



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XL, No. 1

Winter 2024

Connecting Taft Generations

My name is Tara Murphy. I am a parent of a class of 2020 alum [Emma Murphy, TAA Scholarship recipient] and a parent of a current Taft student. I always read the alumni newsletter that my daughter receives. There was a particular entry that caught my attention. Trudy Gander, class of 1942, wrote in saying "I hope to live to enjoy another two years of receiving this newsletter." Doing the math, I put her at 98 years old.

I reached out to Taft administration suggesting that we get students to write letters to Ms. Gander and that I would



Taft English teacher Maria Asvos reads students' letters to Trudy.

deliver or pay the postage for the letters. I have since spoken with one of the staff members of the English department and she is going to work with her students to write letters to Ms. Gander during the first two weeks of school. Ms. Asvos and I were able to meet with Trudy Gander

yesterday. Trudy was a delight! She was very welcoming and so happy for the visit. We enjoyed connecting over several topics and sharing about each other. I even shared some homecoming pictures from Saturday.

Ms. Asvos read several of the student letters to Trudy who was very pleased to hear from the students. Ms. Asvos is to be applauded for her efforts in working with her over 150 students over three weeks. The students researched and found information about Trudy and wrote very personal letters, connecting details about her life and theirs. I am proud we have such dedicated staff at Taft.

Thank you for being willing to connect us to this 99-year-old gem!



Trudy is an artist!

A Double Celebration

The life of Principal Sam Ozaki, who retired in 1989, was celebrated on Homecoming Day, October 13, with the dedication of the Ozaki Garden located at the northeastern corner of the campus. Assistant Principal Ryan Glowacz led the ceremony attended by many Ozaki family members, alumni, and staff.



Ozaki family members gather in the new Ozaki Garden with Ryan Glowacz. Credit: Jamie Napolitano

The Ninth Induction to the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame followed the dedication led by TAA Interim President John Prochaska. Inducted were Wayne Barton Jun '55, James Kepner Jun '61, Dale Schunk Jun '64, John Anderson Jan '65, James Schroeder Jun '67, and Gail Niwa '75.



Wayne Barton accepts his Hall of Fame plaque from John Prochaska. Credit: Robert B. Johnson



Jan Schroeder accepted the plaque for James Schroeder (deceased) with her son James and daughter-in-law Darci. Credit: Jamie Napolitano



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 baseball cap raffle.

So-Cal All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday September 6, 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 1974 50 Year Reunion

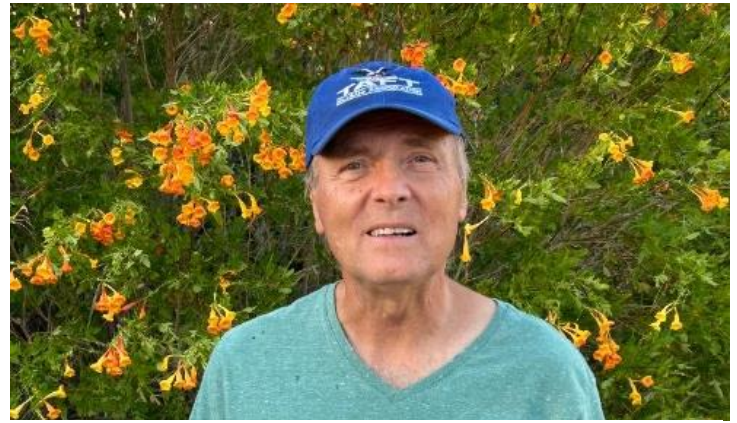
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024
Location: Moretti’s Edison Park
Contact: Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhelloworldkitty@hotmail.com 858-353-3559), Sharon (Kasluga) Biernat (Sharon.biernat@gmail.com 847-644-1030), Donna (Schaller) Evans (Evans56@sbcglobal.net 847-271-4011 text only), Phyllis (Sust) Clare (pclare77@gmail.com 469-237-9509), Lynne (Michalek) Donald (lmdonald@hotmail.com)

Annual Arizona Get-Together



Front: Sally (Schuessler) Abbey Jun '67, Emily (Schuerli) Sutton '70, Heidi (Schuerli) Pappa '71, Paulette (Zemaitis) English Jun '67, Judy Jacobsen '70, Anita (Steinkemper) Grabowski Jun '64, Kathleen with partner Rod Lowell Jun '47. Rear: Nancy (Rick) Richards Jun '67, Frank Macedon Jun '62, Fred Wordell Jun '67, Laurel (Ryan) Makula Jun '67, Rich Makula '69, Lee Nega '69, Terry Pearson Jun '67. Camera shy: Connie Macedon, Diane Pearson, and Bill Steinkemper, our photographer.

We did it again--another perfect day of seeing old friends and greeting a few newcomers.



Rich Makula '69 proudly sports the TAA baseball cap he won in the raffle.

Oriole Park Class of 1961 Reunion



Gathered are Oriole Park 1961/Taft June 1965 classmates Jim Fleming, Liz (Specht) Shaul, Brad Schnell, Caroline (Sessa) DeSalvo, Nancy (Wendt) Gunning, Bill Wildhage (Glenbrook North), and Don Janke.

Class of 1968 55 Year Reunion

The Ridgemoor Country Club in Harwood Heights was the September 30th setting for the 55th Reunion of the Class of 1968. Sunny, 87 degrees, and flower lined fairways, provided beautiful backdrops for our gathering, along with the hall that just happened to be decorated in our school colors. Everyone had a fabulous time, including our “Wait Staff”, current Taft seniors or recent graduates of Taft. We made quite an impression on them, that after all these decades, we still united for laughter, good food, and camaraderie. Thanks to all classmates and their spouses who joined us in making yet another lifetime memory.



Seated: Sharon (Gurrieri) Boll, Joyce (Simon) Grosse, Monica (Pajak) Boyle, Joyce (Stoch) Ciesco, Nancy Warzecha (Reunion Chair), Maggie (Schmidt) Cross, Liz Congiusti, Nancy Krtous, Cindy (Peska) Northrop, Carolyn (Sykes) Toerpe (Reunion Chair). Row 2:

Ann (Hendrickson) Ward, Toni (Catalano) Greenslade, Nancy (Johnson) Kandola, Joy Janes, Marlene (Porter) Boehler, Patrick Collins, Fran (Hepburn) Miller, Susan (Galowitch) Janus, Dan Popp, Linda (Lease) Dustin, Deborah (Schwantes) Domes, Susan (Rocchi) Bruett, Mary (Schindler) Slawek, Mindy (Lovi) Kobusch, Sue (Berry) Breese. Row 3: Michelle "Micki" (Davis) Smallwood, James Ciesco, Charlotte (Wickstrom) Neault, Nick Kockler, Paul Greenslade, Renee (Marquis) Stark, Judy Manning, Gale Fabisch, Nancy (Kramer) Emanuel, Susan (Dietz) Gallagher, Tim Raetzman, Bill Eckholm, Jim Wadas, Richard "Dick" Varyu, John Knudsen. Row 4: Ron Kahler, Ron Nishimoto, Pat (Lutze) Boy, Jack Dustin, Mary (Stoklosa) Ferrandino, Art Ellingsen, Andrea (Vargas) Clark, Karen (Kristin) Nelson, Linda Vandlik.

Class of 1973 50 Year Reunion



The Taft Class of 1973 celebrated their 50 Year Reunion last September with a 3-day weekend of activities beginning with a tour of the school led by Taft Principal Mark Grishaber, coinciding with a home football game. The Gala Evening at the Park Ridge Country Club was attended by 154 graduates and 47 guests. A relaxed Sunday Picnic allowed a final opportunity to reconnect and reminisce.



A generous Class Gift of \$5,000 was presented to "Mr. G" in mid-November by representatives of the Reunion Planning Committee.

www.taftalumni.org

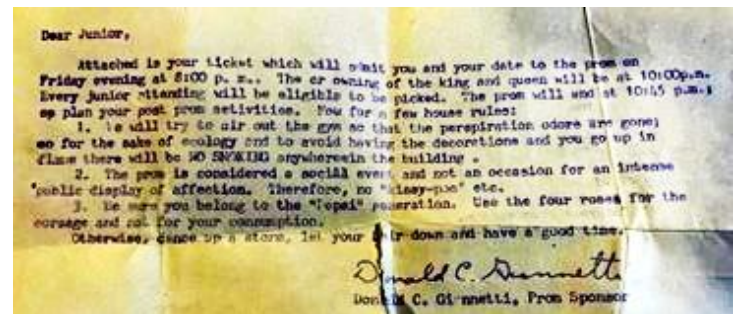


Class of 1978 45 Year Reunion

This 45 Year Reunion held on September 23 marked the seventh reunion held by the dedicated Class of 1978. They had a wonderful time at Moretti's in Edison Park.



Family and friends gathered at the Glen Club in August to celebrate TAA's Vice President/Treasurer's 80th birthday. Taft alums Louis Vassos (Jan '62), Jerry Prochaska (Jun '69), John Prochaska (Jun '61), Cindy (Ludtka) Prochaska (Jun '64), Marilyn (Prochaska) Copeland (Jun '62).



Came across this while going through some old photos.

Laura (Schierer) Wright 1973

I saw an update on Sharon (Hinds) Nystrom, June 1958. and saw that she was living in Westlake Village, California - about one mile from where I live! I contacted her after looking her up and we managed to get together for lunch about a week later and talked about 'old times' !!! And catch up on what we've done since HS graduation. Thanks for your hard work and appreciate the chance to catch up with former classmates!

Chester "Chet" Lee, Jun '58



Longtime Scottsdale volunteer, Lizbeth Congiusti, 1968, here with Scottsdale mayor David Ortega, was featured in a December issue of *The Daily Independent*, a newspaper serving Phoenix area cities in Arizona.

I love reading the Taft Alumni Newsletter!

Marjorie (Klarquist) Nehlsen, Jun '56

Thanks for the "heads up" about the dues increase. You do a much better job than the USPS as they increase the price of stamps and don't tell anyone 'til it's too late.

Judi (Luga) Stephens, Jun '65

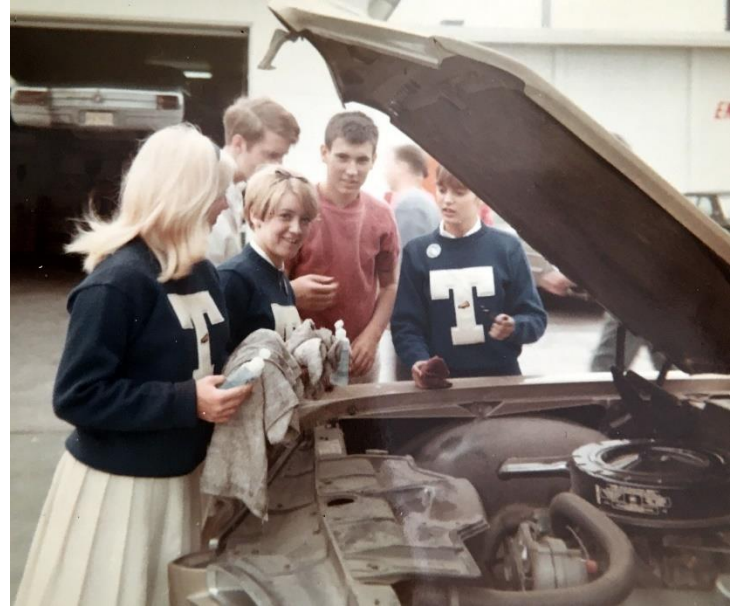


Brandee (Abbott) Hobson, 1993, shared with us that her grandmother Mary (Steigerwald) Abbott, Jun '41, has just celebrated her centennial birthday. Happy Birthday, Mary, and many more!

I read in the Fall 2023 issue of the Taft Alumni Newsletter that Deb Wojtkiewicz was looking for photos for her father-in-law of his gas station from the 50's or 60's. She said it was located on Northwest Highway. These pictures were taken in Fall of '66 at the gas station on Northwest Highway. It may be what she's looking for to show him. I knew there was a good reason to save all those great Taft memories in my scrapbook! Thank you for all you do to keep all of us informed and treasuring what were truly "the good old days." With gratitude and wishes for good health and happiness.

Jacque (Luga) Philbin, Jan '67

Editor's Note: Mr. Wojtkiewicz has since passed away, but the family is happy to have received the photos.



Under the hood are cheerleaders Holly (Gundlach) Mihalovich Jan '67, Shannon (Sifferling) Lloyd Jun '67, Jacque (Luga) Philbin Jan '67.



These fellows are unnamed, but they may remember the day and tell us how cool it was to wash cars with cheerleaders and to raise more than \$400.





Carol Schwarek, who was a Taft student in 1958, shows off her original Pink Ladies jacket.



A highlight of 2023 for Gwen (Kammien) Ginoccio was seeing friends Vicky (Kockler) Fotis and Sandy (McDonough) Anast, June '67 grads. "We went to high school and College together. Vicky and I even went to the same Graduate school! Sandy is a retired elementary school librarian like me."

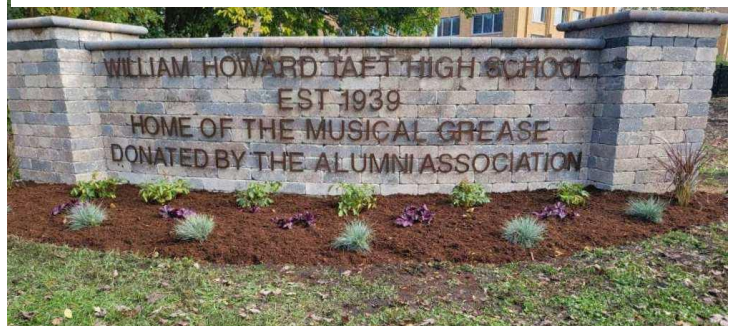
Taft Ticker Tape

- Taft High School has earned a place on the AP School Honor Roll for the 2022-23 school year through Collegeboard which recognizes outstanding schools, work, and support in welcoming more students into the Advanced Placement courses!.

- In the first group of scholars awarded in October honoring the legacy of fallen Chicago police Officer Ella French was Sadie Moussa, a Taft senior and aspiring emergency room nurse.
- The Taft Boys Varsity Soccer Team became City Champions in October.



The editors and some of the writers of Taft High School's newspaper, "Taft Today," smile with a copy of the paper, which came out Oct. 25, 2023, after a three-year break. Students taking Journalism 1 and 2 classes taught by Abby Glickman are responsible for creating the paper, which will publish quarterly and soon have a website. Credit: Ariel Parrella-Aureli/Block Club Chicago



One of the new corner walls at the varsity campus now completed with attractive plantings at the corner of Hurlbut and Natoma.



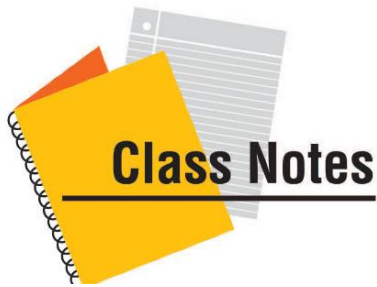
A bench has been installed next to the new putting green, both donated by Marty Paluga, Jun '58. A brass plaque reads "Courtesy of the Evans Scholars in memory of Chick Evans."

Say "Yes" to a TAA Dress!



The Taft Alumni Association will be hosting a Free Prom Dress Event on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Taft High School for all Taft Senior Students. Donations of new or slightly worn dresses, shoes, wraps, purses, or jewelry will be accepted until March 10th. Please contact Marybethe Kelly,

773-507-3087 or mbekelly@gmail.com for pick-up or drop-off details.



1940s

Rod Lowell (Jun 1947) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Tucson, AZ, U Chicago BA; US Army 1952-54, is a retired

physics technician, looks forward to the next Arizona all-class picnic on October 26, 2024.

Dick Akin (Jun 1948) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Diamond Springs, CA, Santa Ana College AA '63, US Marines (active and reserve) 1947-56, Korean War 1951-52, Gny. Sgt. is a retired communications consultant of 32 years in the Bell and AT&T systems, and owner of Telecom Data Consultants for 20 years.

Jack Will (Jan 1949) married **Jerrie Biver-Squire** (Jan 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, North Central College BS '53, starter in every game for 3 years; US Naval officer 1953-57 in charge of PT and swimming at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, is the retired president of Magi Color Paint Co., was class president, starter on the '48 football team that played in the finals at Soldier Field.

1950s

Tom Gutzman (Jun 1950) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, US Army 1951-54, Korea, is retired, at 90 years old is grateful to God to still be here.

Jerrie (Biver) Will (Jun 1950) married **Jack Will** (Jan 1949), has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, American School of Beauty Culture & Make-up, is a hairdresser and retired owner of a salon, became widowed in 1973, married Jack, who was a childhood friend, in 2017.

Richard Lally (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Prussing, lives in Edgerton, WI, Chicago Tech; US Army 1953-1955 (Korea), is retired.

Bob Eischen (Jun 1952) married **Patricia Link** (Jun 1954), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Skokie, IL, U Denver BSBA '57; US Army and US Air Force Reserves, is a retired accountant, remembers his recently deceased friend Rosalie Streng who reunited classmates over the years, some of whom continue to meet socially today.

Bruce Pearson (Jun 1952) lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

Jake Jacobsen (Jan 1953) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Olathe, KS, BS, is retired from Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Pat (Link) Eischen (Jun 1954) married **Robert Eischen** (Jun 1952), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Falconer, lives in Skokie, IL, UI BS Elem Ed, is a retired elementary teacher and homemaker, has enjoyed many happy years of retirement.

Ken Motzny (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Rockford, IL, Purdue U BSAE; LtC Retired, USAF 23 years, is retired, married to Doris Lori of New Jersey for 59 years.

Robert Phillips (Jun 1954) has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, US Army 2 years, is retired.

Paula (Meyer) Hovland (Jan 1956) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Belvedere, IL, is retired.

Barbara (Peterson) Gerhardt (Jun 1956) married **Paul Gerhardt**, deceased (Jan 1954), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Sarasota, FL, U Colorado, is a retired realtor and property manager.

Suzanne (Keiler) Lechowicz (Jun 1956) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Glenview, IL, is a quilter and retired homemaker.

Marjorie (Klarquist) Nehlsen (Jun 1956) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Lake Suzy, FL, is a retired secretary at A.B. Dick Co. in Niles, IL, loves reading the Taft Alumni Newsletter.

Don Ostrom (Jun 1956) has 3 children, attended Onahan, lives in Minneapolis, MN, St. Olaf College BA '60, Washington U MA '70, PhD '72, is a retired college professor and state legislator.

Ron Napier (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Huntington Beach, CA, UI Urbana BS Media Com; Loyola MS Labor Rel, is retired from corporate management, currently a substitute teacher for the local school district.

Martin Paluga (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Las Vegas, NV, Northwestern U BS '62, is a retired CPA and Asst. Controller, Financial Consultant, is "hangin' in der, Babie".

Connie (Wie) Felter (Jan 1959) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Palmer, lives in Mesa, AZ, some college, is a retired credit investigator.

Rod Markgraf (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Inverness, IL, is retired.

Anne (Fear) McManus (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in St Charles, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired swim coach but still teaching babies.

1960s

Marjory Weiler (Jun 1961) has 2 children, 1 (best) grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Williams Bay, WI, Wright Jr. College,

Northwestern U, GRI Realtor Graduate Inst, is a retired real estate broker, love life and enjoys each day.

David Barth (Jan 1962) has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Elgin, IL, Elmhurst Col BA, is a video producer/voice-over narrator.

Jerry (Beesley) Bloom-Stephenson (Jun 1962) married **Walter Hoolhorst** (Jan 1959) deceased, has 2 children, 7 stepchildren, 5 grandchildren, 8 step grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, 7 step great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Sturgeon Bay, WI, BS Bus Adm Elmhurst College '83, is a retired property manager.

Marilyn (Prochaska) Copeland (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Tampa, FL, NIU AA, is retired.

Susan (Craumer) Corrao (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in South Barrington, IL, Wright Col AA; NIU BS Speech Pathology '66, is retired.

Judy (Merrill) Ruegsegger (Jun 1962) has 4 children, 15 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Centerville, OH, Wheaton College BA Lit Secondary Edu '65, is a retired high school English and French teacher, enjoys being a group leader for the international Bible Study Fellowship (BSF).

Nancy Ruhlow (Jun 1962) lives in Couderay, WI, MS Guidance +70 hours, is a retired teacher, has done 7 Red Cross missions, e.g. Hurricane Sandy, and volunteers as purchasing agent for the Hayward Community Food Shelf controlling inventory.

Mary (Terlecki) McKelvey (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Sun City West, AZ, NIU BS Edu, is a retired staff development coordinator.

Carol (Lundberg) Miller (Jan 1963) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Larchwood, IA, Wright Jr College; Augustana U, is a retired librarian.

Lois (Soby) Bahlow (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Riverview, FL, is retired from sales.

Carol (Thorson) Hildebrand (Jun 1963) has 2 children, attended Hitch, lives in Poinciana, FL, Gustavus BA '67, National U MS Med '80, is a retired Commander, US Navy Nurse Corps 20 years.

Barbara (Puccinelli) Monstvil (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Greensboro, GA, NIU, is retired.

Carolyn (Feare) Rominski (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Batavia, IL, MA Edu, is a retired teacher.

Glenn Skinner (Jan 1964) has 3 children, attended Garvy, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, Northwestern U BAA '71, is a retired trust officer.

Paul Holland (Jun 1964) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Des Plaines, IL, College 1 year; US Army 2 years, is retired from self-employment.

Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper (Jun 1964) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Phoenix, AZ, is retired from school district finance and IT.

Cheryl (Miller) Dominowski (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Lake Zurich, IL, is a semi-retired visual merchandiser, does special events for Chicagoland Lab Rescue.

Peter Ebner (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Glendale Hts, IL, NIU BS Phys Ed, MA Phys Ed '73, is a retired high school teacher and coach.

Pamela (Piper) Farb (Jun 1965) has 3 children 8 grandchildren, lives in Punta Gorda, FL, RN, is a retired obstetrical nurse.

Wayne Hanslik (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Batavia, IL, UIC BA Sociology, is retired from insurance sales, currently sells Medicare supplements.

Marie (Marquardt) Rodgers (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Irvine, CA, American Beauty College '66; Interior Designers Institute 2001, is a retired interior designer.

Judi (Luga) Stephens (Jun 1965) married **Dennis Stephens** (Jun 1965), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Barrington, IL, UIC BA French Ed '69, Middlebury College MA French '71, is a homemaker.

Ronald Lindberg (Jan 1966) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Willowbrook, IL, Augustana BA '70; UI MS Chem '72; UI MD '76, is a retired ophthalmologist since 2020.

Katherine (Schneider) Knapp (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Henderson, NV, NEIU BA PE '71, is retired.

Judie (Montgomery) Fezekas (Jan 1967) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Huntley, IL, NIU 2 years, is retired.

Ken Kulovitz (Jan 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Anaheim Hills, CA, Wright College AA, Amundsen-Mayfair College BA; US Army 1970-72, is a semi-retired accountant and works part time at Angels Stadium and Honda Center in Anaheim, CA.

Sally (Schuessler) Abbey (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild on the way, attended Onahan, lives in Glendale, AZ, BA Graphic Design, MA Ed, is a semi-retired elementary teacher and practicing artist.

Sue (Oenning) Halihan (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 3 stepchildren, 13 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, Harper College AA Nurs '81, is a retired RN.

Tom Marquardt (Jun 1967) lives in Murrells Inlet, SC, North Park College BS '71, is retired in 2013 from the VA.

John Knudson (1968) attended Ebinger, lives in Melbourne, FL, Valparaiso U BS, Idaho State U MA, is a retired 13-year college football coach and 36-year financial advisor, married to Stephanie.

1970s

Phil Iglitz (1969) married **Gail Anderson** (1970), has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Corvallis, MT, UIC BS '74, UNLV MS '92, is a retired high school math teacher, lives on 6 acres in Bitterroot Valley, Montana.

Michael Wojcik (1969) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is works in hotel service.

Gail (Anderson) Iglitz (1970) married **Phil Iglitz** (1969), has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Corvallis, MT, UNLV BS '03, is a retired landscape architect.

Mike West (1971) has 2 children, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Mesa, AZ, is retired.

Linda (Van Ornum) Andrews (1973) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Mundelein College BA English/Comm '79 ; UIC MSW '06, is a retired clinical social worker, loved the 50 year class reunion.

Bruce Moffat (1973) attended Wildwood, lives in Chicago, IL, ISU BS '77, UIC MS Urban Planning & Policy '84, is a retired CTA manager, has authored six books on Chicago transportation history.

Jamie (Moffat) Pastwa (1975) attended Wildwood, lives in Orion, MI, MA Special Ed, is a retired special education teacher.

Sandi (Sanderson) Darnell (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Lake Zurich, IL, is retired, loves being a grandmother called "Momo" by her grandkids.

Russell Anderson (1977) has 2 children, lives in Spring Grove, IL, ASSC Fire Science, Fire Officer III, Health and Safety Officer, is a retired Lieutenant FF/PM Officer, enjoys retirement through all his hobbies and travels.

Susan (Marquardt) Morrison (1978) attended Oriole Park, lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, SIU BS Math, is a retired analyst.

Keith Engelmann (1979) has 1 child, attended St. Thecla, lives in Carmel, IN, NIU BS Econ '83, is a regional sales manager.

1980s

Cathy Wallin (1980) attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired registered nurse, loves retirement.

Christina Whitty (1988) has 2 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Batavia, IL, DePaul U MBA, is a field manager, completed 35 years of public service in 2023.

2000s

Adrianna (Jelesnianska) Misterka (2008) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Clarendon Hills, IL, UIUC BA Math; Northwestern MS Analytics, is a data scientist.

Adrian Mazon (2012) married **Stephanie Wilczynski** (2015), lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Criminal Justice, is a data analyst.

Stephanie Wilczynski (2015) married **Adrian Mazon Jr** (2012), attended Garvy, lives in Chicago, IL, DePaul U BA Sec Ed English, is a teacher at Taft in the English Dept.

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.



Linda Rose Hines of Rockford, IL, died on October 10, 2023. She was a Taft English teacher in recent years.

Walter D. Alvin of Sturgeon Bay, WI, Class of June 1942, died on November 18, 2023. He was preceded in death by his brothers Harold Alvin, Class of June 1945, Version Alvin, Class of June 1947, and Arvid Alvin, Class of June 1948.

Jeanette Ann (Malon) Ostromencki of Tucson, AZ, Class of January 1944, died on November 19, 2023. She is survived by her daughters Nancy Ostromencki, Class of 1972, Jan (Ostromencki) Savage, Class of 1974, and Jill Ostromencki, Class of 1976.

William David Motzny of Waterford, MI, Class of June 1948, died on September 27, 2023. He was preceded in death by his wife Elaine (Langer) Motzny, Class of January 1948.

Richard Allen Hathaway of Groveland, CA, Class of June 1952, died in March 2022.

Karen Ruth (England) Shaw of Lodi, WI, Class of June 1952, died on October 14, 2023. She is survived by her brother Bruce England, Class of January 1959, and her sister Martha (England) Woodman, Class of January 1960.

Marilynn Lucille (Loh) Wennerstrom of Mesa, AZ, Class of June 1953, died in September 2023. She was preceded in death by her brothers Russell Loh, Class of February 1952, and Richard Loh, Class of January 1957.

Barbara (Gliot) Schiefelbein of Lake St. Louis, MO, Class of January 1954, died on November 17, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband Gordon Schiefelbein, Class of February 1952, and by her sister Joanne (Gliot) Ross, Class of January 1949.

Gary Freeman Machon of Medford, WI, Class of June 1954, died on December 27, 2021. He was survived by his wife Donna (Matheson) Machon, Class of January 1957, by his sister Barbara (Machon) Hernandez, Class of January 1957, and by his brother Robert Machon, Class of June 1948.

Rosalie Streng of Des Plaines, IL, Class of June 1954, died on October 13, 2023.

Rosalie Stella (Davies) Zweifel of Dodgeville, WI, Class of June 1955, died on April 13, 2022. She was preceded in death by her sister Muriel (Davies) Kaminski, Class of June 1940.

Leonard Stanley Zaw of Fountain Hills, AZ, Class of January 1957, died on November 23, 2021. He is survived by his wife Nancy (Sauer) Zaw, Class of January 1966.

Lynnette Evelyn (Dickow) Clooney of Fox Lake, IL, Class of June 1957, died on September 18, 2023.

Norman Hoy Bohrnell of Schaumburg, IL, Class of January 1959, died on September 16, 2021. He is survived by his sister Linda Bohrnell, Class of January 1966.

Karen (Huber) Rudnik of Carol Stream, IL, Class of January 1964, died on November 24, 2023.

Florence Margaret (Cline) Dampitz of Hainesville, IL, Class of June 1965, died on March 14, 2021.

Ulla (Jensen) Clair of Lake Forest, CA, Class of June 1965, died on August 8, 2023.

Frederick George Kudert of Niles, IL, Class of June 1965, died in January 2023.

Sandra Lee (Shudert) Metrakos of Bullhead City, AZ, Class of June 1965, died on July 27, 2022.

Eugene Douglas "Gene" Corey of Buffalo, NY, Class of June 1966, died on January 6, 2020.

Nancy Ellen (Knapp) Greco of Schaumburg, IL, Class of June 1966, died on September 28, 2023. She was preceded in death by her brother Edward Knapp, Class of 1971, and her sister Rosemary (Knapp) Heidrich, Class of 1968. She is survived by her sister Patricia (Knapp) Poleski, Class of June 1963.

Katina Evangela Kralis of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1966, died on September 3, 2020.

Georgia Ann "Annie" Lycos of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1966, died on January 21, 2021.

John Paul Zervic of Marietta, GA, Class of June 1966, died on December 20, 2023. He is survived by his wife Judie (Alley) Zervic,

Class of June 1967, and by his brother Stephen Zervic, Class of 1969.

Alice (Gusias) DeRose of Portage, IN, Class of June 1967, died on October 3, 2023. She is survived by her sister Greta (Gusias) Richards, Class of June 1965.

Rosalie Abbinanti of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died on July 28, 2017.

John William Bantz of Crystal Lake, IL, Class of 1968, died on October 4, 2003.

Thomas Joseph Benedetto, Class of 1968, died in 2006.

Bonita "Bonnie" (Berg) Bishop of Cary, IL, Class of 1968, died on April 20, 2023.

Harry M. Bonczkowski of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died in 1993.

Thomas James Boyle, Class of 1968, died on June 18, 2012.

Stanley Carl Cook of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2005.

Nancy (Wells) Czarnecki of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2012.

Gordon Patrick Dill, Class of 1968, died in 1998.

Steven William Downs of Buffalo Grove, IL, Class of 1968, died on May 1, 2022.

William Faklaris, Class of 1968, died on January 26, 2019.

Cynthia Jewel Flight, Class of 1968, died in 2016.

Kenneth Walter Gauger of Kildeer, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2002.

Lois Bernice (Renji) Griffin of Wilmington, IL, Class of 1968, died in 1998.

Stephen Dale Grosch, Class of 1968, died on December 26, 2008.

Deborah Anne (Post) Guenther or Parker, CO, Class of 1968, died on January 1, 2019.

Dale Lee Hays of Elk Grove Village, IL, Class of 1968, died on June 1, 2020.

Janice Barbara Humel of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died on June 3, 2017.

Dennis Edmund Jakubiec, Class of 1968, died on February 9, 2020.

Charles J. Kaminskas Jr., Class of 1968, died in 1999.

Mary Ann (Lindgren) Kelmann of Muscoda, WI, Class of 1968, died on March 4, 2013.

Kim Turner Kiesgen of Wales, WI, Class of 1968, died on December 20, 2013.

Maria L. (Cholewinski) Koziol of Rolling Meadows, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2006.

Lois Jane Leftwich, Class of 1968, died on March 18, 2021.

Constance A. (Matysiewski) Meyer of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died on December 15, 2021.

Gary Arthur Nelson of Arlington Hts., IL, Class of 1968, died on January 18, 2015.

Ingrid Ostrenga of Honolulu, HI, Class of 1968, died on December 24, 1975.

Susan (Schwindt) Raucci of Wildwood, IL, Class of 1968, died on April 11, 2017. She is survived by her husband Tom Raucci, Class of June 1967, her brothers Fred Schwindt, Class of June 1962 and Robert Schwindt, Class of June 1962, and her sister Diana Schwindt, Class of January 1967.

Daniel Schmeissing of Richton Park, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2006.

Peggy Lee (Harles) Stangeland of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died on September 26, 2022.

Glenn Walter Schuster, Class of 1968, died on June 30, 2017.

Barbara Anne Slanec of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died on August 28, 2020.

Rhonda Ellen (Rollett) Tichner of Crystal Lake, IL, Class of 1968, died on November 8, 2018.

Susan Marie Toelke, Class of 1968, died on September 16, 2017.

Frank Peter Turza of Chicago, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2006.

Karen Nan (Bergstrom) Vlamis of McHenry, IL, Class of 1968, died in 2001.

Karen Marie (Danielson) Widner of Putnam, IL, Class of 1968, died on March 11, 2008.

Karen (Cachevki) Williams of Laramie, WY, Class of 1968, died on April 16, 2023.

Dennis P. Wollenberg of Lisle, IL, Class of 1968, died on February 19, 2020.

Beth Leatte (Beaumont) Olson of Elmwood Park, IL, Class of 1971, died in June 2022.

Mary Ann Klein of Chicago, IL, Class of 1973, died on July 27, 2016. She is survived by her sister Theresa (Klein) Davis, Class of June 1966.

Joseph Edward Bontempo of Norridge, IL, Class of 1972, died on December 6, 2023. He is survived by his brother Jay Bontempo, Class of 1973, and his sister Donna (Bontempo) Roth, Class of 1976.

Henry Charles Paul of Long Grove, IL, Class of 1973, died on December 18, 2023.

Julius "Jay Elvis" Sifferling of Chicago, IL, Class of 1973, died on October 20, 1994.

Kathleen Elizabeth (Jurek) Cowan of Arlington, TX, Class of 1975, died in October 2023.

Debora L. (Rogers) Dillon of Chicago, IL, Class of 1975, died on April 29, 2023.

Joan Ann (Schaefer) Zaitlen of Oak Park, IL, Class of 1975, died on June 24, 2023.

James Kuksuk of Chicago, IL, Class of 1979, died on November 25, 2021. He is survived by his brother John Kuksuk, Class of 1988.

Laura Jo Tagliere of Chicago, IL, Class of 1979, died on October 19, 2023. She was a former TAA board director.

Ronnell Wicks of Matteson, IL, Class of 1987, died on October 28, 2023.



Angela (Taylor) Taylor-Gordon of Chicago, IL, Class of 1989, died in October 2023.

The following 1973 alumni, whose dates of death are unknown, were identified by their Reunion Committee:

Patricia Aitken, Thomas Angarola, Freda Bartling, Michael Bickel, Louis Bieniek, Leigh Borchardt, William Carpenter, Toni Cascio, Chester Cholewinski, David Cizon, Spencer Clark, Guy Dettlo, Thomas Devitt, Thomas Diamond, Michael Fee, Terence Gibula, Christine Giles, Karen (Gondek) Olson, Thomas Greene, Paul Hansen, Terry Harris, Susan Hopkins, Nancy (Howard) Wallis, Donna (Jennrich) Sonandres, James Kamick, Thomas Kammerer, Robert Kasper, Linda (Kazarian) Lago, Charles Kennedy, Kathleen (Krawzak) Pearson, Donald Lang, Marcia Lauf, John MacConnell, Patrick McCormack, Elizabeth (Mellinger) Lieggi, John Moriarty, Edward Niekrasz, John Pabst, Bruce Pearson, Theresa Prociuk, Walter Prociuk, Andrew Rabiej Steven Rahn, John Schaefer, Mary Jo Scholpp, Paul Schrot, Elaine (Stefely) Berglund, Conrad Vlach, David Zittnan.

Errata: Glenn Baldwin, Class of 1968, is not deceased.

Taft Alumni Association Official Merchandise

Item	Size	Qty	Price Ea.	S&H Ea.	Total
 Windbreaker , nylon with drawstring bottom printed with TAA logo	Medium		\$25.00	\$ 6.00	\$
	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	\$
 T-Shirt , gray cotton printed with TAA logo	Medium		\$10.00	\$ 4.00	\$
	Large		\$14.00	\$ 4.00	\$
	X- Large		\$14.00	\$ 4.00	\$
	XX- Large		\$15.00	\$ 5.00	\$
	XXX- Large		\$15.00	\$ 6.00	\$
 Fleece Jacket with embroidered Taft Alumni logo	Medium		\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	Large		\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	X- Large	Out of Stock	\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
	XX- Large	Out of Stock	\$55.00	\$ 8.00	\$
Total Remitted					\$
Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.					
<i>Print Name:</i>		<i>Grad Month/Year:</i>			
<i>Address:</i>					
<i>City/State/ZIP:</i>		<i>Phone: ()</i>			
Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185					

Taft Alumni Association
Membership Application or Renewal

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

About You				<input type="checkbox"/> My information has not changed		<input type="checkbox"/> Do not publish my information in Class Notes	
*First Name (PRINT CLEARLY)		* Last Name at Graduation		* Current Last Name (if different)			
*Home Street Address			*City		*State		*ZIP
Primary Phone		Email Address				List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
*Month/Year You Graduated		Number of Children Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____					
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years							
Occupation				Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi		Elementary School Graduated From	
Other news you'd like to share?							
About Your Taft Graduate Spouse							
*First Name		* Last Name at Graduation		* Current Last Name (if different)			
Primary Phone		Email Address				List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated		Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years					
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years							
Occupation				Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi		Elementary School Graduated From	
Other news you'd like to share?							
Your Membership Choices							
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 Remit to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631-3185							

2024-2025 Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors					
Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	President, Editor, Membership Chairman	Arthur Kay	1961	Director
John Prochaska	1961	Vice President, Treasurer	James Kepner	1961	Director
Paul Madsen	1971	2 nd Vice President	Wayne Schimpff	1959	Director
Marybethe (Hirth) Kelly	1978	Secretary, Events Coordinator	Steven White	1988	Director
Anne Lunde	1969	President Emeritus, Historian	Stephanie Wilczynski	2015	Director
Ryan Glowacz	2006	Director, Faculty Liaison	Richard Lindberg	1971	Director
Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director	Robert L. Schmidt	1973	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

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