



Taft Alumni Newsletter

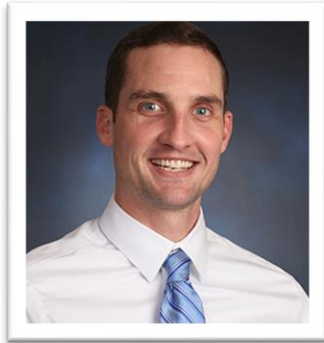
Vol. XL, No. 3

Summer 2024

Meet Principal Ryan Glowacz

Ryan Glowacz has been appointed as the new principal of Taft High School, effective this summer. Glowacz, a Taft alumnus and longtime educator at the school, succeeds retired Principal Mark Grishaber. His background includes:

- Graduate of Taft High School in 2006 (and TAA scholarship recipient)
- Undergraduate degree in Secondary Education and History from Lake Forest College
- Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University
- Current doctoral candidate in Urban Education Leadership at the University of Illinois at Chicago



Glowacz has spent his entire professional career at Taft High School, serving in various roles:

- History teacher
- Academic Center coordinator
- Athletic director
- Assistant principal
- TAA Director and Faculty Liaison

Glowacz's vision for Taft is to continue unlocking its "untapped potential" and make it "the best neighborhood school in Chicago." He plans to enhance the school's academic

programs, social and emotional support systems, and community partnerships. He has a passion for education and a commitment to student success. He believes that every student has the potential to achieve great things, and he wants to help them reach their full potential.

Glowacz is the first Taft graduate to also

serve as its principal. This appointment represents the school's



In a poignant moment prior to commencement, outgoing principal Mark Grishaber high-fives incoming principal Ryan Glowacz.

commitment to its students and community, as well as its belief in the leadership of its alumni.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024

Commencement festivities for more than 900 graduates, including two valedictorians, took place on Sunday, June 2 at the UIC Credit Union 1 Arena. A video of the entire ceremony can be viewed on [YouTube.com/@taftlivestreams7059/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@taftlivestreams7059/streams).



We also congratulate the eighth graders who graduated on Friday, May 31 at the Taft Freshman Academy, many of whom will continue their studies as Taft Freshmen.



Presented by TAA Vice President John Prochaska at the graduation practice, Carley Pederson received the \$2,000 Wayne Andersen Scholarship Award (funded by Wayne Andersen, Jun '63), and Vanessa Bautista received the \$2,000 Anne Lunde Scholarship Award (funded by Jerry (Beesley) Bloom-Stephenson, Jun '62, and James Kepner, Jun '61). The winners, who received a rousing round of applause and cheers from their classmates, will also receive a four-year TAA membership and TAA baseball caps.



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 (Watch for a map coming via email.)

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 (janhelloworldkitty@hotmail.com)

Taft Class of January 1965 60 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025

Location: Moretti's Restaurant in Edison Park

Contact: Bonnie (Stewart) Jilek (taftjune65@gmail.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 (janhelloworldkitty@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)

Taft Class of 1975 50 Year Reunion

Date: TBD

Contact: 1975 classmates are encouraged to contact tafthclassof75@gmail.com to update their details.

Taft Class of 1989 35 Year Reunion

Date: Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10, 2024

Details: Friday: Prom Night, 7:00 pm – 12:00 am at Crystal Sky Banquets, 7941 47th Street, McCook, IL, formal attire, open bar, photographs, souvenirs.

Saturday: Reunion Picnic, 12–6:00 pm at Rotary Park, 600 E Wildwood Ave, Villa Park, IL, Taqueria 1–4:00 pm, guest artist DJ X-Ray

Tickets: Payment due by July 15, \$150 per person, includes admission to both events.

PayPal: peachpan17@gmail.com

CashApp: SYolanda220

Contact: Yolanda Pankey (331-330-1761)

Angela Walker (312-203-9067)



Seated: Diane (Westman) Barry, Sally (Boston) Kofl, Joann (Nardella) Kitowski, Bob Speckmann, Howard Blazek. Standing: Lew Robert, Marge (Prassel) Koscielak, Diane (Nelson) Chapin, Bill Schalk, Paula (Brockstein) Adams, Phil Foss, Karen (Schultz) Swenson.

Wow, what a wonderful reunion! On May 31-June 1 Taft, Class of January 1960 celebrated their 64th reunion at Crust Brewing in Rosemont, IL. Classmates from five states came to share their life experiences and renew old friendships and make new ones. At the end of our time together many said that they wanted "to have another reunion next year." This confirms the adage of noted journalist Jules Pfeiffer who said, "Maturity is a phase, high school is forever." Go Taft Go! We owe a special thank you to Lew Robert and Karen Schultz for putting our reunion together.

Bill Schalk, Jan '60

On May 17, the Class of June 1959 held their Annual Spring Luncheon at The Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, their usual gathering place for Reunions and Luncheons. 27 attended, including retiring Principal, Mark Grishaber and his relief, Ryan Glowacz. Both gave brief, positive remarks and Mark was presented with a special cake for dessert in honor of his 10 very successful, innovative years as our Principal. A GREAT TIME was had by all. The CLASS plans to hold Annual Reunions and Luncheons as noted on their website: TAFTreunion1959.com.

Larry Marsh, Jun '59





I live in Del Webb, Huntley, IL, blessed with one wonderful daughter, Angela, five crazy grandkids who make me laugh all the time. I married the love of my life Tim Ginoza, CPD Sgt., who died in 2022. I also had a heart transplant in 2016, so grateful to be here.

JoAnn (Melone) Ginoza, 1968

I will be celebrating my 25th anniversary of throwing out the first ceremonial pitch at White Sox Park-- Sox against the Blue Jays! July 25, 1999. Wow, that seems like 100 years ago!!

Leo Drummer, Jan '5



Frank Potempa ('77), Karen (Tangeros) Potempa ('76), Sandy (Marshall) Paik ('76), and Michelle (Leger) Krajecki ('76) caught up and shared Stage Crew/Chorus/Drama memories of working on the Talent Show, Fiddler on the Roof, Cabaret, Chorus at O'Hare, the Children's Traveling Troupe, and so many others.!

Thank you for your efforts. I still meet regularly with my classmates Gail (Werner) Larkin, Judy (Sherman) Anderson, and Joyce (Ruttkay) Lewis. I became legally blind 10 years ago after chemo treatment.

Diane (Gotz) Raniere, Jun '56

So proud of my high school! How many didn't leave Illinois and how many made it big says a lot about our great school and teachers. The father of Wayne Schimpff (Jan '59) drove me and my sister Kathleen (Jan '55) to Hitch School. We lived on Natoma.

Doris (Miller) Johnson, Jan '59

Thank you, Committee, for all you do for us.

Patricia (Santell) Lutz, Jun '59

Thank you for all you do!

Audrey (Johnson) Nelson, Jun '66



Congratulations to Wayne Schimpff (Jan '59) on celebrating 75 years registered with Scouts America.

2025 TAA Hall of Fame

The Taft Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes Taft graduates who exemplify the best of Taft High School, people we can be proud of holding high as our colleagues and peers. They bring honor to the name of Taft High School through their accomplishments in their careers, personal achievements, service to others, leadership, and courage. They carry the standards of Taft High School onward, upward through their lives.

It's up to you, as TAA members, to submit nominations for consideration by the TAA Hall of Fame Committee. Nomination applications can be found on the TAA website here: [TAA HOF Nominations](#) or by requesting one be sent to you by mail. Incomplete applications will be returned with a request that you provide the missing data.



[Facebook: Taft Alumni Association of Chicago](#)

May Decision Day

There was music, and food trucks, and fun as Taft students celebrated their Decision Day. Taft hosted an event for seniors to celebrate their post-graduate decisions. Shirts displayed the schools to which they were headed, but TAA was there to remind them never to lose touch with their alma mater.



Taft students proudly wear their new TAA caps and "decision shirts."



On Decision Day, TAA board members Steve White (1988) and Bob Schmidt (1973) were on hand to speak with students about TAA, and to offer newsletters, membership forms, and TAA swag.

www.taftalumni.org



Norwood Park Historical Society



Located only two blocks from the Taft High School varsity campus, the Norwood Park Historical Society is headquartered in the historic 1833 Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest house. The Society maintains a museum and, as part of its mission, seeks to develop and maintain historical archives related to Norwood Park.

Who better than the Taft Alumni Association to assist with the expansion of our archival collection? Since the Taft High School opening in 1939, the students and alumni have been an integral part of the Norwood Park community and have been both eyewitnesses to and participants in local history.

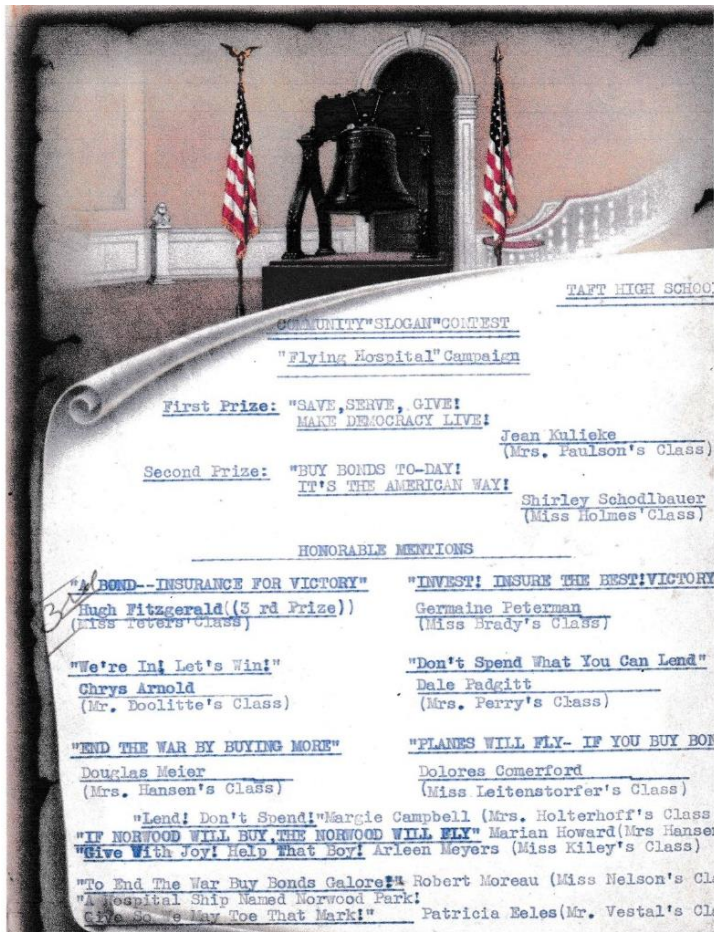
The connection between Taft alumni and the NPHS archives became obvious recently while a Society volunteer was researching the World War II community effort to raise \$500,000 in war bond sales to purchase a hospital plane. The plane would be named *The Spirit of Norwood Park*. Within one week the total amount was raised. Taft and the other local schools participated in a slogan contest for the "Flying Hospital Campaign."

An online search for additional information produced a link to the TAA newsletter published in the Autumn of 2002. In a "Letter to the Editor" an alum recounted biking to Higgins and Mannheim to watch the new Douglas airplanes like *The Spirit of Norwood Park* roll out of the factory. He further recounted being in the crowd of hundreds for the unveiling of a mural of the plane on a building at Northwest Highway and Raven. This type of community memory is invaluable to the effort of preserving the history of Norwood Park.

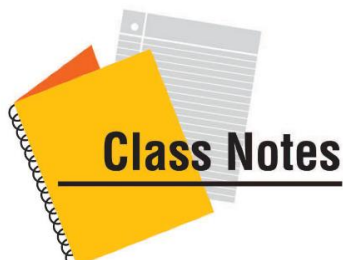
Please join us in preserving the past for the future. Do you have an old photograph of an event, a neighborhood house or business to share with our archives? Do you have a special memory to contribute or an artifact like a prom program or yearbook to donate to our archives? Please contact us at: archives@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

The Noble-Seymour-Crippen house is open on Saturdays from noon until 4pm. Come for a tour and check out our website: <https://norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org>.

Judy Sirvio, NPHS



The Taft contest winners were documented, and a copy is found in the Society archives.



1950s

Dee (Koch) Reichert (Jun 1945) has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Walnut Creek, CA, Wright Jr College AA '48, is retired, still plays golf at age 96.

Wallace Wilson (Jun 1948) has 5 children, 18 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Grayslake, IL, is a retired carpenter and Sears home improvement salesman, expects to be a great great grampa next year; turns 94 in June.

Mary Lou (Crotte) Zolli (Jun 1948) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Portage Park, lives in Bella Vista, AR, is retired.

Philip Klezek (Jun 1949) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Novi, MI, Purdue ME '53; US Navy 1953-55, is a retired planning manager at Ford Motor Co.,

varsity letters in Taft football, basketball, and track, All Big Ten Honorable Mention in football at Purdue, married to Jacqueline (Morgan Park '49).

Mary (Ehrlich) Lundmark (Jun 1949) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended Farnsworth, lives in Albion, IL, DePauw Univ BA '53, is retired.

Roger Nelson (Feb 1952) married **Susan Dokka (Jan 1956)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Suffolk, VA, US Merchant Marine Academy BS '56; Northwestern U MBA '61; US Navy pilot 29 years, is a retired management consultant, age 90, healthy and active.

Barbara (Roess) Siwik (Jun 1953) has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, Metropolitan Business College, is a retired reservationist in Branson MO.

Phyllis (Ruttkay) Verbrugge (Jan 1954) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Beaubien, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Wright Jr College AA '56, is a retired administrative assistant, fortunate to do volunteer work and to travel with groups.

Norine (Anderson) Kmett (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Spring Hill, FL, U Dayton BS, MS Educ, is a retired mathematics teacher, enjoys life in a retirement community.

Beverly (Kintz) Barker (Jan 1956) has 5 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Ocala, FL, college 2 years, is a retired secretary.

Doris (Miller) Johnson (Jan 1956) has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 step grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Savanna, IL, Elgin College, is a retired LPN3 and licensed dental assistant.

Susan (Dokka) Nelson (Jan 1956) married **Roger Nelson (Feb 1952)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Suffolk, VA, Illinois Wesleyan BS '56, is a retired homemaker, enjoys her family and looks forward to more great grands.

Gloria Callaci (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Lincoln, lives in Evanston, IL, Mundelein College BA '61, is a retired media producer, is married to lawyer Larry Suffredin since 1977.

Beverly (Sprecker) Laseke (Jun 1957) has 6 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Rockford, IL, Harper College AS '77; Concordia U BA '80, is retired.

Mary Lynne (Marcus) Barris (Jan 1959) attended Wildwood, lives in Redlands, CA, WIU BA, is a retired teacher.

Dona (Olson) McLaughlin (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Schaumburg, IL, Millikin U BFA '63; NIU MSE '90, is a retired elementary teacher.

Bonnie (Fanslow) Weiss (Jan 1959) has 4 children, 3 stepchildren, many grandchildren and great grandchildren,

attended Prussing, lives in Northbrook, IL, is a retired senior financial counselor at Citi Bank, still loves to gold and travel although she lost her husband last year.

Pat (Santell) Lutz (Jun 1959) has 2 children, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, IL Wesleyan BS '64, is the retired Dir of Public Relations, Woodfield Convention Bureau.

1960s

John Berg (Jan 1960) has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Deerfield, IL, IIT BSME '65; Thunderbird Sch of Global Mgmt BFT '68, is retired.

Bill Schalk (Jan 1960) attended Hamilton, lives in Racine, WI, Coe College BA '65; Marquette Univ JD; US Navy 1966-86, Commander Retired, is a retired prosecutor.

Sandy (Bulatek) Ries (Jun 1960) married **Bob Ries, deceased (Jun 1956)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College, Bus, is retired from I.T. communications and Avon Products.

Ron Tarica (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Templeton, CA, IIT BS Chem Eng '64; Northwestern MS Chem '67, PhD '69, is a retired chemical engineer, continues to serve as CFO of a non-profit art education agency; teaches classical music appreciation to seniors.

Robert Webb (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Macclenny, FL, Millikin U, North Park College; US Army 1965-71, is a retired third-party claims administrator.

Joy (Wallace) Barhite (Jan 1961) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Ft Myers, FL, AA in general education, is retired.

Evelyn (Kuehn) Kuznicki (Jan 1961) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Franklin, NC, Roosevelt U BS Bio '67, is retired.

Lynn (Syvertsen) Haye (Jun 1961) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Elgin, IL, Northwestern Univ, is a retired accountant, winters in Tucson, AZ, widowed for three years.

Bob Tookey (Jun 1961) married **Doret Cunis (Jun 1961)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended St. Paul Luth., lives in Hardeeville, SC, Miami U, is retired.

Kathy (Appleby) Knoll (Jan 1962) remarried **Ron Knoll (Jun '58)**, has 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Algonquin, IL, NIU BA Blind/Low Vision '66; NEI MA Learning Disabilities '77, is a retired educational vision consultant and vision test distributor, started her own business, Vision Associates (www.visionkits.com) in 1994 to assess vision in babies and special needs people.

Karen (Kasallis) Lamping (Jan 1962) attended Oriole Park, lives in River Forest, IL, Rosary College BA '66; Loyola Univ MA '70, JD '82, is a retired assistant public defender, Felony Trial Div. Chicago.

Barbara (Borowski) King (Jun 1962) married **Terry King, deceased (Jan 1960)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Vernon Hills, IL, is the retired assistant to the chairman at Stepan Co.

Dennis Rasmusson (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Woodbury, MN, ISU BS; College of St. Thomas MS; USCG Reserve 1964-70, is retired.

Eileen Thorne (Jan 1963) attended Hitch, lives in New Port Richey, FL, is retired.

Pat McKevitt (Jun 1963) attended Oriole Park, lives in St Louis, MO.

Kris (Warner) Finnigan (Jan 1964) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Bainbridge Island, WA, is a retired consultant.

Robert Rozycki (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, MS Guidance Counseling '73, is retired, taught at Plum Grove Jr HS Palatine '68-'74; Schaumburg HS guidance counselor '74-'80 and student service director '80-'83; Palatine HS principal '83-'90; Fremd HS principal '94-'96; District 211 Asst Superintendent '90-'94, Assoc Superintendent '96-'02; married to Sharon 54 years, daughter is Laurie and son is Brian.

Sally (Haas) Benson (Jan 1965) married **Tom Benson (Jan 1966)**, attended Ebinger, lives in Des Plaines, IL, Ravenswood Hospital School of Nursing 1965-68, is a retired RN, enjoys traveling, sewing, gardening, and volunteerism.

Steve Gotz (Jan 1965) has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Sawyer, MI, DeVry, Wright College, Harper College, is a semi-retired industrial ammonia refrigeration consultant.

Donald Janke (Jan 1965) married **Arlene Rolnicki, deceased (Jun 1962)**, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Chicago, IL, AA, US Navy Reserve 26 years active duty, Vietnam and Desert Storm, is a retired police officer and beach bum, new love is Cheryl (Miller) Dominiski (Jan '65).

Janet (Clune) Klopp (Jan 1965) attended Hitch, lives in Mundelein, IL, NIU BS Ed '68, MBA Bus Acct '82, is a retired accounting specialist for Allstate Insurance, met husband Gerald Klopp (deceased) at NIU who became treasurer and CFO in his last two positions.

Chuck Mugnolo (Jan 1965) attended Edison, lives in Cape Coral, FL, is retired from 30 years with Ford Motor Co.

Bob Diebold (Jun 1965) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, IIT BSEE; NW Kellogg MBA, is retired from telecommunication management.

Bonnie (Stewart) Jilek (Jun 1965) attended Garvy, lives in Simpsonville, SC, BA Spanish and French, is a retired United Airlines HR specialist.

Ginger (Norberg) Yactor (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Palatine, IL, is a retired Palatine HS student supervisor and FAA administrative assistant, married to Tom Yactor, a Vietnam veteran and dental technician.

Tom Benson (Jan 1966) married **Sally Haas (Jan 1965)**, attended Ebinger, lives in Des Plaines, IL, US Air Force 1966-72, Edison Park American Legion, is a retired ComEd lineman and line crew leader, enjoys travel and hobbies, gardening, woodworking, model railroading.

Oscar Marquis (Jan 1966) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Northwestern U BA, JD, is an attorney.

Dee (Stegmaier) Gamble (Jun 1966) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, some college, certification in SBA Financing and corporate finance, paralegal status, is a real estate broker.

Frank Lakofka (Jun 1966) lives in Palatine, IL.

Alan Nelson (Jun 1966) married **Audrey Johnson (Jun 1966)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Carmel, IN, SIU BS Econ; DePaul Univ MS Acct; CPA, is a retired health systems treasurer, enjoys watching the grandchildren at their sporting activities.

Audrey (Johnson) Nelson (Jun 1966) married **Alan Nelson (Jun 1966)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Carmel, IN, Mankato State College BS Social Work, is a retired social worker and activity director.

Lynne Ostfeld (Jun 1966) attended Wildwood, lives in Chicago, IL, UI BA, MAT French, John Marshall Law School JD, is a lawyer and legal advisor to the French Consulate.

William Ott (Jun 1966) attended Hitch, lives in Naperville, IL, MBA; US Air Force 4 years (SSGT) 1968-72, Vietnam, US Navy 30 years, Aviation Machinist Mate – AD2, 1978-80, (Engineering Duty Officer/Special Operations – Captain 1980-08, is retired.

Joyce (Kerstein) Donicht (Jan 1967) attended Garvy, lives in Colorado Springs, CO, U of WI Stout '71, is retired.

Jacque (Luga) Philbin (Jan 1967) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Springfield, VA, UIC BA Psych, is a retired United Airlines flight attendant, became a grandmother to an amazing little boy.

Vinette (Gramarossa) Engler (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended St. Monica, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, Cosmetology school, is a retired hairdresser, became a first-time grandmother two years ago and has never been happier.

Ric Olson (Jun 1967) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Rockford, IL, WSU BS Biology '71, is retired.

Susan (Lang) Ward (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Kingwood, TX, SIU 3 years, LoneStar College, is retired, will be spending summers "up north" due to a health concern.

Bob Altergott (1968) attended Garvy, lives in Lake In The Hills, IL, Music Ed; Construction Tech., is a retired senior project superintendent.

Deborah (Schwantes) Domes (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Roselle, IL, is retired.

Judy Eilken (1968) has 1 child, attended St. Paul Luth., lives in St Louis, MO, UI BA, MA Ger, is a retired high school German teacher, enjoys retirement with travel, hiking, and reading.

Gale Fabisch (1968) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Park Ridge, IL, SIU, BS Env Engr '73; IIT Env Engr grad studies; US Naval Air Reserve 1971-76, is a semi-retired engineering consultant and real estate broker, enjoys traveling, Austin Healey events, golf, sailing, and family events with the grandchildren.

Joann (Melone) Ginoza (1968) has 1 child, 5 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Huntley, IL.

Edwin Karr (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Auburn, WA, DeVry Tech; US Army Corps of Engrs; Xerox Engr., is a retired electronics and electrical engineer, was a United Airlines engineer for 30 years.

Susan (Heckel) Sieck (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired teacher, recently moved back to the area after 40 years in Louisiana.

Susan (Zelichowski) Skinner (1968) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is retired.

Susan (Jancovic) Huestis (1969) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in West St Paul, MN, LPN certification, is a retired LPN and paraprofessional.

Darlene (Mika) Straka (1969) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, Roosevelt U BA '09, is semi-retired.

1970s

Linda (Drakert) Cooper (1970) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in Marshalltown, IA, Lutheran General Hosp RN '73, Grandview BSN, Des Moines MPH, MHA '04, is a retired RN.

Cynthia (Gallaher) Cumpian (1970) has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC BA Art/Arch '74, is a retired business writer and poet, a new poetry collection is forthcoming from Southern Illinois University Press.

Janine (Gulbrandsen) Forney (1970) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, Lutheran General Hospital School of Nursing, is a retired registered nurse.

John Montgomery (1970) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Madison, WI, ISU BS Geo '74; UW

Madison MA Urban Planning '76, MA Public Admin '77, is a retired deputy state budget director.

Bob Peroni (1970) attended Hitch, lives in Austin, TX, DePaul U BSC '73, Northwestern U JD '76, NYU LLM Taxation '80, is a law professor.

Ida (Borrelli) Abel (1971) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Cambria, WI, is retired.

Rich Lindberg (1971) attended Onahan, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Hist '74, MA '87, is a retired author and freelance writer, authored twenty published books about Chicago history, true crime, and sports; "Citadels of Sin: Chicago Vice Under the Gaslight" will be published by Southern Illinois University Press; inducted into the Taft Hall of Fame in 2000.

Robert (Renella) Renella (1972) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in Bloomingdale, IL, AA, BA, MBA, PhD, CCNA, FE, IT, is a semi-retired owner and president of Bella Corp., president of Fountains of Glendale Heights Assoc., is a sailboat captain and has traveled the world.

Don Stein (1972) married **Annie Bursoni (1974)**, has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Niles, IL, UIC BA Mgmt, DePaul Univ MBA Fin, is semi-retired business owner.

Joyce (Luga) Selker (1973) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is a semi-retired high school student supervisor.

Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (1974) has 1 child, attended Our Saviour Lutheran, lives in Del Mar, CA, BA, is retired.

Annie (Bursoni) Stein (1974) married **Don Stein (1972)**, has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Niles, IL, is a retired middle school secretary.

Cindy (Clay) Crouse (1975) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Columbia College BS '91, is semi-retired, is the reigning US Figure Skating silver medalist in Adult Gold Championship Women, the oldest competitor by over 30 years in a group starting at age 21.

George Miller (1978) has 2 children, attended Hitch, lives in Sarasota, FL, NEIU BS Acct/Fin, is a self-employed realtor.

Rosemarie Wolski (1979) attended St. Thecla, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA History '83, is a quality assurance coordinator.

1980s

Monica (Ramos) DiTommaso (1985) has 3 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Lakemoor, IL, is office admin for Berkshire Hathaway HS, Starck Real Estate.

2000s

Vanessa Bautista (2024) lives in Chicago, IL, winner of the 2024 Anne Lunde Scholarship Award.

Carley Pederson (2024) lives in Chicago, IL, winner of the 2024 Wayne Andersen Scholarship Award.

"You Are Beautiful" Installation

If you have ever wondered about the significance of the white lettering on the face of the school building, here's the story.

In spring 2016, Brenda Arteaga, a Taft Visual Art alum, submitted a proposal to local artist and designer Matthew Hoffman for a 'You Are Beautiful' installation on the exterior of our school. Not only was her student proposal approved, but we now proudly display an 8-foot tall 'You Are Beautiful' sign on the southwest corner of our building. Commuters on the CTA Blue Line and drivers on the Kennedy Expressway can see this inspiring artwork. Students appreciate the school administration's support for local contemporary artists and collaborative projects.



Taft Mission Statement

Educate Global Citizens

Taft Vision Statement

Create a Better World

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.

Jean Lois (Smith) Galvin of Des Moines, IA, Class of January 1945, died on April 20, 2024. She was predeceased by her sister Charlotte Smith, Class of June 1941, and her brother Jack Smith, Class of June 1947.

Madeleine Victoria (Hoe) King, Class of June 1942, died on July 16, 1985.

Elaine Beverly "Spike" (Karlsen) Hewitt of Simi, CA, Class of June 1943, died on March 20, 2014. She was predeceased by her brother Earl William Karlsen, Class of June 1941, and her sister Valerie Annette (Karlsen) Boyle, Class of June 1947.

Wanda Ann (Nelson) Stenzel of Princeton, IL, Class of June 1948, died on April 9, 2016.

Harold Albert Brown Jr. of Mt. Prospect, IL, Class of June 1948, died on April 16, 2024.

Richard Glenn Zinn of Centennial, CO, Class of January 1950, died on April 18, 2024.

Joseph Stanley Piekos Jr of Bradenton, FL, Class of June 1950, died on April 12, 2024

Dennis William Schachner of Estero, FL, Class of June 1950, died on April 5, 2024.

Marjorie Carolyn Hoe, Class of January 1950, died on November 30, 1950.

Alice Joan (Armstrong) Engelking of Fair Oaks Ranch, TX, Class of June 1951, died on June 24, 2020.

Joanne Marie (Jacobsen) Nelson of Chevy Chase, MD, Class of June 1952, died on May 30, 2024.

Robert William Harsch of Venice, FL, Class of June 1953, died on April 12, 2024.

Nina Louise Allen of Libertyville, IL, Class of January 1954, died on April 23, 2024. She is survived by her brother Dillis Allen, Class of January 1955.

Gail Ann (Shanks) Longmire of Collum, IL, Class of January 1954, died on February 16, 2024.

Leroy Charles Alberts of Roselle, IL, Class of June 1954, died on April 15, 2024. He is survived by his sister Grace (Alberts) Weir, Class of June 1953.

Robert Wilmer Phillips of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1954, died on July 3, 2024.

Elizabeth Jean (Plank) Schweda of Quincy, IL, Class of June 1954, died on April 11, 2020. She is survived by her brother William Plank, Class of January 1958.

Dorothy Ann (Teufel) Wenzel of Cary, IL, Class of June 1954, died on April 20, 2024. She is survived by her husband

Ralph Teufel, Class of June 1954, and was predeceased by her brothers James Teufel, Class of June 1955, and John Teufel, Class of June 1959.

Carol Emma (Staiger) Ellinghausen of Woodstock, IL, Class of January 1955, died on June 17, 2024. She is survived by her sister Evelyn (Staiger) Schietzelt, Class of June 1951.

Elaine Eleanor (Goettsche) Kokes of Mountain Home, AR, Class of January 1956, died on January 6, 2024.

Robert Basil Oleskow of Lake City, MN, Class of June 1956, died on April 4, 2024.

Laurie (Doyle) Gregornik of Williams Bay, WI, Class of January 1957, died on June 15, 2024.

Gene Frederick Ahlquist of San Jose, CA, Class of June 1957, died on March 27, 2024.

Barbara Alice (Maedge) Johnson of Aiken, SC, Class of June 1959, died on June 16, 2024. She is survived by her husband Robert Johnson, Class of January 1957, and by her sister Dorothea (Maedge) Priddy, Class of January 1964.

Jay Dale Marsh of Woodstock, IL, Class of January 1961, died on May 24, 2024. He is survived by his brothers Larry Marsh, Class of June 1959, and Lee Marsh, Class of January 1965.

Nancy Ruhlow of Couderay, WI, Class of June 1962, died on April 2, 2024.

George William Streske of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1964, died on July 19, 2022. He was predeceased by his brother Brian Streske, Class of 1971.

Michaelene Ann (Skoczynski) Patt of Rolling Meadows, IL, Class of June 1967, died on September 15, 2023. She is survived by her sister Christine Skoczynski, Class of 1969.

Andrew Gary Los of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of 1969, died on April 8, 2019.

Eileen Janice Wolff of Elmhurst, IL, Class of 1970, died in May 2024. She is survived by her brothers Jeffrey Wolff, Class of 1972, Donald Wolff, Class of 1975, and David Wolff, Class of 1979.

Carol Helen (Bator) Markarewicz of Naperville, IL, Class of 1971, died on December 7, 2020.

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 1971, and brother-in-law Randy Huckle, Class of 1969.

John Manzello Dall of Chicago, IL, Class of 1979, died on November 11, 2023.

Brian K. Linning of Wauconda, IL, Class of 1984, died on April 4, 2024.

Denise (Langton) Nalysnyk of Carpentersville, IL, Class of 1989, died on June 11, 2024. She is survived by her husband John Nalysnyk, Class of 1990.

Joslyn Renee Terry of Chicago, IL, Class of 2007, died on May 7, 2024.

Correction: Susan (Morper) Saia, Class of 1970, was incorrectly reported as deceased.



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Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185
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Taft Alumni Association
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Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the *Class Notes*.
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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	
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