



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXIX, No. 1

Winter 2023

Alumna becomes Alderspersion

Anabel Abarca, Class of 2004, was chief of staff to former Ald. George Cardena. When he resigned after being elected to the Cook County Board of Review, Abarca was selected by Mayor Lori Lightfoot to take his place. Abarca said she's excited and "very honored" to assume the role of 12th Ward alderperson.



(Credit: Provided/Anabel for 12)

Abarca graduated from DePaul University and received a master's degree from Arizona State University in public administration. Most recently, she graduated from Loyola University Chicago's School of Law.

Lifetime Achievement Award

On Feb. 25, John Prochaska (Jun '61) will receive the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Community Service Award.

We at TAA nominated Prochaska who celebrated 50 years last year with the Park Ridge American Legion where he was adjutant every year except the year he served as post commander. This lifetime award is the highest honor from the Park Ridge Chamber. The nomination includes his early careers, at Taft, in college, in Vietnam, in his profession...but it mostly focuses on what he specifically has done for the local legion, the Memorial Day parades, and representing local veterans.



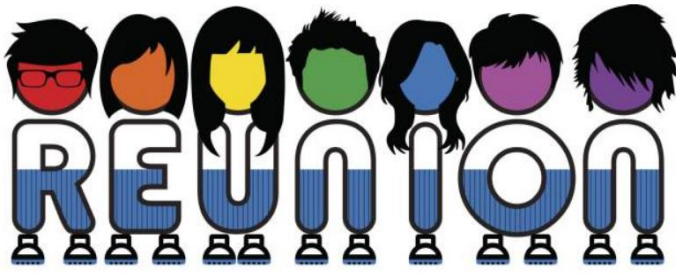
From State Park to Smithsonian

A waterfowl nesting box created by Tom Tubbs (Jun '56), has been responsible for bringing the wood duck and other fowl back in great numbers, initially in Helmer Myre State Park, MN. Through trial and error, Tubbs constructed the right combination of design and materials that mother ducks found to be perfect for raising their ducklings.



THE TOM TUBBS CREATION -- It took about three years of experimenting before Tom Tubbs found just the right materials for the wood duck box that bears his name. The box is now a part of the exhibits at the Smithsonian National Museum. (Photo furnished by Tom Tubbs.)

Working with several firms and nature associations, the final product was approved for manufacture. Up to 80,000 have been sold across the country but Tubbs did not make a penny. All proceeds have been donated to the Minnesota Waterfowl Association. "All I ever asked was that they leave my name on the box," commented Tubbs.



So-Cal All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday September 9, 2023, Noon – 4:00 pm
Location: "House of Savage", 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA
Details: \$10 (pizza and pop), bring a dish to share and BYOB.
Contact: Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhelloworld@hotmail.com)

Taft Class of 1968 55 Year Reunion

Date: September 30, 2023
Location: Ridgemoor Country Club, Harwood Heights IL
Details: 2pm - Appetizers, socializing, cocktails (cash bar)
 3pm - Group photo
 4pm – Dinner (please select your dinner choice)
 Lemon Chicken, vegetable & potato - \$80/per person
 Braised Short Ribs, vegetable & potato - \$85/per person
 Vegetarian – Quinoa with Roasted Vegetables - \$80/per person

Dessert, coffee, tea, water included

Contact: Carolyn Sykes Toerpe (carolyn.toerpe@gmail.com), 527 Grimes Ave, Naperville IL 60565 or Nancy Warzecha (nancywarz@sbcglobal.net), 2065 Plainfield Dr, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Reply by August 30, 2023; check payable to either Carolyn or Nancy.

Taft Class of 1970 50 Year Reunion

Date: Event has been cancelled
Website: <https://1970taftreunion.com>

Taft Class of 1973 50 Year Reunion

Date: Taft Tour Friday, September 8, 2023
 Reunion Evening Saturday, September 9, 2023
 Class Picnic, Sunday, September 10, 2023
Location: Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N Prospect Ave
Detail: Ticket sales TBD
Contact: Bob Schmidt (robert.schmidt55@att.net) or Jill (Mason) Hawkes (gordonjill@aol.com)
Facebook: 1973 Taft Grads 50th Reunion



Arizona All-Class Picnic

It was another perfect October Arizona day for this annual gathering in Goodyear. We never run out of great memories and stories to share. Thanks to Fred Wordell for handling all the logistics. We hear Lee Nega is already planning what to bring to the next picnic. See you all next year!



Seated: Eileen (Gierke) Rasmussen (Jun '61), Lynn (Syvertsen) Haye (Jun '61), Paulette (Zemaitis) English (Jun '67), Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper (Jun '64), Sally (Schuessler) Abbey (Jun '67). Standing: Robert Rasmussen, Fred Wordell (Jun '67), Judy Jacobsen (1970), Lee Nega (1969), Rod Lowell (Jun '47) and his friend Kathleen. Absent: Frank Macedon (Jun '62) who intended to join us but arrived on a different day.



Lynn (Syvertsen) Haye was the winner of the TAA baseball cap raffle, a fitting prize as Lynn played girls softball at Taft.

Class of January 1953 70 Year Reunion



Seated: Sybil (Baginski Wijas), Jim Fizzell, Carl Edwards, Alice (Taylor) Edwards, Angie (Chious) Poulos, Priscilla (Nanos) Kretekos. Standing: Gram Olson, Paul Rebscher, John Lycos, Jim Rossen, Barbara (Stendahl) Behrens, Lois (Plechaty) Rolf, Bill Bruhn, Sylvia (Penland) Oehl.

Our class met for our 70th reunion on October 22 at Moretti's in Edison Park. These Octogenarians look pretty good, I think.

Carl serenaded us as we got reacquainted with '50s tunes on his sax. Memories were shared and there were a lot of laughs as things of the past were recalled. Also, a lot of stuff was shared about the working years. A few of us are still working, hard to believe. Maybe that is what keeps so many of us so "young".

Jim Fizzell
January 1953

Class of 1959 Annual Reunion



We held our 63rd Reunion in early October, great time with over 35 attending the Friday afternoon Pizza Party and the Saturday Banquet. As the Pizza Party was

concluding, Principal Mark Grishaber, arrived at the Hotel with the Taft Mini-Bus and escorted many of us to the football game played in the new, modern, and lighted football stadium. We were honored with a pre-game on-field visit and announced introduction, choice seating with the principal, and an exciting and memorable time as Taft won the game 23-6.



The Banquet also was most enjoyable as we reminisced, got caught up with each other, had a served full course meal with a lovely cake, and enjoyed special music and comedy entertainment provided by Classmate George Coghlan and his wife Esther, who traveled from their Las Vegas home to be with us.

We gave out door prizes and attendance awards, took the photo, and viewed several tables of memorabilia from our time at Taft. We concluded the evening as usual by singing the TAFT FIGHT SONG from our era. Overall, it was another fun and memorable evening. All of us now look forward to our Annual Christmas/ New Year Luncheon, our Annual Late Spring Luncheon, and our 64th Reunion the first weekend in October next year. We continue to honor our Class Motto of "TOGETHER AGAIN!"

Larry Marsh
June 1959

Messages from our Members

Wasn't very long ago when I sent in the obituary of my husband Harry Magee (Jun '53)—seems unbelievable that now I am sending notice of the death of my children's father Daniel Rice (Jun '53). Been a rough year. I appreciate your kindness at the time of Harry's death. Please use the enclosed check for anything the association needs. Thank you for all of your work in keeping us connected.

Meg (Goodell) Magee, Jun '53

Thank you for all your efforts to keep us updated.

Mary (Stoklosa) Ferrandino, 1968

Our thanks to all on the TAA Board! We truly appreciate the work that you all do. Taft has always been an exceptional school and you folks are truly carrying that tradition forward!

Greg Drummer, Jan '60
Mary (Seitz) Drummer, Jun '62

Thanks for all you do to keep the alumni updated on Taft news. Great job, much appreciated. I always read the newsletter from front to back as soon as it arrived.

Marlys (Johnson) Swanson, Jan '61

This past September, I was in Chicago and stopped by Taft. I had the pleasure of meeting the current Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. They were very receptive and welcoming. They were kind enough to show me the City Baseball Championship trophy. I was the catcher for that 1949 team. The school building has sure changed since the original school.

Richard Sienkiewicz, Jun '49



Judy (Carlson) Borta, June '55, standing center with her husband Don Borta, June '54, were thrown a grand 60th wedding anniversary celebration by her children and their families. While it was meant to be a surprise, Judy and Don were on to them and greeted them with their own surprise wearing bride and groom costumes and fake handcuff decorated with hearts.

Thank you for your work on the newsletter!

Cynthia Northup, 1968

I want to thank you for the wonderful job you do. Thank you so much!

Karen (Olson) Swenson, Jun '62

Thank you!

Arnold Kraby, Jan '62



Former TAA Board member Joe Popp (Jun '66), and wife Judie toast alumni from their home in Florida.

Taft Ticker Tape

- The Taft Football Booster Club said it best: "What a game...the Taft Eagles played their hearts out and should be very proud of their effort. They had a non-favorable start to the season but finished 2nd in the CPL championship against Simeon 38-34."
- More than 50 Taft families have volunteered to undertake sponsorship of 60 Ukrainian and 10 Venezuelan refugee students and their families. The initiative, called "RESPECT," stands for Refugee Engagement Support Program Enriching Taft.
- At the September 13 LSC meeting, it was reported that 53 percent of the school's 4,329 students are taking honors, Advanced Placement, or international baccalaureate courses, some of which provide students with college course credits.
- Freshmen are on-track for a 97.1 percent graduation rate, a significant increase from past years. The new Freshman Academy is credited in large part, allowing faculty to focus on students who need academic assistance.
- Thanks to ComEd's "EVs for Education" program, Taft students will have practical experience driving EVs and learning about new zero-emissions vehicles.
- CPS has chosen Taft as a "Top 5 Neighborhood School" for the highest growth rates in freshmen on-track and 4-year and 5-year graduation rates.
- To curb tardiness, Taft has implemented "hallway sweeps". Student IDs will be scanned to generate an email to parents to inform them that their child was not in class when required.

A Surprise Quinceañera

Through the kindness of Taft teachers and students, 15-year-old special education student Jojho Ico received the surprise of her life, her own quinceañera, the celebration of a girl's fifteenth birthday traditionally marking the transition from childhood to adulthood. Only recently arrived from Belize with her mother Juanita, Jojho, who has epilepsy and non-verbal autism, is enrolled in Taft's cluster program which offers a modified curriculum for special needs students.



Jojho and her mother Juanita are surrounded by Special Education teachers. (Photo courtesy of abc7chicago.com)

www.taftalumni.org



www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association

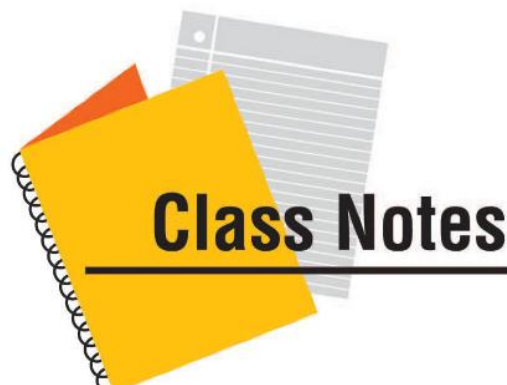
Lost Classmates



Are you looking for someone? For a donation of \$5 the TAA will print your request here. If the classmate you are looking for, or another person responds, we'll provide them with your contact information so that they may contact you.

Barbara (Coy) Janssens (1968) is looking for classmate **Carol Swanson**.

Barbara (Dembek) Groskopf (Jun '67) is looking for classmates **Jasper Lagambina, Bonnie Anne (Olsen) Forst, Sharon (Feeley) Schmidt, and Annamarie (Russnak) Malon**.



1940s

Marian (Kosel) Anderson (Jan 1942) has 6 children, 21 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, lives in West Dundee, IL, Wright Jr College AA '44, is a retired homemaker, four of her children are Taft graduates.

Mary (Boarini) Idstein (Jun 1942) has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, lives in McHenry, IL, business college 2 years, is a retired bookkeeper but mostly a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

James Peterson (Jun 1948) has 5 children, 1 grandchild, lives in San Diego, CA, UI BSME, US Army Ordnance Corps 2 years, 1st Lt., is a retired systems engineering manager.

Carmella (Walsh) Patke (Jun 1949) married **Ronald Patke (deceased)** (6/1/1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is retired from sales.

Richard Sienkiewicz (Jun 1949) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Altamonte Springs, FL, NIU BS Edu, MS Edu; US Navy 1956-1958, is retired from IBM data processing, celebrated his 90th birthday in November.

Jessie (Douglas) Usdrowski (Jun 1949) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, lives in Elk Grove Village, IL, is retired.

1950s

Tom Gutzman (Jun 1950) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, US Army 1951-54, Korea, is retired, celebrated his 90th birthday in November.

Thomas Vrabec (Feb 1952) has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Lake Barrington, IL, US Army 2 years, is retired after 70 years in the restaurant and food business.

Jane (Meadows) Abramchik (Jun 1953) lives in Skokie, IL, BS Edu, is a retired special education teacher.

Carole (Green) Lubecker (Jun 1953) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, lives in Lake Barrington, IL, De Lourdes BS Edu '77, is retired.

Roger Skiple (Jun 1953) married **Joyce Padgitt** (Jan 1956), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is a retired carpenter.

Arlene (Poehler) Hamann (Jun 1954) married **Franklin Hamann (deceased)** (Jan 1954), has 3 children, 7

grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Grayslake, IL, is a retired secretary.

Bernie Harczak (Jun 1954) has 6 children, 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Tucson, AZ, is retired.

Novelle (Cunningham) Pallanich (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, lives in Cape Coral, FL, Northwestern BS '57; U Utah MS '67; U MO EdD, is a retired college professor.

Karen (Kelley) Noble (Jan 1955) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Cranberry Twp, PA, M.Ed, is a retired teacher.

Judy (Carlson) Borta (Jun 1955) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, UI 1955-57; CTC BA Ed '61, is a retired kindergarten and primary teacher, loves to swim, travel, read, crossword puzzles, and visit family and friends; married '54 Lane graduate Don Borta.

Marlene (Cerny) Williamson (Jun 1955) has 3 children, lives in Glendale, AZ, is a retired administrative assistant.

Joyce (Padgitt) Skiple (Jan 1956) married **Roger Skiple** (Jun 1953), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Illinois State BS Educ, is a retired elementary school teacher.

Art Perrone (Jun 1956) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Newport Beach, CA, BS Commerce '60, CPA '62; US Marine Reserves 1962-67, is retired from investment banking, celebrated 55 years of marriage.

Robert Johnson (Jan 1957) married **Barbara Maedge** (Aug 1959), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Aiken, SC, MSU BS Police Admin, USC MCJ, is retired from the US Government.

Marcelyn (Haerr) Norris (Jan 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Carol Stream, IL, Illinois Wesleyan College 2 years, is retired, says "all's well".

Ronald Underwood (Jan 1957) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Sun City West, AZ, Northwestern U BS BA '61; U Chicago MBA '67; CPA; USA Reserve 6 years SP 5, is a retired CPA, CFO and controller, travels, plays golf and senior softball.

Karen (Drinan) Johnson (Jan 1958) has 3 children, 3 stepchildren, 12 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, Triton College AAS '77; Harper College AA '84; Roosevelt U 2 years, is a retired x-ray technician, enjoys retirement at Friendship Village.

Bob Zaun (Jan 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Mundelein, IL, Valparaiso U BA Bus and Music; US Air Force 4 1/2 years, Captain, is a retired mortgage banker (15 years) and real estate broker (15 years), his vocal group "Jazz Spectrum" (www.jazzspectrum.com) is still going strong after 27 years.

Judy Allen (Jun 1958) lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

John Croll (Jun 1958) married **Nancy Novak** (Jun 1960), has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, UI BS Acct; US Marine Corp, Captain, Vietnam, is retired.

Louis Holian (Jun 1958) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Palatine, IL, De Paul U BSC, is retired from self-employment.

Margo (Anderson) Makstenieks (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Woodridge, IL, UI BS Sci '62, is a retired biological researcher.

Barbara (Maedge) Johnson (Aug 1959) married **Robert Johnson** (Jan 1957), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Aiken, SC, is a retired bookkeeper.

Camille (Nigro) Caccavari (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Franklin Park, IL, is retired from sales.

Marlene (Rizzi) Crawford (Jun 1959) has 1 child, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired from factory work.

James Fisher (Jun 1959) lives in Terre Haute, IN, Grinnell College BA; Kansas U post graduate work in public administration (KUCIMAT program), is a retired screenwriter.

Gordy Lund (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL.

Elizabeth (Henning) Murphy (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Burnsville, MN, BA Elem Ed/Spec Ed, BA Art Ed, is a retired teacher.

Barbara (Lynn) Templeman (Jun 1959) married **Glenn Templeman**, deceased, (Jan 1959), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, ISU BS, is a retired teacher.

1960s

Greg Drummer (Jan 1960) married **Mary Seitz** (Jun 1962), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Gainesville, GA, BA, MA American History and Political Science, is a retired teacher.

Michael Kelly (Jan 1960) married **Sheryl Buerger** (Jun 1963), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Huntley, IL, North Park College BS '64; NIU MS Bus Adm '68, is a retired H.S. business manager, permanently moved back to Illinois from Florida to be near family.

Judy (Kolpek) Speckmann (Jan 1960) married **Robert Speckmann** (Jan 1960), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Deerfield, IL, is a retired commercial banker.

Bob Speckmann (Jan 1960) married **Judith Kolpek** (Jan 1960), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Deerfield, IL, UIU BA Arch '65, is an architect.

Connie (Raczka) Baldacci (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchildren, lives in Boynton Beach, FL, is retired from retail management.

Nancy (Novak) Croll (Jun 1960) married **John Croll** (Jun 1958), has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, is retired.

Mick Geyer (Jun 1960) married **Judy Peinert** (Jun 1960), has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in

Gays Mills, WI, US Marines 1961-64, Vietnam, is a retired construction materials/safety inspector.

Judy (Peinert) Geyer (Jun 1960) married **George "Mick" Geyer** (Jun 1960), has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Gays Mills, WI, Carroll University, is a retired human resources manager.

Tom Klein (Jun 1960) has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Fresno, CA, Lewis U BS '68, NIU MBA '69, is a retired accountant.

Bill Saracco (Jun 1960) married **Lynn Hibarger** (Jun 1962), has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Roswell, GA, is a retired automotive parts distributor/owner.

Dick Williams (Jun 1960) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Garden City, ID, U ID BS Bus Adm '65; Boise St U MBA Fin '73; US Air Force 4 years, Captain, is a retired CFO.

Ronald Jablon (Jan 1961) married **Janet Pozilwilko** (Jun 1966), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, UIC, is a retired police officer.

Bernadette (Bernard) Lentz (Jun 1961) has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, lives in Troy, MI, Purdue BA Edu '66, is a retired teacher.

Eileen (Gierke) Rasmussen (Jun 1961) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Paradise Valley, AZ, BA, is a retired court clerk supervisor.

Arnie Kraby (Jan 1962) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Hoschton, GA, UI BA '66; USAF 1968-73, is a retired airline pilot.

Mary (Seitz) Drummer (Jun 1962) married **Greg Drummer** (Jan 1960), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Gainesville, GA, NIU BA '67, MA American History and Math, is a retired teacher, loves hearing news of "old" friends and classmates.

Patricia (Dufour) Lortz (Jun 1962) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, lives in Maricopa, AZ, U of Denver BOA; Special Ed Certification K-12, is a retired interior designer and teaches part time.

Fred Meyer (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove Village, IL, SIU BA '67, is retired.

Brian Olson (Jun 1962) lives in Bristol, WI, is retired, winters in Florida, summers in Wisconsin.

Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco (Jun 1962) married **William Saracco** (Jun 1960), has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Roswell, GA, is a retired realtor.

Karen (Olson) Swenson (Jun 1962) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in St Charles, IL, NIU BS Ed '85; Nat'l College of Education MA '89, is a retired kindergarten teacher.

Bruce Williams (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Fort Collins, CO, Bradley U BS Chem '67; U Rochester AA Electronics, is a retired chemist, still standing and enjoys the Taft news.

Sheryl (Buerger) Kelly (Jan 1963) married **Michael Kelly** (Jun 1960), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Huntley, IL,

Elmhurst, IL, is retired from banking, permanently moved back to Illinois from Florida to be near family.

Carol (Jessen) Adler (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Streamwood, IL, is a retired computer programmer.

Jim Groll (Jun 1963) married **Janet Loose** (Jun 1967), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired Chicago police officer.

Karen Nothacker (Jun 1963) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, CTC North, USC, is a retired controller.

Jim Ohlson (Jun 1963) has 2 children, lives in Warren, NJ, Wheaton Col BS '67, U Pittsburgh MA '72.

Mary (Fijak) Thomas (Jun 1963) married **James Thomas** (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in London, ON, UI BS Econ, is a retired accountant.

Jim Thomas (Jun 1963) married **Mary Fijak** (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in London, ON, Roosevelt U BS BA, MA Labor Relations, is a retired management consultant.

Juanita (Williams) Earnheart (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Conroe, TX, NEIU BA '68, is a retired postal clerk.

Nancy (Cairo) Leonetti (Jun 1964) has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, lives in North Palm Beach, FL, is a board of directors corporate secretary for Alpine Power Systems, Div of TFI, Inc.

Stuart Weinstein (Jun 1964) has 1 child, lives in Iowa City, IA, UI BA Pol Sci, U IA MD, is an orthopaedic surgeon.

Bob Johnson (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, IIT BSCE '69, MSCE '71, is a retired structural engineer, welcomed his first grandchild in May 2022.

Suzanne (Ingemanson) Page-Pryde (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Houston, TX, Miami U AB Econ; U Akron MA Urban Studies, CCIM, GRE, CSP, is a retired Texas real estate broker, married to Arthur Pryde.

Janet (Howarth) Bulaw (Jan 1966) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, North Park BA '70, is a retired accountant.

Judy (Musso) Dumele (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, Wright College, NIU, is a retired vice president of FV, celebrated 50 years of marriage with Frank Dumele.

Janet (Pozilwilko) Jablon (Jun 1966) married **Ronald Jablon** (Jan 1961), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is retired.

Michael Megaris (Jun 1966) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Overland Park, KS, MBA Fin, CMA '88; USMC Reserves 1966-72, is a semi-retired college instructor.

Len Wislow (Jun 1966) married **Gaye Swatek** (Jun 1967), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Naples, FL, is retired.

Bob Friedlander (Jan 1967) lives in Richland, MI, SIU MB '71, is retired, happy that the great tradition of the Eagles athletic program is back.

Dean Gritsonis (Jan 1967) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Carol Stream, IL, NIU BS Ed '71; US Army Reserves 1970-76, is retired.

Beth (Samuels) Charvat (Jun 1967) has 2 children, lives in Lombard, IL, RN, is a retired registered nurse.

Paul Davies (Jun 1967) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, is a retired police officer.

James Doubek (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Waukegan, IL, US Army Reserve 6 years, is a retired tool and die maker.

Janet (Loose) Groll (Jun 1967) married **Jim Groll** (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired school occupational therapist.

Barbara (Dembek) Groskopf (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Woodridge, IL, BA, MA, is a retired Spanish teacher.

Gaye (Swatek) Wislow (Jun 1967) married **Len Wislow** (Jun 1966), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Naples, FL, is retired.

Lizbeth Congiusti (1968) partnered with **Andrew Gocal** (1973), lives in Scottsdale, AZ, is a retired sommelier.

Mary (Stoklosa) Ferrandino (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren, lives in Barrington, IL, WIU BS, MS, is a retired elementary school teacher, works part time at The Container Store, looks forward to the 55-year reunion on 09/30/2023.

Barbara (Coy) Janssens (1968) lives in Shevlin, MN.

Colleen (Maloney) Lapaglia (1968) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Marietta, GA, is a retired flight attendant, divides time between homes in Georgia and Florida, enjoys travel and family.

Linda (Vandlik) Mahaney (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Hilton Head Island, SC, NIU BS Educ and Art, is happily retired, will fill the calendar with visiting Illinois friends and family, beach outings, exercise, and participation in various organizations.

Cynthia (Peska) Northup (1968) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Sheboygan, WI, Northwestern U BSM '72, MD '74, is a retired family physician, enjoys life on a hobby farm in Sheboygan.

Daniel Popp (1968) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, UI BS Acct '72, Roosevelt U MBA Fin '75, is a retired CFO and accountant.

Kathleen (Marquardt) Tellefsen (1968) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Eden Prairie, MN, SIU BS Edu '72, is retired.

Richard Karneboe (1969) has 2 children, lives in Pekin, IL, WIU BA Sociology '73, CMU MSA Health Services Admin '87, is retired.

Valerie (Stewart) Sosnowski (1969) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Noblesville, IN, RN, BS Health, MS Nursing, MS Health Admin, is a retired OR director, moved from Greenville, SC to the Indianapolis area to be closer to family.

1970s

Margie (Kosinski) Lacerra (1970) married **Fred LaCerra** (1970), has 3 children, 11 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Oakton Community College, is a retired research genealogist, genealogical convergence planner, and licensed cosmetologist.

Fred Lacerra (1970) married **Margie Kosinski** (1970), has 3 children, 11 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, NEIU BS Edu (K-12), is a retired teacher, coach and athletic director spending 45 years at St. Juliana.

Jeri Luga (1970) lives in Ponte Vedra, FL, Northwestern, is in senior management at the American Hospital Assn.

Barbara (Heinz) Olle (1970) married **Ron Olle** (1985), lives in West Chicago, IL, UI BS '75, MS '89, is a retired occupational therapist.

Timothy Arado (1971) lives in Chicago, IL, ISU BS Ed '75, Control Data Inst '81, is a real estate manager.

Kenneth Gaughan (1971) has 1 child, lives in Brandon, FL, NEIU BA '74, Loyola MSW '77, Nova Southeastern EdD '04, is a retired social worker and school district administrator.

Alan Martin (1971) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Glenview, IL, UIC BS Acct '75; DePaul U MS Fin '87, is a retired accountant and current teacher's aide at NTDSE, married wife, Karen, a retired CPS assistant principal in '78.

Jan (Cramer) Grana (1972) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Naperville, IL, UI RT '77, BS '87, MS, PhD '98, Med '00, is a semi-retired physicist, enjoys semi-retirement and spending increased free time traveling.

Mike Hanrahan (1972) has 2 children, lives in Maple Grove, MN, UIC BS Mktg, is retired from media sales, married Peggy Sheeran in 1977.

Judy (Sparesus) Lubinski (1972) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Clarendon Hills, IL, UIC BA Biol/Chem '75; UIMC Pharm '78, is a retired pharmacist.

Christine Burns (1973) lives in Des Plaines, IL, UI BA '77; MLIS, is a records management consultant.

Andy Gocal (1973) partnered with **Lizbeth Congiusti** (1968), lives in Scottsdale, AZ, is retired from the hospitality business.

George Kuritza (1973) has 3 children, lives in Park Ridge, IL, UICC BS Bio '77; Loyola Stritch School of Medicine MD '80, is a physician and radiologist.

Mary Jean (Luckew) Coulson (1974) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Glenview, IL, NIU BS Bus '78, is a retired leadership consultant.

Paul Caputo (1975) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Naperville, IL, NIU BS; UI DDS, is a semi-retired dentist, as 1975 class president, hopes to organize a 50-year reunion.

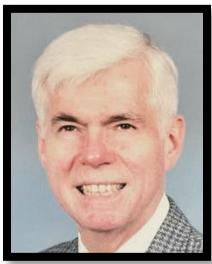
Laurie (Hillstrom) Karman (1975) lives in Buffalo, IL, WIU BS '78; UI MBA '84, is retired.

Barbara (Borek) Littel (1976) has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, UI BS, is semi-retired from ornamental horticulture.

Pam (Navrodtzke) Schmalzer (1978) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is in banking.

Ron Olle (1985) married **Barbara Heinz** (1970), lives in West Chicago, IL.

In Memoriam



Heinz W. Timm of Peoria, IL, died on September 25, 2022. He taught English from the 1970s through the early 1990s. He also served as yearbook sponsor.

Barbara Jean (Lawton) Loeschen of Lantana, FL, Class of February 1946, died on December 19, 2022. She was

preceded in death by her husband William Loeschen, Class of January 1944.

Patricia Ruth (Donkel) Hoover of Hoffman Estates, Class of June 1946, died on September 8, 2021.

Paul Richard Lauschke Jr. of Alton, IL, Class of February 1952, died on January 4, 2023. He is survived by his sister Corrine (Lauschke) Anda, Class of June 1945.

Jeannette L. (Huntman) Sutfin of Wheaton, IL, Class of 1953, died on October 28, 2022. She was preceded in death by her sister Shirley (Huntman) Taylor, Class of June 1947. She is survived by sisters Marilyn (Huntman) Giese, Class of January 1950, Judy (Huntman) Kelfstrom and brother Phillip Huntman.

Douglas Nelson Gifford of Carol Stream, IL, Class of June 1953, died on May 24, 2022. He is survived by his brother Donald Gifford, Class of January 1958.

Daniel Frederick Rice of Wheaton, IL, Class of June 1953, died on October 10, 2022.

Charles Arthur Reading of Phoenix, AZ, Class of January 1955, died on December 12, 2022. He is survived by his wife Judy (Woolf) Reading, Class of June 1959.

Leroy Woods, Class of June 1956, died on January 20, 2012.

Carole Lee (Ford) Yurkanin of Woodstock, GA, Class of June 1958, died on December 1, 2022.

Melvin Thaddeus Kielas of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1959, died on November 8, 2022.

Dennis Peter Pickett of Dekalb, IL, Class of June 1958, died on December 20, 2022. He is survived by his wife Karen (Jensen) Pickett, Class of January 1960.

Beverly I. (Hannibal) Cervenka of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1960, died on October 16, 2022. She is survived by her brother Wesley Hannibal, Class of June 1965.

Kenneth Conrad Kortas, Class of August 1960, died on October 15, 2022. Playing football for Taft he was named All-City, All-State, then distinguished himself in college football and on several NFL teams.

Judith Dawn (Owens) Johnson of Northbrook, IL, Class of January 1962, died on August 8, 2022

Katherine Meta (Schroeder) Whitehurst of Fairfield Glade, TN, Class of June 1962, died on October 9, 2022.

Gary Thomas Samuels of Everett, WA, Class of January 1967, died on September 12, 2021. He is survived by his sister Beth (Samuels) Charvat, Class of June 1967.

Phillip Robert Burns of Des Plaines, IL, Class of 1970, died on December 23, 2022. He is survived by his sister Christine Burns, Class of 1973.

Gary Steven Lundren of Long Grove, IL, Class of 1970, died on February 2, 2022.

Timothy B. Scanlan of Manhattan, KS, Class of 1973, died on July 22, 2022.

Allen McCord, Class of 1974, died on June 15, 2019.

Allen Szczepek, Class of 1974, died on June 26, 2018.

Michael Joseph Kirk of Elizabeth, IL, Class of 1975, died on January 7, 2023.

Kathy Ann Ax of Round Lake, IL, Class of 1976, died on November 2, 2022. She is survived by her brother Ronald Ax, Class of 1980.

Mel "Joe" Panek of Chicago, IL, Class of 1976, died on December 29, 2022. He is survived by his sister Donna (Panek) Berzins, Class of 1975.

Alan Michael Wingereid of Tampa, FL, Class of 1976, died on August 20, 2022. He was preceded in death by his brother David Wingereid, Class of 1978.

Thomas Domian of Chicago, IL, Class of 1977, died on September 22, 2022. He was preceded in death by his sister Denise Domian, Class of 1981. He is survived by his brother Steven Domian, Class of 1979.

Gregg Norman Gierke of Chicago, IL, Class of 1977, died on November 3, 2022. He was preceded in death by his brother William Gierke, Class of 1969. He is survived by his brothers Scott Gierke, Class of 1971, Glenn Gierke, Class of 1973, and Todd Gierke.

David Scott Wingereid of Chicago, IL, Class of 1978, died on April 12, 2000. He has been followed in death by his brother Alan Wingereid, Class of 1976.

Denise Marie Domian of Park Ridge, IL, Class of 1981, died on November 18, 2018. She was followed in death by her brother Thomas Domian, Class of 1977. She is survived by her brother Steven Domian, Class of 1979.

Terrance Woods of Chicago, IL, Class of 1994, died on September 18, 2022.

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"	----	Temporarily 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	Temporarily Out of Stock	\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	XX- Large		\$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 _____ 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 eagleemail@taftalumni.org

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