is a retired teacher.

Gail (Krusinski) Harned (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Lexington, KY, Murray State U, is a retired snowbird, winters in Naples, Florida and loves to travel.

Linn (Joyce) Silvers (1976) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, NIU BA '98, is retired.

Kent Stotz (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in CARY, IL, NEIU 2 years, is self-employed, 5-time National Champion in Pro Street racing.

Linda Fee (1978) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in PALATINE, IL, is a project manager.

Marybethe (Hirth) Kelly (1978) has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired, serving as TAA Secretary.

Connie (Tucci) Morawski (1978) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in St Charles, IL, UI Pharm, is a retired pharmacist.

Gregg Lameka (1979) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended St. Cornelius, lives in Cary, IL, is an auction manager.

Looking for Photos

Can anyone help out a Taft Community member?

My father in law, Bernie Wojtkiewicz 94, used to own or run a gas station on or around Northwest Hwy and Sayre (where the 7-11 currently is) back in the 50's or 60's, I believe. Is there any way you can help me locate some details and possibly some pictures?

We recently moved to Norwood Park and my father-in-law's health is declining rapidly. I know I've seen pics of him in a white gas station attendant uniform outside the station, but it's been years and I wouldn't know where to start looking. I think my husband, his brothers and my kids would be thrilled to see and know that we are so close to a piece of Bernie's past.

If you can offer some guidance as to where to start, I would appreciate it.

*Sincerely,
Deb Wojtkiewicz*

In Memoriam



Because you genuinely care about Taft High School, please consider a legacy gift to TAA in your estate planning. A planned gift is a lasting investment.

Leora Jane (Roberts) Rink of Chicago, IL, died on December 4, 2022. She taught biology at Taft and often served as a judge for the city and district science fairs.

Dewey Lewis of Chicago, IL, died in September 2023. He was a 16-year Taft

physical education teacher in the 80s and 90s and was a great advocate for the school. As a professional golfer he taught golf to sports greats like Michael Jordan, Ernie Banks, Walter Payton, and Mike

Tomczak. Through his golf tournaments he also raised funds for charities including Easter Seals, March of Dimes, and the Red Cross. He was vocal as a member of "Athletes Against Drugs." As for choosing his profession as a teacher Lewis stated, "It's a good profession to have an effect on young people. You can help them find a place in the world."

Lois Helen (Ritter) Gerse of Moline, IL, Class of June 1945, died on July 25, 2023. She is survived by her sisters Audrey (Ritter) Hammer, Class of June 1948, and Nancy (Ritter) Woodard, Class of June 1955.

Jean Ellyn (Whitehead) Smith of Delavan, WI, Class of June 1946, died on August 31, 2019.

Patricia Marlyn (Whiting) Figge of Lindenhurst, IL, Class of January 1949, died on March 16, 2023.

Stuart Alan Bentley of Des Plaines, IL, Class of June 1951, died on June 28, 2023. He was preceded in death by his wife Arlene (Barnett) Bentley, Class of June 1951, and by his brother David Bentley, Class of June 1953.

Frances Therese Marino of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1953, died on November 21, 2022.

Janet "Bunny" (Dolan) Negronida of Evanston, IL, Class of January 1954, died on June 23, 2023. She was preceded in death by her sisters Patricia (Dolan) Webb, Class of June 1942, and Joyce (Dolan) Manning, Class of June 1943.

David Allan Hilgers of Barrington, IL, Class of June 1955, died on December 27, 2021.

Suzanne (Unger) Oberheide of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1955, died in February 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband William Oberheide, Class of June 1955.



Lawrence Arthur Pritchett of Estero, FL, Class of June 1955, died on July 15, 2023.

Edward Thomas Scholl of Mount Prospect, IL, Class of June 1955, died on August 29, 2003. He is survived by his sister Jane (Scholl) Brenner, Class of 1968.

Jerry Robert Williamson of Seattle, WA, Class of January 1956, died on December 9, 2022.

Susan Mary (Hoad) Walldren of Park Ridge, IL, Class of January 1959, died on August 29, 2022. She was preceded in death by her brothers Robert Hoad, Class of January 1956 and William Hoad, Class of June 1963.

Daniel Paul Isachsen of Bourbonnais, IL, Class of January 1959, died on August 18, 2023.

George Fred "Mickey" Geyer of Gay Mills, WI, Class of June 1960, died on April 18, 2023. He is survived by his wife Judy (Peinert) Geyer, Class of June 1960.

Mary (Berquist) Jackson of Algonquin, IL, Class of January 1963, died on November 21, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband Chris Jackson. She is survived by her sister Jean (Berquist) Shiflett, Class of January 1957, and by her brother William Berquist, Class of June 1958.

Joan Carol (Todd) Parla of Huntley, IL, Class of June 1963, died on August 30, 2021.

Annalynn (Nelson) Thompson of Colorado Springs, CO, Class of June 1964, died on July 14, 2022.

Arlene Marie (Blitzner) Cierny of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of January 1965, died on February 25, 2023. She is survived by her sister Sharon (Blitzner) Deutscher, Class of June 1967.

Andrew Dennis Obecný of Antioch, IL, Class of June 1966, died on August 26, 2023.

Mildred Gail (Reynolds) Zasadil of Schaumburg, IL, Class of 1968, died on September 18, 2023.

Carolyn Landis (Jelm) Cetwinski of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1967, died on August 22, 2023.

Keith Gordon Ishida of Elk Grove Village, IL, Class of June 1967, died on August 25, 2023. He is survived by his brother Gary Ishida, Class of 1969.

Craig Irwin Kastilahn of Libertyville, IL, Class of 1968, died on August 17, 2023.

Dennis Stanley Krawzak of Streamwood, IL, Class of 1969, died on September 21, 2023. He was preceded in death by his twin brother Donald Krawzak, Class of 1969.

Walter Peter Strankowski of Chicago, IL, Class of 1969, died on April 28, 2023. He was preceded in death by his sister Susan (Strankowski) Fuller, Class of June 1967.

Steve D. Williams of Chicago, IL, Class of 1972, died on July 7, 2023.

Rosanne (Herling) Laurino of Naples, FL, Class of 1977 died on August 7, 2022. She is survived by her sister Peggy (Herling) Janes, Class of 1976.

James Duffy of Park Ridge, IL, Class of 1982, died on December 3, 2022.

Zachary Charles Naus of South Bend, IN, Class of 1988, died on June 20, 2023.

Curley L. Harvey of Chicago, IL, Class of 1993, died on December 1, 2017.

Taft Alumni Association Official Merchandise

Item	Size	Qty	Price Ea.	S&H Ea.	Total
 Windbreaker , nylon with drawstring bottom printed with TAA logo	Large		\$25.00	\$ 6.00	\$
	X- Large		\$25.00	\$ 6.00	\$
	XX- Large		\$25.00	\$ 6.00	\$
	XXX- Large		\$25.00	\$ 6.00	\$
 Baseball Cap embroidered Taft Alumni logo with eagle	One Size Fits All		\$20.00	\$ 3.00	\$
 Bumper Sticker "You Can't Hide That Eagle Pride"	----	Out of Stock	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00	\$
 T-Shirt , gray cotton printed with TAA logo	Medium		\$10.00	\$ 4.00	\$
	Large		\$14.00	\$ 4.00	\$
	X- Large		\$14.00	\$ 4.00	\$
	XX- Large		\$15.00	\$ 5.00	\$
	XXX- Large		\$15.00	\$ 6.00	\$
 Fleece Jacket with embroidered Taft Alumni logo	Medium		\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	Large		\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	X- Large	Out of Stock	\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	XX- Large	Out of Stock	\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
Total Remitted					\$
Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.					
<i>Print Name:</i>		<i>Grad Month/Year:</i>			
<i>Address:</i>					
<i>City/State/ZIP:</i>		<i>Phone: ()</i>			
Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185					

Taft Alumni Association
Membership Application or Renewal

Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the *Class Notes*.
Only fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.

About You ☐ **My information has not changed** ☐ **Do not publish my information in Class Notes**

*First Name (PRINT CLEARLY)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address	List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	
Other news you'd like to share?			

About Your Taft Graduate Spouse

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)	
Primary Phone	Email Address	List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	
Other news you'd like to share?			

Your Membership Choices

Send Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> By mail <input type="checkbox"/> Both online and by mail	TAA Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 (2-year individual) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (2-year Taft alumni couples) <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ Total Remitted \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail a check <input type="checkbox"/> Online bill-pay through your bank: Note your graduation name and year in the comments Remit to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631-3185	

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The Taft Alumni Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Taft Alumni Association

Please send news, photos, and general correspondence to:
Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185, or email to eagleemail39@gmail.com

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6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.
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