



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XL, No. 2

Spring 2024

Principal Mark Grishaber to Retire

Taft Students and Families,

Earlier tonight at the February meeting of the Local School Council I announced the end of my tenure as principal of William Howard Taft High School, effective August 1, 2024. These past 10 years at Taft have been the most fulfilling and rewarding professional and personal years of my life, and it has been an

honor to serve the families, students, faculty, and staff members as the principal of William Howard Taft High School.

In the summer of 2014, I made three promises as my team and I assumed the leadership of Taft High School.

My first promise was that Taft would become a viable option for our neighborhood families.

They no longer would have to

worry if their son or daughter could pass the test needed to get into the select enrollment schools. They would no longer have to work 2-3 jobs to afford the tuition at one of the private schools.

One of the best compliments I ever received was from a parent with a 6th grader and a 4th grader who thanked me because now they could finally get a good night's sleep knowing that their neighborhood school was not only a safe school but also a great school. A current science teacher once told me he noticed now, how our students are now proud to wear Taft swag around the school and the neighborhood. As our reputation grew so did our enrollment. Our families believed in Taft and when CPS was losing 80,000 students over the past decade, Taft High School gained 1300 students. We gained so many students we needed to open the Freshman Campus. Our Freshman on Track rate is now near 98% and 70% of our graduates who choose to go to college now attend some of the best four-year universities in the country.

My second promise was something called "Friday Night Lights." To my surprise many people had no idea what I was talking about. Many suburbs and states take "Friday Night Lights" for granted but it was apparent many people in CPS did not really understand. After our first Friday Night game I sat on the top row of the bleachers after everyone had left and felt we had ushered in an experience that many of our Eagles and their families will cherish their whole lives. My heart melts when I see many of our alumni sitting in the stands taking pride in the fact that they are Eagles. I look forward to coming back to Taft to see our Eagles continue the tradition we started.

My third promise was that our sports teams and clubs would be competing at the highest level not only in CPS but also in the state of Illinois and eventually the nation. I sit here today

knowing that our teams are poised for many future state championships. Please know that I will be smiling in the stands as our players, coaches and administrators lean forward to accept the state championship medals that will be placed around their necks. Today, I feel good that I can look in the mirror and know I kept my promises.

The support of our families coupled with the spectacular teacher leadership and teacher teams at Taft provide me with confidence that Taft will continue on our upwards trajectory. I take the responsibility of a successful transition of leadership very seriously, and I will work closely with the Taft Local School Council to select a principal that will continue our upwards trajectory. With your support, this transition will be smooth and ensure that the school is positioned for continued success.

With that said, I fully support Assistant Principal Ryan Glowacz's candidacy as the contracted principal of William Howard Taft High School. Mr. Glowacz, a Taft alum who holds an IB Diploma, has honed his leadership skills over the last 13-years by serving in such roles as Academic Center Director, Athletic Director, and for the last six years as Assistant Principal. Mr. Glowacz, who grew up and is now raising his family in the Taft neighborhood, fully supported and assisted in establishing my first promise that Taft would become a viable option for our neighborhood families. Notably, it was Mr. Glowacz's visionary leadership that helped open the Taft Freshman Academy in 2019. More recently, Mr. Glowacz's adaptive leadership has been vital in helping Taft navigate the challenges all schools faced in the wake of the pandemic and bringing us back to full strength. There is no question that Mr. Glowacz has the expertise and leadership philosophy necessary to move the school forward. For these reasons, I enthusiastically recommend him as your next principal.

Throughout this transition, I will be attending all of our school events until the end of this school year. I hope to have an opportunity to say goodbye in person with each of you. I am eternally grateful to have served as principal of William Howard Taft High School. It has been the most fulfilling experience as an educator I have ever had, and Taft will always have a special place in my heart.

I leave you with the lyrics of a Led Zeppelin song.

Leaves are falling all around
It's time I was on my way
Thanks to you I'm much obliged
For such a pleasant stay
But now it's time for me to go
The autumn moon lights my way

Ramble On-Led Zeppelin

All Good things,
Principal Grishaber, Mr. G, Mark

The Taft Alumni Association thanks Principal Mark Grishaber for all that he's initiated and accomplished for Taft, for strengthening the bond between the school and the Taft Alumni Association and hopes that he is equally successful in his future pursuits. We heartily support his endorsement of Ryan Glowacz, Class of 2006, and past TAA Scholarship winner, as his successor.



Chicago All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, July 13, 2024, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Location: Schiller Woods Grove #6

Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Beardsley Recreation Center Ramada 10, 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 sweatshirt raffle.

So-Cal All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday September 7, 2024, 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 January 1960 64 Year Reunion

Date: Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1, 2024

Location: TBD near O'Hare

Details: Casual affair. Committee members: Bill Schalk, Karen Schultz, Bob Speckmann, Phil Foss, Lew Robert

Contact: Lew Robert (lewrobert42@gmail.com) or text 847-858-2557. Please include your email, cell, and US Mail address. Ladies include your maiden name. Even if you cannot make the event, send Lew the updated information and advise if you would like the updated list of your fellow classmates mailed to be released in early June.

Taft Class of January 1965 60 Year Reunion

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Contact: Cheryl (Miller) Dominowski (ckdomin@aol.com)

Taft Class of 1969 55 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 4pm - 8pm

Location: Moretti's Restaurant in Edison Park

Contact: Valerie (Stewart) Sosnowski (vsosno1@aol.com)



Taft Class of 1974 50 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024, 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Location: Moretti's Edison Park

Tickets: TAFT Class of '74, 50th REUNION Tickets, Sat, Sep 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite Tickets required for entry.

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)

CLASS of 1959 Annual Luncheon

On Friday, 29 December, the CLASS of 1959 had our Annual Christmas/New Year Pizza and Salad Luncheon at the Des Plaines Hilton Garden Inn.



Before the Luncheon, several of us traveled to TAFT with Principal Mark G. to dedicate the new TAFT Cornerstone at the corner of Natoma and Bryn Mawr, for which we provided funding over the years. (Mark is on the right assisting in holding up our CLASS Banner.) Later, we all attended the luncheon at which Mark joined us and gave an update on TAFT.



He also provided Allegretti donuts as a special dessert for all Luncheon attendees, which we sincerely appreciated and enjoyed! A good time, good fellowship, good memories, and good eating were had by all, and we look forward to honoring our Class Moto ("TOGETHER AGAIN") at our next Annual Spring Luncheon in May this year.

Larry Marsh, Jun '59



Howard Moore, Class of 1990, and former Wisconsin assistant coach, was honored before making an appearance before his former team's game against Illinois in March at the Kohl Center. Coach Moore suffered severe burns in a horrific automobile accident on Memorial Day weekend in 2019 that resulted in the deaths of his wife and daughter. Credit: Mark Hoffman / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

The 50-year high school reunion weekend was the best!

Larry and Peggy (Cole) Boysen, 1973

Our 3-day 50-year reunion was a huge success with great weather!

Jill (Mason) Hawkes, 1973

I am honored by the new Taft stone ID markers.

Jim Jacobs, June '60

Thank you for all you do. I'm so appreciative.

Mary Ann (Buddenbaum) Tittle, January '50

Yesterday I went through the Winter issue with Joanne [(Dass) Black, June '51] while we were FaceTiming, looking to see if any of our classmates were mentioned. They weren't but there were some from her elementary school, Hitch, and mine, Farnsworth. And fortunately, no one from our class was listed in the memorial section. It was very encouraging to see how many who graduated in the 1940s are still active. We Midwesterners are of hearty stock! Thank you for all you and the alumni who live in the Chicago area do for our alma mater.

Myra (Andres) Fisher, June '51

Thanks for all you guys and gals do in keeping our treasured memories alive!

Jim Petersen, June '63

Wishing all 1955 graduates the best.

Ronald Gottfred, June '55

All five of the Tibbs brothers went to Taft: Tom '56, David '58, Bill '59, Allen and Joe transferred to a Michigan school.

Tom Tubbs, June '56

Mavis and Chet Lee (June '58) earned second-place honors in the 2023 Thousand Oaks Acorn Vacation Photo Contest wearing giant wooden shoes at the Zaanse Schans factory in Zaanse Schans, Netherlands.



Wayne Faust, Class of 1971, TAA Hall of Famer, and one of the many authors that Taft has produced, announced publication of Calek's Tale - Book One - "Refuge": A Boy's Journey Begins After the World Ends.



Trudy Gander, June '42, celebrated her 100th birthday on January 25 with family members from seven states. "It was an event I shall not forget!"

Dear All--Thanks for all your Taft Alumni work. The Class of 1969 Reunion Committee is hard at work prepping. We are almost done with plans. Stay tuned!

Kathy (Bickler) Lesniak, 1969

Still kicking. Regards. Nice paper!!

Ronald Rusing, June '62

Thank you for all you do! Love the newsletter.

Diana (Rhodes) West, June '63



This foursome enjoyed a ladies' luncheon in the warm California sunshine of San Diego. L to R: Ursula (Walczynski) Clancy '76, Linda (Gawlik) Newell '76, Sandy (Marshall) Paik '76, Jan (Ostromencki) Savage '74.

Greetings from Utah! Still spending winter here and have been for over 30 years. We are not skiing anymore but enjoying the mild winter when the mountains get all the snow (last year 20 feet) and the city not much and it's gone after 24 hours. We have made many friends here so do lots of things with them (ice hockey, movies, live shows, dinners, etc.) On our way back to Long Island, NY, we visit family in Chicago and go to our company reunion—2024 in Ft. Worth, TX. Health is good for both.

H. Paul Rebscher, January '53



Eighties Ladies Sherry (McBee) Holmen, Laura (Kemblowski) Harris, and Susan (Lang) Ward, all June '67 grads, are still best friends in 2024. Susan pleads, "Please make "Pink Lady" jackets!! I'd buy one in a heartbeat!"

JOIN!

TAA EAGLE CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking people who are willing to be called upon occasionally to help out with events and projects when needed (and have fun along the way). You don't need a special skill or talent, but tell us if you do. Taft Student volunteers may earn service hours.

eagleemail39@gmail.com

50 Years Later...



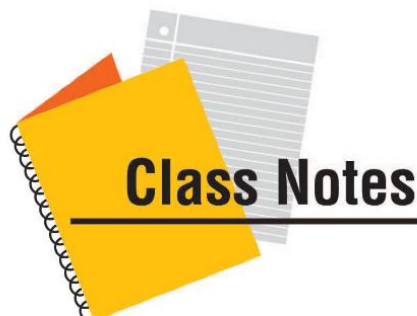
For the very first time, TAA has been featured in the Aerie yearbook. The 2024 yearbook committee cleverly compared student life 50 years ago with today showing the similarities between the class of 2023 and 1973.

Say Yes to a Dress Success

On March 13, more than forty happy young ladies participated in the TAA dress giveaway. Not only dresses were offered, but also shoes and other accessories that can be budget breakers. Marybethe Kelly, TAA Secretary and Events Coordinator, conceived the idea. Jaime Napolitano, Taft's Social Media Specialist, said, "We thought next year we can open it up to all grades since there's so much interest outside of the seniors." All dresses were donated.



Kelly Clark of Sew Bridal in Edison Park was on hand to assist and advise the girls with many of the gorgeous dresses they donated.



1950s

Ronald Betz (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Northbrook, IL, UI BS Pharm '55, Roosevelt U MPA '96; US Army 1956-58, is a retired pharmacist, married to Rose Marie, a retired nurse and nursing home administrator.

Bob Ebenhahn (Jun 1951) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Saratoga, CA, U Iowa BSC '55; US Air Force Capt. 1955-59, is a retired airline pilot.

Carl Edwards (Jan 1953) married **Alice Taylor** (Jan 1953), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright College, Milwaukee Schl of Eng, is retired.

Alice (Taylor) Edwards (Jan 1953) married **Carl Edwards** (Jan 1953), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, North Park College AA '55; CTC '61, is a retired Park Ridge elementary teacher.

Ron Klezek (Jan 1953) has 1 child, lives in Palatine, IL, National College MS; US Army 6 mo active, 5 years reserve duty, is a retired school teacher.

Richard Karolczak (Jun 1953) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Union Ridge, lives in Harvard, IL, is a retired plant manager.

Gail (Shanks) Longmire (Jan 1954) has 5 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Collum, IL, U of I 2 years, is a retired tax preparer, currently living at Evenglow Lodge in Pontiac, IL.

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

Jackie (Bendler) Nelson (Jun 1954) has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, attended Altgeld, lives in Hoffman Estates, NEIU BA GS, is retired.

Anita (Zabel) Grizaffi (Jan 1955) married **Bernard Grizaffi**, deceased (Jan 1955), has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, lives in River Forest, IL, business college, is self-employed.

Ralph Beck (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Highland Village, TX, North Park Col AA '58, Northwestern Dental School DDS '62; US Navy Lt Cmdr 1962-70, is retired from dental practice in Orange County, CA, retired to Texas in 2016, is "Still here! Boots and Stetsons".

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.

Virginia (Blum) Schroer (Jun 1956) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, attended Newberry, lives in Streamwood, IL, is retired.

Tom Tubbs (Jun 1956) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, lives in Eagan, MN, 2 years college, 1 year studying

the priesthood, is a retired variety store owner, enjoys life at Lexington Pointe Senior Living, "an old age place".

Bob Philipp (Jan 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Vienna, VA, UI BA '61, JD '67; US Navy and Navy Reserve 1961-89, is a retired veterans' law judge.

Dick Traugott (Jan 1957) has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Hendersonville, NC, Lake Forest College BA '62, Roosevelt U MEA '64, is a retired international marketing manager for 3M Company, has been married to Lou for more than 60 years.

Dianne (Slatkay) Frantzis (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Glenview, IL, DePaul U, is retired.

Linda (McGrath) Howard (Jun 1957) has 2 children, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Wilmette, IL, UI BFA, is a retired graphic designer, enjoys retirement with her husband in a Wilmette townhouse.

Herb Korff (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Albuquerque, NM, SIU BS Bus Admin, is a retired accountant.

Raymond Lauk (Jun 1957) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Medinah, IL, is semi-retired from printing and marketing communications.

Nancy (Thorson) Scheuler (Jun 1957) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Schaumburg, IL, IL Wesleyan BS '61, is a retired fashion merchandiser.

Robert Wolter (Jan 1958) has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Ellenton, FL, MI State BA; US Navy 4 years, is a retired assistant director of school food services and food manager in restaurants and hospitals, has been a Florida native since 2017, wonderful!

Shirley (Henry) Engmann (Jun 1958) has 6 children, 12 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, attended Nettlehorst, lives in Arlington Hts, IL.

Philip Gansz (Jun 1958) married **Holly Anderson** (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Park Ridge, IL, North Park College; US Army 1963-65, is a retired sales manager.

Joyce (Cleaver) Leddy (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Grand Marais, MN, UI, BS Ed, is a retired artist, writer and church counselor, this year will have a book published and a women's show at the Indiana Art Museum.

Chet Lee (Jun 1958) has 2 children, attended Morris, lives in Westlake Village, CA, US Army 1961-64; Roosevelt U BS Gen'l Studies '77, is a retired software development manager, <https://eleven Shadows.net/apawnoffate/> tells about his early life, and older son Ken Lee has written four photography books.

Richard Lutz (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 3 stepchildren, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Barrington, IL, is retired.

Diane (Biester) Carlson (Jan 1959) has 3 stepchildren, 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Roosevelt U Pol Sci, History; Webster U MA Bus Mgmt, is retired.

Wayne Schimpff (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, M Ed Outdoor Teacher Education, is a retired teacher and naturalist, founding chairman, Conservation & Community Svc. Committee, Pathway to Adventure Council, BSA, honored by BSA PTAC for 75 years of

being a volunteer member, has visited 80 countries, 6 continents, all 50 states, visiting Antarctica (7th continent) and 2 more countries in 2024.

1960s

Jacqueline (Metcalf) Abbett (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Okemos, MI, Marquette U Cert Dental Hygiene, MSU BA, is retired.

Jim (Jacobs) Jacobs (Jun 1960) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in Rancho Santa Fe, CA, Columbia College Chicago, Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, is a semi-retired playwright ("Grease"), composer, and actor, is an inductee to the TAA Hall of Fame.

Valerie (Duszak) Mesun (Jun 1960) has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Lake Tomahawk, WI, AA Acct, Lutheran General Hosp RN '64, is a retired registered nurse.

Lynn (Foerster) Nelles (Jun 1960) married **Tom Nelles**, deceased (Jun 1960), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, Cornell College BA, is retired.

Alex Wendorf (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Tucson, AZ, is retired.

Barbara (Reinke) Finnegan (Jan 1961) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Southampton, PA, is a retired legal administrative assistant.

Warren Schimpff (Jan 1961) married **Jill Wagner** (Jun 1963), attended Hitch, lives in Jeffersonville, IN, BS '65, MPH '67, MS '69, PhD Envir Chem '71, is a retired chemist (1971-2000) and co-owner of Schimpff's Confectionery established in 1891, was inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2016.

Dick Wegner (Jan 1961) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Portland, OR, Northwestern U BAS '65, is retired from marketing and sales of wood products.

James (Kepner) Kepner (Jun 1961) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Libertyville, IL, U Iowa BS Math, MS Math, PhD Statistics '79, is a retired university professor of mathematics, statistics, and biostatistics, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2022.

Stephen Wren (Jun 1961) attended St. Thecla, lives in Seminole, FL, RN, BA, MPA; US Army active duty 1966-72, is retired, last year sailed 700 miles up the Amazon River in Brazil--fantastic.

Wendy (Thornton) Davidson (Jan 1962) attended Ebinger, lives in East Peoria, IL, WIU BS Ed '66, is retired.

Judy (Jopp) Williams (Jan 1962) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Portage Park, lives in Las Vegas, NV, NIU BS Ed '66, is a retired real estate developer, serves on the board of Sun City Summerlin, an 8000-home community in Las Vegas.

Elaine (Gunther) Brummitt (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is a retired senior field promotion manager.

Judy (Grau) Hitzeman (Jun 1962) married **Keith Hitzeman** (Jun 1961), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, is retired.

Lowell (Johnson) Johnson (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Manteno, IL, Augustana BA '66; UI MAT '68; Lake Forest School of Mgmt MBA '85, is a retired teacher, celebrated 51st anniversary with Karma.

Frank Macedon (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Peoria, AZ, UI BSEE, is a retired electrical engineer.

Ron Rusing (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Austin, TX, MS Mil Arts & Sci; Col (Ret) US Air Force 28 years, 2 tours in Vietnam, is a retired fighter pilot.

John Alley (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Irving, lives in Green Valley, AZ, US Army, 67th Evac Hospital, Vietnam 1966-67, is retired from management, widowed.

Ginny (Sutton) Evert (Jan 1963) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

Gordon Goranson (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Wonder Lake, IL, UI BS Econ '67; Northwestern Kellogg MBA '75; Captain US Army 1968-71, Vietnam 1969-70, is retired.

Rick Monahan (Jan 1963) attended Onahan, lives in Cave Creek, AZ, IL Wesleyan U BA '67; U of MO MA '69, is retired.

Anne (Flexman) Warner (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in York, PA, nursing school 3 years, is a retired RN.

Donna (Griessmer) Catlett (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Elk Grove Village, IL, IL Wesleyan U BFA, is a retired administrative assistant for municipal government and theatre admin.

Donna (Maag) Esposito (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Marana, AZ, NEIU BS Educ/Art, is a retired industrial sales representative, helps lead a visual arts ministry, creates handcrafted pottery and totems.

James Kuhagen (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Arlington, VA, Augustana College BA '67, Penn State M Ed '68, UW Madison Rehabilitation Psych PhD '75, is a semi-retired psychologist and behavior analyst working part-time for Arlington County Developmental Disability Services.

Jerry Kurinsky (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Katy, TX, UW Whitewater BBA '68; US Air Force 1969-73, is retired, recently moved from Florida to be near family, wife Judy passed away in September 2017.

Jo (Trefny) Pacheco (Jun 1963) attended Oriole Park, lives in Lake Havasu City, AZ, NIU BS '67, is a retired retail buyer and system analyst.

Jim Petersen (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Fort Myers, FL, Wright College '66; Staff Sgt US Army, Vietnam 1967-69, is a retired IT professional.

Linda (Billesbach) Schlesinger (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended St. Eugene, lives in Fort Myers, FL, Roosevelt U BGS '85, MBA '88, is a retired college professor in computer technology and business.

Diana (Rhodes) West (Jun 1963) has 5 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Thomson, IL, Highland Community College, is a retired volunteer police chaplain.

Michael Wulf (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Rockport, TX, BA, MS, US Air Force 23 years, is retired.

Susan (Staats) Apel (Jan 1964) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Hinsdale, IL, WIU BS Edu, is retired.

Holly (Anderson) Gansz (Jan 1964) married **Phillip Gansz** (Jun 1958), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Carthage College BS Phys Ed '67; St. Xavier U MS Leadership '99, is a retired physical education specialist.

Michael Lopriore (Jan 1964) married **Carol Votava** (Jan 1966), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Prospect Heights, IL, is retired.

Karen (Kuehl) Adair (Jun 1964) has 2 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Fort Wayne, IN, Wright College, North Park U, is a retired real estate broker.

Lloyd Marquardt (Jun 1964) attended Oriole Park, lives in Acworth, GA, UICU BS '68, Purdue MS '72 PhD Psych '74; Lt. US Army 1968-70, is retired from human resources.

Lynn (Bonowic) Muttini (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended St. Monica, lives in Sun Prairie, WI, is a retired banker.

Nancy (Noble) Noble (Jun 1964) attended Garvy, lives in Ocala, FL, is an artist, website is nancynoblezorick.com, is a member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Kris (Warzecha) Tyler (Jun 1964) has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Des Plaines, IL, NEIU BA '68, National Louis U M Ed '86, is a retired teacher at River Trails School District 26 in Mt. Prospect.

John Anderson (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in El Sobrante, CA, Northwestern BSCE '69, MS Civil-Geotech Engr '71, PhD Civil/Structural Engr '74, is a semi-retired geotechnical and foundation engineering chief engineer, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2022.

Judy Lamarche (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Santa Rosa Beach, FL, UW BA '68, MS Ed '70; USU PhD Psy '84; UA MBA '98, is a neuropsychologist and chair of the board of LaMarche Mfg.

Lee Marsh (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Palatine, IL, Purdue U BS '69, Northwestern U MBA Taxation '72, is retired, brothers Larry and Jay are fellow alumni.

Corliss (Porter) Falkner (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Wood Dale, IL, is retired.

Jim Fleming (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Addison, IL, Hanover College BA '69, Lake Forest MBA '84, is retired.

Lee Pomeraning (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, is retired.

Carol (Votava) Lopriore (Jan 1966) married **Michael Lopriore** (Jan 1964), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Prospect Heights, IL, is a retired RN.

Gail Fransen (Jun 1966) attended Hitch, lives in Willowbrook, IL, UI BA '70, Meramec College AS '76, DePaul U MA Non-Profit Mgmt '90, is retired.

Judy (Abbinanti) Olszowka (Jun 1966) has 2 children, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Des Plaines, IL, DePaul U BS Ed, Loyola U MBA, is retired from health insurance.

Joe Popp (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Summerfield, FL, BS Mech Eng, is retired.

Ken Adamick (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Wheeling, IL, BBA, MBA, CPA, is a retired CPA and widower.

Charles Bajerski (Jun 1967) has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in The Villages, FL, is retired from airline management.

Bob Carroll (Jun 1967) married **Diane Janke** (1968), has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired mold maker.

Tim Coyne (Jun 1967) married **Mary Gaughan** (Jun 1967), attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Milford, OH, MS Special Ed, is retired.

Mary (Gaughan) Coyne (Jun 1967) married **Timothy Coyne** (Jun 1967), has 1 child, attended St. Monica, lives in Milford, OH, is retired.

Laurel (Ryan) Makula (Jun 1967) married **Richard Makula** (1969), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in San Tan Valley, AZ, Nursing, is a retired RN.

Marsha (Tomal) Mathews (Jun 1967) has 1 child, attended Norwood Park, lives in Wildomar, CA, California Southern U PsyD, is a psychotherapist.

Steven Bierlich (1968) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Wheeling, IL, IU Acct, is retired from a commercial photographic studio.

Diane (Janke) Carroll (1968) married **Robert Carroll** (Jun 1967), has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is retired.

Carol (Smythe) Evans (1968) lives in Sparks, NV, is US Navy Retired.

Karen Flynn (1968) attended Garvy, lives in Chicago, IL, NIU BS Edu, is a retired teacher.

Sharon (Holm) Najdowski (1968) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Sugarland, TX, is retired, celebrated 53 years of marriage.

Hank Nowak (1968) attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Hot Springs Nat'l Park, AR, DePaul U MSA '77; US Army 8 years, is a retired accountant and law enforcement officer.

Gene Petrovits (1968) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Plainfield, IL, Bradley U BSME '73, Benedictine U MBA '99, is a retired mechanical engineer.

Nancy Warzecha (1968) lives in Des Plaines, IL, Associate degree, is retired, enjoys bicycling, skiing, traveling within the US and in Europe.

Marc Erlandson (1969) married **Kathy Showalter** (1973), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Park Ridge, IL, NEIU BS, is a retired engineer.

Rich Makula (1969) married **Laurel Ryan** (Jun 1967), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in San Tan Valley, AZ, DePaul U BS Acct '73, is a retired accountant.

Barbara (Musur) Staehle (1969) has 1 child, lives in Downers Grove, IL, DePaul U BA Fin, is a retired tax manager.

Doug Ulasz (1969) attended Garvy, lives in Bull Shoals, AR, is retired from handling repairs for an antique store.

1970s

Michael Albano (1970) married **Gayle Phillips** (1971), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Hoschton, GA, is a retired equipment operator, moved to a 55+ community, swims, plays bocce ball, pool, baseball, is in a wine club, shows his antique cars, a '91 Pontiac Firebird and '96 Lincoln Cavalier town car in mint condition.

Lynn (Halicki) Arnold (1970) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Cary, IL, is retired.

Ralph Holmen (1970) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Wheaton, IL, UI BS '74; Loyola School of Law JD, is a retired attorney.

Linda (Rogers) Lewandowski (1970) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Winfield, IL, Elmhurst College BA, is a retired special education teacher.

Judy Magnowski (1970) attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Bradenton, FL, is a retired dietary professional, just moved to Florida and loves every minute.

Linda (Cloud) Musial (1970) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Wildwood, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, WIU BA '74, is retired.

Gary (Richert) Richert (1970) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Hinsdale, IL, Purdue U BS Elec Eng '74, is runs a textile mill in Chesterfield, SC.

Carol (Davies) Skow (1970) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Summit, IL, is retired.

Gayle (Phillips) Albano (1971) married **Mike Albano** (1970), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Hubbard, lives in Hoschton, GA, 2 years college, is retired as Moraine Valley Community College head secretary, enjoys swimming, playing bocce ball, a wine club and showing cars.

Richard Anderson (1971) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, attended St. Eugene, lives in Schaumburg, IL, SIU BS Fire Admin, is a retired Schaumburg firefighter.

Frank Berauer (1971) married **Eileen Dunn** (1973), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, BS Acct, is retired from accounting and finance.

Michael Jakubowski (1971) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, UIC BS Math '75, is a retired database administrator.

Ray Rzewnicki (1971) has 2 children, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Tucson, AZ, is retired.

Christopher Sadowski (1971) lives in Westerville, OH.

Diane (Rutledge) Sundberg (1971) has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Milton College BA '75, is a retired paraprofessional of 28 years in special education.

Stephen (Rizzo) Rizzo (1972) attended Oriole Park, lives in The Villages, FL, Wright Jr College AA; NEIU BS, is a retired legal administrative assistant for the Social Security Administration, plays a lot of golf, enjoys the weather and retirement.

Eileen (Dunn) Berauer (1973) married **Frank Berauer** (1971), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Our Saviour Lutheran, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, BS Bus Admin, is a retired office manager.

David Burchfield (1973) has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Fort Myers, FL, MS Accounting, CPA, is retired from accounting and finance.

Kathy (Showalter) Erlandson (1973) married **Marc Erlanson** (1969), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Northwestern U BA, St. Xavier U MA, is a retired teacher.

Jill (Mason) Hawkes (1973) has 2 children, attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, PhD '90, Nursing Sciences '96, is a semi-retired family nurse practitioner.

Mark Krejci (1973) has 4 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Huntley, IL, US Army/Reserves 6 years, is a retired electrical field engineer.

Karen (Johnson) Normandy (1973) has 1 child, lives in Northglenn, CO, BA, MA, is a semi-retired entrepreneur, has had a home in France for 10 years, shares time between France and the US.

Kathy (Weinberger) Savino (1973) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Glenview, IL, National

Louis U BS Healthcare Leadership, is a retired healthcare executive, just celebrated the 50th class reunion--great time!

Robert Schmidt (1973) attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC Barch, Washington U March Urban Design, is a retired architect and urban planner.

Glenn Sinclair (1973) has 2 children, lives in Clifton, VA, BS Bus '77, MBA '91, US Army 27 years, is a retired Army Colonel, O6 (27 years), Defense Contractor (16 years), retired May 2023, attended the Taft Class of '73 50 year reunion last September.

Karen (Jones) Cogan (1974) has 3 children, attended Edison, lives in Fairfax, VA, ISU BS Ed '78, is a soon-to-be-retired logistic and distribution coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools.

Kathryn (Sullivan) Kostelancik (1975) has 5 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Algonquin, IL, is retired.

Donald Wolff (1975) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Elmhurst, IL, NIU BS '79, is a semi-retired business owner.

Larry Coffey (1976) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Orlando, FL, DePaul U BA, is a retired disability director.

Susie (Peter) Pino (1976) has 1 child, attended Onahan, lives in Elgin, IL, Concordia U BS Org Mgmt, is retired.

Linda Kuffel (1977) attended Oriole Park, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is an executive assistant.

Richard Bake (1978) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Bus Mgmt/Econ '83.

Jeanne (Czech) Szafranski (1978) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Alva, FL.

1980s

Robert Spohnholz (1980) lives in Elmhurst, IL, NEIU '84, is retired from the printing business.

Kati (Graniero) Gleeson (1982) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in Ooltewah, TN, DePaul U MBA, is a retired treasury manager.

1990s

Jennifer (Dvoratchek) Quinonez (1991) attended Palmer, lives in Chicago, IL, Associate degree, is a Chicago police officer.



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.

Germaine Jacqueline (Petermann) Wleklinski of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1945, died on May 24, 2022. She was predeceased by her husband Robert Wleklinski, Class of January 1943.

Carol Diane (Larson) Loew-Kalbas of Huntley, IL, Class of January 1948, died on February 6, 2024.

Jacqueline Patiance Raff of Poulosbo, WA, Class of January 1948, died on March 16, 2024.

Raymond Stanley Ihrcke of Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Class of June 1948, died on August 12, 2019. He was predeceased by his brother Paul Ihrcke, Class of June 1940.

Herbert Thomas Pinkus of Friendship, WI, Class of June 1950, died on March 14, 2024.

Paul Douglas Lattner of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of January 1951, died on November 12, 2023. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara (Lattner) Kosmen, Class of June 1949.

Carol Johannah (Hager) Reimann of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1951, died on November 9, 2023.

Herbert Alvin Rosenberg of Northbrook, IL, Class of June 1951, died on February 22, 2024.

Donna Claire (Standley) Pechtelt of St. Joseph, MI, Class of June 1953, died on February 3, 2024.

Dennis Raymond Jensen of Mokena, IL, Class of January 1955, died on February 3, 2024.

Caron Lorraine (Michalsen) Farris of West Orange, NJ, Class of January 1957, died on December 30, 2023.

Llewelyn (Burbank) Newmann of East Jordan, MI, Class of January 1957, died on November 3, 2023. She is survived by her husband Ronald Newmann, Class of June 1954.

William James Burgis of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1958, died on January 13, 2024.

Joyce Kay (Winther) Ford of Marengo, IL, Class of June 1959, died on January 24, 2024. She was predeceased by her sisters Elsie (Winther) Edie and Carole (Winther) Mathis, both in the Class of June 1956.

Joseph George Votava of Oro Valley, AZ, Class of June 1959, died on December 13, 2023. He is survived by his brother Glenn Votava, Class of January 1963, and by his sister Carol (Votava) Lopriore, Class of January 1966.

Patricia May (Skaluba) Atkins of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1960, died on December 26, 2022.

Sandra L. (Hanson) Black of Rockford, IL, Class of January 1960, died on December 19, 2023. She is survived by her siblings Karen Hanson, and Diane (Hanson) Ziegler, Class of January 1961.

Karen Luise (Stumpf) Carsen of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1960, died on September 5, 2019. She is survived by her brother Fred Stumpf, Class of June 1961.

Dianne Ruth (Seefeldt) Cook of Inverness, IL, Class of January 1960, died on December 10, 2019. She is survived by her husband Donald Cook, Class of January 1960.

Donald James Fermoye of Mishawaka, IN, Class of January 1960, died on March 10, 2012. He was survived by his brother Richard Fermoye, Class of June 1964.

Karen Ruth (Johnsen) Granat of Downers Grove, IL, Class of January 1960, died on January 26, 2021.

Carol Ann (Schreyer) Habercom of Morton Grove, IL, Class of January 1960, died on August 10, 2010.

Frank Martin Mueller of Huntley, IL, Class of January 1960, died on July 17, 2022. He was predeceased by his sister Alma (Mueller) Hoops, Class of February 1952. He is survived by his brother Don Mueller, Class of June 1951.

Barbara Ann (Kolak) Prusener of Elkhorn, WI, Class of January 1960, died on December 1, 2005.

Janice Evelyn (Beutelspacher) Simon of Crystal Lake, IL, Class of January 1960, died on September 23, 2022. She was predeceased by her husband Leonard Simon, Class of January 1960.

Judith Marie (Kolpek) Speckmann of Deerfield, IL, Class of January 1960, died on October 17, 2023. She is survived by her husband Robert Speckmann, Class of January 1960.

Kenneth Richard Steiner of Oro Valley, AZ, Class of January 1960, died date unknown.

Martha Louise (England) Woodman of Verona, WI, Class of January 1960, died on October 18, 2023. She was predeceased by her sister Karen (England) Shaw, Class of June 1952. She is survived by her brother Bruce England, Class of January 1959.

Michael Allen Day of Vista, CA, Class of June 1960, died on January 17, 2024.

Ann Marie (Karr) Smith of Orlando, FL, Class of June 1964, died on December 10, 2023. She is survived by her brother Edwin Karr, Class of 1968.

Joyce Diane (Luster) Donner of Schaumburg, IL, Class of June 1965, died on November 29, 2023. She was predeceased by her brother Dale Luster, Class of June 1958.

Gary James Nichols of Salem, NC, Class of 1969, died on December 13, 2023. He is survived by his brothers Keith Nichols, Class of 1969, Lee Nichols, Class of 1970, and Larry Nichols, Class of 1973.

Christine Ann (Atevich) Condon of Wheaton, IL, Class of 1971, died on November 28, 2017. She was survived by her brother Alex Atevich, Class of January 1967.

Robert Owen Spence of Kingwood, TX, Class of 1971, died on March 8, 2024. He is survived by his sister Brenda (Spence) Huckle, Class of 1970.

David James Jones of Harwood Heights, IL, Class of 1972, died on March 21, 2024. He is survived by his sister Gail Jones, Class of June 1966.

Bernadette Marie (Travers) Colletti of Chicago, IL, Class of 1973, died on March 24, 2024. She is survived by her siblings Catherine (Travers) O'Connor, Class of 1973, Margaret (Travers) Needleman, Class of 1975, Terence Travers, Class of 1976, Mary Travers, Class of 1977, Norah (Travers) O'Connor, Class of 1979, and Rita (Travers) Skelton, Class of 1981.

Mary Ann Klein of Chicago, IL, Class of 1973, died on July 27, 2016. She is survived by her sisters Theresa (Klein) Davis, Class of June 1966, and Patricia (Klein) Ellis, Class of 1975, and her brother Thomas Klein, Class of 1968.

Craig Castle, Class of 1974, died date unknown.

Michael Joseph Chichowski of Brighton, CO, Class of 1974, died on December 13, 2016.

Robert Curran, Class of 1974, died date unknown.

Nicholas Maccione, Class of 1974, died date unknown.

Lonny Ray Ross, Class of 1974, died date unknown. He is survived by his sister Linda (Ross) Weiss, Class of 1973.

Barry Schroeder, Class of 1974, died date unknown.

Rose Ann (Browning) Wozniak, Class of 1974, died date unknown.

Michael Ray Peacock, Class of 1975, died on February 9, 2024.

Timothy Thomas Tichy of Round Lake, IL, Class of 1982, died on January 5, 2024. He is survived by his sisters Kathy Tichy and Sandra (Tichy) Thompson, Class of 1988.

Latoya Lawanda Smith-Griffin of Chicago, IL, Class of 1992, died on March 30, 2024.



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2024-2025 Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

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John Prochaska	1961	Vice President, Treasurer	Wayne Schimpff	1959	Director
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Ryan Glowacz	2006	Director, Faculty Liaison	Robert L. Schmidt	1973	Director
Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director			

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

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?			

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Deliver Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> By mail <input type="checkbox"/> Both online and by mail	TAA Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (2-year individual) <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 (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) <div style="text-align: center; color: red;">Remit to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631-3185</div>	

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