



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XLII, No. 3

Summer 2026

Congratulations to the Class of 2026

We congratulate the 845 Taft graduates who received their diplomas on Sunday, May 31 at the UIC Credit Union 1 Arena.



Standing before the graduates and guests are the creators of the Class of 2026 Senior Class Video: Aniyah Colon (left) and Riley Laurich (right)

Kudos also go to the eighth graders who graduated on Monday, June 1 at the Taft Freshman Academy, many of whom will continue their studies at Taft as freshmen.



On May 28, scholarship awards were presented at the graduation practice. Board member Al Martin, with Principal Glowacz, awarded the TAA recipients Camila Rodriguez-Estrada (Dr. Michael Molay Scholarship) and Sophiea Matsuk (Adm. Larry Marsh Scholarship).



We are grateful to Bill Schalk (Jan '60), Janet (Clune) Klopp (Jan '65), Robert Philipp (Jan '57), and so many others for their generous contributions making these scholarships possible.

Additionally, Roan Bassie received the second annual \$1000 JRI Manufacturing Memorial Scholarship presented by Terry Iverson, founder of ChampionNow! in honor of his father Jerry Iverson (Jun '54).

Rachel Miner, faculty member and president of The Friends of Taft presented a \$1000 scholarship award to Sophiea Matsuk, and to Aria Lipa, who was not in attendance.



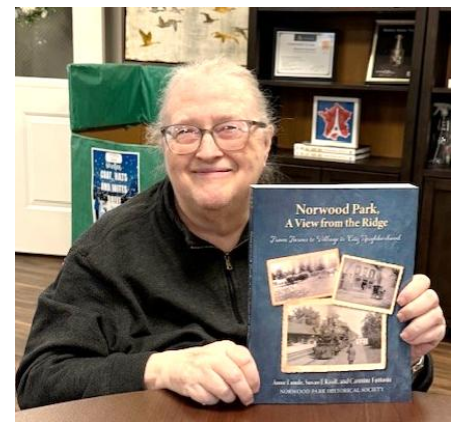
All five winners, will also receive a four-year TAA membership.

Remembering Anne Lunde

Edison Park native, retired journalist, and TAA Historian and President Emeritus Anne Lunde passed away on April 22 after a long illness. She was a graduate of Ebinger Elementary School, Taft High School's Class of 1969, and attended Rockford College.

Lunde was a staff reporter for the Journal & Topics Media Group, as well as a reporter and managing editor for newspapers covering Chicago's far Northwest side and nearby suburbs.

Outside of journalism, she was active with the Taft Alumni Association for four decades. Former TAA board member Jerry Stephenson credited Lunde as one of the people with whom Kay Kuciak reestablished the association in the 1980s. Lunde was also an active member at the Norwood Park Historical Society. She co-authored "Norwood Park, A View from the Ridge," a 355-page history of the community released in 2024.



Journal & Topics managing editor Tom Wessell said Lunde made other reporters in the newsroom instantly better. "Her appreciation for local history was unrivaled," said Wessell. "Her writing and reporting, especially feature stories and city council coverage, were always rich in facts and historical background. She took her time to get things right. We were fortunate to have such a wealth of knowledge on staff."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chicago All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026

Location: Schiller Woods Grove 10

Details: Free admission. BYO food and seating. For classes that wish to make special arrangements there is a Picnic Liaison group on Messenger—contact @ steven white.

Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2026, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Beardsley Recreation Center Ramada 10, 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Contact: Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com), Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.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 19, 2026, Noon – 4:00 pm

Location: "House of Savage," 2372 Recuerdo Cove, Del Mar, CA

Details: \$10 (Rosati's pizza and pop), bring a dish to share, BYOB

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

Florida Regional All-Class Get-Togethers

Tampa/Pinellas Region

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2027, 11:30am

Location: Paul's Chicago Pizza - Clearwater
1500 N. McMullen Booth, Clearwater, FL

West Central FL Region

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2027, 11:30am

Location: TBD - The Villages Area

Southwest FL Region

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2027, 11:30am

Location: Joey D's Chicago Style Eatery / Pizza
3811 Kenny Drive, Sarasota, FL

Contact: Tom Hoppe (tafhs.chicago_hoppe@yahoo.com) (813) 340-5478

Taft Class of January 1960 66-Year Reunion

Date: Friday, August 7, 2026, 11:30 am

Location: Moretti's Restaurant, 6727 N Olmsted Ave (opposite Edison Park Rail Station)

Details: Casual get-together luncheon, self-ordering

Contact: RSVP Lew Robert (lewrobert42@gmail.com) or text 847-858-2557. Please update your email and cell/text number.

Taft Class of 1966 60-year Reunion

Date: September or October, 2026 TBD

Location: TBD

Contact: www.taft66.com or Linda (Kelly) Sak (lulusak@aol.com)

Taft Class of 1967 60-year Reunion

Date: September, 2027 TBD

Location: TBD

Details: Friday Night Lights game and school tour planned

Facebook: [Taft High School Class of 1967 Chicago](#)

Taft Class of 1976 50 Year Reunion

Date: Oct 10, 2026, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Location: Tavern on the Point, 6724 Northwest Hwy., Chicago

Details: \$30 Individual or \$55 Couples includes food and soft drinks. Cash bar.

Contact: RSVP by September 18 to Jim Williams

(jimwilliams50@comcast.net) 847-321-1958. Cash, check, Zelle, Venmo accepted.

Facebook: [W.H Taft Class of 1976 -Chicago](#)

Florida Get-Togethers Resume

April marked the return of Florida all-class gatherings thanks to Tom Hoppe '70. The first was held at Joey D's Chicago Style Eatery and Pizza in Sarasota.



Back: Bob Nasca ('68), Dan Mason ('73), Lawrence Lonson ('68) Front: Tom Hoppe ('70), Bruce "Buzz" Talbot ('70) & Peggy Talbot



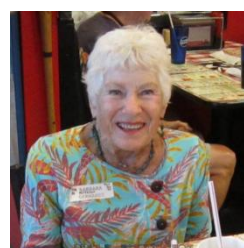
Bill Green (Jan '63) & Laurie Green, Nancy (Mastrud) Dale ('69)



Evelyn (Fischer) Miller (Feb '46)



Dlorah (Rud) Hayden (Jun '63)



Barbara (Peterson) Gerhardt (Jun '56)



Former TAA board member Joe Popp (Jun '66) & Judie Popp



Siblings Judy (Schraffenberger) Holmes (Jan '58) and John Schraffenberger (Jun '61)

The second gathering a week later was held at Portillo's in The Villages. Hoppe said, "No rookie mistakes this time - Group photo AND we sang the Taft Fight Song...outside, LOL. Small group but we had a GREAT time."



Barbara Pagel & Doug Blomberg (Jun '56), Charles Bajerski (Jun '67), Mike Regan & Karen Clausen-Regan (Jun '66), Steve Rizzo ('72), Sandra Hoppe & Tom Hoppe ('70).

Class of June 1959 Annual Reunion

At the end of June, the June 1959 Class celebrated its 67th reunion at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, Illinois. It was a two-and-a-half-day affair with a Friday night pizza party, a Saturday evening dinner and a Sunday morning breakfast. While our ranks are thinning, it was a fun couple of days. Go Taft Go!

Carol (Lubinetz) Vix



Seated: Anne (Fear) McManus, Kathy (Murphy) Barbour, Betty (Henning) Murphy, Marlene (Rizza) Crawford, Sue (Gardner) O'Connell, Karen (Knuth) Neibarger, Barb (Knudsen) Newlin, Joe Bartel. Standing: Barbara (Rhea) Marsh, Julie Neibarger, Bob Henning, Dave Murphy, Tom Wise, Gail Wise, Dennis O'Connell, Sue Henning, Penni (Eichin) Isaacson, Bruce Isaacson, Leanne (Mattick) Spiegel, Lee Marsh, Sally (Bartel) Housholder, Bill Rice, Sue (Bartel) Albers.



Phil Foss, Lew Robert, Bill Schalk, and Bob Speckmann, four 84-year-olds from the Taft Class of January 1960 would love to see everyone "Come Together" for lunch, conversation, and catching up on August 7, 2026 for the 66th Anniversary of our days at Taft... (See Events for details).

Dear Taft Alumni Association, enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$849.31 as a donation from the Class of June 1965. These funds remained from our very successful 60th Reunion last Fall. Thank you for the work you do to keep us updated on all things Taft. Go Eagles!

Joan (Boquist) Bronzy

Bob Christensen

Arlane (Gulbransen) Christensen

Bonnie (Stewart) Jilek

Nancy (Wendt) Gunning

Great newsletter, good work.

Dick Wegner, Jan '61

Can I make a suggestion? Tell us in your newsletter about TAA. What is your membership? Tell us about Taft. How many graduates in each class? Give us some history. What is the current enrollment? Any information would be welcome.

Darlene (Bruemmer) Hendricksen, Jun '62

Editor's Note: Great idea, Darlene! See "Taft by the Numbers" on page 5 as a starter, and we'll build on that.

I was so surprised to read the news about the rifle range. I was a member of the girls' rifle team. Graduated in June 1951. We practiced once a week wearing slacks and down on our tummies. We had to earn about the rifles we used. Probably had to learn how to clean them, too, but that doesn't jar my memory. We had uniforms with skirts, not pants, and marched in parades both locally and in downtown Chicago. I remember that Sgt. Mooney was in charge along with one other military man. He treated us to lunch after one parade. It was a seafood restaurant on Wabash Street under the El and we all had turtle soup for our first course. There was a little egg in each person's soup bowl.

Our drum major in the parades was a champion baton twirler. Her name was Carol Duckman who three years after graduation married Mike Royko. I found that out when visiting my mom in Chicago and we went to Waukegan to have dinner with relatives at the Elks Club they belonged to. As we were entering the room and paying for our meals, my mom said to the man taking our money that we were from Chicago. He asked where about and mom replied, "The northwest side near Milwaukee and Central. He said he was good friends with a family in that area and mentioned their last name. Duckman. I knew the name because I went to high school with Carol. And the man then asked me, "Do

you know she's married to Mike Royko?" This was in 1978 or '79.

In the summer of 1954, I was working downtown at Carson Pirie Scott on their college board. On one of the trips home after work I happened to sit next to Carol. We hadn't seen each other since graduation. She told me that she was getting a divorce. To myself I said, I'm still in college and she's getting a divorce! That was the last time I saw her.

Isn't it funny (strange, not ha ha) how our TAA newsletter can stir up such memories?

Myra Andres Fisher, Jun '51

I enjoy keeping informed of our school's activities. In my life journey, I have not heard of another school being this close in contact and loyalty like ours. What a great testament to the wonderful people we have all become.

Bernadette (Bernard) Lentz, Jun '61

Great newsletter! Go Taft Go!!

Craig Huber, Jun '67

Thank you for keeping us connected!

Suzanne (Jancovic) Huestis, 1969

My thanks to all who support and contribute to this group. It is really unique to have such a group at the high school level. Even though it has been 69 years since I graduated and 56 years since I left Illinois, I still like to hear about Taft and what is happening there. Keep it up, please.

Bob Philipp, Jan '57

I recently received the Spring 2026 newsletter and was saddened to read of the passing of David Hoy. I lived near the Hoy family in the late 50s and early 60s. Dave and I spent a lot of good times together. He had a wonderful family and he was a great guy. He will be deeply missed.

Rich Schutz, Jun '65

Can't tell you how excited I get when I receive the email about the latest issue of the Taft Newsletter. You are all doing such a great job.

Barbara (Borowski) King, Jun '62

Thank you for all you do to keep us connected!

Lynn (Valters) Mays, Jan '63

Here is my completed form. I enjoy hearing news from old classmates.

Judy (Alley) Zervic, Jun '67

Voices Unlimited Chorus

If you are an alum of the Taft Mixed or Girls Chorus, The Voices Unlimited Chorus is accepting new singers, and we would love to have you sing with us! Auditions, being a soloist or reading music are not requirements for membership. All you have to do is want to sing, have fun doing it and make new friends in the process!



I'm David Barth from the January Class of '62, the Founder and Director of Music for Voices. I sang in the Mixed Chorus for three and a half years under JJ, although back then he was *Mr. Stamm*.

Since your days at Taft, have you sung in college, in a church choir, or in a concert chorus? Or just maybe you have the talent to sing, but right now are what we call a "choral orphan." Just no place to showcase your talent. If you fit that description, we have a place for you.

We sing two concerts a year, one in spring and then a Christmas/Holiday concert in December. We rehearse at Journey of Hope Methodist Community in Elgin Tuesday evenings from 6:45 till 8:30. Rehearsals begin September 15th and run through December 1st. Our Christmas concert this year is Saturday, December 6 at Journey of Hope. Rehearsals for our spring concert pick up halfway through February.

So, if you have any questions, we'd like to follow up your interest with ours. Just know that Voices would love having you sing with us. Call me at 630-707-1221 or email me at davidabarth@comcast.net.

Help Wanted

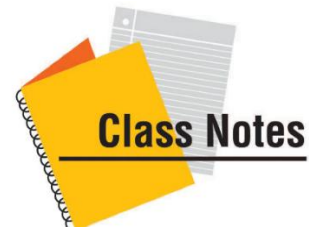
TAA is looking for a tech-savvy volunteer to help maintain our website. If you have experience with website management, e.g., GoDaddy, we'd love to hear from you! Contact eagleemail@taftalumni.org.

Taft by the Numbers

1939	The year Taft opened
7-12	Grades taught
70+	Clubs
91%	Freshmen on track to graduate
4,440	Current enrollment
70+	Teams
90%	Students living in the neighborhood
55	Languages spoken
1	Inspired musical/Broadway production

Eventful Events

- **Taft Night Out** What a night! Whether you sipped a "Pink Lady" spicy margarita or enjoyed a classic "T-Bird Old Fashioned", your presence and energy made this year's Taft Night Out an absolute blast, raising just over \$25,000! These funds will go directly toward supporting Taft students and programs. Kudos to The Friends of Taft for this successful annual undertaking
- **Prom Dress Giveaway** At the annual TAA Prom Dress Giveaway Event on April 10 there were plenty of dresses and accessories for students including some high-end labels. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors stopped by the Forum room during lunch to pick up free cocktail/short attire and long/formal gowns. There were also coupons for spray tans and suits/tuxes.
- **First Annual Grease Community Movie Night** More than 800 students, families, alumni, neighbors, and community members joined us on the Varsity Campus field for an unforgettable evening under the stars. From singing along to the classic movie to enjoying music, dancing, and time with friends, the event truly brought our community together.
- **2026 CPL Ladies Softball Champions** Congratulations to our Taft Lady Eagles Softball team on winning their 6th consecutive IHSA Regional Championship, and becoming the 2026 Varsity Softball City Champions! Not to be outdone, the Junior Varsity team also won the CPL championship. The Lady Eagles were honored at Wrigley Field on June 16 before the Cubs game.
- **2026 CPL Varsity Baseball Champions** Taft Eagles are the 2026 CPL Varsity Baseball Champions after an incredible victory over Whitney Young at historic Wrigley Field cheered by a crowd of Taft students, family, alumni and faculty. The team was honored at Wrigley Field on June 29 before the Cubs game.



1940s

Philip Klezek (Jun 1949), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Novi, MI, Purdue ME '53; US Navy 1953-55, is a retired planning manager at Ford Motor Co., varsity letters in Taft football, basketball, and track, All Big Ten Honorable Mention in football at Purdue.

1950s

Meg (Goodell) Magee (Jan 1955) married **Harry Magee, deceased (Jun 1953)**, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Naperville, IL, Northwestern U, Appalachian St, is a retired medical secretary/receptionist; after marrying Harry in 1990, they lived in the Baltimore, MD area.

Beverly (Kintz) Barker (Jan 1956) has 5 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Ocala, FL, college 2 years, is a retired secretary.

Barbara (Peterson) Gerhardt (Jun 1956) married **Paul Gerhardt, deceased, (Jan 1954)**, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Sarasota, FL, U Colorado 2 years; US Army 3 years with husband Paul, is a retired realtor and property manager, is an artist and writer of three children's books, a memoir "The Red Lantern", and co-authored "Choice Matters" with husband Paul.

Bob Philipp (Jan 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Vienna, VA, UI BA '61, JD '67; US Navy and Navy Reserve 1961-89 CDR (Ret).

Beverly (Sprecker) Laseke (Jun 1957) has 6 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Rockford, IL, Harper College AS '77; Concordia U BA '80, is retired.

Lynn Terry (Jun 1957) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Sedona, AZ, Colorado U BA '62; SF State MA '71; USMC 1962-67 Captain Infantry Vietnam, is a retired sales executive.

John Grud (Jun 1958) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Glenview, IL, Marquette U BS Bus '62, DePaul U MBA '70; USMC '63-'67, is retired.

Ron Knoll (Jun 1958) married **Kathy Appleby (Jan '62)**, has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Algonquin, IL, IIT BSEE '65, is a retired electrical engineer, remarried Kathy in July 2023.

Bonnie (Tibbett) Parker (Jun 1958) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Oriole Park,

lives in Wauconda, IL, Harper College, is a retired senior consultant with Global Assignment Center.

Cliff Stoll (Jun 1958) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Columbus, OH, is a retired engineer.

Karen (Berg) Sandberg (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Beaverton, OR, is retired.

Wayne Schimpff (Jan 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, M Ed Outdoor Teacher Education, is a retired teacher and naturalist, founding chairman, Conservation & Community Svc. Committee, Pathway to Adventure Council, BSA, honored by BSA PTAC for 75 years of being a volunteer member, has visited 80 countries, 6 continents, all 50 states, visiting Antarctica (7th continent) and 2 more countries in 2024.

1960s

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

Rich Swanson (Jan 1960) has 1 child, attended Ebinger, lives in Liverpool, NY, IIT BS Math '64, NEIU MA Math Edu '68, OSU PhD Math Edu '72, is a retired author and mathematics educator, will be moving to Albany, NY in a year or two.

Jacqueline (Metcalf) Abbett (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Okemos, MI, Marquette U Cert Dental Hygiene, MSU BA, is retired.

Sandy (Swanson) Hipp (Jun 1960) has 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Aurora, IL, UI BS Phys Ed '64; NIU MS Outdoor Ed '93, is a retired PE and science teacher, several children are teachers, one a PhD, one an MD, 2 lawyers, and one social worker.

David Orland (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Rio Vista, CA, studied Business Admin., is a retired rancher, DOD/Housing Dir., architect and general contractor.

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

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

Dick Wegner (Jan 1961) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Portland, OR, Northwestern U BAS '65, is a retired sales manager of specialty wood products.

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

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

Kathy Appleby-Knoll (Jan 1962) married **Ron Knoll (Jun '58)**, has 2 children, 10 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Algonquin, IL, NIU BA Blind/Low Vision '66; NEI MA Learning Disabilities '77, is a retired vision education consultant, after 25 years in Florida, returned to Illinois to remarry Ron Knoll in 2023 whom she first married in 1965.

Judy (Jopp) Williams (Jan 1962) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Portage Park, lives in Las Vegas, NV, NIU BS Ed '66, is a retired real estate developer, serves on the board of Sun City Summerlin, an 8000 home community in Las Vegas.

Darlene (Bruemmer) Hendricksen (Jun 1962) married **Robert Hendricksen, deceased (Jun 1960)**, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, NEIU BA Ed '66, is the retired owner of R. W. Hendricksen Tree Care, likes to travel, read, garden, and sew.

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

Jean (Pollak) Nieminski (Jun 1962) attended Onahan, lives in Naples, FL.

Dennis Rasmusson (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Woodbury, MN, ISU BS; College of St. Thomas MS; USCG Reserve 1964-70, is a retired teacher, has been a hospice volunteer for 25 years.

Lynn (Valters) Mays (Jan 1963) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in New Smyrna Beach, FL, Dominican College BA '67; St. Xavier U Chicago MA '05, is a retired elementary teacher.

Jo (Trefny) Pacheco (Jun 1963) attended Oriole Park, lives in Lake Havasu City, AZ, NIU BS Mktg '67, is a retired retail buyer for Montgomery Ward - West Coast and system analyst at Rockwell Int'l.

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

Linda (Billesbach) Schlesinger (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended St. Eugene, lives in Fort Myers, FL, Roosevelt U BGS '85, MBA '88, is a retired college professor in computer technology and business.

Kris (Warner) Finnigan (Jan 1964) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Bainbridge Island, WA, is a retired consultant.

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 Noble (Jun 1964) attended Garvy, lives in Ocala, FL, is an artist, co-hosts The Nancy & Mike Show on YouTube live, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2000.

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

John Anderson (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in El Sobrante, CA, Northwestern BSCE '69, MS Civil-Geotech Engr '71, PhD Civil/Structural Engr '74, is a semi-retired geotechnical and foundation engineering chief engineer, recently complete his fourth term as member of Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury, vice president of Contra Costa Grand Jury Association.

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

Judy La Marche (Jan 1965) has 2 children (1 deceased), 6 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Miramar Beach, FL, UW BA '68, MA Ed '70; USU PhD Psy '84; UA MBA '98, is a retired neuropsychologist, chair of the board of LaMarche Mfg. Co., became widowed when husband Rob Stainback died on 09/11/2025.

Bill Pavelec (Jan 1965) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Auburn, AL, Wright Jr. College, College of Artesia NM, is a retired personal trainer.

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

Corliss (Porter) Falkner (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Wood Dale, IL, is retired.

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

Bonnie (Stewart) Jilek (Jun 1965) attended Garvy, lives in Simpsonville, SC, NIU BA Romance Lang '69, is a retired United Airlines HR specialist, is a Master Gardener in the Upstate of South Carolina; has taken seven trips throughout Europe in the last eight years.

Lynn (Hintz) Pozsgay (Jun 1965) attended Hitch, lives in Huntley, IL, is retired from banking and real estate.

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

Dennis Stephens (Jun 1965) married **Judi Luga (Jun 1965)**, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Barrington, IL, UIC BSEE '69, MSEE '71, is an electronics engineer designing batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Tom Benson (Jan 1966) married **Sally Haas (Jan 1965)**, attended Ebinger, lives in Des Plaines, IL, US Air Force 1966-72 Strategic Air Command, is a retired ComEd lineman and line crew leader, is "Santa's Helper" all year making wooden toys for needy children.

Oscar Marquis (Jan 1966) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Northwestern U BA Econ, IU JD, is an attorney--General Counsel of TransUnion, followed by private practice in Atlanta, Washington DC, and Park Ridge firms, still practicing..until he gets good enough to stop; traveling overseas at least twice a year, and doing highfalutin things like going to the opera, symphony, and jazz clubs in the city, and summers in Wisconsin.

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

Patti (Zowal) Kalesz (Jun 1966) lives in Phoenix, AZ, is retired.

Linda (Kelly) Sak (Jun 1966) attended Norwood Park, lives in Palatine, IL, MA Special Education, is a retired special education teacher, e.

Russ Stephenson (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Palatine, IL, 2 years college, is an insurance claim manager, has traveled to Italy, France, England, Istanbul, Mexico, and wants to see Egypt next.

Wayne Gibson (Jan 1967) attended Garvy, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Wright College 1 year, is a retired postal clerk.

Charles Bajerski (Jun 1967) has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in The Villages, FL, is retired from airline management.

Vinette (Gramarossa) Engler (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, licensed cosmetology, is licensed cosmetologist, former salon owner, and a retired TSA officer, has 2 wonderful grandsons, and her beloved father "Mr. G" passed away in April at 98 years young.

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.

Fredric Lind (Jun 1967) lives in Park Ridge, IL, is retired.

Norm Pflomm (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, Wright College AA; NEIU, is a retired sales director.

Robert Poteracki (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, NIU BS '71, MBA '93, is retired from electronic sales management.

Judith (Alley) Zervic (Jun 1967) married **John Zervic, deceased (Jun 1966)**, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Marietta, GA, Georgia State Univ BA Sign Language Interpreting, is retired.

Bob Altergott (1968) attended Garvy, lives in Lake in the Hills, IL, Chicago Conservatory of Music Music Ed; Triton construction tech., is a retired project superintendent.

Yoit (Stratton) Callaghan (1968) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Lake Mary, FL, UI, is not retired yet.

Art Ellingsen (1968) has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, OS/2 US Navy Reserve 1969-75, active 1970-72, Vietnam and Korea 1971; ISU BS '80, is a retired pastor and consultant, serves as Commander and Chaplain for American Legion Post 216 and Jr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 9284, both in Elk Grove Village, Treasurer, Vietnam Veterans of America, NW Sub Chapter 311, founder of Arlington Hts. Tea Party.

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

Susan (Jancovic) Huestis (1969) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in West St Paul, MN, LPN certification, is a retired LPN and paraprofessional, widowed in 2025.

Emil Kane (1969) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Westchester, IL, is retired.

Kathryn (Bickler) Lesniak (1969) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, BA English Edu (grades 6-12), is retired medical assistant.

Doug Ulasy (1969) attended Garvy, lives in Bull Shoals, AR, is retired from handling repairs for an antique store.

1970s

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

Cynthia (Gallaher) Cumpian (1970) has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC BA Art/Arch '74, is a retired business writer and poet, her hybrid memoir "Match Heads: My Conversations with Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber" will be published in 2027 by Southern Illinois University Press.

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

Donna (Suszek) Hagan (1970) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Hamden, CT, NIU BA '74; UNM MA '04, is a retired teacher and instructional coach, is adjusting to life in the Northeast after 40 years in the sunny Southwest.

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

Gary Richert (1970) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Hinsdale, IL, Purdue U BS Elec Eng '74, is retired, he and wife Effie chase grandchildren--3 in California, 2 in Texas, and 1 in Illinois.

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

Richard Anderson (1971) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, attended St. Eugene, lives in Schaumburg, IL, SIU BS Fire Admin, is a fire inspector with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

Rich Lindberg (1971) attended Onahan, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Hist '74, MA '87, is a retired author and lecturer/guest speaker at member organizations and libraries, authored twenty-one published books about Chicago history, true crime, and sports; "Citadels of Sin: Chicago Vice Under the Gaslight" will be published by Southern Illinois University Press in November 2026; inducted into the Taft Hall of Fame in 2000.

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

Carol (Naatz) Wodka (1971) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, EIU BS Elem Educ, is a retired preschool teacher.

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

Chris Jacobs (1973) has 2 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Minocqua, WI, DePaul Univ BS, is retired, snowbirds in Clearwater, FL.

Susan Moresi (1973) attended St. Paul Luth., lives in Cordova, TN, Clemson U MA Pro Comm '97; US Navy 1982-93, Reserves 1993-03, is retired from active duty, US Navy USPS contracting office, attended this year's Rose Bowl Parade, likes to watch rocket launches at spaceflightnow.com.

Joe Prill (1973) lives in Surprise, AZ, is a retired Chicago police officer in the Bicycle Unit for more than 18 years.

Bob Schmidt (1973) attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC Barch, Washington U March Urban Design, is a retired architect and urban planner.

Karen (Jones) Cogan (1974) has 3 children, attended Edison, lives in Fairfax, VA, ISU BS Ed '78, is a retired logistic and distribution coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools.

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

Susie (Peter) Pino (1976) has 1 child, attended Onahan, lives in Elgin, IL, Concordia U BS Org Mgmt, is retired.

Richard Bake (1978) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Bus Mgmt/Econ '83, is retired.

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

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

1980s

Robert Spohnholz (1980) lives in Elmhurst, IL, NEIU '84, is retired from the printing business.

David Meyer (1983) has 3 children, attended Edison, lives in Henderson, NV, USAF Academy; USAF 37 years, 2-Star General, retired, is a former fighter pilot and senior staff officer, now a defense contractor.

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.



Ruth P. Artisuk of Davis, IL, died on June 16, 2026. She taught chemistry at Taft for many years and was a generous TAA scholarship donor. She was the first woman graduate from Loyola University-Chicago in Chemistry.

Ruth Evelyn (Reisman) Ellmore of North Richland Hills, TX, Class of February 1944, died in January 2026.

Dolores Marie (Fell) Hoeckelberg of Green Valley, AZ, Class of June 1949, died on December 6, 2025. She was predeceased by her husband Robert Hoeckelberg, Class of January 1950.

Marvin George Weber of Boybe City, MI, Class of June 1949, died on September 25, 2025.

Fred Ronald Nadzieja of Gold Canyon, AZ, Class of January 1956, died on February 5, 2026. He is survived by his brother Ronald Nadzieja, Class of June 1957.

LaDaine Lee (Prosser) Wandell of Colorado Springs, CO, Class of June 1957, died on April 10, 2026. She is survived by her sister Diane (Prosser) DeGrenier, Class of June 1958.

Daniel Michael Evasink of Barrington, IL, Class of January 1959, died on February 5, 2025. He is survived by his sister Sharon (Evasink) Rosin, Class of January 1962.

Robert William Webb of MacClenny, FL, Class of June 1960, died on November 9, 2025. He is survived by his sister Nancy (Webb) Clark and brother Thomas Webb, both Class of January 1966.

Kenneth Raymond Lindenau of Linfield, PA, Class of June 1961, died on December 5, 2023.

Virginia Anne (Sutton) Evert of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1963, died in March 2026.

Richard Glenn Ulasz of Port Mansfield, TX, Class of June 1965, died on March 31, 2026. He is survived by his brother Douglas Ulasz, Class of 1969.

Russell James Stewart of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1967, died on June 23, 2026.

Anne Stafford Lunde of Chicago, IL, Class of 1969, member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame, died on April 22, 2026. She was predeceased by her brother Albert Lunde, Class of 1971.

Herbert Charles Maag of Barrington, IL, Class of 1970, died on July 13, 2023. He is survived by his siblings Judy (Maag) Steiner, Class of January 1960, and Donna (Maag) Esposito, Class of June 1963.

Mary Michelle (Paton) Wozniak of Algonquin, IL, Class of 1972, died on May 2, 2026. She was predeceased by her husband Gary Clements, Class of 1972. She is survived by her husband Paul Wozniak, Class of 1972.

Linda (Jackson) Wisniewski of Schaumburg, IL, Class of 1973, died in May 2026.

Vincent Paul Zarlenga of Glen Gardner, NJ, Class of 1975, died on April 11, 2026.

Mechell Wheeler of Chicago, IL, Class of 1988, died in April 2026.

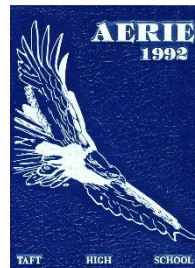
Yolanda "Yogi" (Robinson) Pankey of Aurora, IL, Class of 1989, died in May 2026.

Kelcey Dean of Chicago, IL, Class of 1995, died on June 23, 2026.

Larence Reese of Chicago, IL, Class of 1995, died on May 13, 2020.

Taft Yearbooks

Are you looking for a yearbook? We may have what you want! Surplus yearbooks are available for the suggested donations as follows:



- \$50 for new yearbooks (includes shipping via USPS)
- \$35 for used yearbooks (includes shipping via USPS)
- Yearbooks picked up in person will have the \$8 shipping charge waived

Please contact TAA Treasurer Ted Groat at TaftJune1969@gmail.com to request a yearbook, if your year is not listed, or to donate a yearbook. Inventory often fluctuates, first come first served, but these are the years at available at the time of printing:

1963, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2018

NEW TAA SWAG ALERT

Flannel Pajamas, ¼ Zip Sweatshirt and Racerback available in all three logos



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Racerback



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Pajamas



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Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	President, Editor	Barbara (Borek) Littel	1976	Director
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Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director	Evon (Sudduth) Young	1984	Director
Richard Lindberg	1971	Director			

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

Please send news, photos, and general correspondence to:

Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185 or eagleemail@taftalumni.org

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Taft Alumni Association
Membership Application or Renewal

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

About You ☐ **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? ☐ Yes ☐ No
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	

Other news you'd like to share?

About Your Taft Graduate Spouse

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)	
Primary Phone	Email Address		List in Email Directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	

Other news you'd like to share?

Your Membership Choices

Deliver Newsletter ☐ Online ☐ By mail ☐ Both online and by mail	TAA Use Only
☐ \$20 (2-year individual) ☐ \$25 (2-year Taft alumni couples) ☐ Scholarship Donation Total Remitted \$ _____	

- ☐ Mail a **check** with completed membership form
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