



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Volume XII No. 2

June 1993

## Welcome Class of 1993

Congratulations to the graduating class of 1993. You are now part of a special group of men and women known as the alumni of Taft High School.

The purpose of the Taft Alumni Association is to provide means for Taft alumni to continue or renew friendships begun at Taft, provide service to the school and most importantly to preserve its history. We publish a newsletter four times a year, to let you know what other alumni are doing and to invite you to special events at Taft.

As you continue your education, work a full time job, or get married, remember us. Drop a line to let us know your new name or address and what you have been doing since graduation. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion five or ten years from now.

An application form to join the Association is in this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10 for two years.

Best of luck to you. Be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

## Why Pay Alumni Dues?

**Q.** If we become Taft Alumni when we graduate, why do we have to pay dues?

**A.** You automatically acquire the status of "alumni" when you graduate from Taft and it is not required that you spend one cent to become a member; however, to provide you with information about various activities and other alumni, we feel it is necessary to publish a newsletter which provides all the details for you. This newsletter costs a considerable amount to publish and distribute four times a year.

A goal of the Alumni Association is to furnish a scholarship award to a deserving senior financed through special donations. Through membership

dues, fund raisers and donations, we sponsor productions including "Mame" (1991), "Play On" (Fall 1991), "Bye, Bye Birdie" (Spring 1992) and "The Dining Room" (1993). Also, we have provided funds for buying hats and overlays for the marching band and a laser printer for the journalism department.

It is an advantage to have your name listed in our alumni file, so it will be available for a class reunion when one of our class members (or even you) decide to probe such a possibility. With Alumni guidelines and assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange.

As "Sponsoring Alumni" you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high school alumni in

the area. This shows that Taft graduates are 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. We urge the 8,000 non-paying Taftites to join the 3,500 supporting Eagles. We are going forward with pride and determination and your financial aid will strengthen our treasury and give additional confidence to our alumni volunteers. Helping where needed, the Association has been working closely with the PTA and Local School Council for the past five years.

You were an Eagle in high school, now join the Alumni Association and soar like an Eagle for the rest of your life.

## In "The Dining Room," talented student actors show audience a new way to look at dining room



This year's Taft all-student drama production was held March 25, 26 and April 2, 3 in Taft's drama studio. "The Dining Room", written by A.R. Gurney, involved eighteen interwoven scenes revolving around many dining rooms.

From squabbling family members to Thanksgiving dinner, the student actors showed the audience a new way to look at a dining room. The audience alternately laughed over a comic family crisis or were stunned to tears by the emotional impact of a private confession.

The show was produced and directed by the Alumni Association. Special thanks to Anne Lunde for directing, Pericles Georgopoulos for doing lighting, Sean Homrig for being the student director and the rest of the cast and crew for helping make the play a success.

## Alumni Picnic will be held at Norwood Park Historical Society

The date for our annual Taft Alumni Picnic is Saturday afternoon on August 14, 1993, from noon until 5 p.m. This year we will again be on the grounds of the Norwood Park Historical Society located at 5624 N. Newark in Chicago. It is located only one block west of Taft High School.

Lawn games and good reminiscing are the order of the day. Grills will be provided. Bring your choice of item to grill for yourself and a dish to share. Pop will be available for a nominal fee. Bring a lawn chair. Call your old classmates and bring them along. See you there!



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Jill Wagner Schimpff  
Class June '63

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Thanks to Carl Overhuls (Class of '72) for his donation to T.A.A. of his personal jacket worn during his years at Taft. It is the blue hooded wool jacket with the Taft Eagle embroidered on the back.

## Herb Paske

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## Memorial Day Parade

Keeping up with the 1993 theme of "Cooking with Taft", the alumni banded together to be participants of Norwood Park's annual Memorial Day parade. Donning their aprons and chef's hats, and making noise with their pots, pans and spoons, the guys and gals marched through Norwood Park. The finale at Taft High School was a memorial program arranged and conducted by the Norwood Park Memorial Association. Taft was represented by the Alumni Association, Pom Pon Group and the P.T.A. The twenty people who participated won the First Place Community Plaque.

## Cookbook Corrections:

Apologies to Tracey (Fredrickson) Drwal (Class of '87) who submitted several recipes for the Taft Alumni Cookbook. Please correct the following:

1. Taco salad (page 26). Please add the step, "Put the dressing last, after the chips are added."
2. Oatmeal Rasin Cookies (page 92): Brown sugar should be only 3/4 cup, not 3 3/4 cup.

Although the recipes were proofread twice by two different people, these were not caught. \*If you see any errors, please contact Kay Kuciak at 47 Lancaster Lane, Des Plaines, Il. 60018. (708) 824-4747



## Taft Today wins seven awards

Taft Today newsmagazine won seven awards at the Chicago Public School's Scholastic Press Association Student Conference at Roosevelt University on March 19. The editors organized a presentation on the difference between a high school newspaper and news magazine.

Jenny Hitchins and Daniela Lung won a Superior Achievement in a Concern of Your Own School for a story on metal detectors and LSC business.

Renata O'Connor received a Superior Achievement in Political Issues for her "Emphasis on the Environment" column.

For their in-depth report on public and private schools, Ellen Avery, Jenny Hitchins and Claudette Kwasigroch won an Excellent Achievement in charts and a Superior Achievement in Local Community.

Lisa Rodriguez won an Excellent Achievement in News Story for her story on the Business Pilot School and Nick Ban received an Excellent Achievement in Cartoon for his editorial cartoon depicting students walking through metal detectors and picking up free condoms.

For the best news publication in the Chicago Public Schools the Taft Today staff received a Superior Achievement in Overall Newspaper.

## Did You Order Yet?

Send in your \$10 right away to get your own copy of the T.A.A. book *Cooking with the Taft Eagles*. Over 100 pages of fantastic recipes from alumni and friends are offered, including the 'infamous' Butter Cookie recipe from the Taft H.S. Cafeteria. Old-fashioned and modern recipes from all classes are represented.

Send \$10 plus \$3 for shipping/handling for each cookbook to:

Kay Kuciak  
47 Lancaster Lane  
Des Plaines, IL. 60018

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Tele. No. _____</p> <p>Number of Books _____</p> <p>\$10 EACH _____</p> <p>SHIPPING/HANDLING + 3.00</p> <p>TOTAL ENCLOSED _____</p>	 <p><b>OUR FAVORITE RECIPE COOKBOOK</b></p> <p><b>Advance Sale Coupon</b></p> <p>This coupon is to be redeemed for one personalized cookbook being published by our organization.</p> <p>SHIP TO:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Street _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION</p>
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TO THE MEMORIES  
OF THE  
*GREAT*  
CLASS OF 1942



*from one who remembers.....*





# Letters To The Editor



Dear Kay,

Just wanted to thank you for all the years and all the hours you've put in for Taft alumni. Thought you'd appreciate a coment made by Sandy Bartos Banner (June '58) who lives in Iowa. I had to talk her into sending in for the newsletter and now that she's been receiving it a few years, she recently told me how much she looks forward to reading it and she's so glad I "bugged" her to pay her dues and get on the mailing list.

I assume you saw the *Sun Times* articles on Taft a few weeks ago. I get a kick out of Donna Mills fudging about her age -- I'm sure the Class of June '58 does too! The *Times* misspelled Mr. Blacharski's name and "Stranny" Strandberg's name was Edith. Are you impressed?! Again, thanks so much for all your work -- it's appreciated more than you know.

Shirley (Kalivoda) DeWeese  
(June '60) (The Green GymSuit Person)

## Voices wanted for Christmas Concert '93

Attention! All of you who missed our first concer held last December--don't despair. Plans are already in the works again for this fall; different music that was performed in past years; musical accompaniment and additional voices are expected. We had over 30 voices perform last year and would love to have support of more basses and tenors. Watch for more announcements in our next newsletter.

Alumni interested in participating in voice or in the background are invited to contact...

**Special Events Director**  
**Mike Guercio (Class of '78)**  
**6212 N. Ozanham**  
**Chicago, Il 60631**  
**(312) 775-4356**

Calling All Garvy Alumni:

We are still looking for class pictures of graduates. Currently, we have pictures dating back to 1939 [the first graduating class]. Since our last request, we have collected many pictures. One came from an alumnus in Colorado. We now have 85 pictures in our collection, but we still need 25 more.

We need pictures from the following classes: January and June 1940, 1941, January 1946, 1947, June 1948, 1950, January 1959, January and June 1961, January 1962, January and June 1963, 1964, 1965, 1976, 1977, and June 1981, 1982, 1983.

If anyone has one or more of the above, we would appreciate it if you could let us make a copy of it.

The pictures will be mounted on the walls of the first floor hallway. Please call your friends an help us find the pictures.

Thanks,  
Carl Van Kast, Principal

Dear Jerry Bloom,

I enjoy reading the newletter. It is nice to read about the people we grew up with and what they are doing these days. You do very nice work.

Will the alumni be sponsoring a picnic this year? I was unable to attend the last picnic due to the fact that I received my newsletter one day after the day of the picnic. Would it be possible to begin publishing the date in the next newsletter? I believe more would be able to attend if we knew the date in advance.

I will be mailing you some information about a Lake Michigan cruise. I belong to the Airline Club - Chicago Interline Club. Once a year, we sponsor this event, truly a good time. We would like to invite the Taft Alumni to attend. Reasonable price, dinner included.

Respectfully,  
Janice Kay (Class of 1970)



January 1953

Valerie (Zetek) Blau (312) 824-5577  
5-1-93 at Chevy Chase C.C.

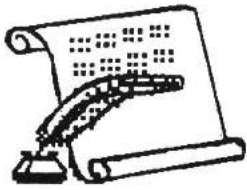
1973

Class Reunions (708) 677-4949  
9-4-93 at Nordic Hills Resort

1983

Class Reunions (708) 677-4949  
10-2-93 at Hyatt Woodfield

*This Publication was produced by the Taft High School journalism class. It was made possible in part, by grants from the Helen M. Harrison Foundation and the Taft High School Alumni Association.*



# CLASS NOTES

## 1940s

**VERA (O BOSLA) KOVACH (JUNE 1942)** has 4 children and 9 grandchildren, lives in Boyceville, WI. married Jerry in 1992 and is retired. **BARBARA DAVIES (JUNE 1943)** has 5 children, lives in Fontana, WI and is a retired Mary Kay Consultant. **JUNE (LIETZ) DILLON (JUNE 1943)** lives in Sylmar, CA, has 3 children and 7 grandchildren and is the owner of a pre-school. **ROBERT LENDY (JUNE 1946)** MARRIED **FERN SCHULTZ (JANUARY 1948)**, they have 5 sons and 10 grandchildren and live in Elk Grove, IL.

## 1950s

**LEE ALBERTS (JUNE 1954)** lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 5 children and is a painting contractor. **GEORGE KLIER (JUNE 1954)** graduated from Wright and U of Maryland, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 4 sons and is in newspaper production. **RICHARD TRAUOGOTT (JANUARY 1957)** graduated from Lake Forest College BA 1962, Roosevelt U MA 1964, lives in Wyoming, MN, has 4 children and is an International Market Development Manager for 3M Co.

## 1960s

**RAY FAIRBANK (JUNE 1960)** in March 1992 got promoted to Captain USAF Reserve, Medical Corps, got married on May 30, 1992 to a girl he met during Desert Storm in Germany and they now live in Woodland, CA, also has 2 of his poems published in local newspapers and Air Force publications.

**ROGER JENSEN (JUNE 1960)** graduated from St Olaf BA 1964, Valparasio U, JD 1967, lives in Arden Hills, MN, has 2 children and is an attorney.

**TOM NELLES (JUNE 1960)** MARRIED **LYNN (FOERSTER) (JUNE 1960)**, they both graduated from Cornell BA 1964, they live in Prospect Hts, IL and have 3 children.

**JOHN TYMITZ (JUNE 1960)** graduated from Wright AA 1962, SIU BA 1964, MA 1966, Oklahoma State PhD History 1973, has 2 children, lives in Pittsburgh, PA and is Executive Director, Shipboard Educational Program for World Campus/Semester at Sea where he has sailed around the World 10 times.

**ROBERT BRION (JUNE 1961)** lives in Rockwall, TX where he owns and operates a horse ranch in Royse City, TX.

**EFSTATHIOS REGOPOULOS (JANUARY 1961)** graduated from U of I BS 1969 PE & Sociology, Real Estate Assoc 1975, CPM Designation 1980, has 4 children, lives in Barrington, IL and is a Real Estate Entrepreneur, who

also appeared as an extra in the movie "Ground Hog Day" with Bill Murray filmed in Woodstock, IL where he is developing 3 sub divisions.

**BARBARA (PUCCINELLI) MONSTVIL (JUNE 1963)** lives in Morton Grove, IL, has 2 children and is a marketing coordinator for United Casualty Ins. She was also on the committee that helped get the Alumni Assoc. started.

**NANCY (NOBLE) ZORICK (JUNE 1964)** graduated from the Art Institute, American Academy of Art, lives in Indio, CA, she is an Artist and was also an actress with Second City.

**EUGENE PETROVITS (1968)** graduated from Bradley BS Mech Engr 1973, lives in Plainfield, IL, has 3 children and is a Mechanical Engineer.

**MICHELE (ROMANO) POTTER (1968)** graduated from Sam Houston State U BA 1981 Home Economics, lives in Seeley Lake, MT, she and her husband recently sold a weekly newspaper that they owned, it was the first newspaper in the Seeley Lake area.

**LINDA (ARCHAM) SEREK (JUNE 1968)** lives in Round Lake Beach, IL, married in 10/91 now has 2 stepchildren, and is a Staff Sgt in the Army Reserves serving as a Career Counselor at Ft. Sheridan.

## 1970s

**CAROLE (JACOBUCCI) SCARDINA (1972)** lives in Berwyn, IL, has 5 boys and is

a pre-school gym/swim instructor.

**HOLLY (BROTSOS) (1977)** had a baby girl on 12/9/92. **MINDY (MIREK) RAWERS (1977)** has 3 children, the last born 1/15/93 and is the marketing manager for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

## 1980s

**DAVID MEYER (1982)** lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a videotape editor. **DANIELLE CARDINAL (1985)** lives in Chicago and is in customer service.

**KAREN LEPINSKI (1988)** graduated from U of I BS Electrical Engr 1992, lives in Chicago and is a software engineer.

**ANA BAGARIC (1989)** our 1989 scholarship winner graduated from IIT 5/93 Mechanical Engr and is going to work for Amoco Oil as a project engineer and will be getting married 8/93.

## 1990s

**LAURA GRUNDY (1991)** is attending Millicent University, just had a major role in the production of "Company". She is also a member of Alpha Phi Omega. **BRANDEE ABBOTT (1993)** received the Wohelo Medallion which is the highest honor in the Camp Fire program. She is only the fourth girl to receive the award locally in more than 10 years.

## *In Our Memories*

**Ralph C. Brinkman** (class of June 1947) died in April, 1993. He was the founder and president of Brico Industries in Elmhurst. ✓

**Dr. Charles DeZanek** (class of June 1945) died March 10, 1993. His practice was located at Northwest Hwy. and Raven. ✓

**Joanne (Rizeb) Kocher** (class of 1953) passed away Jan. 17, 1993. See the note from her daughter in this issue. ✓

**Donald S. Rodger** (retired Taft counselor and English teacher for 41 years) died March 30, 1993. He was inducted into the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame.

**Linda (Krause) Donohue** (class of 1969) passed away on April 19, 1993. Everyone knew her as "Mickey". ✓

**Janice (Elliot) Luttgens** (class of June 1953) passed away April 30, 1993 after battling with cancer for four years. ✓

**LaVerne (Thelen) Mooke** (class of 1940) died Dec. 11, 1992. ✓

**Jean (Isakon) Lewis** (class of January 1942) died Oct. 26, 1992. ✓

*Dear Kay:*

My mother **JoAnne (Rizeb) Kocher** attended Taft H.S. (I believe she graduated in 1953) and she passed away January 17, 1993. About a year ago you printed a message from her looking to correspond with her classmates, as she was disabled at the time. I just wanted to thank those very kind people who wrote her. Although she didn't get a chance to write back, I know their letters brought back some happy memories.

*Caroline (Kocher) Kelly*

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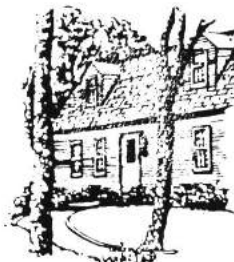
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# Taft Alumni Association awards scholarships



Two awards were given this year in the Alumni Association Scholarship competition. Independent judges reviewed all the applications and tied on the votes. The two recipients are 1993 graduates **Gregory Marlow** and **Jennifer Hitchins**. They received the scholarships following the closing night performance of "The Dining Room".

Jennifer Hitchins will attend Western Illinois University and major in Chemistry and Secondary Education. She hopes to become a high school chemistry teacher (maybe at Taft ??). Jenny has participated in drama performances at Taft for two years ("Bye, Bye Birdie" and "The Dining Room") and is active in National Honors Society, Advanced Chorus, Taft Today and Realities publications, girls' basketball, Senior Council and holds various teacher aid positions. She ranks fourth in her class of 315 graduates.

Gregory Marlow wishes to attend Sioux Falls College in South Dakota and study theatre. He would eventually like to teach theatre on the high school level and to perform in drama productions. He participated in drama performances for three years at Taft: "Mame," "Bye, Bye Birdie," "Play On" and "The Dining Room." He also found time to participate in Aspira, Beginning & Advanced Chorus, Total Body Conditioning, Art Mural, Student Council, Senior Council, L.S.C. Student Representative, Taft Today, Realities and the 1993 yearbook. He also participated in our Winter Drama Workshop, "Adventures in Acting."

# Women attend fortieth annual Alumnae luncheon on April 24

A full room of Taft's own attended the 40th annual Taft Women's Alumnae Luncheon on April 24, 1993. A grand luncheon was prepared at Brigantes Banquets in Des Plaines, followed by many laughs at the hands of comedian / magician George Johnstone. In addition, many great door prizes were given out.

Preliminary plans are already being made for next year's luncheon. There will possibly be a fashion show modeling clothes from the various decades of Taft graduates.

If you didn't receive your own personal invitation this year, please get your name on the 1994 Luncheon Committee's mailing list. In order to do this, simply send your name, year of graduation and current address to:

**Karen Hamelberg**  
**254 Brentwood Drive**  
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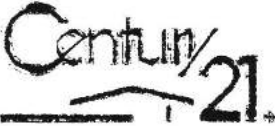

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## ALUMNI OFFICERS

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<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Jerry Bloom (1962)</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Sarah Welk (1988)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Ron Olle (1985)</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Anne Lunde (1969)</i>
<i>Special Events:</i>	<i>Mike Guercio (1978)</i>
	<i>Sarah Welk (1988)</i>
<i>Directors:</i>	<i>Irene Fransen (1944)</i>
	<i>Cliff Raiman (1947)</i>
	<i>Tom Kuciak (1962)</i>
	<i>Barb Rodriguez (1970)</i>
	<i>Judi Lenihan (1973)</i>
	<i>Kim Blackstone (1973)</i>
	<i>Perry Georgopolus (1985)</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Jerry Bloom (1962) 312/774-5320</i>
<i>Editorial Staff</i>	<i>Kay Kuciak (1963) 708/824-4747</i>
<i>Advertising</i>	<i>Tom Kuciak (1962) 708/824-4747</i>

## Did you forget?

Check your label on the back of this newsletter. If it says "DUES NOW DUE" in the upper right hand corner, your membership dues have expired.

Don't miss a single issue! Send your \$10 dollars right away for two years of updates on classmates and school activities. Please use the application below and mail to the following address:

**Jeraldene Bloom  
5508 N. Parkside  
Chicago, IL 60630**

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM			
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Address: (Office)	City	State	Zip
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College(s) Attended, Degree(s) Earned, Year of Graduation:			
Occupation:	Other Interests:		
Other News or Information:			
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<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$10.00 for membership.			
Return to: Kay Kuciak Taft Alumni Association 47 W. Lancaster Lane Des Plaines, IL 60018			



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