



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXVII, No. 4

Fall 2021

## Leonard Wislow Donates Permanent Lights for "Friday Night Lights"

The following press release announced welcome news:

*William Howard Taft High School, Chicago - Taft High School is looking forward to a return of "Friday Night Lights" on September 3, 2021, when it hosts Grant Community High School in a game that will include a halftime salute to military veterans.*

*The September 3 game, which starts at 7:30 p.m., will be Taft's third-ever Friday night home varsity football game, although one of those games had limited fans during the abbreviated spring season in 2021. Taft's multi-purpose sports field was installed in 2019 at Taft's Varsity Campus (6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave) with spectator stands but no lights. Prior to the 2019-2020 school year Taft's "home" football games had to be played off-site. Leonard Wislow, a 1966 Taft graduate, sponsored temporary lights for the first ever night game hosted on campus at Taft on September 6, 2019. A crowd of about 2,000 attended the game, during which Taft defeated Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep Academy.*

*Prior to Mr. Wislow's sponsorship of the temporary lights he also made past donations to Taft's weight room and athletic training room, which are named after him. Additionally, Mr. Wislow donated a grand piano to help mark the opening of the Taft Freshman Academy (4071 N. Oak Park Ave) in 2019. Following the success of the first game under temporary lights, Mr. Wislow, and his wife Gaye (Taft class of 1967) donated an additional \$300,000.00 for the installation of permanent lights at Taft's multi-purpose sports field.*

## Open House 2021

Taft will be hosting in-person tours of the Freshman Academy through December 9, 2021, and we've also got virtual options available! Details can be found on the Taft website at [tafthighschool.org](http://tafthighschool.org).

*Please note:* At this time Taft is offering in-person tours of the Freshman Academy only. However, when offers are released in the spring we may host tours of the Varsity Campus as well. The tours we are currently providing at the

Freshman Academy do include information on curricular and extracurricular offerings at the Varsity Campus.

## Taft Veteran Honored



Bob Royce, Jun '67, (left) was selected to be present on the ice during the singing of the National Anthem before the Black Hawks game on November 9. He was honored as a veteran volunteer helping fellow veterans.

## Taft Alumni Hall of Fame 2022

It's not too early to begin thinking about who you may consider to be worthy of induction into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame. Details about submission of nominations will follow in the next issue. You can view the Hall of Fame online at [taftalumni.org](http://taftalumni.org).



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register and select us as your charity of choice. That's it! Amazon will do the rest. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know--same products, same prices, same service. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. We've already seen results and we thank you!

## Arizona Picnic



### **All Class New Year's Eve Black Tie Extravaganza**

**Date:** Friday, December 31, 2021, 9 pm – 2 am

**Place:** Diplomat West Banquets, Elmhurst

**Detail:** Tickets \$150 (includes gratuity). Send via Cashapp or Zelle: newyeareve2022@yahoo.com.

**Contact:** Steve White (815-388-3457)

Defonda Louie (773-732-8292)

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

**Date:** TBD 2022

**Place:** "House of Savage", 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA

**Detail:** \$8 includes Rosati's Chicago Pizza, non-alcoholic drinks. Bring a dish to share and BYOB.

**Contact:** Jan (Ostromencki) Savage, '74

(janhellokitty@hotmail.com)

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

**Date:** TBD 2022, 11am-2pm

**Place:** South Lake Park, 1101 S. San Miguel Dr., Goodyear, AZ 85338 (Intersection of S. San Miguel Dr. and W. Santa Irene Dr.)

**Contact:** Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com)

Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com)

Paulette English (eagleemail@taftalumni.org)

**Donation:** \$4 per person (for ramada rental)

**Detail:** Bring lawn chairs, a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers. TAA baseball cap raffle. Families welcome.

## Reunions Have Resumed!

As we cautiously make our way through the pandemic, we are happy to reconnect with our classmates and friends. Let the reunions begin!

If you are interested in organizing your own area all-class reunion get-together or class reunion extravaganza, remember to contact eagleemail@taftalumni.org for assistance in promotion of the event.

A beautiful new venue and several new faces among familiar friends highlighted yet another fabulous warm and sunny Arizona afternoon in Goodyear, west of Phoenix. Food was abundant and spirits were high as we belted out the Taft Loyalty Song. While March was our usual event month in the past, we just couldn't wait any longer; October provided us with another weather sweet spot. We hope to persuade others to venture out next year to join the party.

Congratulations to Marty Wordell, Jun '66, who won the TAA baseball cap raffle.

Paulette (Zemaitis) English, Jun '67



*SEATED: Paulette (Zemaitis) English June '67*

*STANDING: Robert Machon June '48, John Placko June '65, Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper, June '64, Judy Jacobsen 1970, Lee Naga 1969, Frank Macedon June '62, Jim Pinkos June '65, Nancy (Rick) Richards June '67.*



*Robert Machon June '48, Fred Wordell June '67 (sporting his brother's TAA baseball cap), Dominick Zucchero June '67, Marty Wordell, June '66*

## Chicago Reunion

We recently had our “2 for 1” (61st and 62nd) Reunion, October 1-3, at The Hilton Garden Inn on River Road in Des Plaines. This has been our usual Reunion location ever since our 50th, which we had there. We missed last year (61st) because of Covid; hence we celebrated two this year!

We celebrated with a Pizza Party Friday night, a Banquet Saturday night, and a Farewell Breakfast Sunday morning.

Note in the second photo Mark Grishaber and his wife, Tina, sitting front and center in the first row. We were honored to have them attend. Mark gave a wonderful, positive video and power point presentation with photos and commentary from both our era and the current one at TAFT.

Larry Marsh, June 1959



**FRONT:** Gordon Stewart, Louise Knuth Stewart, Annette Knuth, Rita Glaubich Morser, Karen Knuth Neibarger, Jane Werling, Arnie Werling, Gordy Lund, Betty Henning Murphy, Susan Bartel, Karen Bartel.

**BACK:** Sherry Lohr, Barb Knudsen Newlin, Pat Gasway, Jim Fisher, Barb Peterson with William Howard Mark Eagle, David Barth, Lucia Barth with William Howard Eagle, Bill Rice, Bruce Isaacson, Penni Eichin Isaacson, Joe Bartel, Dave Murphy, Barb Marsh, Larry Marsh.



*Photo courtesy of the National Eagle Center*



**FRONT:** Jane Werling, Arnie Werling, Tom Hookanson with William Howard Eagle and son, William Howard Mark Eagle, Rita Glaubich Morser, Tina Grishaber, Mark Grishaber, Betty Henning Murphy, Joe Bartel, Jim Fisher, Barb Knudsen Newlin.

**BACK:** Mike Murray, Bonnie Murray, David Barth, Bill Rice, Lucia Barth, Kerry Kremer, Barb Peterson, Penni Eichin Isaacson, Bruce Isaacson, Karen Knuth Neibarger, Dave Murphy, Marilyn Moldenhauer Gossell, Bob Henning, Suzanne Henning, Tom Wise, Pat Gasway, Gail Wise, Barb Marsh, Larry Marsh.

## California Get-Together

Since we didn't have a chance to meet up in 2020, we were thankful to get together in September. This called for Midwest comfort food, which of course included Rosati's pizza and Portillo's Italian beef (thanks Bronwyn). We had homemade meatloaf, rotisserie chicken, pierogi (handmade by Gail and Bill Bixler), Piggly Wiggly salad (Linda Gawlik Newell), and German cucumber, onion and dill salad. And then...the desserts. Rice Krispie Treats, mini cupcakes, Kringles (sent from Racine, WI thanks to Bill Schalk), and we even had root beer floats.

Good times were enjoyed. Catching up on the past year, sharing high school memories and looking thru yearbooks. And then...the Chicago trivia game.

A special “Thank You” shout-out to the cleanup crew: Scotty Murray and Sharon (Kasluga) Biernat. To Mike Day and Paul Laudicina, thank you for starting the first ever “SoCal Alumni Get Together”. You got the ball rolling. We are growing every year. We appreciate you!

Jan (Ostromencki) Savage '74



*SEATED: Jan (Ostromencki) Savage '74, Jasmine Shogren 2011, Jill Ostromencki '76, Gail (Steelhammer) Cohen '64, Gail Uhlar-Murray '76, Gail (Ponce) Bixler '68, Linda (Gawlick) Newell '76, Bill Steinkemper*  
*STANDING: Jim Jacobs Jun '60, Sharon (Kasluga) Biernat '74, Bronwyn (Strauss) Estephan '76, Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper '64, Carl Scultuere '74, Mindy (Mirek) Bortness '77, Bill Bixler '66, Patrick Raetzman '57.*



*Jim Jacobs led us in a Chicago Trivia Game of (in Jim's words) worthless information of Chicago history where we really had to check our memory banks for some answers (queue the Jeopardy theme music).*

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

## Messages from Our Members

Hi, Ryan,

I'm most certain you'll remember Baby Snooks, Sally (Dern) Duski, Jan '41, who was inducted into the Taft Hall of Fame followed by her accordion donation for the 1940s display case. We attended a small gathering to celebrate her 98th birthday, which was on July 28th, and I thought I would let you know. Her three children attended, and her daughter surprised her by coming from TN to her party.



Please forward a copy of this email to the Taft Alumni Newsletter folks, as I'm sure she is most likely among the few remaining students going back to the very beginning. She is doing well and is still sharing stories of her incredible life!

Thank you, Ryan, and good luck with all your future endeavors, although you do not need luck. Also, please forward my email and say hello to Mark and send our regards. I know he will most likely remember our Baby Snooks too and crack a smile.

Not one of us will ever forget the welcome and kindness extended to us, the tour, etc.

I, personally, will always be most grateful for you taking the time to find that article in the newsletter that she lost. I thank you over and over again.

Fondly, Phyllis Summers

Keep up the good work. I enjoy every issue.

Bob Poteracki, Jun '67

In the current issue of the newsletter, you point out that Anne McManus is searching for Nancy Trutwin. Well, do I get the prize because I found her. She's on page 5 under the class notes for the 1950's. You can put two more happy campers together.

I was sorry to see that Frank Heyer died. We knew each other from the class of 1948, and we often were in touch with each other on alumni business.

Bob Machon, Jun '48

Thank you again for all you do. It is always a pleasure to receive the Newsletter.

Jan (Cramer) Grana, 1972

Thanks for all you do to keep up with Taft grads.

Philip Gansz, Jun '58

I still appreciate the Association and the newsletter. Thanks for continuing to mail them.

Rodney Lowell, Jun '47

Thank you for all the work you do for our Alumni newsletter.

Marsha (Tomal) Mathews, Jun '67

Do you know if Mr. Horton is still around? He was my honors English teacher and then my AP teacher. So random, but I'm watching a movie about appreciating teachers and his name came to mind. He was my fave and I wanted to tell him how much he affected my life.

Corrine (Mogensen) Baker, 1981

I am considered a "Founder" because I was a freshman when Taft H.S. opened and was in the first class to complete four years and graduate in June of 1943. In 1989, I came back for a reunion (50 years after it was built). I turned 96 years old in June. I am renewing my membership for the next two years. Thank you so much.

Al Rettenmier, Jun '43

Press on and keep up the good work for TAFT!

Larry Marsh, Jun '59

## No Hitter Remembered

Encouraged and recommended by my brother Greg, Taft R.O.T.C. Battalion Commander, (Jan '60) and sanctioned by his wife, Mary, Taft Cheerleader, (Jun '62) I will take their lead, and expand on my no hitter, during July of 1955! Whoo Hoo, here we go again! In my junior and senior years at Taft, I was part of the baseball team.

Coached by one of the greatest baseball minds in high school athletics. Did you know he was a backup catcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers at one time? We were all fortunate to be a part of his team. He was a quiet no nonsense coach, but we all listened intently.

Anyway, back to pitching during July 1955, I was part of a summer team at the local Chicago Park District in Oriole Park. Most were neighborhood guys and were Taft students or graduates.

I believe we played 6-8 games per summer, plus playoffs. On the day of the no hitter, I struck out 9 and walked 4, but the real play of the game came, when their hitter in the last inning grounded a slow roller to our second baseman, Kenny Wirth (Jun '56), who back handed the ball, threw out the runner, saved the no hitter, and we won the game--hot dog, no pun intended.

The following year, the same team, we got to the playoffs thanks to Wally Guyer (Jan '55) who was on first, and a long single by a teammate, Wally scored from first and we beat the guys from Taft-- my teammates at Taft! Needless to say, I was clobbered at the quarter finals at Portage Park. I miss the camaraderie of those times! Let's play two!

I forgot to mention the coach's name--JIM SMILGOFF!

Leo Drummer, Jan '57

1960s 1950s 1990s 1980s 1940s 1930s 1970s 2000s  
**Class Notes**

1940s

**Al Rettenmier** (Jun 1943) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Lacey, WA, UI, Utah State, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, is a retired insurance broker.

**Rodney Lowell** (Jun 1947) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Tucson, AZ, U Chicago BA; US Army 1952-54, is a retired physics technician.

**Gloria (Arnold) Klingaman** (Jan 1948) has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in South Beloit, IL, is retired.

**Jeannine (Forrest) Gibbens** (Jun 1948) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Eufaula, OK, BS Educ, is a retired teacher.

**Jack Will** (Jan 1949) married **Jerrie Biver-Squire** (Jan 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, North Central College BS '53; US Naval officer 1953-57, is the retired president of Magi Color Paint Co., was president of the class, in Commerce Club, Athletic Assoc., and all conference in football.

## 1950s

**Dale Kendrick** (Jun 1950) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Libertyville, IL, Wright Jr College; NIU DeKalb; US Army, is a restaurant owner.

**Jerrie (Biver) Will** (Jun 1950) married **Jack Will** (Jan 1949), has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, is the retired owner of a beauty salon, grew up together with Jack, became widowed and married 5 years ago.

**Chuck Fitzhugh** (Jun 1951) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, lives in Mundelein, IL, UIC BSEE '56; Lake Forest College MSM '74, is a retired electrical engineer and owned Area Electronics, Inc., stays active in church, community theater, tennis, and pickleball.

**Rich Hathaway** (Jun 1952) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Groveland, CA, UI BSME; active reserve 6 months, is a retired electromechanical engineer.

**Joyce (Christensen) Johnson** (Jun 1952) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired receptionist.

**James Fizzell** (Jan 1953) has 4 children, 14 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BS Horticulture '57; MS '62, is a semi retired consulting horticulturist, author and broadcaster.

**Bud Wrisley** (Jan 1953) married **Marcia Lien** (Jan 1953), has 7 children, 8 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, 2.5 great great grandchildren, lives in Valley Center, CA, U CO BS Acct, is a retired CPA and KPMG partner.

**Gary Mede** (Jun 1954) married **Eleanor Kuehn** (Jun 1956), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Normal, IL, Denver U BS BA Fin, UI MS Fin; US Army 1955-58 Germany, is retired from banking and finance.

**Penny (Leftakis) Wilkes** (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Lees Summit, MO, is a retired insurance/HR clerk.

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

**Bill Herbst** (Jun 1955) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, ISU BS '59; NIU MA '64; TX A&M '65; U IL '67; St. Cloud St MN '68, is a retired Antioch IL (District 34) middle school principal.

**Marilyn (Treadway) Armentrout** (Jan 1956) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, lives in Irvine, CA, U of Chicago BS, is a retired director of personnel at UC-Irvine School of Engineering.

**Ralph Beck** (Jan 1956) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Highland Village, TX, North Park Col AA '58, Northwestern Dental School '62; US Navy 8 years, is a retired dentist, has a new wife, still drives at night, 83 years old and still smiling and standing.

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

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

**Eleanor (Kuehn) Mede** (Jun 1956) married **Gary Mede** (Jun 1954), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Normal, IL, ISU BA '86, MA '89, is a retired German instructor and translator.

**Allen Meskan** (Jun 1956) has 3 children, 23 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, lives in Addison, IL, BS Mech Eng, is a foundry engineer.

**Marjorie (Klarquist) Nehlsen** (Jun 1956) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Lake Suzy, FL, is a retired secretary at A.B. Dick Co. in Niles IL, sons Jeff and Ken went to Taft.

**Sandra (Eis) Plesha** (Jun 1956) lives in Barrington, IL, is retired.

**Karen (Taylor) Fogarty** (Jan 1957) has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright Jr Col AA, is a retired after-school program director.

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

**Martin Paluga** (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Las Vegas, NV, Northwestern U BS '62, is a retired CPA and financial planner.

**Dona (Olson) McLaughlin** (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Algonquin, IL, Millikin U BFA '63; NIU MSE '90, is a retired elementary teacher.

**Wayne Schimpff** (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, MS Edu, is a retired teacher and naturalist, secretary Caretakers of the Environment Int'l/USA, will attend his 32nd conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, founding chairman, Conservation & Community Svc. Committee, Pathway to Adventure Council, BSA for all scouts in Cook, and parts of DuPage, Will counties and Lake County, IN.

**Tom Wise** (Jan 1959) has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, UIC BSEE '72; US Navy submarine service 1962-69, is a retired electrical engineer.

**Jeff Carson** (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Phoenix, AZ, BS Phys Ed; US Army 3 years, is retired from a US security agency.

**Audrey (D'Almaine) Gerlitz** (Jun 1959) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Bradley U 3 years, is a retired credit manager.

**Kelsey Peterson** (Jun 1959) has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Huntington Beach, CA, U Mich Premed '62; UI MD '67, Orthopaedic residency 1971-75; USNR flight surgeon 2.5 years, is a semi retired orthopaedic surgeon, feels blessed with all.

## 1960s

**Marjory Weiler** (Jun 1961) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Williams Bay, WI, Wright Jr. College, Northwestern U, GRI Realtor Graduate Inst, is a retired real estate broker, enjoys watching "Grease".

**Lois (Knickerbocker) Boyer** (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in South Bend, IN, is the retired owner of "The Mole Hole of South Bend" gift shop.

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

**John Alley** (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Green Valley, AZ, US Army, 67th Evac Hospital, Vietnam 1966-67, is retired from management, widowed, is a close neighbor to Carol (Fickett) Klapmeier, June '52.

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

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

**Holly (Anderson) Gansz** (Jan 1964) married **Phillip Gansz** (Jun 1958), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Park

Ridge, IL, Carthage College BS Phys Ed '67; St. Xavier U MS Leadership '99, is a retired physical education specialist.

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

**Glenn Skinner** (Jan 1964) has 3 children, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, Northwestern U BAA '71, is a retired trust officer, is an avid coin collector.

**Louise (Johannsen) Menter** (Jun 1964) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Deerfield, IL, Nat'l Louis U BA, is a retired teacher.

**Dale Schunk** (Jun 1964) has 1 child, 1 grandchild on the way, lives in Greensboro, NC, Boston U Med '74; Stanford U PhD '79; Captain, US Air Force 1968-74, is a professor.

**Al Kamradt** (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Cary, IL, IU BS PE; NIU MS Edu, is a retired physical education teacher, coach and department chairman at Barrington HS.

**Lee Marsh** (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, Purdue U BS '69, Northwestern U MBA Taxation '72, is retired.

**Marianne (Simonides) Hafer** (Jun 1965) has 2 stepchildren, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Cape Coral, FL, is retired.

**Wayne Hanslik** (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Batavia, IL, UIC BA Sociology, is retired from sales, sells Medicare supplements part-time.

**Christine (Prybylo) Payton** (Jun 1965) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, UI BA, is a retired office manager.

**Marie (Marquardt) Rodgers** (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Irvine, CA, Cosmetology College '66; Interior Designer Inst. AA '99, is a retired interior designer.

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

**Dave Bergbreiter** (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in College Station, TX, Michigan State BS Chem '70; MIT PhD '74, is a chemistry professor at Texas A&M since 1974.

**James Bixler** (Jun 1966) married **Gail Ponce** (5/21/1905), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Oceanside, CA, Cal State Fullerton BA Math '77; USMC 1967-03, is retired.

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

**Audrey (Johnson) Nelson** (Jun 1966) married **Alan Nelson** (Jun 1966), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Carmel, IN, Mankato U BS Social Work, is a retired social worker and activity director, celebrated 50 years of marriage in March.

**Alan Nelson** (Jun 1966) married **Audrey Johnson** (Jun 1966), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Carmel, IN, SIU BS Econ; DePaul U MS Acct; CPA, is a retired health systems treasurer, celebrated 50 years of marriage in March.

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

**Linda (Kelly) Sak** (Jun 1966) lives in Palatine, IL, MA Special Education, is a retired special education teacher, belongs to My Improv Buddies performing improv shows at Lamplighters in Palatine.

**Bob Carroll** (Jun 1967) married **Diane Janke** (5/21/1905), has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired moldmaker.

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

**Bill Olsen** (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Bartlett, IL, is a construction superintendant.

**Gail (Ponce) Bixler** (1968) married **James Bixler** (Jun 1966), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Oceanside, CA, is a homemaker.

**Susan (Wells) Born** (1968) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Sun City, AZ, Masters Med Counseling, is a retired teacher.

**Diane (Janke) Carroll** (1968) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is retired.

**Christine Lilla** (1968) lives in Schaumburg, IL, Triton College LPN '84; Harper College AA Nursing '89, AA Sci '89, is a retired RN, volunteers at Hanover Township.

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

## 1970s

**Judy Magnowski** (1970) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is retired from food service, enjoying life.

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

**Janine (Klich) Klich-Jensen** (1972) lives in Chicago, IL, JD, is an attorney, has adopted "Beau" from Chicago Canine Rescue.

**David Burchfield** (1973) has 1 child, lives in Burlington, WI, MS Accounting, is retired from accounting and finance.

**Jill (Mason) Hawkes** (1973) has 2 children, lives in Chicago, IL, PhD, FNP, is a semi retired family nurse practitioner.

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

**Philip Peterson** (1973) lives in Villa Park, IL.

**Sandi (Sanderson) Darnell** (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Lake Zurich, IL, is retired, loves doing jigsaw puzzles and watching her grandchildren.

**Gregg Lameka** (1979) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Cary, IL, is an auction manager.

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## Fancy Fridays

Principal Grishaber has instituted "Fancy Fridays", charging students to "Get dressed in your best Drip [outfit] and let's all look Fancy! Special Swag for Eagles who best exemplify the spirit of the day. Let's see what you got Eagles!!!! Dress to impress."

## Meet the PTSA

The Taft Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) brings together parents, teachers, students and school staff to raise funds, host programming, and build community. All of our efforts support academic, social, and extracurricular opportunities for the Taft Freshman Academy and the Varsity Campus. Here are a few examples:

- Our fundraising allows us to support a wide array of student, teacher, or school group activities. Taft PTSA has supported student group trips abroad, regional competitions, and academic enrichment programs.
- We support teachers' special projects and offer financial support for classroom supplies.
- We host informational sessions for parents and students about drivers' education programs, service learning opportunities, and collaborative activities.
- The Taft PTSA advocates on behalf of Taft High School with Chicago Public Schools, the Illinois PTA, and area businesses and community organizations.
- We host an annual Teacher Appreciation Lunch during parent teacher conferences.

## In Our Memories



**Betty Lou (Olson) Bukowski** of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1942, died on August 23, 2021.

**Donald Osceola Fillmore**, Class of June 1944, died, date unknown. He was preceded in death by his wife Vanece (Kendrick) Fillmore, Class of June 1944. He is survived by his brother-in-law Dale Kendrick, Class of June 1950.

**Oscar Gustav Rasmussen** of New Milford, CT, Class of June 1950, died on July 17, 2021.

**Walter Max Shaw** of Sun Prairie, WI, Class of June 1951, died on October 13, 2021.

**Donna Louise (Hollander) Pederson** of Columbia, SC, Class of June 1952, died on September 14, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband Arnold Pederson, Class of June 1950, and by her sister Barbara (Hollander) Echeverri, Class of January 1951.

**Earl William Hausl** of Hoffman Estates, IL, Class of January 1953, died in August 2021.

**Ronald Carl Nelson** of Northbrook, IL, Class of June 1958, died in September 2021.

**Wayne Richard Baxter** of Naperville, IL, Class of January 1960, died on August 26, 2021. He is survived by his sisters Joyce Baxter, Class of January 1961 and Vivian Baxter, Class of January 1967.

**Charles Paul Kofink** of Hanover Park, IL, Class of June 1960, died on May 17, 2021. He is survived by his wife Linda (Johnson) Kofink, Class of January 1966, and his brother Kenneth Kofink, Class of June 1962.

**Linda Ann (Tomal) Morel** of Wildomar, CA, Class of January 1961, died on March 10, 2020. She is survived by her sister Marsha (Tomal) Mathews, Class of June 1967.

**Susan Gaye (Miller) Aldrich** of Lincolnshire, IL, Class of June 1961, died on July 27, 2021. She was preceded in death by her sister Pamela (Miller) Stocking, Class of June 1967. She is survived by her brother Brian Miller, Class of 1976, and her sister Cheryl (Miller) Dominowski, Class of January 1965

**Joanne Katherine (Bauermeister) Carter** of Leesburg, FL, Class of June 1961, died, date unknown.

**Diane Virginia (Madej) Reid** of Northbrook, IL, Class of June 1965, died in October 2021.

**Carl William Weise** of St. Charles, IL, Class of January 1966, died on February 12, 2021.

**Paul Steven Frizane** of Mesa, AZ, Class of June 1967, died on September 11, 2021. He is survived by his brothers Kenneth Frizane, Class of June 1960, and Daniel Frizane, June 1963.

**Arthur Norman Schwarz** of Palatine, IL, Class of June 1967, died, date unknown.

**Joseph Cerretti**, Class of 1969, died on October 12, 2021.

**James Albert Karbach** of West Chicago, IL, Class of 1969, died on August 6, 2021. He is survived by his sister Donna Karbach, Class of June 1969.

**Edmund Karwoski** of Chicago, IL, Class of 1969, died, date unknown.

**Diane Stobe**, Class of 1969, died, date unknown.

**Gary John Thomas** of East Helena, MT, Class of 1970, died in August 2019.

**Amy Lynn (Coken) Wyrobek** of Glen Allen, VA, Class of 1971, died on August 14, 2021. She is survived by her brother James Coken, Class of January 1967.

**Walter "Butch" Stasch** of Des Plaines, IL, Class of 1974, died on October 18, 2021.



[www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association](http://www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association)

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



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



## Taft Alumni Association Merchandise

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Medium	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Large	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	X-Large	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	XX-Large	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$25.00	\$
	Baseball Cap—blue embroidered “Taft Alumni” with full-color eagle	One Size Fits All	\$15.00	\$
	Car Sticker—clear printed in blue/gray “You Can’t Hide That Eagle Pride”	----	\$ 3.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Medium	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	X-Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece – embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Medium	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XXX-Large	\$40.00	\$
<b>Shipping and Handling:</b> Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$8.00				\$
<i>Total    Remitted</i>				\$
<i>Name (please print):</i>		<i>Grad Month/Year:</i>		
<i>Address:</i>				
<i>City/State/ZIP:</i>		<i>Phone: (     )</i>		
<b>Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to:</b> <b>Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185</b> <b>Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</b>				

**Taft Alumni Association  
Membership Application**

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** ☐ **No changes**

*First Name (PLEASE PRINT)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*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?		
Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do not publish my information in the Class Notes</b>

**About Your Taft Graduate Spouse**

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
Primary Phone	Email Address		<b>List in Email Directory</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Number of Children (if different) _____ Children, _____ Grandchildren, _____ Great Grandchildren, _____ Great Greats?		
Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do not publish my information in the Class Notes</b>
Enclosed is a check or money order for:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 <b>2-year single membership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 <b>2-year alumni couples' membership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Donation in the amount of \$ _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter <b>online</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter <b>by mail</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Send <b>both</b> by mail and online

Please mail application and funds to: **Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631-3185**

**Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors**

Anne Lunde	1969	President, Historian	Art Kay	1961	Director
John Prochaska	1961	Vice President, Treasurer	Jim Kepner	1961	Director
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Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	Editor			
Kevin Krieger	1973	Webmaster	Ryan Glowacz	2006	Faculty Liaison

**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 [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org)

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