

# T ALUMNI F

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. VI No. 2

JULY 1988

## WHY PAY ALUMNI DUES?

Q. It's true that we are all Taft Alumni members, so why am I requested to pay dues?

A. You are not required to spend 1 cent to be a member, as you automatically acquired that status when you left Taft.

However, in order to provide you with information on various activities, goals, highlights, etc., relative to our purpose of sponsoring a meaningful Alumni, a scheduled newsletter provides all the details. Yes, it costs a considerable monetary cost to publish and mail this periodical 3 times a year.

A goal to furnish scholarship awards to a deserving senior, is an optional program, which is financed from a special fund (for this purpose only) and comes from donations beyond the dues structure.

It's an advantage to have your name listed in our computer alumni file, as it will be available for a class reunion notice when one of your class members (or even you) decide to probe such a possibility. With Alumni guidelines and

assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange.

As a sponsoring alumni you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of all high schools in the area. It demonstrates that Taft graduates are continually dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition with which no other high school can compare. We "got" our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring.

I urge our 6,000 non paying Taftites to get on our "band wagon" to join with our 500 supporting Eagles for re-inforcing our established and functional Alumni. We're going forward with Pride and Determination, and your added financial aid will strengthen our treasury, give added confidence to our Alumni volunteers, and help us prepare for the 50th anniversary celebration. With everyone's cooperation, we'll sing "GO TAFT GO" with more enthusiasm and vigor. LET'S HEAR FROM YOU! The color for a current membership of your card is white. If your card is blue or gold your dues are not up to date.

## WELCOME CLASS OF 1988

Congratulations to the graduating class of 1988, you are now part of a special group of people known as the Alumni of Taft High School.

The Taft Alumni Association was formed to provide a means for Taft Alumni to continue or rekindle friendships begun at Taft, provide

service to the school and most important to preserve its history. The \$10.00 membership fee is used to publish this newsletter 3 times a year, provide funds for our annual scholarship and help us prepare for Taft's 50th anniversary in 1989. The fee covers a 2 year period

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## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Alumni Association Scholarship Award of \$250 was awarded to **SARAH WELK** this year. The check was presented to her at the 50th anniversary planning meeting on 6/25/88 by Kay Kuciak.

Sarah was ranked 16 out of 409 with a 4.2895 seven semester grade point average. Her favorite subjects were English and Art. She will be attending Northeastern in the Fall and would like to become an illustrator or an Art Teacher.

Among her activities at Taft were; National Honor Society, 4 years on the volleyball team, last year as co-captain, participated in school musicals for 4 years including positions as crew chief and production manager, Student Council, Honor Club, Spanish National Honor Society, Taft Trib, Math Club, Chorus and Traveling Troupe. Sarah also had the honor of designing and building a LARGE Eagle and decorating my car for the Norwood Park Memorial Day Parade, all done at the last minute, for which I say a big THANK YOU again.

Best wishes and thank you to the following who applied for the Alumni Scholarship and made our decision very hard: **LATREECE DICKERSON, KRISTINE KNUTH, KAREN LEPINSKI, REBECCA PANASIUK, JAMES PERCHKE, LINDA STETTLER, SUSAN WHITE.**

You have worked hard and given freely of your time for activities while at Taft and we hope you will remember the good time and friends you made during these important years of your life.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

**LOIS TORTORELLI** graduated from Taft in January 1954. She began teaching at Taft in September 1960 as a typing and shorthand teacher and is still there also teaching word processing. She says "for all of you who struggled to learn typing on our manual typewriters, you'll be glad to know we finally have 3 rooms of electrics, electronics and PC's for our students".

## IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER

**JAN (LARSEN) LAMONIA**, class of January 1962 passed away on 12/3/87. Her husband Jim is also from the January 1962 class.

**EVANGELINE (DAYIANTIS) GAROT**, class of January 1944 passed away in 1987.

**CAROL (JANDA) SYKER**, class of June 1965 passed away in August 1986. She was a French Teacher in Newport News, Va.

**DONALD GRUMBINE**, class of January 1950 passed away on 10/12/87.

## VOLUNTEER CPA NEEDED

We are looking for a CPA to audit our books  
A person to sew an Eagle costume to fit a medium size body  
artists or painters for sign making

If you can offer your services please contact Kay Kuciak at the alumni address. Thanks

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WINNERS

In our last issue we ran a contest to see which class could come up with the most dues paying members. I'm glad to announce the winner is the class of 1947 with 36 paid. They will be receiving their prize of a Taft Eagles key chain by separate cover.

## WELCOME CLASS OF 1988

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currently ending in December 1989.

As you continue your education, work a full time job or get married, remember to drop us a line and let us know your new name and/or address. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion 5 or 10 years from now.

Best of luck to all of you, be proud to say you graduated from Taft.

## 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DATES

### EVERYBODY START MAKING YOUR TRAVEL PLANS, HERE ARE THE DATES:

Ribbon cutting ceremony one week before opening day of school in September 1989.  
(Actual date to be announced later)

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

Ron Dluger will present a musical variety show starring Taft Drama and Music ALUMNI.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1989

Mr. Ozaki is inviting all Alumni to come to the school and view the school while classes are in progress.

Ron Dluger will again present the musical variety show in the evening.

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1989

Taft will be open from 10 A.M. to 10:30 P.M.. All day Alumni will be greeted by an information booth, be given guided tours of the building, 5 classrooms will be set up to represent each decade which will contain memorabilia, slides, movies, sign in books, Alumni lists.

There will be a dance covering music from all years, a buffet style dinner in the new lunchroom, an awards ceremony, portrait photographer and a souvenir booklet. Also demonstrations by the physical education department and some of you will get to make that "last shot" in the open gym.

There will be a very special Master of Ceremony and many other surprises lined up.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE, TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.**

## LETTER TO ALL 1940 TO 1949 GRADUATES

To those who don't know me, my name is Frank Zemaitis and a member of the first Taft class of June 1940. My wife Jane (Jewell), was in the first four year class of June, 1943, our 2 children are Taft grads and my grandson is now a freshman. I also was the first president of the Taft Alumni Assoc. so I have been well involved in Taft tradition.

As you know, next year in October there will be a 3 day 50th anniversary celebration at the school. Part of the program will be "Era" rooms filled and decorated with memorabilia of each of the 5 decades of Taft.

Kay Kuciak, President of the Taft Alumni Association and Anthony Camacho, chairman of the anniversary committee, have asked me to form a committee to plan, coordinate and decorate the 1940's room. I promised Kay and Tony that the 40's classes would respond to a call for volunteers and that our room would be something special.

We have about a year and a half before the big event but it is not too early to begin planning. We have a head start with material from the old Taft Alumni Association scrapbook. Of special interest would be photographs taken in and around the school. I have a few of these and also the first issue of the Taft Trib and the souvenir edition of the Taft Founders March.

A VCR and monitor will be available for each of the rooms. We will need memorabilia materials to convert to wall posters and place on video tape. Anything at all showing life in the 40's; bobby sox and saddle shoes, crew cuts, Big Bands, WWII, Roosevelt and Truman etc, would be welcome.

Anyone who would like to assist in planning, decorating and manning the 40's room or would like to contribute material, please contact me

Frank Zemaitis  
5365 N. Harlem Ave  
Chicago, IL 60656  
775-5519

## CLASS NOTES

### 1940s

LEONARD JEDD (JUNE 1940) married DOLORES DAVIS, class of 6/46, they have 4 children and he is a retired union official living in Norridge.

VIVIAN (SPITZ) WETTER (JUNE 1941) has 3 children and 5 grandchildren and is a homemaker in Chicago.

LOIS (DALE) OLSEN (JUNE 1941) is living in Morton Grove, has 4 children and 4 grandchildren and is a housewife.

LAVERNE (GUTZMAN) ANDERSON (JUNE 1941) is living in Chicago, has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. Her daughter graduated from Taft in 1968, she has been an Avon Rep. for 13 years and a member of the Avon President Club for 9 years.

JACK ZETTERBERG (JUNE 1942) graduated from Northern BSE 1948, Northwestern MA 1952, has 3 children and 8 grandchildren, is a retired teacher living in Green Oak, IL.

BLANCHE (TANNEY) THOMPSON (JUNE 1942) is living in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children and 2 grandchildren and is a retired secretary of an elementary school superintendent.

DOROTHY (KRUEGER) SMITH (JUNE 1942) graduated from Rutgers BA 1970, Southern Connecticut State MSC, has 3 children and is a retired public library director living in Madison, CT.

RICHARD PARIGINI (JUNE 1942) graduated from Lake Forest BA 1949, has 2 children, he is living in Reno, NV and is a consultant for insurance claims, a baseball card collector and a Grand Jury Foreman.

MARY LOU (ENGER) KRAKOWSKI (JUNE 1942) has 4 children and 4 grandchildren, she is a housewife living in Sebastian,

FL and is an artist, has been on the ambulance squad for 10 years and also works at the Humane Society.

MARIANNE (HOLDEN) HARRIS (JANUARY 1943) is living in Sebastian, FL, has 3 children and 8 grandchildren and is a housewife.

CONSTANCE (ZIETLOW) OSKO (JUNE 1943) is living in Prospect Hts, IL has 3 children and is retired.

MARY (NEMETH) KOVACS (JUNE 1943) has 1 child, is a bookkeeper living in Arcadia, CA.

MARJORIE (CROCKATT) DRITLEIN (JUNE 1943) married WARREN, class of 1942, they have 3 children and are living in Naples, FL.

AUDREY (RUNDE) FLETCHER (JUNE 1944) has 3 children and 5 grandchildren, she is living in Mt Prospect, IL and is the secretary/treasurer of her husbands detective/security business.

CAROL (OSTEN) DUKEWICH (JANUARY 1945) has 3 children and 3 grandchildren, she is retired and living in Seven Springs, FL.

BESSIE (SMITH) ROGGENBUCK (JUNE 1945) has 3 children, and when not traveling since her husbands retirement lives in Gulf Breeze, FL.

BETTY (BLAGG) KENNEDY (JUNE 1945) has 5 children and 5 grandchildren, is in market research and lives in Littleton, CO.

MARY BRYCE (JUNE 1945) retired after 39 years at Montgomery Ward and is now working for Olsten Temp. Serv. living in Chicago.

MARY (SMITH) HELENBEIGER (JANUARY 1946) retired 1/88 as a library catalog clerk, took a 3 week golfing vacation on 5 islands of Hawaii, she has 2

children and lives in Champaign, IL.

DAWN (COOKSEY) SMICK (JULY 1946) graduated from Carthage College and is office manager for husband living in Bristol, WI.

DOROTHY (WOLF) GARRITY (JUNE 1946) has 3 children and 4 grandchildren and is an administrative secretary living in Rolling Meadows, IL.

MAE (SUCHAK) DAUBE (JANUARY 1947) lives in Houston, TX. She married RON, CLASS OF 1/47 AFTER RE-MEETING EACH OTHER AT THE 25TH CLASS REUNION. ROY EVENSEN (JANUARY 1947) graduated from North Park AA, Northwestern PhB, has 5 children and is a company president living in Menomonee Falls, WI.

BETTY (GUETZOW) TATE (JUNE 1947) has 3 children and 5 grandchildren, is a housewife living at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM.

LIDIA (RIGONI) PIPER (JUNE 1947) has 4 children who are all Taft graduates and is an accounting clerk living in Chicago.

RICHARD PETERSON (JUNE 1947) graduated from IIT BSEE 1952, is in real estate living in Chicago.

JUNE (AXTATER) DAVIDSEN (JANUARY 1948) graduated from No. East College BED 1965, married ARTHUR, class of 1/42, they have 2 children and she is a teacher living in Fontana, WI.

NARDELLE NORDGREN (JANUARY 1949) lives in Chicago and is a marketing administrator.



## CLASS NOTES

### 1950s

CAROL (NORDENGREN) LARSON (JANUARY 1950) married ROBERT, class of 1/50, graduated from North Park AA 1952, they have 2 children and are living in Chicago. She has been a real estate agent for 20 years and is a board member of the Norwood Park Historical Society.

MARGARET (KREBS) GRUMBINE (JANUARY 1951) has 4 children and is a housewife living in Schiller Park.

RENEE (VERPLANCKEN) SWANSON (JUNE 1951) lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a staff assistant.

DIANE (KISTING) FUHLER (JUNE 1951) lives in Ft. Myers, FL, has 4 children and 2 grandchildren and is sales.

CAROL (DEHLINGER) DOYLE (JUNE 1951) graduated from ILL State 1955, Natl College of Ed 1982, she is a teacher and member of Phi Delta Kappa, has 2 children and 1 grandchild and lives in Chicago.

JUNE (BENNETT) WYLIE (JUNE 1953) lives in Wheaton, IL, has 2 children and is senior sales director.

DOROTHY (WEED) SWANSON (JUNE 1953) lives in Palatine and won Alumni membership at the class reunion.

JERRY PERMODA (JUNE 1953) has 2 children and is a carpenter living in Chicago.

JOANNE (KRAUSE) MEISSNER (JUNE 1953) lives in Villa Park, has 6 children and is a receptionist/secretary.

FRAN (MARINO) HUGHES (JUNE 1953) lives in Park Ridge and won an Alumni membership at the class reunion.

ROBERT STANEK (JUNE 1954) graduated from U. Of I. BFA 1959, lives in Marietta, GA and

is a commercial artist and a pilot for Delta Air Lines.

NORMA (GOTZ) SHAW (JUNE 1954) lives in Austin TX and is with the Highway Dept. of Texas.

JOAN (DENNEY) SANDECKI (JANUARY 1956) lives in La Verne, CA, has 5 stepchildren and is in management at Pacific Bell.

JOHN BEALL (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Clemson BS 1960, has 2 children and is a director of special industrial programs living in Newton, NC.

DIANA (SCHOLL) PERHAM (JUNE 1957) has 3 children and 3 grandchildren, is an office manager living in Chicago.

ROBIN (EBERSOLE) SHOEMAKER (JUNE 1958) lives in Sacramento, CA is an interior designer/mfg. rep. and is engaged and will marry the end of 1988.

RICHARD MELBYE (JUNE 1958) graduated from North Park BA 1963, is a self employed money broker, he has 2 children who work with him teaching Country & Western dancing in Garland Texas.

DOUG CYREX (JANUARY 1959) graduated from LA State BS 1971, Tulane Law 1979, owns a cattle farm, is an attorney, Judge Pro Tempe, Parish Court, 23 rd Jud. Dist. in Gonzales, LA.

EDITH (SIMONDS) HITCHCOCK (JANUARY 1959) lives in Seattle, WA, has 2 children and is a teacher.

### 1960s

PAUL VERISARIO (JUNE 1960) graduated from Northeastern BA 1968, has 3 children and is President of All-Security Ins. Agency living in Park Ridge.

ARTHUR KAY (JUNE 1961)

graduated from Elmhurst College, has 2 children and is an Assistant Tool Engineer and an instructor for Tooling & Mfg. Assoc. living in Schaumburg.

LYNN (ANDERSON) DROST (JUNE 1961) married RUDY, class of 6/61, graduated from Roosevelt BA 1985, is in accounting, youth center volunteer counselor and working on a MA in Psychology.

They have 2 children and are living in Palatine.

JOYCE (THOMAS) VAZZANO (JANUARY 1962) graduated from Augustana Hosp. RN 1965, has 2 children and is an RN part time for Medicare and a high school. She is also involved in Sarahs Circle (center for homeless women) and a church sharing committee that send 96 inner city children to camp each summer and is living in Glenview.

ARTHUR PAUL (JANUARY 1962) graduated from Wright AA 1964, U. of II. BA 1969 and is a customer service rep. for United Air Lines living in Honolulu, HI.

JEAN (POLLACK) NIEMINSKI (JUNE 1962) has 2 children, lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA and is a real life power shopper.

MARGARETE (KEIL) GROSS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Mundelein College, Art Institute of Chgo., Rosary College, School of Library, has 1 child, lives in Chicago and is an art librarian/free lance artist, likes tombstone art in Chicago cemeteries.

JANE (SPENNY) HEIDE (JANUARY 1963) graduated from Oberlin College BA 1967, Columbia-School of Social Work MSW 1969, has 2 children, lives in Kansas City, MO. and is

## CLASS NOTES

### 1960s Continued

assistant to president of American United Way.

JEFFREY WILK (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northern BS 1967, married DIANE PETERSON, class of 6/63, they have 2 children and he is a teacher living in Harwood Hts. IL.

DAVE TANSEY (JUNE 1963) graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business College, has 1 child, is a systems programmer living in Aurora, IL.

JIM SRODON (JUNE 1963) graduated from U. of I. and De Paul, married JUDY CALABRESE, class of 6/64, they have 2 children and a builder and designer of custom homes.

MARION (RAIL) KUHN (JUNE 1963) lives in Woodstock, IL, has 2 children, after graduation worked for Lufthansa Air Lines and now is a day care teacher.

RUTH (SAIGER) NAGY (1966) has 2 children, lives in Des Plaines and is a bartender.

BOB FRIEDLANDER (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Southern BS Journalism 1971, lives in Des Plaines and is a sportswriter- summers at Thillens Stadium-Winter Chicago Blackhawks.

JACQUIE (LUGA) PHILBIN (JANUARY 1967) graduated

from U. of I. 1971, has 1 child and is a flight attendant.

GARY SAMUELS (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Northeastern, lives in Newport News, VA and is in the U. S. Army.

ELLEN (BACOS) ANDEEN (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northeastern BA 1971, married SCOTT, class of 1967, they have 2 children, live in Schaumburg and is a teacher.

TOM BIESCHKE (JUNE 1967) graduated from Wright and U. of WI, has 1 child, lives in Woodruff, WI. and is president/owner of Superior Masonry and a member of the Lakeland Senior Hockey Team.

LINDA JOHNSON (1968) graduated from Northern BS-Art 1974 and is an editorial/computer consultant living in Barrington, IL.  
TRUDY (STROMQUIST) CALEF (1969) lives in Lake Forest, has 2 children and is actively involved in the Village Park Board- Riverside Foundation-Lake county Heart Assoc., Benefit Committee.

### 1970s

RENE' ANDERSON (1977) lives in Houston, TX and is an executive assistant.

MARY (PERLOWSKI) BOYLE (1977) married JEFFREY, class of 1976, they have 2 children

and live in Chicago.

ROCCO MAGGIO (1977) graduated from De Paul BS-CPA- U. Of WIMS, is a commercial real estate investor living in Prospect Hts AND WILL BE MARRIED IN 8/88, CONGRATS!

CHERYL (STANISLAUS) MURRAY (1977) has 1 child and is a computer programmer living in Chicago.

KATHRYN (FLOOD) EAGAN (1978) has 1 child, is a housewife living in Gretna, LA.  
MICHAEL GUERCIO (1978) graduated from U. of I. BS Computer Science and is a computer software designer living in Chicago.

### 1980s

ANTHONY CAMACHO (1980) married KATHY JO MIKOL, class of 1979, they live in Chicago and he is executive section manager for Spiegels and is chairman for the Taft 50th Anniversary Celebration.

JENNIE KIESSLING (1980) graduated from the Art Institute BFA 1985 and is an artist represented by Natalini Gallery, living in Chicago.

MONIKA ZWIERZCHOWSKI (1984) graduated from Loyala BBA 1988, lives in Chicago and is a management associate for La Salle National Bank and is spending her summer in Europe.

## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

### 1948

Reunion: O'Hare Holiday Inn 9/17/88  
Contact: Reunions 397-0010

### JUNE 1958

Reunion: Brigantes in Des Plaines 10/29/88  
Contact: Diane (Cornell) Treslo 303-6177

### 1963

Reunion: Allgauers 9/24/88  
Contact: Class Reunions 677-4949

### 1968

Reunion: Willow Creek Hotel 9/24/88  
Contact: Class Reunions 677-4949

### 1978

Reunion: Ramada-O'Hare Inn 9/17/88  
Contact: Lori (Stromquist) Patricelli  
351-2006

### 1979

Reunion: O'Hare Holiday Inn 5/13/89  
Contact: Caryn (Lunsford) Tierney  
725-0805

### 1980

Plans are just being formed. Please contact  
Doreen (Proenzano) Domek 469-7612

**HITCH GRAMMER SCHOOL** classes of  
1927 through 1945, please contact Reunions  
397-0010

**A Mini-reunion of a group of fella's  
from the June 1946 class is being  
held in late July. Would love to  
hear from old friends, contact Rusty  
Peterson, 825-2410 or Max Moran,  
724-3943.**

## Please take time to complete the following survey form regarding the 50th Anniversary

If the following were offered for sale at Taft's 50th Anniversary which would you likely purchase:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Printed T-shirt   | <input type="checkbox"/> Printed Baseball Cap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key Chain         | <input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Snifter       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taft Pin (Button) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennant              |

The afternoon/evening of the open house we are planning a catered dinner at Taft in the new cafeteria:

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I plan to attend and purchase advance tickets    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will not be there for the dinner               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I live in the area and plan to attend the dinner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will be coming from outside Illinois to attend |

**YOUR OPINION IS NEEDED TO DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF SOUVINERS WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE OCTOBER WEEK-END. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**

Kay Kuciak  
47 W. Lancaster Ln.  
DesPlaines, IL 60018

## TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

Name :		Maiden Name :		Mo. & Yr. Grad	
Address : (Home)			City	State	Zip
Address : (Office)			City	State	Zip
Home Telephone No. : (    )			Office Telephone No. : (    )		
Name of Spouse :				Year Married : 19	
Number of Children :		Ages :			
College(s) Attended, Degree(s) Earned, Year of Graduation					
Occupation :			Other Interests :		
Other News or Information :					
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$ _____ to defray newsletter cost. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$10.00 for membership Return to Kay Kuciak, Taft Alumni Association , 47 W. Lancaster Ln., DesPlaines, IL. 60018					

**Please pass a form on to another Taft Alumni**

## TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

Name :		Maiden Name :		Mo. & Yr. Grad	
Address : (Home)			City	State	Zip
Address : (Office)			City	State	Zip
Home Telephone No. : (    )			Office Telephone No. : (    )		
Name of Spouse :				Year Married : 19	
Number of Children :		Ages :			
College(s) Attended, Degree(s) Earned, Year of Graduation					
Occupation :			Other Interests :		
Other News or Information :					
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$ _____ to defray newsletter cost. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$10.00 for membership Return to Kay Kuciak, Taft Alumni Association , 47 W. Lancaster Ln., DesPlaines, IL. 60018					



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