



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. VX No. 3

Summer 2000

## Time Capsule - Year 1976

by Anne Lunde (1969)

On March 31, 1976, Taft High School students had packed up some of their treasured memorabilia, sealed in plastic bags, into a picnic cooler. The cooler was buried, under a layer of tar, in the plaza near the Hurlbut Street front entrance, with instructions to dig up the time capsule at the beginning of the new century. That proved more of a challenge since its original marker stone was vandalized and removed years ago.

Dr. John Graven, principal during the 1976 Heritage Day celebration, returned to remember the delivery of the time capsule by a 1776 Revolutionary War honor guard, a U.S. Army helicopter landing on the front lawn, cutting of a Bicentennial birthday cake, and a ring of students, arm-in-arm around the entire building, while the capsule was buried.

"For those of us who were there on that day, the memory shall never be forgotten," he added. Graven remembered his nine years as Taft principal, from 1969 to 1978, as the golden years of his 38-year career as teacher, principal and central office administrator "because of the students' academic excellence, their school spirit, the parental involvement and commitment to the school and to the community, the dedicated and creative faculty, and the community at large who contributed positively to the welfare and success of Taft High School. This spirit continues today because of the efforts of the Alumni Association."

As three alumni from the class of 1977 opened the cooler and displayed the contents, they remarked how well the items survived the test of time. Included with many other items were a photograph of William Howard Taft, copies of play programs, A Taft Traveling Troupe performance shirt, a girls' gym suit and a Chicago Tribune newspaper. Contents from the time capsule will be placed in a display case at the school.

## Newest Hall of Fame Honorees

by Anne Lunde (1969)

A judge, a legislator, an author, an actor and an artist went back to Taft High School on May 26 to be honored in the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

"One is tempted to look backwards, at the great time we had here," said Judge **Wayne Andersen** (1963), who serves on the federal bench in the Northern District of Illinois. He remembered with special fondness English teacher Dan Lyons and social studies teacher Irv Stein and "what they taught me. People should be free to express ideas and we shouldn't be afraid of people being different." He paid tribute to the TAA and president Kay Kuciak for keeping the spirit of Taft alive.

He recently established an award to honor Taft students who achieve top scores on the required U.S. Constitution test.

Andersen went from Taft to Harvard University and the U. of IL College of Law, and a staff position with state Rep. Henry Hyde. He later served as deputy secretary of state under future Gov. Jim Edgar, specializing in traffic safety. He was elected to Cook County Circuit Court in 1984 and to the federal bench in 1991.

State Senator **Richard Klemm** (1950), R-32nd, recalled coming back to high school is not the same. "Sometimes you're disappointed. I see the growth of Taft, the impact. You can see the changes and enthusiasm of the young people."

He remembered when he first went to Springfield, he was one of five Taft graduates in the Illinois General Assembly. Also there were state Rep. **Ralph Capparelli** and state Rep. **Lynn Martin** (both inducted to the Alumni Hall of Fame in 1989), **Loleta Didrickson** (later state comptroller) and state Sen. **James DeLeo**. Sometimes he said, the relationship and trust they had as alumni served them well in overcoming political partisanship to pass worthy bills.

Klemme earned his engineering degree from Purdue U. and is a Korean War veteran. He heads the family business, Food Warming Equipment Co. He held positions in township government, was president of the District 46 Board of Education and chairman of the McHenry County Board before running for the general assembly in 1980. After terms in the Illinois House of Representatives, he ran successfully for the senate seat.

"As we grow older there is a tendency to look to the past, and the teachers who simply made us think," said **Richard Lindberg** (1971). "I came from a family of modest means. My grades were in a comfortable range. I had a vague notion of wanting to be a professional writer." He was pushed beyond complacency by some determined faculty members, and "the honor would not have been possible" without them, Lindberg added, citing English teacher **Alice Jerusal**, social studies teachers **Nick Mitchell** and **Gerald Cuny**, and music teacher **Mila Nolan**. Nolan and Cuny, Lyons and Stein were among the audience members.

Lindberg's interest in sports in general and the Chicago White Sox in particular prompted him to write six books on the Sox, including "Who's On Third?", "The Chicago White Sox Story" in 1983 and "Stealing First in a Two-Team Town" in 1994. He was named official historian for the team in 1985. Other books have focused on Chicago's ethnic diversity and its infamous history, including "Chicago Ragtime," "To Serve and Collect..." a history of the Chicago Police, and his latest, "Return to the Scene of the Crime: A Guide to Infamous Places in Chicago."

Dr. **Robert Forney** (1944) sent classmate Ed Ferguson to accept his award. Forney, a retired chemical engineer who spent his career of nearly 40 years with DuPont, was traveling in Syria. He remembered being at Taft as the U.S. entered WWII, facing the impact of D-Day just before graduation and seeing friends go off into service, to be injured or killed in action. When Taft formed its Army ROTC unit, Ferguson and Forney were among those who joined.

"How grateful I am to be a graduate of Taft High School, said **George Zima** (1945). I feel privileged. I'm very humbled." In context of the Memorial Day weekend, he remembered several classmates who lost their lives in WWII. "None of us would be here without their sacrifice."

Zima and his sister had worked as a dance team, performing at the USO and around the Chicago area. After Taft, where he was a cheerleader and band member, he studied to be a teacher. Mid-career he headed to Broadway, where he worked in famous productions from "Pal Joey" and "Gypsy" to "Most Happy Fella" His TV career included Mary Martin's "Peter Pan," "Captain Kangaroo," appearances on many variety shows and some dramatic work. He returned to teaching, retiring as an elementary school principal, and now teaches dance for the Wheaton Park District.

**Nancy Noble Zorick** (1964) also paid tribute to teacher Dan Lyons, for helping her take a drama class during high school. After Taft she had started a career as a commercial artist but parts in Chicago

area theater led her to a brief film career in CA. After meeting her future husband, Mike, who competed as a runner and wrestler despite a sight disability, she switched her career back to art and has won awards for her work. The couple visit schools as inspirational speakers, discussing their life experiences.

The final inductee was **Kay Carlson Kuciak** (January 1963). She received the most nominations for the hall of fame of any candidate over the years.

She answered a call for help from Taft's principal **Sam Ozaki** in 1983 to help organize the alumni association and has been its president ever since. They started with a list of 100 names. She and her husband **Tom Kuciak** (June 1962) have worked as a team, with Tom handling data input for a mailing list, which has grown to more than 16,000 names.

Since Tom's retirement as a customer services manager for Sprint/Centel, the couple is relocating from Des Plaines to Arizona. They appear together in the photo on the Hall of Fame wall.

## Welcome Class of 2000

Congratulations to the new graduating class of 2000! You are now part of a special group of men and women known as 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 approximately four times a year to let you know what other alumni are doing, keep you informed of activities affecting the Taft community 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 on the last page of this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10 - which covers two years of membership. Considering the rising costs of printing and postage of these newsletters, that's a pretty nice bargain! Best of luck to you. Hold your head high and be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

# Class Reunions

## 1950

Date: Weekend of 9/29-31/2000  
Place: Ridgemoor Country Club - Harwood Heights/  
Sheraton Gateway Suites  
Contact: **Audria (Reiser) Brown** – (847) 392-0867  
**Marlene (Dietzel) Lawson** – (847) 520-9809

## January/June, 1951

Date: May 19, 2001  
Place: Rosemont Convention Center  
Rosemont, Illinois  
Contact: **Ed Archambault** - (623) 546-9170  
22013 N. Via De La Caballa  
Sun City West, AZ 85375-2210  
E-mail: LAZYAZ@aol.com

## January, 1955

Date: October 7, 2000  
Place: Best Western Midway  
Elk Grove Village, IL  
Contact: **Don Mellema** - 847/825-4128  
or **Mary Jo (Osborn) Tracy** - 847/438-6223

## June, 1960

Date: October 14, 2000  
Place: Hyatt Regency - O'Hare  
Contacts: **Stu Dunn** - 847/948-8023  
e-mail - [smdunn@interaccess.com](mailto:smdunn@interaccess.com)  
or **Shirley (Kalivoda) DeWeese** - 847/885-8655  
e-mail: [JTDSAD@aol.com](mailto:JTDSAD@aol.com)

## 1970

Date: August 5, 2000  
Place: Atrium – Rolling Meadows  
Contact: **Taylor Reunions** – (800) 677-7800

## 1990

Date: October 28, 2000  
Place: Wyndham Gardens O'Hare  
Contact: **Taylor Reunions** – (800) 677-7800

## Other Reunions

### Ebinger, January/June 1949

Date: November 11, 2000  
Place: Sanibel, Florida  
Contact: Reunion Committee  
P O Box 385  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
or **Dan Rice** - 312/943-1840  
or **Pat Matthews Hall** - 847/520-9809

### Garvy, 1950

Date: October 13, 2000 (50th reunion !!)  
Contact: **Don Ring**  
[dring@educator.campusewix.net](mailto:dring@educator.campusewix.net)  
or 847/253-3811

### St. Juliana, 1959

Date: August, 2000  
Place: Chicago Northwest suburbs  
Planning Contact: **Diane (Kaczmarek) Beninati**  
e-mail - [Juliana@beninati.com](mailto:Juliana@beninati.com)  
FAX: 847-398-0342

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## New TAA Mailing Address

Effective immediately, all Taft Alumni Association mail is to be sent to our Alumni office at Taft High School, 6545 W. Hurlbut Street, Chicago, IL 60631. When writing via e-mail, please use the following addresses: **Taftalum@aol.com** (for all correspondence, except those relating only to the newsletter), **jobloom@aol.com** to contact the TAA Newsletter Editor and **EagleEmail@yahoo.com** for adding or amending your e-mail address in our files.

## ABC's of Reunion Planning

Our January 1946 class has been very active since graduation. Two years ago **Maryean Meisner Flom** (June 1946) wrote to us saying she didn't know why the June 1946 class wasn't included in the January 1946 reunion. **Bonnie and Gene Nugent** (Minnesota), **Audrey Peterson Anderson** (Florida) and **Barbara Lawton Loeschen** (Florida) have been doing all the planning work from out of town. For a small class (about 125 graduates) they do very well. There were 72 people at their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, then had a cruise two

years later and had 69 people attending their 54<sup>th</sup> - the latest reunion this past May. We hope the June 1946 class can take inspiration from their efforts to generate their own plans.

Last August, **Bea Lorbus Harsch** (CA), **Bonnie Weidman Nugent** (MN) and **Barbara Lawton Loeschen** (FL) (all from January 1946 class), met **Maryane Paddi Struberg** (June 1946) on Rodeo Drive in Los Angeles, CA for lunch, as she was interested in doing a reunion for her June 1946 class with classmate, **Don Gloor**. They had a fun visit, but concrete reunion plans never materialized.

Anyone in the June 1946 class (or any other class, for that matter) can write the Taft Alumni Association for a list of their classmates, as long as it is used for reunion purposes only. The next step would be to write to each of the classmates listed and ask if they know any other classmates' addresses. The list grows quickly.

After the January 1946 committee chose a meeting place, **Audrey Peterson Anderson** did all the business with the hotel (banquet room, etc.), **Bonnie & Gene Nugent** worked on the menu and **Barbara**

**Lawton Loeschen** did all the general correspondence. It's not difficult, but it is time consuming. Thanks to Barb Loeschen for all her details on the works behind the scenes. So, as Barb says, "Get your

old Taft High spirit going, Class of June 46 and JUST DO IT!"

## Letters to the Editor

Subj.: Clifford Miller

Kay: Regarding the "In Our Memories" column, I recognized the name **Clifford Miller** with the notation he was in the "class of 1955". I was well acquainted with a Cliff Miller from the June class of 1951. Are these one and the same?

I enjoy the newsletter and thank you for the splendid job you and all the are doing to keep decades of the Taft alumni abreast of the news, even though some of it seems trivial to others.

**Tom Ohman** June 1951  
TOhman2275@aol.com

### Not So Fond Memories... continued

I want to thank **Claire McCormack Bernett** (1986) for writing so insightfully and honestly about "peer abuse." In today's media saturation, it often seems as if this behavior is viewed as a recent phenomenon of the 80's and 90's. But ask anyone my age (50) if they enjoyed high school and – unless they were part of the elite cheerleading/football crowd – almost all will answer with a resounding "No!" Not surprisingly, most will also reveal memories of the private hells they endured from various forms of peer abuse.

Those of us from the Class of '68 cannot possibly forget one of the most brutal examples of peer abuse that occurred throughout our four years of high school: the ruthless taunting and cruel antagonism toward one of our classmates who was truly not like any of us. She was known as "Crazy Chris."

Chris was unattractive, lived with her grandparents (no one seemed to know where her parents were), had a tormented physical demeanor and often mumbled incoherently to herself. When taunted – usually by the popular football honchos who dictated the Who's Who list in Taft's social strata – she could be provoked to loud and angry outbursts, spoken in a language that only Chris understood.

But Chris was also a talented artist, focusing her creative energy on intricate drawings of her beloved deep-sea divers. She was obsessed with these characters -- they lived in their own world under the sea, far away from the cruelty of life above ground. As I remember them, her drawings depicted divers making phenomenal discoveries of treasures buried deep below the surface, accomplishing great feats of personal endurance.

Chris herself must have had to dig deep to endure the tortured life of a misfit in the bland, white, orderly world of Taft in the 60's. I do not remember any teachers or administrators stepping in to stop the abuse. The silence sent a message though: it was tacit approval of the behavior of Chris' tormenters. After all, they were "normal."

And what about the rest of us? Though many of us never uttered a cruel word toward Chris, neither did we jump to her defense. To my knowledge, none of us demanded intervention by Taft's administration. I do remember **Peggy Sullivan** – bless her good heart – trying to bring Chris into the fold of normality by having her brother take her to a prom. I hope the experience was a happy one for Chris.

When I think of Chris, I wonder if she has survived and thrived. Hopefully, her undeniable artistic strength and talent have helped her to endure. But most of all, I hope the voices of her tormenters no longer echo through her mind, as they did through the hallways of Taft for four relentless years.

**Alexis Bernard** (June '68)

*[Ed. Note: I have to disagree with your assessment of high school memories. There were many of us who did not follow the "Cheerleading/football crowd" who have **good** memories of our years at Taft. Just read the letters from alumni who write each issue. We joined band, drama club, chorus, school newspaper, debate club, French club, Student Council, GAA, teacher helpers, ROTC, and on and on. Or we did activities at the local parks, worked part-time jobs, volunteered as Candy Stripers at Resurrection Hospital, attended MYF, YMCA or other local organizations outside the school. Teen-age years can be tormenting. Not because of other's actions, but due to our own lack of confidence. It is part of the growing experience. Some felt it harder, perhaps than others, but all of us were exposed to it.*

*As for the young lady you described, I believe I met her around 1985 at a Rachel Carson Society meeting I attended a few times. It involved local SCUBA divers in an ecological project at Navy Pier and she came in and also volunteered. She desperately wanted to dive with us, but all were leery of accepting her offer, as a diving "buddy" is someone for whom one's life depends on. As a stranger, who acted perhaps quite "differently" she was treated politely, but not really accepted. She had {at that time} just finished completing a diving course in Texas to become certified as a "Professional*

SCUBA diver", but it did not help her fit better into society. We found an assignment within the project that she could do that was not involved with diving. Chris was her own person and appeared to learn to live with life as it was dealt to her. I do not know if she is a member of the Taft Alumni Association, but if so, we are glad she is and hope she enjoys being a part of something we are proud of.

It is unfortunate that some students have [had] the immaturity to taunt others. I see programs in my grandchildren's schools today trying to undo that wrong by teaching tolerance of others different than ourselves, whether physical or mental. They are learning through school what parents have neglected to teach at home. I applaud their efforts and see positive results in the newest generation to be exposed to better ways to deal with peer pressures and abuses. Let us do our part in a positive action by example - in treating **all** people as we would wish for ourselves. Note the following letter. J. Bloom, Editor]

Dear Editor: The last two issues of the newsletter contained articles telling of very unhappy experiences at Taft. Very sad! However, we must remember that social interaction is a two-way experience with responsibilities on both sides.

In future newsletters I'm hoping to read the thoughts of alumni who matured and learned from their experiences at Taft and who realize how fortunate we all were to have attended such a fine school.

**Taft Alumni Hall of Famer  
Lawrence Passow  
(January 1942)**

To: Taftalum@aol.com

I want to comment on how much I enjoy the Alumni Newsletter. Especially reading about my classmates and hearing about what they are doing now. I do have to comment that my years at Taft seem like a blur. I enjoyed the high school years of my 3 children, much more than my own.

My children were very surprised to look at my yearbook and discover the lack of sports teams and activities for females. I am very pleased at the progress of girls activities in the schools today. My husband, John and myself have been very active in youth sports here in Buffalo Grove. We spent 16 years in the youth baseball organization. We've also coached, refereed, kept score and generally did whatever we could as our children played in basketball, football, volleyball, school plays; you name it. We believe strongly that our young people need a way to channel their energy in a positive way. Team activities teach our young people respect for themselves and each other.

We're very proud of our children. Our oldest son, Chris just graduated from John Marshall Law

School. We are anxiously awaiting the results of the Bar Exam. Our daughter, Carey is completing her Massage Therapist Certification Program, and our youngest, Curtis is in his second year at West Point and trying his hardest to be a team quarterback!

Supporting our children during their school years was personally very rewarding and definitely a lot of fun.

Thank you for your efforts in putting together a great newsletter.

**Judie (Alley) Zervic (June '67) and  
John Zervic (June '66)**  
jzervic@wickesfurniture.com

Hi Editor Jerry,

You have heard from me before on the enjoyment I receive from our Taft Alumni Newsletter and also response from former Taftites. After reading of Frank Diederich (June 1942) reminiscences, I am glad I was able to enjoy a different version during my years at Taft 1942-1946. Even today as some of my classmates and I meet each year, we have many different views of growing up at Taft in those years. Teachers, classes and friends, Social life, clothes and rules still provide some laughs. Now the class of January 1946 is planning a 54<sup>th</sup> reunion in May because we have so much fun getting together and sharing our Taft years.

**Maryann Leversen Erlenback (January 1946)**  
Chicago, IL

Dear Fellow Taftite!

Enclosed find my dues \$10/2years. I just love your paper - the memories just roll on and on! Its good to live in the past at times. Thanks.

**Dorothy Schreiber Basko**  
(January 1944)

Dear Kay,

Can't tell you how sad I felt, hearing that **Henry Vandenberg** (June 1942) had passed away. He was such a wonderful young man in high school, always a gentleman and so nice to everyone.

The one thing that my girlfriend **Sis Harris** & I marveled at was, Henry had not changed in looks and stature when we met him at the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Like everyone, we wondered who it was who put the ad in. So nice to know it was Henry. It sounds like something he would do, to give back to his alma mater.

I believe we'd all like to know how Henry spent his years since leaving school. Could an article be written on him? He should be remembered by us all.

**Mary Lou (Enger) Krakowski (June 1942)**



L-R: Rick Terry and Ralph S. (Ral) Donner (1960)

Dear Editor:

Before I joined the alumni association a friend of mine sent me copies of several past editions of the newsletter. In one of them reference was made to a prior issue that had featured the late **Ral Donner**, Taft's own version of Elvis Presley. At the time I was disappointed that I had not been able to contribute a few of my own memories of Ral to that article. However, when I recently came across the enclosed photograph of him, I decided to send it along to you in hopes that you might want to share with your readers.

It was taken in the summer of 1954 in the backyard of my parent's home at 6665 W. Raven St. (Ral is the batter on the right and my late brother **Rick [Terry]** is the one on the left. They were teammates on my father's little league team that summer at Norwood Park.)

In addition to being coached by my Dad, "Ralphie," as he was known to us back in the mid 1950s, was a frequent visitor to the Terry's residence. In fact for a couple of years there it almost seemed as if he had become somewhat of a second younger brother to me. Probably my fondest memories of Ral center around hot-summer afternoons on our screened in back porch, where he and I would often sit for hours playing my All-star baseball game. In don't believe that he played any real baseball after the little league, but by then, as I recall, he had already begun to sing regularly at the Baptist church. While I heard him perform there and knew early on that he had a wonderful voice, what I remember most about him from those days is what a great kid he was and what a good friend he was to my family. I didn't see much of Ral in the years right after this photo was taken and I never saw him again after I graduated from Taft and left Chicago. Nevertheless, my 91-year-old mother and I both remember him fondly and continue to be saddened by his tragically premature death.

**Lynn I. Terry** (June 1957)

San Francisco, CA

*[Editor's note: Henry didn't give us very much of what he did since high school. If anyone would like to give us information about him, we will gladly print it. J. Bloom]*

To: Jbbloom@AOL.com

Subj.: Cliff Miller-re: Newsletter

"In Our Memories" Spring 2000

I'm sure you must have heard from at least a handful of June '51 graduates by this time placing the late Cliff Miller in this class. Cliff and I shared a number of classes, as well as numbers of hours shooting baskets in his backyard, and numbers of hours studying together during our years at Taft. It's great to look back at those years, and know that I still have friendships from then (see Newsletter Fall 1999 article). From what I've seen, you and your staff put out a fine publication, and I'll be looking forward to the next issue. My youngest daughter is a Taft alumnae, and I'll have to put her onto our newsletter. She is, I believe, of the class of '87.

**Bob Winkelman**

rwinkie103@aol.com

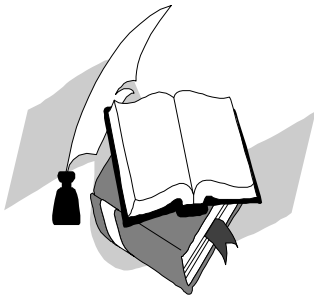
Dear Alumni,

I periodically print and publish (through e-mail) "Humor", "Interesting", and "Thought Provoking" items suitable for the entire Christian family. This is simply Christian Outreach which I have taken on as a personal work and is not a business. It is non-intrusive, and there is no cost, nor advertisement, nor personal information requested, and everyone's e-mail address is protected - not sold nor provided to anyone! If you would be interested in receiving such e-mail, please let me know.

**Bob Karger** (Class of June 1956)

GrampsTN@aol.com

# CLASS NOTES



## 1940s

### KATHRYN (MITCHELL)

FROST (1940) graduated from Moser Business 1943, lives in Glen Ellyn, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren and is retired.

MURIEL (DAVIES) Kaminski (1940) lives in Lindenhurst, IL, has 3 children and is retired. She received the 1<sup>st</sup> diploma issued at Taft, which is on display in the Alumni Hall of Fame area.

MARJORIE (YOUNG) KARLTON (1940) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is retired.

JANIS (FISCHER) FORSTER (JUNE 1941) graduated from Mesa Community College RN 1985, has 3 children, is retired and splits time between Mesa, AZ and Hope, ID.

DON LEUTZ (JUNE 1941) lives in Daytona Beach, FL, has 3 children and is retired.

ANNETTE (SWANSON) OLSON (JUNE 1941) lives in Des Plaines, IL and is a housewife.

BERNARD DABBERT (JANUARY 1942) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 5 children and is retired.

LILLIAN (MARSHALL) WEISS (JUNE 1942) lives in Glenview, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

LENOR (LINDAHL) DAY (JANUARY 1943) graduated from U of WI BS 1947, lives in Chicago, has 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

FRIEDA (OELBERG) FAKLARIS (JANUARY 1943) lives in Chicago, has 3 children (all Taft graduates) and is retired.

MARIANNE (HOLDEN) HARRIS (JANUARY 1943) lives in Sebastian, FL, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren and is an antique and collectible dealer.

ROY QUIRAM (JUNE 1943) graduated from Wright, Utilities Engr 1948, lives in Birmingham, AL, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren and is President of S/S Engineering firm.

DOROTHY (SCHREIBER) BASKO (JANUARY 1944) graduated from Chicago Real Estate 1978, City Wide College 1984, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a food service manager.

CAROL (GERHARDT) HORSCHKE (JUNE 1944) graduated from William Woods College 1948, lives in Barrington, IL, has 3 children and is a fashion coordinator and commentator.

CARL READ (JUNE 1944) lives in Hilton Head Island, SC and is retired.

MARY (DALTON) OLSON (JANUARY 1945) graduated from Purdue BS 1949, lives in West End, NC, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

SUE (HARPER) BEESLEY (JUNE 1945) MARRIED CHARLES (JANUARY 1942), lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 1 child, 2 granddaughters and is retired.

VIVIAN (WINKATES) BORMAN (JUNE 1945) graduated from Mundelein College BS Chemistry 1949, lives in Framingham, MA, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is a housewife.

MARY ELLEN BRYCE (JUNE 1945) lives in Chicago and is retired.

THOMAS LEACH (JUNE 1945) graduated from Eureka College BA 1950, lives in Lombard, IL, has 1 child and is retired.

LEONARD PIEKARSKI (JUNE 1945) lives in Mundelein, IL, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

JACQUELINE SHAY (JUNE 1945) graduated from Mundelein 1949, De Paul 1953 and is a professional musician.

DOROTHY (WORKMAN) BROUDER (JANUARY 1946) lives in Minocqua, WI, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT FUES (JANUARY 1946) graduated from Bradley BS 1952, lives in Chicago and is a retired clinical biochemist.

BONNIE (WEIDMAN) NUGENT (JANUARY 1946) MARRIED DANIEL (JANUARY 1946), she graduated from Northwestern BS 1949, they have 2 children, live in St Paul, MN and are retired.

DONALD GLOOR (JUNE 1946) Graduated from Blackburn AA 1950, Roosevelt BSBA 1970, MPA 1971, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired but very busy.

BETTE LOU (FILLEBROWN) HIRT (JUNE 1946) lives in Kewanee, IL, has 4 daughters and 3 grandchildren and is retired.

MARY JANE (PADDI) STRUBERG (JUNE 1946) lives in Rancho Palos Verde, CA, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren and is a housewife.

GRACE (MAZUR) UTT (JUNE 1946) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

JAMES GEISLER (JANUARY 1947) MARRIED MARGE (KAULFUSS) (JUNE 1949), they have 4 children, live in Brewster, MA where they own Ocean Gold Bed & Breakfast.

GRACE (HOGLUND) HANSEN (JANUARY 1947) graduated from North Park AA 1949, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

FRANKLIN MILLER (JANUARY 1947) lives in El Paso, TX and is retired.

DOLORES (ANDERSON) MORNING (JANUARY 1947) graduated from De Pauw 1951, lives in Carlsbad, CA, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired Librarian.

IRENE (KOHLS) STINSON (JANUARY 1947) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

HELEN (POPE) BROSCOVAK (JUNE 1947) lives Wauconda, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren and is retired

ROBERT READ (JUNE 1947) lives in Bellabrook, OH and is retired.

MATILDA (MOLNAR) RUSTEBERG (JANUARY 1948) graduated from Northern BS 1965, Northeastern BA 1973, MA 1975, lives in Barrington Hills, IL, has 5 children, 19 grandchildren and is a retired Guidance Counselor and Science Teacher.

DICK JAMIESON (JUNE 1948) lives in Aurora, CO, has 3 children and is retired.

DONALD THOMSON (JUNE 1948) graduated from Northwestern BS 1952, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children and is retired and now a custodian at Edison Park Lutheran Church.

JOAN (BACKER) WESSELS (JUNE 1948) MARRIED CLIFF (JUNE 1948), they live in Chicago and are retired.

MARY LOU (CROTTE) ZOLLI (JUNE 1948) lives in Bella Vista, AR, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

ROSS CUNNINGHAM (JANUARY 1949) MARRIED HELEN (DEMOMARGO) (JUNE 1950), he graduated from Michigan State BA 1953, MA 1956, they live in West Vancouver B.C. Canada, have 3 children and is the retired President of A & W.

DONALD CHASSEY (JUNE 1949) lives in Dellwood, WI, graduated from Northwestern, has 8 children and is retired.

MARILYN (BRAWNER) FRANKENBERG (JUNE 1949) lives in Apache Junction, AZ, has 2 children and is semi retired.

RONALD LEMANSKI (1949) lives in Niles, IL, has 6 children, 13 grandchildren and is a retired LT. Niles Fireman.

## 1950s

PETER HANSEN (JUNE 1950) graduated from Northwestern BS Geology 1954, Washington St MS Geology 1960, lives in Hemet, CA, has 2 children and is a semi retired financial planner.

JOAN (PFLUG) EURICH (JUNE 1950) lives in Mt Pros-

# CLASS NOTES

pect, IL, has 3 children and is in real estate.

DANIEL ROBERTS (JUNE 1950) graduated from Northwestern BA 1954, lives in Los Angeles, CA and is retired.

DONALD URBAHN (JUNE 1950) lives in North Port, FL, has 1 child and is a carpenter.

MYRA (ANDRES) FISHER (JUNE 1951) graduated from Ohio U BS Journalism 1956, lives in Woodland Hills, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

JACK LANNING (JUNE 1951) graduated from Northwestern BS 1955, lives in Princeton, NJ, has 2 children, is an opera singer and does consulting in international finance and management development.

HOMER RUDOLPH (JUNE 1951) graduated from Northwestern BS Mech Engr 1956, Chrysler Inst MS Auto Engr 1958, lives in Ft Myers, FL, has 4 children and is a retired engineer.

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

ROBERT WINKELMAN (JUNE 1951) graduated from Western IL BS Ed 1956, lives in Chicago, has 4 children and is retired.

JANE (LA MARCHE) ADAIR (JANUARY 1952) graduated from Beloit BA 1956, U of FL MA 1960, U of UT PhD 1980, lives in Destin, FL, has 4 children and is retired.

RONALD ARON (JUNE 1952) graduated from U of I BSMKTG 1958, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 5 children, 3 grandchildren and is director, purchasing for US Gypsum Co.

DIANE (JUNG) BRAASCH (JUNE 1952) lives in Lake Forest, CA, has 6 children and is a bowling pro shop owner.

RONALD FREDERICKS (JUNE 1952) lives in Frankfort, IL, has 4 children and is a retired Salesman.

JOHN FRATZKE (JANUARY 1953) MARRIED JUNE (NORTON) (JUNE 1955) they live in Mesa, AZ and Biwabik, MN, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are retired.

GLADYS (WESSELS) HINRICHS (JANUARY 1953) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and works part time at the Hersey HS Cafeteria.

THOMAS MUELLER (JANUARY 1953) lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a retired Chicago Police Officer now works at Walgreens Home Medical Center.

TIM BARCANIC (JUNE 1953) graduated from Roosevelt BS BA 1965, lives in Fairfax, VA, has 5 children and is a retired airline pilot now an instructor.

DONALD GREGORNIK (JUNE 1953) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 9 children, 5 grandchildren and is a self-employed general contractor.

JOANNE (KRAUSE) MEISSNER (JUNE 1953) lives in Villa Park, IL, has 6 children, 12 grandchildren and is retired.

KAREN (ENGLAND) SHAW (JUNE 1953) lives in Lodi, WI, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired nurse.

WALTER MESINER JR (JANUARY 1954) MARRIED GAYLE (SCHROEDER) (JUNE 1955) he graduated from U of WI BS Mech Engr, BS Naval Science 1958, lives in Hayward, WI, has 5 children, 11 grandchildren and is retired

WAYNE MIONSKE (JUNE 1954) graduated from Concordia BA 1959, Lutheran School of Theology STM 1963, U of WI MS Ed Counseling 1969, lives in Racine, WI and is a retired Episcopal Priest.

CLAIRE (ROSZKOWSKI) PAPIEWSKI (JUNE 1954) LIVES IN Elgin, IL, has 3 children and is retired.

ROSALIE STRENG (JUNE 1954) graduated from Northwestern BS 1958, MA 1962, lives in Des Plaines, IL and is a retired teacher.

MARC BENNETT (JANUARY 1955) graduated from Georgetown U BS Foreign Relations 1959, lives in Berkeley Springs, W VA, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired pilot for Pan Am.

ANITA (ANDREWS) JOHNSEN (JANUARY 1955)

MARRIED WALTER (JUNE 1954), they live in Salt Springs, FL, have 2 children and she works for the telephone company.

SUE (BURHOP) ORIGER (JUNE 1955) lives in Palatine, IL, has 7 children, 12 grandchildren and is a housewife.

THOMAS FRANTZ (JANUARY 1956) lives in San Diego, CA, has 5 children, 9 grandchildren and is a retired stockbroker.

JUDITH (HERUD) NELSON (JANUARY 1956) lives in Deerfield, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a volunteer in the beauty shop at Norwood Park Home.

NEIL FRUMKIN (JUNE 1956) graduated from U of New Mexico BA 1960, lives in El Cajon, CA, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a real estate director.

EDWARD RODRIGUEZ (JUNE 1956) graduated from Wright AA, lives in Palatine, IL, has 8 children and is retired.

GILBERT YOST (JUNE 1956) lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a retired carpenter.

CLAIRE (JOHNSON) SCHAEFER (JANUARY 1957) graduated from U of I BFA 1962, U of Toledo Med 1979, lives in Perrysburg, OH, has 2 children, 13 grandchildren and is a retired Art Museum Educator.

VIRGINIA (BOBENG) LEWIS (JUNE 1957) lives in Dacula, GA, has 3 children and is in part time sales

FRED KAISER (JUNE 1958) graduated from Know College BS 1963, Columbia BSEE 1963, U of So CA MSEE 1967, lives in Orange, CA, has 3 children and is an electrical engineer.

THOMAS SPENNY (JANUARY 1958) MARRIED DIANE LITCHFIELD (1970) he graduated from De Pauw BA 1962, Diane graduated from Concordia BA Organizational Mgmt 2000, they have 4 children, and Tom is President of the Norwood Park Historical Society.

## 1960s

GREG DRUMMER (JANUARY 1960) MARRIED MARY

(SEITZ) (JUNE 1962), they live in Gainesville, GA, have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are both teachers.

RICHARD SWANSON (JANUARY 1960) GRADUATED FROM IIT, bs 1964, Northeastern MA 1968, Ohio State PhD 1972, lives in Liverpool, NY, has 1 child and is director of Mathematics, Liverpool Central School District.

MARTHA (ENGLAND) WOODMAN (JANUARY 1960) lives in McFarland, WI, and has 2 children and 1 grandchild.

CAROLYN (BARNES) SMITH (JUNE 1960) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 5 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired and does child care in her home.

KAREN (KELLY) SUTHERLAND (JUNE 1960) lives in Vancouver, WA, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired

NANCY (WALKER) ROBERTS (JANUARY 1961) lives in Chicago, graduated from Western MI MSLS and is a children's librarian.

JACQUELINE (ALLEY) BILLINGS (JUNE 1961) lives in Roswell, GA., has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is an office manager at a marketing firm.

JOHN ELLIS (JUNE 1962) has just been appointed Honorary Consul General of Malta.

ROBERT R. JOHNSON (JUNE 1962) lives in Hyannis, MA, has 4 sons and is a letter carrier.

PATRICIA (DUFOUR) LORTZ (JUNE 1962) graduated from Wright AA 1964, U of Denver BFA 1966, BA 1967, lives in Lutz, FL, has 1 child and is an art teacher.

DAVID PFENDER (JANUARY 1963) graduated from U of I BSEE 1968, lives in Clemson, SC, has 2 children and is a computer analyst/programmer.

KATHY (ADRENI) THIEL (JANUARY 1963) has 8 children, 8 grandchildren, is semi retired and splits her time between Northbrook, IL and Surprise, AZ where she lives across the golf course from Kay.

JEANNE (WATROUS) ZYCH (JANUARY 1963) graduated from U of WI BS 1967, IL State



# CLASS NOTES

MS 1972, lives in Ft Myers, FL, has 2 children and is a teacher.

CHARLENE GOULD (JUNE 1963) lives in Northbrook, IL, has 4 children and is in sales.

DONALD HOY (JUNE 1963) graduated from Elmhurst College BA 1969, Loyola MBA 1974, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and is a benefits manager.

JAMES OHLSON (JUNE 1963) graduated from Wheaton College BS 1967, U of Pittsburgh MA 1972, lives in Rockville, MO, has 2 children and is an FBI Agent.

ELIZABETH (WABRBEIN) MASLEY (1964) graduated from Mundelein College BS 1968, lives in Chicago and has 4 children.

CHERYL (MILLER) DOMINOWSKI (JANUARY 1965) lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandsons and is a showroom manager and designer.

LOUISE (ANDERSEN) HANDLEY (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Eastern IL BS Ed 1969, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 3 children and is a HS English teacher.

LINDA (RENNERT) DREFFIN (JUNE 1965) lives in Woodstock, IL and is a retired flight attendant for American.

BARBARA KALISH (1965) graduated from Northern AZ BA Ed 1970, Georgia State MS Ed 1974, AZ State MA Special Ed 1977, lives in Phoenix, AZ and is a teacher.

PAMELA (WALGREN) CUMMINGS (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of I BS MT 1970, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is an Aldermanic office manager.

BONNIE (TONN) OLSEN (JUNE 1966) lives in Arlington Hts, IL and has 2 children.

RUSSELL SNYDER (JUNE 1966) graduated from MI State BS Biochemistry 1970, Central MI, MS Microbiology 1978, lives in Saginaw, MI and is a pharmaceutical sales rep.

TOM MARQUARDT (JUNE 1967) graduated from North

Park BA 1971, lives in Deerfield, IL and is a systems analyst.

ROBERT POTERACKI (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northern BS 1971, MBA 1993, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is an account manager.

NICK STENGEL (JUNE 1967) graduated from U of TX BS 1975, U of Denver MBA 1980, lives in Aurora, IL and is a project/program manager.

BOB ALTERGOTT (1968) lives in Palatine, IL and is a project supt.

MARY (STOKLOSA) FERRANDINO (JUNE 1968) graduated from Western BS Education 1973, lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children and is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

MICHELE (ROMANO) POTTER (1968) graduated from Sam Houston State U BA 1981, Home Economics, lives in Seeley Lake, MT and is a homemaker and does computer creations.

SUSAN (HECKEL) SIECK (1968) lives in Shreveport, LA, has 2 children and is a Montessori teacher and breeds and shows Great Danes.

BARBARA (MUSUR) STAEHLE (1969) graduated from De Paul BS Finance 1982, lives in Downers Grove, IL, has 1 child and is a VP Tax Manager at Northern Trust.

PATRICIA (ANDERSON) ROBERTSON (1969) LIVES IN Bolingbrook, IL, has 4 children and is a hairdresser.

## 1970s

JOAN (ORLAND) AUFMAN (1970) lives in California City, CA, has 2 children and is a technical support analyst.

CATHERINE (MOORIARTY) DUFFY (1970) graduated from Northeastern BA ED 1974, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a program administration assistant at Northeastern.

PAM (GRAVES) KIRNBAUER (1971) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 4 children and is a book-keeper.

JEAN (WALSH) KLAMERUS (1971) graduated from Wright

AA 1974, lives in Park Ridge, IL and is a secretary at a utility company.

DAGMAR (STANKOVSKY) KLOS (1971) lives in Chicago and is a textile artist currently teaching natural dye classes.

PAUL MADSEN (1971) lives in Chicago and is a typesetter.

SHERYL (SCHMIDT) PIERCE (1971) lives in Hot Springs Village and is a customer service rep.

BARBARA (CARSON) THAYER (1971) graduated from IL Wesleyan BSN 1975, lives in Chicago and is a homemaker.

CARL OVERHULS (1972) lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children and is a real estate broker.

ADRIENNE (OSTFELD) BOHNENKAMP (1973) graduated from U of NE BS 1980, Business, lives in Omaha, NE, has 1 child and is a housewife and part time CPA.

SUSAN (FRANCIS) FELT (1973) graduated from Brigham Young Nursing School 1977, lives in Roseville, CA, has 4 children and is a homemaker.

MARTIN FENELON (1973) graduated from IIT BS Political Science 1977, Rensselaer MBA 1984, lives in Niantic, CT, has 1 child and is a systems analyst/manager.

KATHY (LARSEN) FOX (1973) graduated from Augustana School of Nursing RN 1978, lives in Marietta, GA, has 2 children and is an RN

CHERYL (WOLFF) HANSON (1973) lives in Franklin Park, IL, has 3 children and is a purchasing coordinator.

MARGE (TAFF) CLEMENTS (1974) graduated from Central Piedmont Comm. College, International Business Certificate 1998, lives in Charlotte, NC, has 2 boys and is a mortgage loan processor.

HELGA (HADERSPECK) JAROSZ (1976) graduated from UIC Ba 9180, lives in Norridge, IL and has 3 children.

GREGG WESTBERG (1976) graduated from Triton AA Science, Northern BSEET 1983,

lives in Antioch, IL and is an electrical engineer.

KATHLEEN (KARNEBOGE) EPLER (1977) lives in Hoffman Estates, IL and is a purchasing agent.

JOANNE (MERKT) COX (1978) lives in Blue Springs, MO, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a housewife and Avon Rep.

## 1980s

LAURA (RAIMAN) DU PONT (1980) graduated from U of I BS Industrial Engr, OK State, MS Industrial Engr, Penn State PhD, lives in League City, TX, has 1 child and has a private engineering, management consulting practice.

ELIZABETH (WOLFF) HILB (1980) lives in Vernon Hills, IL, has 2 children and owns a computer consulting firm.

MARGO (NYKIEL) SLIWA (1980) lives in Chicago and is a gardener.

GILBERT YOST 11 (1981) graduated from North Park BN 1994, Valparaiso BS 1989, lives in Chicago and is an assistant manager, critical care at Lutheran General Hospital.

JULIE (BERNAHL) CRAWFORD (1986) graduated from Millikin U BFA 1991, Academy of Court Reporting 1999, lives in Manchester, MI, has 1 child and is a court reporter.

DONNA (ALDRICH) KAZIK (1986) lives in Andover, MN and has 2 children

MICHAEL KELLY (1986) graduated from Morton Jr. College AA 1988, Elmhurst BS 1990, Dominican U MBA 1993, lives in Portland, OR, has 2 children and is Director of Marketing for Nike Golf.

COLLEEN (JAMES) WHITE (1986) graduated from Hanover Park Beauty College 1992, lives in Mt. Prospect, IL, has 2 children and works in CSSR for AT & T.

Dear Alumni Association:

Your made a mistake in the letter I wrote to Kay about the information on ordering a class ring. The name you put on the letter was Dan Clark. The right name is **Richard Clark**, class of January 1964.

*[Sorry, Richard - thank you for pointing it out for us and other alumni readers.*

*J. Bloom, Editor]*

To: Jbbloom

Dear Jerry,

I've been seeing your name everywhere!! Last night I was catching up on some old Alumni Newsletters and of course I saw your name. I especially liked the article about the school store on Nagle Avenue. I have some vague memories of buying drafting equipment, gym uniforms and school locks from that store in 1954. I don't believe I ever realized it was a teenage hangout though. Maybe the concept had changed from the author's year (1940) to the mid-fifties. When I deliver door flyers to that section of the neighborhood I see the building that meets the public sidewalk. I was pretty sure that this was the old store but this article confirms it. It would be interesting to get more Taftite memories through the 1940's and up to its closing in ????. You of course remember the little store on New Hampshire Ave. which was the school store for the old Norwood Park School on the corner of Hurlbut and New Hampshire. I never saw the old school but you could sure buy a lot of penny candy and baseball bubblegum cards at that store. It also has been turned into a residence.

**Tom Spenny**  
(January 1958)

President, Norwood Park Historical Society  
TPSPENNY@aol.com

*[Ed. note: My father talked about what he remembered of the old Norwood school and said he was*



L-R (Top row: **Don Learn, Wally Guyer, Dillis Allen, Dennis Jensen, Bob Faber, Alan Avery, Dennis Berry, Dan Tracy & George Allen.** Middle row: **Gerrie (Agnel) Pease, Irene Allen, Jim Teufel, J.J. Wolff.** Front row: **Rose (Kusmerz) Frederick, Arlene (Ommundson) Ludwig, Connie (Popovich) Pavich, Mary Jo (Osborn) Tracy, and Carol (Staiger) Ellinghausen.** Ground: **Pat (Larsen) Wolff, Meg (Goodell) Magee and Don Mellema.** All from January 1955 class except Don Learn, Dan Tracy & Jim Teufel (all from June 1955).

Dear Alumni:

I thought you might enjoy seeing a photo that was [taken] at the picnic for the January 1955 class in September 1999. (We are hoping that all of these friends, plus the members of the class who were unable to attend the picnic will be at our more "traditional" reunion on October 7, 2000 at the Best Western Midway, in Elk Grove.)

Thank you for all you do to keep us in touch with each other and those from other classes who we were privileged to know!

**Meg Goodell Magee** (January 1955)

*taught by Mrs. Wolufka (sp?). Is that possible? He would have attended around 1924-26. The neighborhood store on New Hampshire was still selling penny candy until about 1958. Great stop on way back to school after lunch! J. Bloom]*

Dear Alumni Officers:

Recently I made the acquaintance of **Phyllis (Beltle) Brown** of Bartlett, IL. During the course of conversation we discovered that we were both graduates of Taft High School, She in June 1963 and I in June of 1940.

Phyllis gave me the Autumn 1999 and Winter 2000 issues of the Taft Alumni Newsletter, which I enjoyed reading. I didn't recognize any names in either issue nor did I see anyone listed as a graduate from the 1940 class.

My class of June 1940 was the very first to graduate from Taft - but only after one year as classmates. We had spent our first three years at different high schools, and consequently knew only those students who graduated from the same grade

school. Mine was Ebinger on Pratt Avenue in Edison Park.

After reading letters from and about former Taft students I found that none went back as far as my class, although 1941 was mentioned. Just wanted you to know that some of us from that June 1940 class are still alive and kicking!

As early as the third grade, **Peggy (Mayer) Goodman, Norma (Pfeifer) Walter, Elsa Hand** and I **Katheryn (Mitchell) Frost** became close friends. In high school we were known as the "clover Debs," and what fun we had with that!

Our graduation prom was held at the Orington Roof Gardens in Evanston - on a night of heavy rain, which took the dancing inside to a very crowded dance floor.

In 1960, our class had a 20<sup>th</sup> reunion, but I have heard nothing from anyone connected with Taft since that time. How, thanks to Phyllis, I have a connection with Taft and would surely be interested to know if any of my classmates are still around - particularly those from Ebinger. Peggy Mayer is deceased, Norma Pfeifer (a widow) still lives in Edison Park, and her two daughters graduated from Ebinger and Taft. I've lost touch with Elsa Hand - her last known address was Arcadia, Ca. I live in Glen Ellyn, IL with my husband, Jack. We have three married children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. My brother, **Bob Mitchell** graduated from Taft in June of 1946. He now resides in Arizona with his wife.

I've enjoyed reminiscing about those years so long ago, and wish you continued success in your endeavor to keep in touch. Enclosed you find my subscription to the Taft Alumni Newsletter which will, at some time I trust, include mention of some of my former classmates.

**Katheryn (Mitchell) Frost**  
(June, 1940)

441 N. Park Blvd, 4K - Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

From: Rbengrguy@AOL.com

To: jbbloom@AOL.com

Attention Taft Alumni Association:

Please check out website for news of Taft Alum  
**Robert B. Johnson** (January 1965)  
[www.technotimes.org/000324A.htm](http://www.technotimes.org/000324A.htm)



L-R {seated} **Marilyn Drayer** (June 1957), **Shirley (Molinare) Blume** (June 1956), **Judy (Foss) Lillebo** (June 1956); standing, **Dorothy (Almquist) Engquist** (June 1956).

Dear Alumni Association:

Really enjoy Newsletter, always manage to know somebody.

Enclosed is picture of some Taft Alumni, who get together occasionally. We were having a long weekend [June, 1999] at Bethany Beach, MI at Dorothy's daughter's home.

**Allen Blume** (June 1959) and  
**Shirley (Molinare) Blume** (June 1956)

To: jbbloom@AOL.com

Thanks for the effort on your part to link old folks to other old folks who all used to be young. It took a lot of web searching, for years, to find you. I just found this e-mail address; I am joining the TAA today by sending my check. Will send a resume as soon as I get my membership. Was in the class of June 55 but had to go another semester so ended up Jan 56.

**Thomas Frantz** (January 1956)  
tom.@home.com

## Remembering Our Teachers...

Hi: Was not aware association was so active until given a gift subscription by friend and former classmate **Helen (Booth) Fess**. Have been enjoying it and wish to continue.

Lost my yearbook many years ago in a flood so it is hard to connect names and faces.

It was good to see picture of "Pops" Rapier. I was in band, played clarinet. It was in time passed on to our son and later to a granddaughter. Memorable other teachers Mr. Miller, Mrs. Strait and Dr. Buchwalter.

Look forward to each issue. Thank you for your efforts.

**Ruth (Wenzel) Henrikson** (January 1944)

Dear Editor:

As I perused the latest issue of the Taft Alumni Newsletter, I checked my address label and, lo and behold, my membership expired in January of this year! Enclosed please find my check for \$10 to cover another subscription.

I thoroughly enjoy reading the newsletter - the picture of "**Pops**" Rapier in this issue brought tears to my eyes - he was my mentor - my hero - he truly made my high school years special. What a lovely gift, to see his dear face again - and at Riverview of all places! (It was) Another favorite place of mine. I am very long gone from Chicago - have lived out on the west coast for the major portion of my adult life - but I will always have fond memories of growing up in Chicago. I am looking forward with great anticipation to the reunion of the 1945 class in September.

Another familiar name that popped out at me in this issue was **Germaine Petermann** (June 1945) - I remember her so well - don't know if she still remembers me. I'm hoping she will be at the reunion also.

Thanks so very much for all the dedication and hard work that goes into putting out this fine publication.

**Doris (Dori) Walgren Pitts** (June 1945)  
the pitts@tscnet.com

Hello. My name is **Jeannette Burchfield Keenan**, class of 1965. My mom is **Beatrice J. Burchfield**, former math teach at Taft from 1962 to 1972. She and I are now living (with my dad) at 2405 Whitney Ave., #208, Hamden, CT 06518. I am a pediatric nurse practitioner student at Yale University School of Nursing, having finally figured out what I am supposed to do when I grow up. (I spent over 20 years in government service as a health policy analyst and health care administrator before going to nursing school.) Mom and I enjoy

reading the bulletin when we get it. She is doing really well for her 87 years. I am truly blessed.

**Jeannette Keenan** (1965)  
jbkeenan@yahoo.com

To: Taftalum@aol.com

I am responding to something that I read in the *Names in the News* section of the Alumni Newsletter. It was about **Richard Carsello** (1967) who had just located his long lost son, after a ten-year search. When I saw Rich's name the first thing that came to mind was "Stretch" because that is what we all called him back in high school, probably because he was so long and lanky. Then I thought about all the great fun we all had back then, he was one of the funniest people I've ever met, and a great friend to boot. So when I read about him finding his son I just had to write to let him know that someone back in Chicago was happy for him.

**Celeste Hinchliffe-Hengsgen** (1967)  
maxim@megsinet.net

## Lost Classmates

Searching for old classmates for whom you've lost touch? The Taft Alumni Association does not provide names or addresses of alumni from our records other than for legitimate class reunions. However, we will help you in **your** search by publishing the name(s) in this newsletter. **If** that party responds to us, we forward that person's name and address to you.

The suggested donation for this service is \$5.00 per name. Send your request and/or response to Taft Alumni Association, 17667 N. Estrella Vista Dr., Surprise, AZ 85374.

**(John) Erik Wernes** (1954) is looking for ROTC buddy **John Mecca** (1954).

To: TaftAlum@aol.com

I would like to contact Jim **Stromeyer** (1950) on behalf of **Herbert Mueller** who knew Jim after WW II in Germany. If possible please send me the telephone number, e-mail address, and or mail address for him. Any information will be appreciated.

Thanks, Barbara **Calkins Keller** (June 1949)  
k4koo@alltel.net).

## In Our Memories

- **ELEANOR (WISLER) KULOVITZ** (1943) correction from last issue. Eleanor passed away from a long fight with cancer on November 13, 1999 in Santa Ana, CA. Starting in 1939 when it opened, she walked to Taft from her home on Latrobe Ave. Her son, **Ken Kulovitz** (January 1967) was at her side when she died at home. In memory, Ken has her high school class ring.
- **JEAN (KIPLING) HARTRY SHUTAK** (January 1948) died in 1999 of CHF.
- **JUDITH (DECELLES) FROEHLICH** (June 1953) died of lung cancer January 9, 2000 in her Wheeling, IL home. She had just retired from administrative secretary for United Airlines headquarters in Elk Grove Village, where she worked for past 15 years.
- **LAYTON PLYMAN** (1957) passed away in August, 1999 after a short battle with cancer. He was married 41 years to **Carol Bisgaard** (January 1956).
- **WILLIAM ELLIS** (1956) died May 7, 2000, of congestive heart failure.

## TAA On-Line

[EagleEmail@yahoo.com](mailto:EagleEmail@yahoo.com) is growing by leaps and bounds.. **Paulette (Zemaitis) English** (June, 1967) is in charge of this operation. She's been receiving MANY responses from alumni, but is still looking for more. She's also subscribed to a Web-Site Alumni source that has given us other Taft alumni names. We are nearing 700 people now. If you haven't done so yet, please be sure to contact this location and give her your e-mail address with your name, including maiden name (if applicable) and year of graduation.

We wish to be better able to communicate with those of you who have "graduated" into the computer generation. Soon we will have something in place to let everyone know how we can utilize this data. We envision a Web Page to develop out of this.

To clarify, we now have **three** e-mail addresses for you to use:

[EagleEmail@yahoo.com](mailto:EagleEmail@yahoo.com) for a TAA alum directory

[Taftalum@aol.com](mailto:Taftalum@aol.com) for general correspondence, class notes updates, changes of mailing address, questions about reunions or other TAA information and finally, [Jbbloom@AOL.com](mailto:Jbbloom@AOL.com) for newsletter correspondence.

## Why Should I Pay Dues?

The Taft Alumni Association is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who continue to hold a special attachment to Taft, even years after graduation. The membership dues cover costs of maintaining alumni records, publishing quarterly newsletters and coordinating reunion plans. We endeavor to furnish an annual scholarship to a deserving senior financed through special donations. Through membership dues, fundraisers and donations, we occasionally sponsor productions at Taft to encourage continuing interest in the drama department. Some of our efforts are "Mame" (1991), "Play On" (Fall 1991), "Bye, Bye Birdie" (1992), and "The Dining Room" (1993). Taft students then performed a special drama workshop headed by a Taft alumnus with a specially written play in 1994.

Also, we provided funds for buying hats and overlays for the marching band and a laser printer for the journalism department. Recently, we purchased four new trophy cases that sit in the Hall of Fame area just off the front entrance of the school (Hurlbut Avenue side). A freestanding school sign at the corner of Hurlbut and Northcott is also a new addition, thanks to "your" funding.

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 your class members (or even you!) decide to probe such a possibility. With Alumni Association guidelines and assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange.

Membership dues to become a member of the Taft Alumni Association are \$10, which covers two years. Why bother? What do I get from it? Yes, I'm already an alumnus, so why do I need a "membership card"?

As "Sponsoring Alumni" you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high school alumni in the area. It is a fact that Taft graduates are dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition with which few other high schools can compare. We got our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring. Non-paying Taftites reading this are invited and encouraged to join the 3,500 supporting Eagles. We've held this cost down for quite a while now, and hope to continue to provide the best service for the lowest cost possible to allow more alumni to continue to participate.

We go forward with pride and determination. Helping where needed, the Association works closely with the PTA and Local School Council. Your financial aid will strengthen our treasury and give additional confidence to our alumni volunteers. You were an Eagle in high school. Now join the Alumni Association and soar like an Eagle for the rest of your life!



## TAFT ALUMNI BARGAINS

### Cookbooks: \$5.00 each

Contains Taft Alumni recipes from 1940s through 1990s, including some Taft lunch-room favorites.

**Jackets:** Special purchase blue nylon windbreakers with a white flannel lining and snap front with a drawstring bottom. The silver emblem on the left breast area reads "TAFT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI" with an eagle in the center.

Medium (38-40)	<b>\$30</b> each
Large (42-44)	<b>\$30</b> each
Extra-Large (46-48)	<b>\$30</b> each

### It's All Relative...

So, you think a gallon of gasoline is expensive, huh??

- Diet Snapple: 16oz for \$1.29 = \$10.32 per gallon
- Lipton Ice Tea: 16oz for \$1.19 = \$ 9.52 per gallon
- Gatorade: 20oz for \$1.59 = \$ 10.17 per gallon
- Ocean Spray Cran-anything: 16oz for \$1.25 = \$10.00 per gallon
- Pint of milk: 16oz for \$1.59 = \$12.72 per gallon
- STP Brake Fluid: 12oz for \$3.15 = \$ 33.60 per gallon
- Vick's Nyquil: 6oz for \$8.35 = \$ 178.13 per gallon
- Pepto Bismol: 4oz for \$3.85 = \$123.20 per gallon
- Whiteout: 7oz for \$1.39 = \$25.42 per gallon
- Scope: 1.5oz for \$0.99 = \$ 84.48 per gallon

And this is the REAL KICKER...

- Evian water: 9oz for \$1.49 = \$ 21.19 per gallon

-- **\$21.19 FOR WATER!!**

So next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on Nyquil, or Scope, or Pepto Bismol.

**Ken Wilcox** (class of June1965)  
KRWilcox@aol.com

## TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ORDER FORM

Quantity Ordered	Description	Price	Extended Price

**+ 6.00** Postage/Handling

TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check to:** Taft Alumni Association  
6545 W. Hurlbut St.  
Chicago IL 60631

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH/YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to add \$6 for postage and handling for each order **to the same address**. Use separate sheet of paper for orders to different addresses.

TAFI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM			
Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
Address (Home)		City	State      Zip
Address (Business)		City	State      Zip
Home Telephone No: (      )		Office Telephone No:(      )	
Name of Spouse		Year Married:	
Number of Children:	Ages:	Number of Grandchildren:	
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 two year membership. <b>Return to: Taft Alumni Association</b> <b>6545 W. Hurlbut St.</b> <b>Chicago IL 60631</b>			
			<i>Summer 2000</i>

### Alumni Association Officers

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)  
Vice-president: Jeraldene Bloom (1962)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley DeWeese (1960)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Ann Lunde (1969)  
Special Events: Mike Guercio (1978)  
Directors: Cliff Raiman (1947)  
Frank Heyer (1948)  
Paulette English (1967)  
Tom Kuciak (1962)  
Joe Popp (1966)  
Judi Lenihan (1973)  
Michael Marras (1982)

Newsletter Staff:  
Editor - Jerry Bloom - 920/743-8449  
or E-mail at Jbbloom@AOL.com  
Assistants: Kay & Tom Kuciak -  
847/824-4747  
or E-mail at Taftalum@aol.com

### Renew Now !

Look at your address label on the back of this page. Check your year of graduation on the lower right corner. Is it correct? The most important area is here. This is also the area with the expiration date of your current membership with the Taft Alumni Association. If the date is close, the TIME is **NOW** to sit down and write out a check for \$10. Not one, but TWO full years of newsletters with opportunities to learn about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs. Be sure to use the application form below to fill in the latest updates in your life.

Taft Alumni Newsletter is published quarterly by the Taft Alumni Association. Send all general correspondence and changes of address: TAA, 6545 W. Hurlbut St., Chicago, IL 60631 or E-mail at [Taftalum@aol.com](mailto:Taftalum@aol.com).  
Alumni Directory E-mail address: [EagleE-mail@yahoo.com](mailto:EagleE-mail@yahoo.com)

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