



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XLI, No. 2

Spring 2025



*We are incredibly proud to celebrate 2006 alumnus, TAA board member, and Taft principal, Dr. Ryan Glowacz, who has officially earned his doctorate! As an IB World School, Taft strives to embody the IB Learner Profile and Dr. Glowacz exemplifies these attributes. His principled leadership and caring nature continue to inspire our students, staff and community every day.*

## TAA Welcomes New Officers

We are pleased to announce that two vacant TAA offices have been filled. We welcome Ted Groat as Treasurer and Val (Stewart) Sosnowski as Secretary. By unanimous vote, they officially assumed their offices at the April 11 TAA board meeting.

Both are 1969 graduates who have long supported the events of their class including their class website created and maintained by Sosnowski.

## Last Call for Hall of Fame Nominations

Don't forget that June 1st is the deadline for submitting your nomination for any alumni you believe deserving of recognition in the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame. You can

download a nomination form here:

<https://taftalumni.org/taft-alumni-hall-of-fame>

## Wayne Schimpff Honored

TAA board member Wayne Schimpff, Jan '59, was presented with the Distinguished Conservation Service Gold Award by Jim Honan, Conservation Committee, Pathway To Adventure Council of Scouts America. The award recognizes his work as cofounder of the Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) and for working as a mentor to its 38 annual conferences while serving as the founding secretary of its USA affiliate foundation. Along his 76 years registered with Scouting America, Schimpff has served as the first naturalist in charge of teacher education, Forest Preserves Cook County, first Chief Naturalist, Illinois Dept of Natural Resources, first Naturalist, City of Chicago, first Naturalist Ranger, Indiana Dunes National Park.



Schimpff's latest endeavor in helping empower youth is serving as a founding member of the Together for Taft organization that is working to reopen NIU's Lorado

Taft Field Campus in Oregon, IL to be able to help connect more generations of 6th graders with a love of nature while experiencing learning in, about, and from the nature systems on the edge of the palisades over the Rock River. Under the watchful eye of Chief Blackhawk, sculpted by Lorado Taft, the 6th graders, some of which are PTAC Scouts, develop their own lifelong environment ethic. Schimpff says, "It's so much fun to help 'Let the Power of the Flower do the Teaching' for the scouts/scouters of PTAC."



### **Chicago All-Class Picnic**

**Date:** August 30, 2025, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Location:** Robinson Woods South Grove #1 just north of Schiller Woods around Lawrence and Cumberland

### **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](mailto:ftjawo@aol.com)); Judy Jacobsen

([gordonsdatter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:janhelloworld@hotmail.com)), 858-353-3559

### **Taft Class of 1953 Reunion Picnic**

**Date:** TBD between July 15 and August 15, 2025

**Location:** TBD Chicago Park District

**Contact:** Paul Rebscher ([sptigerny39@gmail.com](mailto:sptigerny39@gmail.com)), 631- 874-2377

### **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](mailto:ckdomin@aol.com)) or Lee Marsh ([taft65@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Details:** \$60 per person, dinner and soft drinks, cash bar; Zelle to 708-790-3730 Venmo to @Mary-OConnor-81

**Contact:** [taftsclassof75@gmail.com](mailto:taftsclassof75@gmail.com) RSVP by August 25

### **Taft Class of 1995 30 Year Reunion**

**Date:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

**Facebook:** Taft Class of 1995: 30th Reunion Details



*Class of 1974 classmates met up in Scottsdale, AZ, for a mini-reunion in February. Enjoying breakfast together are Phil Behun, Sandy Scala, Ingrid (Schnitzer) Beal, Linda Wolfe (a Glenbard North grad), Donna (Schaller) Evans, and Bunny (Wolfe) Macek*



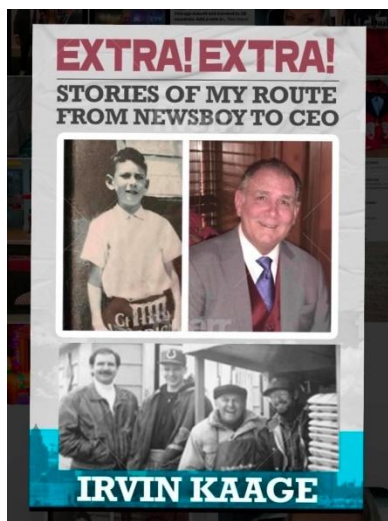
*Getting together for a February breakfast were Ohahan and Taft Class of 1969 alumnae (left to right around the table) Laurel (Thoren) Kaage, Laurie (Royce) Callender, Laurenel Driscoll, Kathy (Reeg) Karch, Donna (Freda) Freeman, Karen (Werner) Leider, Peggy Roberts, and Cheryl Palmer, a Maine East graduate.*



*The Class of 1995 30 Year Reunion committee gathered to strategize their event. Left to right are Claretha Davis, Deshawn (Purnell) McGhee, Kevin McGhee, Mark Humbert, Ala (Rychlik) Sen, Essie Searcy, and Certeria Greene.*



Irv Kaage, Class of 1969, has just published a new book, *Extra! Extra! Stories of My Route from Newsboy to CEO*. His experiences selling newspapers at the family newsstand in Edison Park started him on a path through 38 countries on his way to being named CEO of a global company. He details his time at Taft and lessons learned growing up on the NW side of Chicago. Currently available on Amazon.



It's always good to read the newsletter. Thanks to you and staff.  
Conrad Stoll, June '61 & Janet (Knoll) Stoll, June '62

I wanted to drop you a note to thank you for all you do and to congratulate the TAA on implementing an online payment portal. It works great!! Very simple and easy. Everything should be this simple.

Ralph Walton, 1982

Thanks for your alumni work. 2025 is a very special year for the Class of January 1953 as we have been (or will) 72 years since graduation and most of us will have our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were a small class of 110 and as far as I know there are still 50 of us still standing. We should really celebrate this milestone!

H. Paul Rebscher, January '53

*Editor's Note: Interested nonagenarians, please see the contact information in the Reunion section for this once-in-a-lifetime event.*

And always remember: "If you fly with the owls at night, you can't soar with the Eagles during the day." Odd that I can remember that slogan hanging in the main gym but can't remember where I parked my car today. Gettin' old is so much fun.

Ken Vanderhorst, 1969

Thanks for this [online payment] method of avoiding the U.S. mails!!

Don Hoy, June '63

I look forward to reading the Spring newsletter. THANK YOU! to all who make it possible!

Carol (Jessen) Adler, June '63

I love the Newsletter and commend all of you involved in making it a great Newsletter.

Judy (Musso) Dumele, June '66



*Diane (Miller) Falk, Jan '59, who travels extensively abroad, poses here before two pyramids in Egypt last June.*

I have volunteered at Wings Resale in Arlington Hts. only to find two other volunteers who went to Taft—Kathy (Griffin) Pindras, 1982, and Anna (Halblander) Babicz, 1972. Small world. I still get together with Vivian (Kulczak) Ratzek, and Jessie (Douglas) Usdorowski. We celebrate our July birthdays together. We went eight years at Farnsworth and graduated from Taft June 1949. We will be 94!

Carmella (Walsh) Patke, June '49

Keep up the good work!

Dan Popp, June '68

I absolutely love to see the newsletter. Time has gone by so fast—it does not seem like 48 years ago...

Karen (Kloda) Stolzman, 1977



Steve Orusa, 1979, has retired as Fishers Fire Department Chief in Indiana, concluding a 42-year career in fire and emergency services. (Photo courtesy of FFD)

Kyra Vidas, 2014, has been promoted to Director of Basketball Operations for the Phoenix Mercury professional women's basketball team.



My friends are stunned to see what a great alumni base Taft has including this newsletter.

Richard William, Jun '60





Lee Nega, 1969, (left) was honored during the singing of the anthem at the April 2 Blackhawks game. His US Army service took him to Germany and Jordan before volunteering for Vietnam. Stateside, he served as VFW Commander for eleven years. Nega is married to TAA board member Judy Jacobsen (1970).



Leading up to the 60th reunion of the Class of January 1965 some of the classmates gathered for dinner and a mini-reunion at the Metropolis Theatre, Arlington Heights to hear "Close to You," a tribute to the Carpenters / Karen Carpenter.

Thank you for the reminder; I renewed my membership using the online portal. Coincidentally, the reminder arrived on a day that I had the occasion to drive about an hour with 3 people with whom I had only brief prior contact. During our conversation, I was asked where I was from, originally. When I replied that I was born and reared in Chicago, I was immediately asked "Which suburb?" It reminded me that, for most of my career, new colleagues and collaborators always assumed that I was not really from Chicago. I even had an attorney in the County Attorney's office make an assertion that I was not really from Chicago and that I was from a suburb, as if I did not know where I had lived throughout my childhood. These episodes, distributed across my career, caused me to think about the assumptions that are made about Chicago and Chicago Public Schools, and how those assumptions could influence how contemporary Taft graduates could have experiences similar to mine. I always respond with a full-throated defense of my K-12 education and my early life experiences. I wonder, if there is some way to prepare current Taft students and recent alumni for dealing with such potentially discriminatory assumptions. Anyway, thanks for keeping the Taft Alumni Newsletter going.

John Knutson, June '60

Thanks so much for all you do. My years at Taft were among the happiest of my life!

Patricia (Dunn) Hall, June '55

## Prom Dress Success



On behalf of the Taft Alumni Association, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible community including a big thank you to Sew Bridal Edison Park for your generosity and kindness. Your donations and support made today's Prom Dress Giveaway event truly magical for our students. Seeing their smiles as they found the perfect dress was a testament to the power of giving. Thank you for opening your hearts and making a difference!





## Gimme a T, Gimme an A...



Mary Boarini and Doris Zonsius, Taft cheer leaders, were zealous in their efforts to keep the Taft rooters in high gear with their roars of encouragement to their gridiron heroes. Here are the girls winding up a fight call with a high leap. (By a staff photographer)

Reading about the cheer leaders in the last issue of the Alumni News brought back many happy memories. My name is Mary Boarini Idstein, Class of June 1942.

I started at Taft as a sophomore when it opened in September 1939. We didn't have clubs or committees formed so when there was a notice for cheerleaders my friend Mable Heen and I decided to be a cheerleader.

We didn't know the first thing about it and neither did the rest of the girls. I don't recall if we even had a coach. We didn't do any of the fancy acrobatics they do today which was lucky because I wasn't even able to do a decent cartwheel. We did a lot of ziss-boom-bahs and rah-rahs, and we had a good time. We made our own outfits which was a reversible silver and blue satin skirt coming down almost to the knees and a satin shirt.

For football games, we wore slacks and a Taft sweater. We cheered the teams on and in October 1940, the Taft football team, coached by Joe Kupcinek, played for the high school championship at Soldier Field.

I have lost touch with all the girls, and I know some of them have passed away. I am one hundred years old so I know there will not be many of us living.

My children do not believe I was a cheerleader, but I have a story and pictures to prove it [published in the October 26, 1940, Chicago Tribune]. They ask if I really did cheer at Soldier Field? It was a good time, and God has been good to me to have lived this long.

### Nifty Girl Cheer Leaders and Baton Twirlers Aid Taft

Adding color to Taft's football games this season are a quintet of nifty girl cheerleaders and a quartet of drum majorettes, who are expert baton twirlers.

In their own way these girls have been out every Saturday afternoon to "do or die for good old Taft." These Taft coeds have been the center of visiting photographers and reporters from rival schools.

The Eagles may not have a winning grid team, but they certainly have a winsome group of loyal cheerleaders and baton twirlers.

Led by their captain, Doris Zonsius, the cheer leaders are Mable Heen, Mary Boavini, Marjorie Mann and Doris Venema.

Clad in short Blue satin skirts lined with Silver, Silver satin shirts or blouses, and Blue neckerchiefs this quintet of comely Taft femmes should be an inspiration to any grid team, as they go through their acrobatic antics. Taft's cheerleaders are well matched in size.

No less loyal to the wearers of the Blue and Silver are the four drum majorettes. Being members of the Edison Park Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, they appear in their corps outfits. Not wearing Taft's colors they have puzzled certain reporters.

Jackie Anderson, Patsey Earle, Pearl Gunlack and Elaine Giese are the baton twirlers.

## Seeking Bass Boats

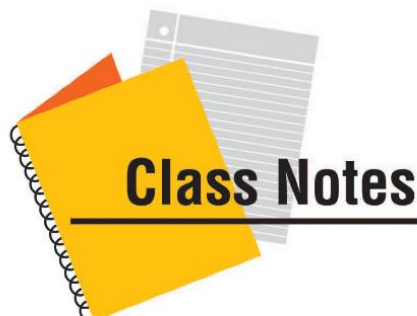
As reported in Nadig Newspapers by Brian Nadig, Taft High School, the only Chicago Public School with a competitive bass fishing team, is seeking boats to enable more students to participate in tournaments. The team competes in Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and Illinois Conservation Police Officer's Association (ICASSTT) state tournaments. They have been featured in the Chicago Sun-Times for their achievements. Currently, the team relies on local anglers and coaches to volunteer personal boats, covering insurance and fuel costs. Securing additional boats would allow more students to compete and further develop their fishing skills.



Photo courtesy of nadignewspapers.com

Taft High School bass fishing team members David and Nicholas Chakchay show their catch at a competition on Sept. 15 at Delavan Lake

in Wisconsin. Contact Coach Scott Plencner at [smplencner@cps.edu](mailto:smplencner@cps.edu) for more information.



## Class Notes

### 1950s

**Mary (Boarini) Idstein (Jun 1942)** has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, attended Ella Flagg Young, lives in McHenry, IL, business college 2 years, is a retired bookkeeper but mostly a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, celebrated her 100th birthday.

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

**Barbara (Edwards) Freitag (Jun 1953)** has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren, attended St. Paul Luth., lives in Joliet, IL, US Navy 1953-55, is retired.

**Carole (Green) Lubecker (Jun 1953)** has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Cary, IL, De Lourdes BS Edu '77, is retired.

**Ernest Stolle (Aug 1954)** has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Des Plaines, IL, North Park College AA '57; NEIU BA '72, MA '74; US Army 3 years Active, 3 years Reserves, is a retired wood broker.

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

**Bob Ungar (Jun 1954)** attended Ebinger, lives in Des Plaines, IL, UI Navy Pier, IIT; US Army 1960-1962, is a retired ITW project engineer.

**Alan Avery (Jan 1955)** has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Prussing, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired electrician.

**Wayne Barton (Jun 1955)** has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Wright College; ISU; US Coast Guard; Swiss Woodcarving Academy, is an artist and professional woodcarver, member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

**Patricia (Dunn) Hall (Jun 1955)** has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Huntley, IL, NIU and Bradley U AA Med Office Mgmt '57; Delta Airlines reservation training, is a retired phlebotomist, EKG tech, and Delta Airlines reservationist.

**Patricia (Belshaw) Tabor (Jan 1957)** has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Goethe, lives in Okemos, MI, Commercial College, is a retired court reporter.

**Ron Underwood (Jan 1957)** has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Sun City West, AZ, Northwestern U BS BA Acct '61; UC Booth School of Bus MBA '67; CPA; US Army

Reserve 6 years SP 5, is a retired CPA (IL, CA, AZ), CFO and corporate director.

**D Patrick Raetzman (Jun 1957)** has 4 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in San Diego, CA, UI BS '61, George Washington U MS '78, US Navy submariner 20 years, is retired.

**Arleen (Galla) Soteris (Jun 1957)** has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is a retired go-go and pole dancer, recently into treasure hunting, bungee jumping, and wrestling.

**Judy Allen (Jun 1958)** attended Oriole Park, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

**William Berquist (Jun 1958)** has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Streamwood, IL, is retired, his wife of 60 years passed away in November 2022.

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

**Diane (Miller) Falk (Jan 1959)** has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Mays Landing, NJ, U Chicago BA Psych, MA Eng, U PA MSW, Rutgers U PhD, is a Professor Emerita of Social Work, volunteers for Real Partners Uganda, a school for orphaned/vulnerable Ugandan children, and Friends of Jean Webster food distribution organization; will travel this year to Uganda, Kenya, Egypt, India and Sri Lanka.

**Dorothy Engels (Jun 1959)** attended Norwood Park, lives in Chicago, IL, Drake U BFA '63, is a retired UAL flight attendant.

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

### 1960s

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

**Carol (Ptak) Dewire (Jun 1960)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren (boys), 3 great grandchildren, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in Punta Gorda, FL, UI Navy Pier 2 years, is a retired administrative assistant.

**John Knutson (Jun 1960)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Iowa City, IA, Augustana College AB '64; Washington St U MS '67 PhD '69; U Oregon Medical School post doc, is Professor Emeritus at University of Iowa.

**Dick Williams (Jun 1960)** has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Garden City, ID, U ID BS Bus Adm '65; Boise St U MBA Fin '73; US Air Force 4 years, Captain, is a retired CFO.

**Linnea (Lundberg) Dunn (Jan 1961)** has 6 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Georgetown, TX, SIU BA '64; Washington U St. Louis, MO MSW '71, is a retired clinical social worker, has been married five years to John Dunn, a WWII veteran and aerospace engineer.



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

**Margie (McClean) Kullman (Jun 1961)** has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Plymouth, MN, is retired.

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

**Gloria (Kuhles) Adams (Jun 1962)** has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Tempe, AZ, is retired, became a great grandparent to a lovely baby girl.

**Mary (Seitz) Drummer (Jun 1962)** married **Greg Drummer (Jan 1960)**, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Gainesville, GA, NIU BA '67, MA American History and Math, is a retired teacher.

**Arlene (Ratulowski) Harp (Jun 1962)** has 2 children, attended Edison, lives in De Pere, WI, Wright Jr College, is retired.

**Carol (Lohr) Magin (Jun 1962)** has 2 children, attended Hitch, lives in Mundelein, IL, U of MN BA '66, National Louis U MAT '00, is retired.

**Phyllis (Sheldon) Wharton (Jun 1962)** has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, BS Ed, MA Spec Ed, is a retired special education teacher, is a snowbird spending winters in Gilbert, AZ.

**Mae Beth (Frame) Williams (Jun 1962)** has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Columbia, MD, Wheaton College BA, is a retired teacher, office manager, and mother.

**Jane (Spenny) Heide (Jan 1963)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Overland Park, KS, Oberlin College '67; Columbia Univ NY MSW '69; St. Paul School of Theology KC MDiv '13, is retired, she and Joe sold their home of 47 years, moved to a retirement community near their two sons.

**Rick Hoehn (Jan 1963)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, IIT BS Ind Engr, is retired, met his wife Marge Sauer at the Oriole Park tennis courts, will celebrate 62 years of marriage in June.

**Carol (Jessen) Adler (Jun 1963)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Streamwood, IL, is a retired computer programmer working at Binks Mfg. for 20 years, enjoys reading the Taft newsletter.

**Robert Evensen (Jun 1963)** attended Garvy, lives in Cambridge, MA, U Chicago AM Library Sci '74, is a retired academic librarian, partnered with Barry Guthary 54 years, married to him 20 years.

**Jim Groll (Jun 1963)** married **Janet Loose (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired Chicago police officer.

**Donald Hoy (Jun 1963)** has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Schaumburg, IL, Elmhurst Univ. BA; Loyola U MBA '74, is retired.

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

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

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

**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.

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

**Suzanne (Ingemanson) Page-Pryde (Jun 1965)** has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Houston, TX, Miami U AB Econ '69; U Akron MA Urban Studies '71; U Houston CL Environment Mgmt '75, is a retired broker/owner of Page-Pryde Properties (real estate company), married to Arthur Pryde.

**Paul Schoenholz (Jun 1965)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Minneapolis, MN, Denison U BA, is retired, plays the saxophone and does charity volunteer work.

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

**Linda (Speckmann) Harrett (Jan 1966)** has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Louisville, KY, BS Edu, MA Spec Edu, is a retired teacher.

**James Bixler (Jun 1966)** married **Gail Ponce (1968)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Oceanside, CA, Cal State Fullerton BA Math '77; USMC 1967-2003, is retired.

**Theresa (Klein) Davis (Jun 1966)** has 4 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Hurley, WI, UI BFA Art Educ '71, is a mother and retired art teacher.

**Judy (Musso) Dumele (Jun 1966)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended St. Mary Of The Wood, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, Wright College, NIU, is retired, enjoys traveling and her grandchildren.

**John Mangiameli (Jun 1966)** married **Maida Harris (Jun '67)**, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Eugene, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, BS Biology, is a sales manager.

**Kent Stocking (Jun 1966)** married **Pam Miller, deceased (Jun 1967)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, WIU BS Hist Educ, MS School Guidance, is a retired high school guidance counselor and baseball coach.

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

**Judith Bock (Jan 1967)** attended Ebinger, lives in Grayslake, IL, NEIU BA Elem Educ, MS Geo and Env Studies, certification GIS Education, is a retired educator, traveled to 6 of 7 continents, hopes to get to Africa in 2025.

**Bob Friedlander (Jan 1967)** attended Norwood Park, lives in Richland, MI, SIU MB Journalism '71, is retired, from the ice of Norwood Park went to be lucky enough to work 37 years in the NHL.

**Holly (Gundlach) Mihalovich (Jan 1967)** attended Wildwood, lives in Denver, NC, is retired.

**Pam (Schaller) Chapman (Jun 1967)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Hampshire, IL, Wright College AA; NIU BS, MS MIS, is a retired professor of computer information systems, married fellow Onahan graduate John Chapman, an engineer.

**Janice (Fusick) Glure (Jun 1967)** has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

**Janet (Loose) Groll (Jun 1967)** married **Jim Groll (Jun 1963)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired school occupational therapist.

**Thomas Lorenz (Jun 1967)** has 1 child, attended St. Thecla, lives in Wheeling, IL, US Army 2 years, is retired.

**Maida (Harris) Mangiameli (Jun 1967)** married **John Mangiameli (Jun '67)**, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, BA Elementary Educ, is retired, advocates for all with lung cancer.

**Lynn (McCraw) Meyer (Jun 1967)** has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Huntley, IL, is retired.

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

**Gail (Ponce) Bixler (1968)** married **James Bixler (Jun 1966)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Oceanside, CA, is a homemaker.

**Linda (Hewicker) Maher (1968)** has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. John Lutheran, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC BA Music, MBA; DePaul Univ MMus; DePaul School of Law JD, is a retired attorney at Argonne National Laboratory.

**Sharon (Holm) Najdowski (1968)** has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Sugar Land, TX, is retired, celebrated 55 years of marriage.

**Gail (Galla) Nehrig (1968)** has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Wappingers Falls, NY, BS Elem Educ, is retired, lives in the Hudson Valley, an hour and 40-minute train ride takes them into NYC to visit the kids and see many Broadway shows.

**Daniel Popp (1968)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, UI BS Acct '72; Roosevelt U MBA Fin '81, is a retired CFO and accountant.

**Kathleen (Marquardt) Tellefsen (1968)** has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Eden Prairie, MN, SIU BS Educ '72, is retired.

**Ted Groat (1969)** has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, ISU BS '73, MS '76, is a retired public school teacher.

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

**Ken Vanderhorst (1969)** has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Centreville, VA, UI BA '75, post graduate work at Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, is Director of Congregational Care.

#### 1970s

**Margie (Kosinski) Lacerra (1970)** married **Fred LaCerra (1970)**, has 3 children, 11 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Oakton Community College Cosmetology, Genealogy, is a semi-retired genealogist, traveled to Italy and Poland, researched the LaCerras in Italy and all her great grandparents' towns of birth in Poland.

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

**Alan Martin (1971)** has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Glenview, IL, UIC BS Acct '75; DePaul U MBA and MS Fin '87, is a retired accountant at AT&T/Lucent 34 years and teacher's aide at NTDSE 11 years, married wife, Karen, a retired CPS assistant principal in '78, and second grandchild is expected in April.

**Dennis Oszakiewski (1971)** has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Waynesville, OH, Triton College AA Police Sci; Lewis Univ. BA Soc Justice; is a programmer and data analyst.

**Joseph Tunzi (1971)** has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Norridge, IL, radio seminars and classes equivalent to degree individual, is owner of JAT Publishing, claims to be innocent of all charges (kidding).

**Cynthia (Basko) Ahern (1972)** has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Las Vegas, NV, is an administrative clerk.

**Drew Carlsen (1972)** married **Karla Schmidt (1974)**, has 1 child, attended Edison, lives in Palatine, IL, AA, is the owner/operator of Desert Springs Water Co. since 1991, has lived in Palatine since 1979.

**Mike Hanrahan (1972)** has 2 children, attended St. Monica, lives in Maple Grove, MN, UIC BS Mktg, is retired from media sales.

**Judy (Sparesus) Lubinski (1972)** has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Johnsburg, IL, UIC BS Biol/Chem '75; UIMC Pharm '78, is a retired pharmacist.

**Peter Watson (1972)** attended Norwood Park, lives in Shiloh, IL, BS MIS; US Army Artillery E5 Sgt. 1977-1981, is retired from information systems, married 47 years, worked at McDonnell Douglas Aerospace and Boeing, plays pickleball et al at the "Y".

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

**Susan (Francis) Felt (1973)** has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Roseville, CA, BYU AD Nursing, is retired.

**Andy Gocal (1973)** lives in Scottsdale, AZ, is retired from the hospitality business,

**Suzanne (Kulak) Guiglio (1973)** has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Danville, IL, is retired.



**Wally Kiska (1974)** has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Roselle, IL, is an OTR feeder driver for UPS.

**Yvonne (Gatcheff) Ornt (1974)** has 2 children, attended Edison, lives in Highland Park, IL, UI Champagne-Urbana BS '78, Fellow of the Society of Actuaries '85, is a retired consulting actuary.

**Michelle Allegretti (1975)** has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Homer Glen, IL, BSEE, MS Instructional Design and IT, is a consultant.

**Anthony Rusenovitch (1977)** attended Norwood Park, lives in Elgin, IL, AAS Computer Sci, is a semi-retired school bus driver.

**Karen (Kloda) Stolzman (1977)** has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Lake Forest, IL, is self-employed.

**Christine (Wolter) Kelsey (1979)** has 2 children, attended Stock, lives in Peru, IL, BA Music, MS Educ, is a semi-retired music teacher, looks back on her years at Taft with great memories.

**Donna (Stanley) Persino (1979)** married **Thomas Persino, deceased (1974)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Des Plaines, IL, Robert Morris College associate degree, is a retired bookkeeper.

### 1980s

**Don Johnson (1982)** has 2 children, attended Pierce, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is in international sales with FedEx.

**Ken Kapela (1982)** has 2 children, attended St. Monica, lives in Bensenville, IL, BA, is in sales,

**Cece Horan (1984)** has 2 children, attended Queen Of All Saints, lives in Glenview, IL, college '89; law school '97, is a judge.

**Yolanda (Robinson) Pankey (1989)** has 2 children, attended Douglass, lives in Aurora, IL, is a supervisor and claims administrator.

## In Memoriam



**John Fitzpatrick** of Park Ridge, IL, died on February 12, 2025. He taught English for many years at Taft. In retirement he taught adult education and traveled the world.

**Camryn Ayline Green** of Chicago, IL, died

on March 14, 2025 after a being struck by a motorcycle. She was a substitute special education classroom assistant at Taft.

**Edith (Mauch) Swanek** of Anaheim, CA, Class of June 1944, died in 2024.



**Miriam Catherine (Marum) Debreau** of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1948, died on September 10, 2001.

**Carolyn Bernice (Schmelzle) Williams** of Mt. Prospect, IL, Class of January 1949, died on October 16, 2024. She was predeceased by her husband Donald Elwood Williams, Class of January 1947.

**Walter Edward Black** of Delavan, WI, Class of June 1952, died on January 20, 2025.

**Donald Stanley Galla** of Dothan, AL, Class of June 1953, died on March 12, 2025. He is survived by his sisters Arleen (Galla) Soteras, Class of June 1957, Gail (Galla) Nehrig, Class of 1968, and Pamela (Galla) Klein, Class of 1971.

**Elizabeth Louis "Betty" Yost** of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1954, died on January 7, 2024.

**Carol (Nordstrom) Barshop** of Elk Grove Village, IL, Class of June 1955, died in 2024.

**Madeline T. (Deichl) Nelles** of Naples, FL, Class of June 1955, died on March 22, 2025. She was predeceased by her husband James Nelles, Class of June 1955.

**Marlene (Pawlowski) Sullivan** of Ocean Pines, MD, Class of June 1955, died in 2023.

**Robert Paul Hoy** of Dubuque, IA, Class of January 1960, died on August 25, 2024.

**Darlene Ruth Stille** of New Buffalo, MI, Class of January 1960, died on October 28, 2017.

**June Marie (Cinquegrani) Rappe** of Naperville, IL, Class of June 1960, died on June 19, 2024.

**Robert Anthony Sperl** of Itasca, IL, Class of June 1960, died on January 30, 2025. He is survived by his wife Carolyn (Larsen) Sperl, Class of June 1961, his brother Richard Sperl, Class of June 1962, and sister-in-law Kathleen (Breslin) Sperl, Class of June 1965.

**James Allan Hubenthal** of Canton, GA, Class of June 1961, died on February 27, 2025. He was predeceased by his sister Sandra (Hubenthal) Sams, Class of January 1957.

**Judith Grace (Oziminski) Haag** of Bear Lake, MI, Class of January 1962, died on March 17, 2025.

**Diane Mary (Benson) Cutler** of Libertyville, IL, Class of June 1963, died on January 20, 2025.

**Lloyd David Marquardt** of Acworth, GA, Class of June 1964, died on July 7, 2024. He is survived by by his sisters Marie (Marquardt) Rodgers, Class of June 1965, Kathleen (Marquardt) Tellefsen, Class of 1968, Susan (Marquardt) Morrison, Class of 1978 and his brother Leon Marquardt, Prosser Class of June 1965.

**Sharon Ann (Blitzner) Deutscher** of Norridge, IL, Class of June 1967, died on February 11, 2025. She was predeceased by her sister Arlene (Blitzner) Cierny, Class of January 1965.

**Kenneth Richard "Benny" Benedix** of Chicago, IL, Class of 1981, died on January 21, 2025.



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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)**



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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*.

Only fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.

**About You**

☐ My information has not changed

☐ Do not publish my information in Class Notes

*First Name (PRINT CLEARLY)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address	List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____		

Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years

Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi	Elementary School Graduated From
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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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Other news you'd like to share?

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