



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XLI, No. 1

Winter 2025

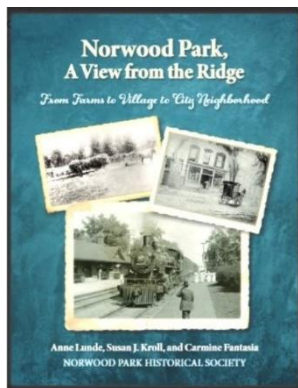
## Remembering President Carter



*Principal Glowacz shared this event, believed to have taken place at O'Hare Airport, that appeared in the 1980 yearbook*

## Norwood Park, A View from the Ridge

"Norwood Park, A View from the Ridge. From Farms to Village to City Neighborhood" tracks the pioneer history of the Taft area from the early 1830s settlements to local schools preceding Taft. The project has been in progress for several years. Authors include Anne Lunde (1969), Susan J. Kroll, Carmen Fantasia, and the late Ron Kelder (Jun '52).



The society headquarters is the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest house (1833), a block west of Taft's main building. Members of the Crippen family also attended Taft when they lived there.

The book, including extensive photos and footnotes, is 355 pages long. Books can be

purchased and picked up or purchased in person. Taft Alumni are eligible for a 10% discount by providing their graduation year: <https://norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org/>

## Call for TAA Hall of Fame Nominations

**Who nominates alumni for the TAA Hall of Fame? You do!** Nominations for the 2025 Taft Alumni Hall of Fame Induction are now being accepted. We are looking for Taft alumni who, through a lifetime of achievement(s) and

dedication, exemplify the values we hold dear and will become examples for all current and future Taft students.

Please include your best information, and if possible, consult with the nominee as you prepare it. We must have current contact details for the nominee or a family representative.

The following are highlights of the standing rules for nominations:

1. Nominees should be Taft graduates, living or deceased, who exemplify the best of Taft. Nominations may be submitted by anyone except by the nominee.
2. Nominations will be submitted on the standardized official nomination form available on the TAA website at [www.taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org), or by the TAA Secretary upon request.
3. Both present and past directors are eligible to volunteer to serve on the Hall of Fame Evaluation Committee, so long as they themselves have not submitted a nomination for the current induction.
4. Nominees will be judged by a point system that will consider:
  - Achievement in scholastic pursuits
  - Achievement in vocational pursuits
  - Contributions to community and country
  - Meritorious recognition of actions, services, or achievements
  - Significant philanthropic involvement
  - Any additional significant considerations
5. The top five scoring nominees will be submitted as the slate for board approval. Inductions take place every three years, thus allowing the Taft student body to be introduced to, and become familiar with, their predecessors' accomplishments at least once during their years at Taft.
6. Any nominee who is not selected for induction will be eligible for the next induction so long as a new nominating form is submitted with current data.

The 2025 Induction Ceremony for the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame is set for Homecoming in October 2025. The exact date, time, and location will be announced in an upcoming newsletter. **The deadline for submission of nominations is June 1, 2025.**



### **Arizona All-Class Picnic**

**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2025, 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 for TAA gear), bring a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers.

### **So-Cal All-Class Get-Together**

**Date:** Saturday September 20, 2025, 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.

**Please RSVP!** Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhelloworld@hotmail.com), 858-353-3559

### **Taft Class of January 1965 60 Year Reunion**

**Date:** Saturday, June 7, 2025

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines

**Contact:** Cheryl (Miller) Dominowski (ckdomin@aol.com) or Lee Marsh (taft65@yahoo.com)

### **Taft Class of June 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 1975 50 Year Reunion**

**Date:** Saturday, September 13, 2025, 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

**Location:** Moretti's Restaurant in Edison Park

**Contact:** tafthscloassof75@gmail.com

## **1974 All-Grammar-School Reunion**



*In a twist on reunions, these '78 alumni celebrated 50 years since their 1974 graduation from elementary school.*

## **Arizona All-Class Picnic**

What a great gathering of alumni in Sun City, AZ! We were so glad to see them all again and to welcome many newcomers.



*Seated: Judy Jacobsen, '70, Kris (Warzecha) Tyler, Jun 1964, Nancy Warzecha, '68, Eileen (Gierke) Rasmussen, Jun '61, Paulette (Zemaitis) English, Jun '67, Patti (Zowal) Kalesz, Jun '66, Nancy Luikaart, '68, Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper, Jun '64, Sally (Schuessler) Abbey, Jun '67. Standing: Rich Makula, '69, Laurel (Ryan) Makula, Jun '67, Marty Wordell, Jun '66, Nancy (Rick) Richards, Jun '67, Teri Hoffman, '70, Fred Wordell, Jun '67, Frank Macedon, Jun '62, John Placko, Jun '65, Lee Nega, '69.*



*Anita was this year's happy winner of the picnic raffle. Paulette presented her with a Taft Alumni sweatshirt.*

## **Class of 1959 65 Year Reunion**

Our 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion was held 27-29 September. A Friday Pizza Party, Saturday Banquet, and Sunday Farewell Breakfast were enjoyed by all. Over 40 attended, including our



Honorary Classmate, Mark Grishaber, his wife, Tina, and new Principal, Ryan Glowacz. Both Principals addressed the Banquet. A good time was had by all as fun and memories



were ever present! The class plans to continue to have Christmas/New Years and Spring Luncheons in addition to Annual Reunions.

Larry Marsh, Jun '59



Left: Class Artist and Vice President, Barbara (Knudson) Newlin presented Mark Grishaber a Special Class Accomplishment Certificate for his outstanding, dedicated, innovative, and noteworthy leadership as Taft's Principal over the past 10 years. Right: Class President Larry Marsh, with new Principal, Ryan Glowacz and retiring Principal Mark Grishaber.

## Class of 1959 Annual Holiday Party



Gathered for their annual holiday pizza party at the Des Plaines Hilton Garden Inn, 21 classmates shared fellowship, food, fun, and sang the Taft Fight Song...twice!



These are the 1959 reunion committee members who keep the reunion ball rolling: Larry Marsh, Joe Bartel, Penni (Eichin)-Isaacson and Leanne (Mattick) Spiegel.

## Class of 1969 55 Year Reunion



Class of 1969 alumni celebrated on October 5 at Moretti's in Edison Park: Front: Larry Magill

Row 1: Charlene (Puchmelter) Kuhnlohe, Dianne (Dreyer) Skelenger, Julie (Balodimas) Blake, Chris (Wirth) Maxwell, Suzanne (Jancovic) Huestis, Holly (Roschman) Vitello, Valerie (Stewart) Sosnowski

Row 2: Dwayne Peterson, Mickey Wojcik, Mike Franzen, Darlene (Mika) Straka, Denise Wise, Laurel (Thoren) Kaage, Kathy (Bickler) Lesniak, George Zittnan, Ken Vanderhorst

Row 3: Chuck Bacon, Emil Kane, Gary Evans, Peggy Roberts, Bruce Pemberton, Jean (Mosk) Wright, Larry Maurer (1966), Gary Nolte, Tom Downs, Randy Witek, John Schmidt, Lee Hensel, Irv Kaage, Bob Kanen



The happy door prize winners: Kathy (Bickler) Lesniak, Denise Wise, Charlene (Puchmelter) Kuhnlohe, Dianne (Dreyer) Skelenger, Chris (Wirth) Maxwell, Darlene (Mika) Straka



Thank you for making it possible to apply for or renew our TAA membership online, by paying with a credit card. It was the first time for me, and I loved it! Previously, I would send in a check through the not-so-reliable US mail, and it took quite a while to get there, as well as to process. Paying by credit card this morning was seamless and immediate! As soon as I sent it, I received an immediate email confirmation and receipt. I think this process should encourage folks to apply for or renew their membership! It could not be easier, by just sending our completed form to you via email, and then clicking on the link from you and going to the "Membership" page. Thank you for making this possible! For me, there will be no other way to maintain my membership! I hope other folks do the same!

Valerie (Stewart) Sosnowski, 1969

How come you never put 1945 in the newsletter? I'm still around. I'm 97 and still alive.

Dee (Koch) Reichert, Jun '45

*Editor's Note: We are always delighted to hear from the Greatest Generation! Alumni who are listed in the Class Notes are those who joined or renewed their TAA membership in the prior quarter.*

Thanks for all that you do!

Larry Wojcik, 1969



*During the holidays, Sally (Schussler) Abbey, Jun '67, deftly captured the likeness of one of her adorable companions in Arizona.*

Greetings from Long Island, NY. Not much news for the January 1953 class, however we will be celebrating the fact that those still around will have a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Wow!

H. Paul Rebscher, Jan '53



*TAA VP/Treasurer John Prochaska, Jun '61, (right) participated in the 118th Honor Flight Chicago. Standing with him is his guardian/guide for the day in DC, a retired Air Force colonel and surgeon.*

Thanks for keeping us in the loop. Go Taft Go!!

Kathleen (Bara) Pfeiffer, 1976



*"Gonna always rep my class wherever I go! Philadelphia Eagles, meet a Taft Eagle!" says Angela Yates-Baker, 1989*

Thanks for all that you do!

Bill Eckholm, 1968

Sincere thanks for all of your excellent hard work and the fantastic publication. Go Eagles!

Brian Johnson, 1971

Thanks for another great newsletter!

Judy LaMarche, Jan '65

Thanks for all your good work to keep us all connected.

Ruth (Frame) Van Reken, Jun '63

Hello! I am a 1976 graduate of Taft. The choir sang at O'Hare Airport International Terminal to welcome home returning veterans. Are there any photos of this event and possibly others from 1972 to 1976? I have barely any photos if those wonderful times. Thank you!

Kathleen (Bara) Pfeiffer, 1976

I read my Newsletters religiously so thank you SO MUCH!

Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco, Jun '62



**TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PROM DRESS  
GIVEAWAY EVENT!**

**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 14, 2025  
9 AM - 2 PM  
TVC FORUM #162**

**Complete the interest form  
using your CPS email here:  
<https://bit.ly/TAADressEvent>  
or scan the QR code!**

Donations of new or slightly worn dresses, shoes, wraps, purses or jewelry accepted until March 10th. Please contact Jamie Napolitano 773-534-1061 for pick-up or drop-off details. Thank you to Sew Bridal Edison Park for your partnership and donations!




## Last Chance!

We have a few items of "classic" merchandise sporting the TAA logo that we're offering now with **free shipping!** Send an email to [Taft1961reunion@aol.com](mailto:Taft1961reunion@aol.com) before sending a check to be sure the items are still in stock.

- (2) Large Blue Nylon Windbreakers \$25
- (1) X Large Blue Nylon Windbreakers \$25
- (6) XX Large Blue Nylon Windbreakers \$25
- (5) XXX Large Blue Nylon Windbreakers \$25
- (9) Medium Gray T-Shirt \$10
- (9) Large Gray T-Shirt \$14
- (17) X Large Gray T-Shirt \$14
- (9) XX Large Gray T-Shirt \$15
- (15) XXX Large Gray T-Shirt \$15



## Lost Classmates



*Looking for someone? For a \$5 donation TAA will print your request here. If the person responds, we'll provide them with your contact information so that they may contact you.*

Lizbeth Congiusti, 1968, is looking for Dale Conrad, 1968

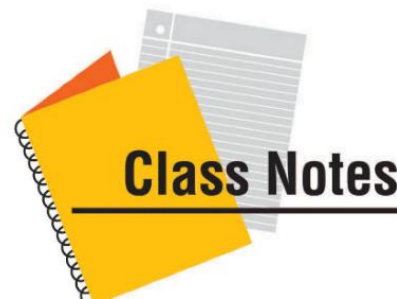
## Taft Ticker Tape

Reported by Brian Nadig, Nadig Newspapers:

- The school's enrollment has reached 4,285 students and is expected to surpass 4,300, with new transfers arriving weekly.
- Taft has implemented a revised grading policy where students cannot receive less than 50% on any test or assignment. This change aims to prevent a single poor grade from making it nearly impossible for a student to pass a class. Teachers' feedback has been positive and there is an increase in student engagement.
- The school has eliminated its "pod" system, which grouped students during the pandemic to limit exposure to COVID-19.
- These developments reflect Taft High School's efforts to adapt to changing educational needs and a growing student body.

Reported by Patch Media:

- Six of the top 10 best middle schools in Illinois are part of Chicago Public Schools, according to a new analysis by U.S. News & World Report, including Taft High School.



### 1940s

**James Peterson (Jun 1948)** has 6 children, 1 grandchild, attended Edgebrook, lives in San Diego, CA, UI BSME, US Army Ordnance Corps 2 years, 1st Lt., is a retired systems engineering manager.

### 1950s

**Ray Black (Jan 1951)** has 9 children, 25 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Guttenberg, IA, 2 years college, is a contractor.

**Paul Rebscher (Jan 1953)** has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Moriches, NY, Beloit College 1 year; US Navy 1955-57, is a retired Flying Tiger Airline pilot.

**Lois (Plechaty) Rolf (Jan 1953)** has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College AA; CTC BE, is a retired teacher and business owner, "had I known I would get this old back then I would have taken better care of myself then".

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



**Roger Skiple (Jun 1953)** married **Joyce Padgitt (Jan 1956)**, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, US Army Reserves 6 years, is a retired carpenter.

**Janet (Rebscher) Eastman (Feb 1954)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Northbrook, IL, Beloit College; American Airlines Stewardess School, is retired.

**Robert Bebee (Jun 1954)** married **Alice Sarau, deceased (Jun 1954)**, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Deland, FL, A/D; USAF Reserve 4 years, is a retired accountant.

**Arlene (Poehler) Hamann (Jun 1954)** married **Franklin Hamann, deceased (Jan 1954)**, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Beaubien, lives in Grayslake, IL, is a retired secretary.

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

**Chuck Thor (Jun 1956)** has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in West Olive, MI, BA, MA, PhD; US Air Force 1956-60, is a partner at TSI, Inc.

**Carole (Lewis) Lanka (Jan 1957)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Huntley, IL, is retired.

**Marilyn (Kating) Rowan (Jan 1957)** has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Park Ridge, IL, UI BS Sci '61; Nat'l Lewis MA Educ, is a retired teacher.

**Pat (Schumacher) Plath (Jun 1957)** married **Thomas Plath, deceased (Jan 1956)**, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Roswell, GA, Associate Degree, is a retired portrait artist.

**Janet (Lewis) Baker (Jun 1958)** has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Sauganash, lives in Greenwood Village, CO, CO State U BS Soc Sci '62; Lesley College ME Educ, is a retired high school teacher, has been a Colorado resident since graduation from Taft.

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

**James Fisher (Jun 1959)** attended Wildwood, lives in Westfield, IN, Grinnel College BA; Kansas U post graduate work in public administration (KUCIMAT program), is a retired screenwriter.

## 1960s

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

**Judy (Peinert) Geyer (Jun 1960)** married **George "Mickey" Geyer, deceased (Jun 1960)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Gays Mills, WI, Carroll College 2 years, plus HR courses, is a retired human resources manager.

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

**Marlys (Johnson) Swanson (Jan 1961)** has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Waukesha, WI, BS Nursing, is a retired RN.

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

**Carolyn (Larsen) Sperl (Jun 1961)** married **Robert Sperl (Jun 1960)**, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Itasca, IL, BS, BA, MSIR, JD, is self-employed.

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

**Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco (Jun 1962)** married **William Saracco, deceased (Jun 1960)**, has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Roswell, GA, Wright College 1 year, is a retired realtor, widowed after more than 58 years of marriage, loves the Southeast, is a Christian education volunteer.

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

**Louise (Knuth) Stewart (Jan 1963)** has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in New Smyrna Beach, FL, Judson U BA, is retired.

**Bob Cella (Jun 1963)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Geneva, IL, 2 years college, US Army 1965-68, is a sales engineer.

**Karen Nothacker (Jun 1963)** attended St. Paul Luth., lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Chicgo Teachers College North, USC, is a retired controller.

**Nancy (Jopp) Sanders (Jun 1963)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Portage Park, lives in Las Vegas, NV, BS, is retired from administration.

**Ruth (Frame) Van Reken (Jun 1963)** has 3 children, 13 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Indianapolis, IN, West Suburban School of Nursing RN '67; Wheaton College BS '69; Honorary Doctorate of Letters 2019; is a semi-retired author, international speaker on globally mobile family issues, VP of advisory board of Safe Passage Across Networks for good transition programs in schools, working on the 4th edition of her co-authored book, Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds (available on Amazon). Her own memoir is Letters Never Sent. Also co-founded the organization Families in Global Transition.

**Patricia (Zwiki) Swaggerty (Jan 1964)** has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired executive assistant to the chairman of the board/president.

**John Wulff (Jan 1964)** married **Susan Foss (Jun 1964)**, attended Ebinger, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Northern MI U, DePaul U, is a retired airline customer service agent.

**Susan (Foss) Wulff (Jun 1964)** married **John Wulff (Jan 1964)**, attended Edison, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Michigan St U BA, is a retired special education teacher of the visually impaired.

**Bob Christensen (Jun 1965)** married **Arlane Gulbrandsen (Jun 1965)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Marengo, IL, BS Bus Admin, is retired.

**Arlane (Gulbrandsen) Christensen (Jun 1965)** married **Robert Christensen (Jun 1965)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Marengo, IL, is a retired registered nurse.

**Ronald (Rodriguez) Rodgers (Jun 1965)** attended Blaine, lives in Gilbert, AZ.

**Linda (Johnson) Kofink (Jan 1966)** married **Charles Kofink, deceased (Jun 1960)**, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Hanover Park, IL, is retired.

**David Hoy (Jun 1966)** has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Elmhurst, IL, Elmhurst College BS Bus Admin '77; NIU JD '83, is a retired attorney in private practice.

**Russ Stephenson (Jun 1966)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Palatine, IL, studied insurance law, claims, estimating, and management, is a retired insurance claim adjustment and body shop manager, obtained a single engine pilot license, took three European trips in the last three years, took a Viking cruise to Turkey and Greece in September.

**Marty Wordell (Jun 1966)** attended Norwood Park, lives in Jamestown, NC, Lakeland College BS Bus Adm, is retired.

**Bart Brion (Jun 1967)** married **Linda Terry (Jun 1967)**, has 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Plano, TX, US Navy 1968-74, is the retired owner of Brion Enterprises Inc.

**Linda (Terry) Brion (Jun 1967)** married **Bart Brion (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Plano, TX, WIU, is a retired banker.

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

**Marcia (Walsh) Hedborn (Jun 1967)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Aurora, IL, NIU BS Mktg '71, is retired.

**Craig Huber (Jun 1967)** has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Baldwin, MI, MS Engr, is a retired program manager and software developer, has been married 51 years, sailed for 30 years, lives in a log cabin in the woods, and is still kicking.

**Bill Eckholm (1968)** has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, Valparaiso U '68-70; Rochester Inst of Tech '73-75; US Army Corp of Engr. Pershing missile troubleshooter '71-73, is a retired corporate executive but "dabbles" in private equity deals as a hobby, relaxing at Desert Mountain with 7 golf courses in the winter, and summers in Pine Canyon, Flagstaff with a house on the 8th hole; golfs and travels with wife Laurie, heading to Antarctica and Iceland in 2025.

**Mary (Stoklosa) Ferrandino (1968)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Barrington, IL, WIU BS, MS, is a retired elementary school teacher, works part time at The Container Store.

**Bob Hanske (1968)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Moline, IL, BA, MS, is a retired teacher.

**Nancy (Johnson) Kandola (1968)** has 2 children, attended Hitch, lives in Raytown, MO, Northwestern Univ 1 year, MU-KC 2 years, Montessori teaching certificate, is a retired VA Medical Center clerical supervisor.

**Larry Lonson (1968)** has 2 children, attended Our Saviour Lutheran, lives in Sarasota, FL, Columbia College BA; Western Int'l MBA Int'l Bus Mgmt, is a real estate broker.

**Nancy Luikaart (1968)** has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Sun City, AZ, is a retired production artist, recently retired and moved to Arizona.

**Linda (Vandlik) Mahaney (1968)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Beard, lives in Hilton Head Island, SC, NIU BS Educ and Art, is happily retired, will fill the calendar with visiting Illinois

friends and family, beach outings, exercise, and participation in various organizations.

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

**Gail (Mathisen) Cristoe (1969)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, BA Educ, is a retired teacher.

**Laurel (Thoren) Kaage (1969)** married **Irv Kaage (1969)**, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Park Ridge, IL, College of Lake County ABS, is a retired homemaker.

**Irv Kaage (1969)** married **Laurel Thoren (1969)**, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Lakeland Univ BS Soc '73, is the retired president of Transor Filter USA.

**Valerie (Stewart) Sosnowski (1969)** has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Noblesville, IN, RN, BS Health, MS Nursing, MS Health Services Admin, is a retired OR director, board member of her community's HOA, created and maintains website for Class of '69 (240 registrants), volunteers for several local establishments, and spends time attending grandsons' sports games.

**Larry Wojcik (1969)** has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 step grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Palos Hills, IL, is retired.

## 1970s

**Juergen Rusnak (1970)** attended Oriole Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, Roosevelt U BA '74, MBA '83, is a retired accounting software consultant.

**Carlene (Wegelt) Shultz (1970)** has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Salem, OR, BS Psych '73, MS Psych '76, Psy.D. '90, is a semi-retired clinical psychologist.

**Kenneth Gaughan (1971)** has 1 child, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Brandon, FL, NEIU BA '74, Loyola MSW '77, Nova Southeastern EdD '04, is a retired social work administrator, likes to travel, this year to Peru, Indonesia, India, and Fiji.

**Brian Johnson (1971)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Phoenix, AZ, U IA BA Business, is a semi-retired managing general partner at BriLin Homes, LLC and Mjolnir Enterprise.

**Barbara (Moe) Lemaster (1971)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Naperville, IL, WIU BS Elem Edu, is retired.

**Marilyn Zilka (1971)** lives in Chicago, IL.

**Sandra (Bakanowicz) Davidson (1972)** has 3 children, 12 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Mount Pleasant, MI, is a part time cashier.

**Deborah (Olsen) Doran (1972)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in St Charles, IL, is retired.

**Jan (Cramer) Grana (1972)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Naperville, IL, UI RT '77, BS '87, MS, PhD '98, Med '00, is a retired physics professor emeritus.

**Joanne (Manthie) Kahn (1972)** has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Summerville, SC, is a retired IT compliance analyst.

**Evanthia Malliris (1972)** has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Belmont, MA, Univ of Chicago BA, is an editor.

**Michael Suba (1972)** has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Wright College AS, is retired.

**Stephen Bozek (1973)** married **Vera Ewasko (1973)**, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BS, MS, MD, is a retired pathologist physician.

**Vera (Ewasko) Bozek (1973)** married **Stephen Bozek (1973)**, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BA Educ, Middle School Math, is a substitute teacher and sales associate.

**Sue (Willis) Hall (1973)** has 1 child, attended Onahan, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BA Educ, is a real estate broker.

**Jeanette Jummati (1973)** lives in Chicago, IL.

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

**Sheila (Graniero) Siarkiewicz (1973)** has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Algonquin, IL, is a retired office and compliance manager.

**Mary Jean (Luckew) Coulson (1974)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Glenview, IL, NIU BS Bus '78, is a semi-retired leadership consultant, Recently joined the non-profit arm of the Blanchard - Leadership Development Training & Consulting providing free self-leadership training to students, their parents, coaches, teachers, and others in the US and around the world.

**Bob Uhlar (1974)** attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Kerrville, TX, Drake U BA '78; Northwestern MS '81; Unity School of Religious Studies MDiv '02, is the Spiritual Director/CEO of UnityHillCountry.org, spent 17 years in the 80's and 90's in radio/TV news including WBBM-780 AM and WMAQ-670 AM.

**Jill (Andersen) Bloom (1975)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Little Rock, AR, Ill State BA '75; CPA '75, is retired.

**Diane (Siciliano) Bugajski (1975)** has 1 child, attended Beard, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is an office manager.

**Karen (Rutzen) Gaynor (1975)** has 1 child, attended Wildwood, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, BA Art, is retired.

**Laurie (Hillstrom) Karman (1975)** attended Ebinger, lives in Buffalo, IL, WIU BBA '78; UI Springfield MBA '84, is a retired regulatory affairs manager for Ameren.

**Susan Shadel (1975)** attended St. Benedict, lives in Chicago, IL, Bachelor's degree, is retired.

**John Clifford (1976)** has 4 children, attended St. Mary Of The Woods, lives in Glenview, IL, UI Champaign-Urbana BA; DePaul Univ. MBA, is a commercial real estate developer.

**Cathy (Gorowski) Kaufman (1976)** has 3 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Norridge, IL, is retired preschool teachers' assistant.

**Sharon (Palmer) Martens (1976)** has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Wauwatosa, WI, college 2 years, is a dental assistant.

**Scott Mason (1976)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Fort Collins, CO, MS Science, is a retired mechanical engineer.

**Patti (Reeg) Netzel (1976)** has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Palatine, IL, is retired from 42 years of sales at JC Penney.

**Cynthia (Nardella) Giampa (1977)** lives in Streamwood, IL.

**Jean (McDonough) Golda (1977)** married **Leo Golda (1977)**, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Barrington, IL, is still working.

**Leo Golda (1977)** married **Jean McDonough (1977)**, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Barrington, IL, is still working.

**Warner Nelson (1977)** has 2 children, lives in Park Ridge, IL, CPA, is an accountant.

**Keith Beck (1978)** attended Onahan, lives in Chicago, IL, DePaul Univ Communication; Goodman School of Drama 3 yrs, is a consultant in financial service compliance, governance, and supervision.

**Stanley Fabinski (1978)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Bloomingdale, IL, Purdue BSEET; Keller MBA, is a retired engineer, recently retired from ComEd, lives part time in Ft. Meyers, Florida.

**Chip Hillstrom (1978)** has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Mc Henry, IL, is a retired elevator supervisor.

**George Uhlar (1978)** has 3 children, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Darien, IL, Drake Univ BS Bus, is is senior support at UKG.

**Maureen (Moore) Cross (1979)** has 8 children, 3 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Niles, IL, RN degree, is a semi-retired registered nurse.

**Roberta (Pizzo) Nichols (1979)** has 1 child, lives in Cedar Lake, IN, is a business/operations manager.

**Paul Orzeske (1979)** has 2 children, lives in Plymouth, MA, IIT BSE, DePaul MBA, retired Honeywell executive and part-time member of several boards, lives with Alba, his wife of 38 years near his two adult children and their spouses in Boston.

**Robert Sanderson (1979)** has 5 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Lake Villa, IL, is a retired bricklayer and superintendent.

## 1980s

**Walt Koscinski (1980)** has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Manassas, VA, IIT BS Civil Engr '80; VA Tech MS Aerospace/Ocean Engr '91; IU MS Public Affairs '01; National Defense U MS Nat'l Resources Strategy '03, is a program manager.

**Lisa (Schmidt) Bartos (1981)** has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, is in administrative work, has been married 40 years and became a grandmother in 2023.

**Susan (Obermeier) Forsythe (1981)** has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, NEIU BS Mktg, is a data manager.

**John Petersen (1981)** has 2 children, attended Edison, lives in Chicago, IL, is O'Hare Airport Operations Manager.

**Anna Deligio (1982)** lives in Niles, IL.

**Dave DiMaggio (1982)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired firefighter.

**Jeanne (Hoppe) Langlo (1982)** married **Scott Langlo (1982)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Oconomowoc, WI, is a travel agent.

**Scott Langlo (1982)** married **Jeanne Hoppe (1982)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Oconomowoc, WI, is retired.

**Kathryn (Janci) Cielak (1988)** has 3 children, attended Onahan, lives in Cary, IL, is a marketing vice president.

**Latreece (Dickerson) White (1988)** married **Steven White (1988)**, lives in Chicago, IL, Adler School of Professional Psychology PsyD '13, is a psychologist.



**Steve White (1988)** married **Latrece Dickerson (1988)**, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is an engineer.

**Angela (Johnson) Walker (1989)** married **Adam Walker (1989)**, has 3 children, attended Nash, lives in Berwyn, IL, NIU, is self-employed.

**Adam Walker (1989)** married **Angela Johnson (1989)**, has 1 child, lives in Berwyn, IL.

## 1990s

**Marco D'Alessandro (1990)** lives in Chicago, IL.

**Terrance Wilkerson (1992)** has 5 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, is an electrical mechanic.

## 2000s

**Anthony Rodriguez (2002)** has 2 children, attended Smyser, lives in Chicago, IL, IIT Tech Assoc Degree, is a physical security manager.

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

# 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.*

**Joan Barbara (Busch) Long** of Holland, MI, Class of June 1948, died on November 9, 2024. She was predeceased by her sister Margery (Busch) Kurth, Class of January 1942.

**John "Jack" Albert Will** of Fountain Hills, AZ, Class of January 1949, died on November 11, 2024. He is survived by his wife Jerrie (Biver) Will, Class of June 1950.

**Laurie Claire (Papendick) Guth** of Lake Zurich, IL, Class of June 1949, died on October 22, 2024.

**Robert Stephen Yurkowski** of Mount Prospect, IL, Class of Jun 1949, died on October 9, 2024. He is survived by his daughters Linda (Yurkowski) Lewandowski, Class of 1977, and Sharon (Yurkowski) Krajewski.

**Helen Evanthea (Demomargo) Cunningham** of Marathon, FL, Class of June 1950, died in December 2024.

**Carol Florence (Boldt) Bentsen** of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1951, died on December 25, 2024. She was predeceased by her husband Ronald Bentsen, Class of June 1951.

**Carl Bernard Edwards** of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1953, died on July 18, 2024. He is survived by his wife Alice (Taylor) Edwards, Class of January 1953.

**Gail Antoinette (Schaeffer) Stapert** of Goode, VA, Class of January 1957, died on October 5, 2024. She is survived by her sister Jane (Schaeffer) Behnke, Class of June 1965.

**Robert Louis Zabel** of Des Plaines, IL, Class of June 1957, died on September 24, 2024. As a vocalist he also went by Bob Vegas and Robert Cameron. He is survived by his sisters Anita (Zebel) Grizaffi, Class of January 1955, and Louise (Zabel) Cullinin, Class of June 1965.

**Kenneth Fred Meister** of Wheeling, IL, Class of January 1962, died in December 2018.

**Donna Gwen (Drake) Gurholt** of Beloit, WI, Class of June 1962, died on November 30, 2024.

**Donna Beth (Dill) Voltz** of Woodridge, IL, Class of June 1962, died in October 2024.

**Dennis Vernon Butenschoen** of Chipley, FL, Class of June 1965, died on July 30, 2019.

**David George Vetter**, Class of June 1965, died, date unknown.

**Howard Wayne Mikkali** of Harvard, IL, Class of June 1967, died on October 20, 2024.

**Arlene Forslund (Smith) Muszynski** of Skokie, IL, Class of 1968, died on December 22, 2024.

**Loree Lynn (Green) Campbell** of Bethesda, MD, Class of 1972, died in 2023.

**Susan Catherine Young**, Class of 1973, died in September 2024.

## Are you proud of your background at Taft?

Would you like to help future Taft graduates as they start into the world? Individuals, groups of friends or reunion classes are welcome to make donations to TAA's scholarship fund. Memorials to classmates are also welcome. Please contact TAA at [eaagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eaagleemail@taftalumni.org) or write to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185.



**Taft Alumni Association of Chicago**



[www.taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org)

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

Please send news, photos, and general correspondence to:

**Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185 or [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org)**



Taft Alumni Association <b>Membership Application or Renewal</b> Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the <i>Class Notes</i> . Only fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.				
<b>About You</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>My information has not changed</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do not publish my information in Class Notes</b>				
*First Name (PRINT CLEARLY)		* Last Name at Graduation		* Current Last Name (if different)
*Home Street Address		*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address			<b>List in Email Directory?</b> <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?				
<b>About Your Taft Graduate Spouse</b>				
*First Name		* Last Name at Graduation		* Current Last Name (if different)
Primary Phone	Email Address			<b>List in Email Directory?</b> <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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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$20</b> (2-year individual) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25</b> (2-year Taft alumni couples) <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ <b>Total Remitted \$ _____</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail a <b>check</b> with completed membership form <input type="checkbox"/> Use your bank's online <b>bill pay</b> (note year of graduation) and email the completed membership form <input type="checkbox"/> Pay <b>online</b> at <a href="http://www.taftalumni.org">www.taftalumni.org</a> and email the downloadable membership form				
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