



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XV No. 2

Spring 2001

Final Decision - Again!

Since October 1999 Dr. Tarvardian has been the "acting" principal, filling in for Tom Brown who vacated his position for a transfer to the downtown CPS office. Due to a technicality with Chicago Public School requirements, the LSC could not permanently replace Mr. Brown until his four-year contract expired. On March 19, 2001, with a 7-0 vote, the Taft Local School Council made the hire official. We applaud their decision. Congratulations to Dr. Tarvardian!

"Grease, 2001"

A revival of the world-renowned musical, with Taft roots, was again brought to Taft's auditorium stage. Under the director of Taft Drama teacher **Nilda Pauley**, the 1950s experiences of **Jim Jacobs** (1960) were brought to life for two weekends of performances. The final evening was a special benefit night with a cocktail party beforehand and proceeds from the event went towards refurbishing the sound system and lighting in the drama studio. If you didn't get your ticket, you missed a great opportunity to relive your Taft high school days!

Open Letter from Dr. Tarvardian Latest Taft News

Much has happened since I took the helm in October 1999. I am gratified to report that Taft is on the move: we are regaining the community's trust and we are becoming the school of choice for parents who might previously have considered a private school. While we are sailing relatively smooth waters, a quill line looms on the horizon. I'm referring the several exclusively "college prep" schools which the Chicago Board of Education has opened recently. Even though they pose some competition, we are holding true to our course: to restore Taft's reputation as the premier general high school in northwest Chicago. Accomplishing this goal is not as daunting as one might expect because I have your legacy. You made Taft an academic powerhouse. Whether Taft will ever be a football powerhouse is problematic.

Because I live in the Taft attendance area, I was very aware of the level of negative press the school was getting in the local press. That situation has changed. Firstly, I put the papers on notice: if you can't write anything positive, then don't write anything. News articles, more often than not, are positive in tone. Secondly, those students who just couldn't put it all together and compromised Taft's image and reputation

have opted for other educational venues. Today, the halls are quiet, students are in their classes, and test scores are rising.

The curriculum has been expanded to attract the academically talented and gifted. We offer the International Baccalaureate Programme, the Academic Center program for gifted 7th/8th graders, Advanced Computer Technology, and Navel JROTC Academy. We just received approval to offer Cisco Systems Networking program. Next school year we are adding a digital photography lab. My objective is to produce the yearbook on CD-ROM. The students aren't as excited: they're concerned because they won't have a book to sign. I'll think of something.

We are definitely a 21st century school. We have twelve computer labs and 94 classrooms were just hard wired for the LAN and Internet connectivity. Kraft Foods is donating 124 computers (used); we expect to receive 50 computers plus peripherals from the Chicago Fire Department through the efforts of Alderman Doherty.

The physical plant is in very good shape and because we are located on a flight path to O'Hare, the FAA is air-conditioning the gym to abate the roar of those beautiful jets as they fly overhead. Construction on the new student entrance on the Bryn Mawr elevation begins in April. The building will have new signage: William Howard Taft High School - 27th President of the United States - 10th Supreme Court Chief Justice. The boys' locker room has been renovated, sort of. We got 200 used lockers from the 16th police district, which has relocated to new quarters on Milwaukee Avenue. The campus/fields need attention. We're trying for a campus park which would mean fencing the perimeter, installing a running track, skinning the softball fields, trees, ornamental planting and sprinklers. Keep your fingers crossed.

Another great Taft tradition is being restored. The first dramatic production in many years [was] scheduled for this Spring. "Grease" [returned] to Taft (Jim Jacobs, where are you?) ...We hope to raise enough money {from the special gala benefit night on April 7th, 2001} to refurbish the drama studio (lighting, sound, etc.). [See article elsewhere in this issue.]

As an aside, I love conducting tours for the reunions. To date, we hosted the classes of '50 and '60. Where are the others? Thank you for your love and devotion to Taft. One can ask for no greater legacy.

Arthur Tarvardian, principal

CLASS REUNIONS

January/June 1947

Date: Sometime, Year 2002
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Claudia (Phillips) Fuller** - (941)383-8339
6 Winslow Place
Longboat Key, FL 34228
E-mail: CLAUDIAFL@aol.com

1952

Date: September 21, 2002 (Tentative)
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Diane Jung (Young) Braasch**
E-mail: Newbraaschps@cs.com

January, 1957

Any interest in a reunion?
Contact: **Leo Drummer**
11667 River Terrace Ln.
Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 515-8879

January/June, 1967

Date: 2002 - To be determined
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Paulette English** - (219) 271-8742
E-mail: pjzae@hotmail.com
(if you have any memorabilia for display)

1981

Date: August, 2001
Place: To be determined
Contact: Reunions Ltd. - (847)229-1123

1983

Date: To be determined
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Laura McGrady** - (847)318-0769

1991

Date: To be determined
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Androniki (Velisuris) Gorski** -
(773)463-6804

Grammar School Reunions

Farnsworth June 1942

Looking for graduates
Contact: Mary Jane Struberg
26926 Circle Verde Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
jstruberg@aol.com

Onahan June 1950

Date: October 28, 2001
Place: Allgauer's Restaurant
Contact: Alice McCreary Lundberg
1205 Hunters Trail
Anderson, SC 29625
alundberg@mindspring.com
FAX: (603)590-6213

St. Bartholomew 1971

Date: November 20001
Contact: Maureen O'Donnell
(847) 677-2479
rosati11@aol.com

Remembering Our Teachers...

To TAA:
Does anyone remember Mr. Mitchell's home room?
Or Miss Clark's Spanish class? She was great! I still
remember some Spanish from her class. We had the
Reader's Digest in Spanish. It was great.

Arline (Nelson) Czech (June, 1945)

Hi Fellow Alumnus,

Just read the latest issue cover to cover. While
there are many years since 1950 and folks that I do
not know, I still greatly enjoy reading the "taft Alumni
Newsletter).

Interesting that Dr. Buchwalter keeps popping up.
Many of the other teachers just don't seem to have the
fame that she had.

There were two Army instructors at Taft when I
was in the R.O.T.C. There was Sgt. Reidnor who was
there when I came to Taft and stayed on until I
graduated but then the last year or so, he was assisted
by a Corporal Burke. Both were very good instructors.

I too have been on the Internet on
"WWW.gradfinder" and found Taft classmates.
Gradfinder is another source of keeping up with
friends.

Keep up the great job with the Newsletter. All
stops at our home when it arrives until it is read.

Bob Hoechelberg (1950)

To TAA:

Mrs. Wolavka (this is the correct spelling) was a
fabulous math teacher. Yes, her one son, Charlie,
was a dentist and the other a physician in Michigan
City. If memory hasn't escaped me, her daughter was
a teacher. All three of Charlie's children attended
Ebinger and Taft - Charlie, Susie, Billy.

Mrs. Wolavka was a woman of infinite patience.
Who do you know who would allow their son (Charlie)
to raise 100 small chicks in the basement? I know this
for a fact - my father was one of his "partners-in-
crime".

Carol Deklinger Doyle (June, 1951)

Letters to the Editor

Date: 3/21/01

To: JBBloom@aol.com

...I can't begin to say how badly I felt that I had to miss our class reunion last fall but it all came just as we were selling one of [our] houses. I have had some contact with a couple of my classmates since that time but wish I had been able to meet each and every one of them. My e-mail address is listed on the Web Site and I would be only too happy to hear from any of my old friends and to all of them - "Hope Life is Treating You Well!"

Dick Murbach (January 1950)
Las Vegas, NV -
Oneoldram32@aol.com

Subj: <10,000

Date: 3/16/01

To: Jbbloom@aol.com

I live in a town of @4,000. Within that town there is a community of @2,000. And, within that community there are 2 Taft graduates. The town is Cool, CA - in the foothills of the Sierra's - less than 10 miles from the site of the first gold discovery and more than 400 miles from Chicago! If you drive through and sneeze or blink, you will miss the whole place. The community is Auburn Lake Trails - and the two of us never knew one another or of one another until we met at a community meeting and got into the "Where are you from?" "Oh, which school?" Etc..... Her name is **Marilyn (Thoren) Hindman** (January, 1948).

Carol (Goetz) Nelson (June 1953)
coolnels@jps.net

Date: 10/23/2000

Dear Taft alumni,

It has been a long time since I have addressed or thought about anyone from Taft. I have made contact with a few of you and have enjoyed our conversations quite a bit.

I must say that things have changed since my time at Taft. I know as we get older we become

more mature. I have found this to be my case most definitely. I'm sure the rest of you have the same feelings. Like some of you I am divorced and remarried. I find my second marriage to be far better than my first. My second wife is probably one of the most tolerant people I have ever met. Now some of you will remember me as being kind of hell raiser. For those of you that remember that I can say only say that time has made a difference, and I look forward to seeing you quite a bit. I have already seen a few of you, and it would be good to talk about old times and reminisce over high school. I'm sure we have all changed in physical appearance. My light brown hair is now black and gray. I am sure there are similar changes in all of you and I'm sure that we would like to see the same person in the mirror that we saw on graduation day.

I do look forward to seeing the changes. Occasionally I will look through the yearbook, and remark

on certain memories. I have often wondered what has become of some of you. It would be good to catch up on some of that ancient history.

I can remember some of us talking about our goals and what we would like to do with our lives. It would be interesting to find out how close we came to some of those goals. I can only say in truth that in my case I'm about forty million miles off, and I'm sure that after talking to me would agree. In fact there might even be a few of you that may be totally astonished. I know I have done that to a few already. So I do look forward to meeting up with my classmates again.

Rev. Dr. **Ron N. Ronneberg**
(June 63) Upper Peninsula, MI

To TAA:

I wish everyone would make an effort to attend their high school reunions. Even if you're not where

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The Taft Girl's Club - formed in 1947- group still get together.

Letters (continued from page 3)

you'd like to be in your life, you'll find that you're not alone. It's great to keep in touch with the special people of your youth. And remember, we all mature and grow, and for the most part, even the bullies and jerks are nice people now.

Gail (Galla) Nehrig (June, 1968)
St. Louis, MO

Dear Editor:

I was disappointed to read that, FBI agent allegedly turned traitor, **Robert Hanssen** (June, 1962) had grown up in Norwood Park and graduated from Taft. Having done both of those things myself a mere five years ahead of him, I am unable to comprehend how he and I could have come from such a similar background and yet ended up with totally different concept of duty, honor and country. That contradiction made me think about another Taft graduate, my childhood neighbor on Raven Street, **Dale Luster** (1958) and how ironic it is that Hanssen has become famous for his alleged act of treason, while Dale has long since been forgotten by all but a few of us who knew him.

In 1964, as young Marine lieutenants, Dale Luster and I were stationed together in Hawaii; where he was a jet-fighter and I was an infantry platoon commander. Then in the spring of the following year we were among the first to go to Vietnam at the beginning of the American build up there. Both of us made it back from that tour of duty unscathed, but Captain Dale Luster, a career Marine, returned to Vietnam a year later. On September 26, 1968, after having completed nearly 200 combat missions, he was shot down and killed less than two months prior to the date on which he was scheduled to return home.

Two years ago, after having visited the house I had grown up in for the first time since my mother moved away twenty years earlier, I took the time to walk up the

"Highway" and cross over the railroad tracks to the tiny little park that sits surrounded by concrete at the spot where Raven, Nina and Avondale intersect with each other. Dale Luster's name is engraved on a plaque there, along with that of another young man from Norwood who was also killed in Vietnam. I doubt that many people even know about the plaque and I'm certain that fewer still have taken the time to pay their respects there. Dale's name is also on the Wall in Washington, D.C., of course. I know that because I have seen it there, along with the names of ten other friends of mine: including **Tommy Grud** (1960), who along with his brother John, spent many hours during the late '40s and early '50s playing one kind of ball game or another behind Onahan school with my brother and I. Still, it hurts me to think that, while most people will now end up remembering Robert Hanssen, few will remember Dale or Tommy or for that matter any of the others who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Lynn Terry (June, 1957)

[President's Note: Dale Luster is not forgotten. He is honored every Memorial Day by the community, thanks to Tom Day (June, 1958) of the Black Sheep Squadron. I have also visited the Wall and left memorials for all the Taft graduates I know about. Kay Kuciak]

To TAA Editor:

Reference: **Don Ostrom's** Challenge Winter 2001 Newsletter

My next door neighbor **Lee Bazany** (June 1950) and I may set the record for Taft graduates living near each other. Our twin homes share a common wall.

Lee and I had never met before becoming neighbors and we quickly learned that we had both attended Taft and Ebinger. We also lived a block apart on Oconto Ave and have retired from competing companies in the packaging industry.

Coincidentally, my Daughter and Son In Law are graduates of Gustavus Adolphus College in Mr. Ostrom's city of St Peter, MN.

Don Nelson (January 1947)
Wayzata, MN

Memories of Hitch

Where are you now class of June 1959? I sure would like to know.

Darlene Mindak...you always had the best parties. I learned to dance at your house. What a dancer you were and I'm sure still are...save a dance for me at the next Taft reunion.

Ray Bellucci and **Kathy Foster** were an item...only to part ways when we went to Taft. I stopped in Ray's motorcycle shop not to long ago to renew our past friendship.

Bonnie Steinke...had a hippie party and I came in green pants thinking everyone else would dress weird, well I was the only one.. memories.

Wayne Johnson...we met in Las Vegas in October of 2000. Wayne and I covered a lot of old memories. Wayne has always been a buddy to me.

Ron Calderon, Jerry Kurinski, Buddy Thornton...were part of the Ariabians Club we started only to fizzle out weeks later.

Jill Wagner, Carol Thorstenson...two of the best you could ever know.

Todd Dvorak...a true friend indeed always had the neatest cars. Whoops I got ahead of myself here, we are talking about Hitch, OK the neatest bikes.

Gary Piehl, wow what a friend, he was a real cool guy.

Joan Todd...you talk about a real caring person...Joan was at the top of the list. **Robert Cella**... a special friend indeed...if you needed someone to be there for you, he was the person.

Kenneth Noffke...another special special friend, lived on the next block from me. **Mary Fijak, Malma Mitchell, Cheryl Larsen** special special special, **Barbara Belmont**, as yes, broke my heart in 8th grade, I believe there are 3 friendship rings I gave her on the roof of Hitch.

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CLASS NOTES



1940s

ALVIS (ZIEGLER) KOTECKI (JUNE 1941) graduated from St Anne's Hospital RN 1945, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 3 children and is a retired Nurse.

BETTY LOU (OLSON) BUKOWSKI (JUNE 1942) lives in Tucson, AZ, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 step great grandchildren and is a homemaker.

BEVERLY (SINGER) ELLSTRAND (JUNE 1942) graduated from Chicago Academy of Fine Arts AA 1944, Northeastern BA 1979, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired art instructor, her paintings are featured in "The Chicago Art Scene".

MERCEDES (WARNER) INDA (JUNE 1942) lives in Freeport, IL, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

PAUL MC PHEETERS (JUNE 1943) MARRIED DELORES (KANE) (JUNE 1944) he graduated from Loyola BS 1949, U of Chicago MBA 1966, they have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, live in Birmingham, MI and are retired.

JACK WALTER (JUNE 1943) lives in New Buffalo, MI and is retired.

WILLIAM HECKENBACH (JUNE 1944) graduated from U of I BA Acct, Fellow Like Mgmt Inst 1969, chartered life underwriter 1972, lives in Lakewood, CO, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired insurance executive.

ROBERT PLAZEWSKI (JUNE 1944) MARRIED MARIE (BLANCHI) (JANUARY 1945), they live in Cape Coral, FL, have 6 children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and are retired.

JOHN O GRADY (JANUARY 1945) graduated from Chicago Academy of Art, lives in Park Ridge, IL and is an interior designer.

ARLINE (NELSON) CZECH (JUNE 1945) graduated from Moody Bible Inst 1990, lives in Chicago, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

JERRY MOE (JUNE 1945) graduated from Luther College BA 1949, Luther Theol Seminary BTh 1953, U of Scotland 1957, lives in Valparaiso, IN, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, is a Lutheran Minister retired, has a classical music program on WGFA-FM Sundays 7:30 to 8:30PM.

BARBARA (LAWTON) LOESCHEN (JANUARY 1946) MARRIED WILLIAM (JANUARY 1944), lives in Sarasota, FL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired professional model.

ROBERT MITCHELL (JANUARY 1946) lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

CONNIE (COLLAR) MYHRE (JUNE 1946) graduated from Wright 1950, lives in Bellingham, WA, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

BETTY (LOEHR) CREMIN (JANUARY 1947) lives in Orlando, FL, has 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, is retired and fighting a slow terminal cancer, Carinoid Sydrrom.

FRED JOHNSTON (JANUARY 1947) lives in Clearwater, FL and is retired.

DONALD BROKAW (JUNE 1947) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 5 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

PHYLLIS (WAGEMAN) LISACK (JUNE 1947) graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business College 1948, lives in Chicago, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

RITA (VODVARKA) MARCHETTI (JUNE 1947) graduated from St Annes Hospital RN 1950, lives in Huntington Beach, CA and is a retired RN.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVE AND MARILYN (NETT) NELSEN (JUNE 1947) on their 50th anniversary in May 2001.

MARY JANE (CHMIELOWSKI) SCHAEFERLE (JUNE 1947) graduated from Cornell BA, U of IA MD, has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, is retired and splits time between Garwin, IA and North Port Richey, FL.

JEAN (TAPP) BEAL (JANUARY 1948), graduated from Cornell College BA 1952, lives in Penwater, MI, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

CAROL (VASEN) WOLF (JANUARY 1948) graduated from Norther Park AA 1950, APSU BA 1976, lives in Federal Way, WA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired

ROBERT ROGERS (JUNE 1948) MARRIED MARIE (JOHNSON) (JANUARY 1949) he graduated from U of IA BA 1956, MA 1957, they have 2 children, 2 grandchildren, split time between Nestor Falls, Ontario, Canada and Bokeelia, FL.

ROBERT JONES (JUNE 1948) graduated from IL State BS 1952, Indiana U MS 1955, PhD 1966, lives in Litchfield, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired

HENRY SANDERSON (JUNE 1948) lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired bricklayer.

LOIS (HEAD) FRITSCH (JANUARY 1949) GRADUATED FROM northern 1976, lives in Delavan, WI, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired teacher.

DONALD PELLEGRINI (JANUARY 1949) lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a consultant.

ARLENE (DRAKE) BEDO (JUNE 1949) lives in Burbank, CA, has 4 children and is an investment counselor.

MARY (FORSLAND) HARNER (JUNE 1949)

graduated from Northwestern BS Ed 1954, lives in Lake Geneva, WI and Sarasota, FL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

HENRY WAGNER (JUNE 1949) MARRIED ROSALYN (COY) (JUNE 1952), He graduated from Northwestern, they have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and are retired living in Donalsonville, GA.

JEANNE (WASCHOW) WEAD (JUNE 1949) lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired dental assistant.

1950s

NANCY (MIKKELSEN) DESCHAMPS (JANUARY 1950) LIVES IN La Valle, WI, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

NANCY (KUHLE) BUENDING (JUNE 1950) lives in Taos, NM, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

CAROL (NORDENGREN) LARSON (JANUARY 1950) MARRIED ROBERT (JANUARY 1950) they have 2 children, live in Chicago, Carol is a real estate agent and very active in the Norwood Park Historical Society.

PAT (BISCHOFFER) WARNDORF (JANUARY 1950) lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

MIRIAM FREEMAN (JUNE 1950) graduated from Swedish Covenant Hosp. RN 1955, Case Western Reserve U RSN 1958, lives in Brookville, PA and is a retired nurse.

HELEN (JACOBSON) VANDERSPOOL (JUNE 1950) lives in Palatine, IL, has 1 child and is a commission acct's rep.

MARGARET (KREBS) GRUMBINE (JANUARY 1951) lives in Schiller Park, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a housewife.

DOLORES (EHLERT) WANEGAR (JANUARY 1951) MARRIED DOUGLAS (JANUARY 1951), they live in

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Clermont, FL, have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are retired.

CAROL (DEHLINGER) DOYLE (JUNE 1951) graduated from IL State 1955, Nat'l College of Ed 1982, lives in Park Ridge, IL and Scottsdale, AZ, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired

ART NAUMAN (JANUARY 1952) graduated from U of I BS Journalism 1956, lives in Sacramento, CA, has 2 children and is a retired newspaper journalist.

PAUL CELMER (JUNE 1952) graduated from U of I BS Bus Mgmt 1961, lives in Lusby, MD, has 6 children and is a real estate broker.

JOAN (TOBIASSEN) ENGLISH (JUNE 1952) graduated from Northern IL 1957, lives in Lake Barrington, IL, has 6 children, 15 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

ROBERT FORMAN (JUNE 1952) lives in Northbrook, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a semi retired insurance agent.

HELEN (KARGER) HENDRICKS (JUNE 1952) lives in Bolivia, NC, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

HARRY MOREEN (JUNE 1953) graduated from IIT BS METE 1958, MS METE 1960, U of WA PhD METE 1970, lives in Huntington Beach, CA, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

RUTH (MAEGDLIN) TINGSTON (JUNE 1953) lives in Westminster, CA and is a mobile home manager.

MARILYN WENNERSTROM (JUNE 1953) graduated from Art Institute BAE 1960, lives in Mesa, AZ, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is a super volunteer.

CHARLES TOTH (JANUARY 1954) lives in Chattanooga, TN, has 2 children and owns Alpine Lodge at Raccoon Mtn.

EDWARD BECK (JUNE 1954) MARRIED HELEN (SLIWICKI) (JUNE 1957), they live in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children (both graduated from Taft), and 4 grandchildren.

CHARLES GOONREY (JUNE 1954) graduated from Northern IL BA 1958, Law 1961, lives in Camp Hill, PA, has 2 children and is a retired attorney.

PAUL MILLER (JUNE 1954) graduated from Valparaiso U BA 1958, lives in Bloomfield, NJ and is an international consultant.

HERMINA (KIPKOWSKI) SASSE (JUNE 1954) lives in Franklin, NC, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

JOAN (GAERTNER) MC INNIS (JANUARY 1955) graduated from Northwestern BS Ed 1958, Farleigh Dickinson MS Computer Science 1984, lives in Tinton Falls, NJ, has 2 children and is a computer consultant.

RONALD SCHOENBERG (JANUARY 1955) graduated from Wright AA 1960, Northwestern BS 1975, lives in San Francisco, CA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

BILL OBERHEIDE (JUNE 1955) MARRIED SUE (UNGER) (JUNE 1955) he graduated from Lake Forest, Sue from Northwestern, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is HAC wholesale distributor.

JOE REICHEL (JUNE 1955) lives in Elkhorn, WI, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is self employed.

GARY SAMS (JUNE 1955) MARRIED SANDRA (HUBENTHAL) (JANUARY 1958) he graduated from Northwestern BS Bus 1959, Sandy graduated from Northwestern BS Ed 1961, they have 1 child, are retired and live in Surprise, AZ.

MARILYN (TREADWAY) ARMENTROUT (JANUARY 1956) graduated from U of Chgo BS Biology 1959, lives in Irvine, CA, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a school personnel coordinator at U of CA, Irvine.

DAVID FREEZE (JUNE 1956) lives in Chicago and is an IDOT Supervisor.

NANCY (HAANING) JOHNSON (JUNE 1956) lives

in Park Ridge, IL and has 3 children.

ROBERT KARGER (JUNE 1956) graduated from U of NY AS 1978, lives in Nashville, TN, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

DONALD OSMOLAK (JUNE 1956) lives in Valparaiso, IN, has 4 children and is a stockbroker.

CAROL (BRUNS) ANDERSON (JUNE 1958) lives in Orange, CA, has 1 child, 1 grandchild, 30 foster children and is an accountant.

DONALD ERICKSON (JUNE 1958) graduated from Northeastern BA Bus Mgmt, lives in Phoenix, AZ, has 2 children and is a sales director.

RICHARD MELBYE (JUNE 1958) graduated from North Park BS 1963, lives in Plano, TX, has 2 children, is a self employed money broker who also teaches Country & Western Dancing.

DAN ISACKSEN (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Bradley BS 1964, Rutgers 1982, lives in St Anne, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a bank president.

JAMES FISHER (JUNE 1959) graduated from Grinnell College BA 1963, lives in Valley Village, CA and is a motion picture/TV writer.

JOYCE (SLOWN) STARK (JUNE 1959) lives in Blue Eye, MO, has 2 children and is a library assistant.

1960s

MARILYN (LATALL) BLAKE (JUNE 1960) lives in San Francisco, CA, has 3 children and is a nurse.

JUDY (PEINART) GEYER (JUNE 1960) MARRIED GEORGE GEYER (JUNE 1960) she graduated from Oakton Community College CPS 1987, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and they live in Mt Prospect, IL.

SUSAN (RICHARDSON) VOGT (JUNE 1960) graduated from Bradley BA 1964, U of I M Ed 1968, lives in Ivins, UT, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired teacher.

JIM EGAN (JUNE 1961) lives in Ft Myers, FL, graduated from Southern IL BS 1970 and is retired from banking.

STEPHEN KONCZ (JUNE 1961) graduated from De Vry Tech 1963, Choi Karate Inst 1980, lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a 2nd degree black belt and electronic tech with the Chicago Police.

DARLA (BLOCKS) MC BURNEY (JUNE 1962) graduated from Purdue BA 1966, John Hopkins MLA 1975, lives in Atlanta, GA, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is an interior designer.

DON HOWARTH (JANUARY 1963) graduated from Carroll College BA 1967, U of I MBA 1969, lives in Princeton Jct, NJ, has 2 children and is a partner in an accounting firm.

ANNE (FLEXMAN) WARNER (JANUARY 1963, graduated from St Mary's RN 1968, lives in York, PA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

GAY (MALEWICKI) SWEELY (JUNE 1964) graduated from IL Wesleyan BA 1968, U of UT MA 1973, U of Melbourne PhD 1997, lives in Richmond, KY, has 2 children, Professor of Art History and published author, lived many years in New Zealand and Australia and just won an award for top 2% US Professors at all Universities.

JUDY (JACOBS) RADLEIN (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Niles Twsp LPN 1967, lives in Ft Smith, AR, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a homemaker.

JOAN (JOHNSON) WALENDY (JANUARY 1965) graduated from U of WI BS 1968, Nat'l Louis U Med 1992, lives in Bloomingdale, IL, has 2 children and is a first grade teacher at Spring Hill School

RONALD ELSNER (JUNE 1965) graduated from U of I BS 1969, MS 1970, PhD 1976, lives in Huntsville, AL, has 2 children and is an astro-physicist for NASA.

DONNA (KALTEUX) GRIFFIN (JUNE 1965) lives in

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So Barrington, IL and has 3 children.

JANET (COMO) HAGEL (JUNE 1965) graduated from Loyola BSN 1969, Aquinos College MM 1993, lives in Holland MI, has 2 children and is a realtor.

JEANNETTE (BURCHFIELD) KEENAN (JUNE 1965) graduated from Beloit College BA 1969, Middlebury MA, 1970, Roosevelt MPA 1976, Eastern NM ASN 1999, lives in Hamden, CT with her Mother Beatrice Birchfield who taught at Taft 1965-1972.

CAROLE (HARDT) BARBER (JANUARY 1966) graduated from U of I Nursing 1968, lives in Oak Park, IL, has 6 children and is a nurse.

LINDA (SPECKMAN) HARRETT (JANUARY 1966) Graduated from Northern BS Ed 1970, U of Louisville MA 1977, lives in Jeffersontown, KY, has 2 children and is a teacher in a psychiatric hospital.

PHIL JOSENHANS (JANUARY 1966) graduated BS Psy 1974, lives in Glenview, IL, has 2 children and is a manager Cardiology Department.

GARY ANDERSEN (JUNE 1966) graduated from Northeastern BA Geog. & Env. Sciences 1977, lives in Palatine, IL and is a supervisor for Champion Trans, in Northlake.

MICHAEL MEGARIS (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of MO BBA 1988, MBA Finance 1990, lives in Overland Park, KS, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is in business development.

BARBARA (GRON) GROSSE (JUNE 1968) graduated from Wellesley BS Theology 1973,

lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a Philanthropist.

MICHARL RINALDI (JUNE 1968) lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 2 children and is a certified financial planner.

TED GROAT (1969) graduated from ISU BS Ed 1973, MS Ed 1976, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children and is a teacher.

1970s

TOM PETERSON (1970) MARRIED CRYSTAL (PIEHL) (1971), they live in Palatine, IL, have 3 children, Tom graduated from U of S CO BA Ed 1975 and is a truck driver.

TIMOTHY ARADO (1971) graduated from IL State BS Ed 1975, Control Data Inst, Electronics 1981, lives in Chicago and is in property management.

KENNETH GAUGHAN (1971) graduated from Northeastern BA 1974, Loyola MSW 1977, lives in Bradon, FL, has 1 child and is a supervisor, school social work services.

BARBARA (STOESSER) MENGARELLI (1971) graduated from U of I BS Occupational Therapy 1976, lives in Wheeling, IL, has 2 children and is an occupational therapist.

IDA ROSSINI (1971) lives in Frankfort, IL, has 3 children and is a project architect.

MIKE HANRAHAN (1972) graduated from U of I BA 1971, lives in Plymouth, MN, has 2 children and is a salesman.

JOHN MIKULKA (1972) graduated from Auburn BS Engr 1985, IIT MS info systems 1977, lives in Montgomery, AL and is a programmer.

NANCY (RODRICK) SCATCHELL (1972) lives in Aurora, IL and is an interior designer.

AMY (DZIMEK) STEEPLES (1972) graduated from Western IL BS Botany 1975, lives in Boonville, IN and is an erosion control tech and beekeeper.

JOYCE (LUGA) SELKER (1973) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and is a housewife.

NANCY (STECKIEWICZ) SWANTEK (1973) graduated from De Pual BA Music 1977, lives in Norwood Park, has 3 children and is a music teacher at St Eugene's.

YVONNE (GATCHEFF) ORNT (1974) graduated from U of I BS Actuarial Science 1978, lives in Highland Park, IL, has 1 child and is a consulting actuary.

CARL PRIEST (1974) graduated from Augsburg College BA 1978, lives in Minneapolis, MN, has 2 children and is a project manager, also plays the Bass.

KATHLEEN (GOLEMBA) WANTA (1977) graduated from U of I BA Mktg/Finance 1981, IL Benedictine MBA 1988, lives in Burr Ridge, IL, has 3 children and is an industrial/home health administrator.

INGRID KAEV (1978) graduated from U of I BA 1982, lives in Arlington Hts, IL and is a payroll manager.

JACKIE (LANDEM) TORNABENE (1979) MARRIED JAMES (1981) she graduated from Triton AA Diagnostic Medical Sonography, they lives in Elmhurst, IL have 4 children and Jackie is an Ultrasound Tech and James is an operating engineer.

DEBBIE (LANGE) WENC (1979) graduated from Elgin Community College, early childhood teaching, lives in Algonquin, IL, has 2 children and is a preschool teacher.

1980s

NADINE (KOZIOL) KLEINFELTER (1980) graduated from IL Wesleyan BA Math 1984, lives in Allentown, NJ and is an Actuary.

SCOTT LANGLO (1982) MARRIED JEANNE (HOPPE) (1982) they live in Niles, IL, have 2 children, they own a travel agency and Scott is also in telecommunication.

MATINA (GOERGES) INGALLINERA (1983) graduated from Northeastern BS 1987, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children and is a senior programmer analyst.

BETH KOENIG (1988) graduated from Wright AA 1992, Morehead State BA Journalism.Speech 1993, lives in Chicago and is a consumer relations manager for Walgreens.

CHRISTINE (WHITTY) MURDOCK (1988) graduated from De Paul BS Finance 1992, MBA 2000, lives in Batavia, IL and is a bank examiner.

1990s

JAMES MITCHELL (1992) graduated from Northern IL BS English 1997, MSEd 1999, lives in Chicago and is a residence hall director at Ball State in Indiana.

JENNIFER (HITCHINS) PROFFITT (1993) graduated from Western IL BS Chemistry/Secondary Ed 1998, lives in Florissant, MO and is a high school chemistry/physics teacher.

In Our Memories

- **Walter W. Witt** (June, 1941) of Appleton, WI died December 11, 2000 from cancer.
- **Doris (Zonzius) Jirka** (June 1942) on January 29, 2001 from a massive stroke at home.
- **Leonard V. Anderson** (June, 1943) died of cancer on January, 28, 2001 in Hemet, CA.
- **Mary Alice "Mandi" (Youmans) Broughman** (1942 or 1943) was a teacher for many years living in the Rockford, IL area, died March 4, 2001.
- **Bernard (Otowski) Owens** (1943) died in December, 2000.
- **Walt Drummond** (January 1945) died April 20, 2001
- **Audrey (Peterson) Anderson** (January, 1946) of Bradenton, FL died January 20, 2001.
- **Charles "Don" Warndorf** (January, 1946) died April 3, 2000 from a heart attack. Two days after H.S. graduation he left for Army service in Korea. He was the husband of Patricia (Bischoffer) Warndorf (January, 1950).
- **Joy (Larson) Padgitt** (1948), wife of Don Padgitt (1948) died from pancreatic cancer on January 19, 2001 in Winnetka, IL. She had been an elementary school teacher for many years.
- **Daniel Erickson** (1952), Married to Lynn Jacobson died August 10, 2000 after a 15 month struggle with cancer.
- **Gary D. Schoenberg** (January, 1958) of Chicago passed away February, 2001.
- **Milada "Meme" (Pracko) Cacchione** (June, 1955) of Wheeling, IL died suddenly January 2, 2001.
- **Bruce Moe** (1956) passed away on February 21, 2000 from heart disease. He lived in Kennesaw, GA.
- **Elizabeth "Betty" (Marschall) Erickson** (June 1962) died December 1, 2000 from a stroke. She was the wife of Donald E. Erickson (June, 1958).
- **Darlene (Goodmonson) Peddicord** (class of January 1958) died April 15, 2001.
- **Susan L. Majercik** (1970) passed away February 20, 2001 of natural causes.
- **Glory Alex** (1971) of Gloucester, MA died December, 2000 of cancer.
- **Pamela Lounsbury** (1978) died January 1, 2001 of MS.
- **Hugh Boettner** died March 11, 2001 after a long battle with cancer. He taught mathematics at Taft from early 70s until his retirement in 1995.

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, 6545 W. Hurlbut St. Chicago, IL 60631

This issue we ask help locating: **Lloyd Swanson** (June, 1956) - **Bob Oleskow** - Robtdiana@aol.com is looking for his old classmate.

Letters (continued from page 2)

As for myself I will always remember the bond I had with these school friends, most of us went through all 8 grades of Hitch and then on to Taft where we became more individuals. Childhood friendship will last a life time as Wayne Johnson and I discovered after meeting again more than 30 years later. To us it seemed like a week has past and not 30+ years. I live in Thousand Oaks, CA and I sure would like to hear from you. Come on let me hear from you and renew the friendship we once had.

Leon Schurter (June 1963)
leon1945@aol.com

See **Letters**| Page 9

Letters (continued from page 8)

Subj: Maria Pappas, County Treasurer
Date: 1/5/01 6:54:29 PM Central Standard Time
Dear Jerry,

After reading the last issue of the Taft Alumni News I was happy to see that you informed all my former classmates, June 1962 that I am not the Cook County Treasurer but, I certainly wish I were. Sounds like an interesting job especially now with all that surplus money!

After college I taught for thirteen years in Mt. Prospect. I then stayed home for sixteen years raising my two children, Kristen, 21 and John, 18. I am now teaching again in Park Ridge, Dist. 64-fourth grade. I really love what I'm doing and am real happy to be working with kids again. I do have to admit it has changed a lot but I do think for the better.

I live in Park Ridge and am married to George J. Economos. As you can see I never moved very far away. I often run into people from Taft because there are many here in the area. Keep up the great job. I look forward to read the Taft Alumni News.

Maria (Pappas) Economos (June, 1962)
NU 6568@aol.com

Taft Alumni

As most of you who were at Taft in 1949 when the baseball team won the City Championship know the starting pitcher on the team was George, "LITTLE-SOO-EY" Maier, (deceased 1991). During the last several years I have been trying to acquire any stories and articles from the Taft Tribs of the spring of 1949 regarding their great championship season.

I have written this letter in hopes that anyone who was at Taft at that time might have copies of the Taft Tribs from the spring of 1949, regarding the baseball team's victories. If so, please contact me at any of the following :
E-Mail: marv maier@worldnet.att.net, office; (815) 455-8050, FAX; (815) 455-8051, or by mail at home. Any originals will be gladly returned after copying.

Marv, BIG SOO-EY, Maier
1053 Plantain Ct.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

I'm A Senior Citizen (some of us, that is...)

I'm the life of the party, even if it lasts until 8PM.
I'm very good at opening child-proof caps with a hammer.
I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I'm going.
I'm the first one to find the bathroom wherever I go.
I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.
I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a word you are saying.
I'm very good at telling stories...over and over and over and over.
I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not as bright as mine.
I'm not grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, children, and politicians.
I'm positive I did housework correctly before my mate retired.
I'm sure everything I can't find is in a secure place.
I'm realizing that aging is not for sissies.
I'm a walking storeroom of facts. I've just misplaced the storeroom.

I'm in the "initial" stage of my golden years: SS, CD's, IRA's and AARP.
I'm having trouble remembering simple words like _____
I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days.
I'm wrinkled, sagging, and lumpy, and that's just my left leg.
I'm supporting all movements now. By eating bran, prunes and raisins.
I'm so cared for: long term care, eye care, private care and dental care.
I'm going to reveal what goes on behind closed doors.. absolutely nothing.
I'm a senior citizen and I think I'm having the time of my life!

**Reprinted from the
College Park Methodist News**

Advice From Bill Gates

To anyone with kids, of any age, here's some advice Bill Gates recently dished out at a high school speech about 11 things they did not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teaching has created a full generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Thanks to **Ken Wilcox** (June 1965) for sending us these words:

- RULE 1 - Life is not fair - get used to it.
- RULE 2 - The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.
- RULE 3 - You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone, until you earn both.
- RULE 4 - If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.
- RULE 5 - Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they

called it opportunity.

- RULE 6 - If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.
- RULE 7 - Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.
- RULE 8 - Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.
- RULE 9 - Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.
- RULE 10 - Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.
- RULE 11 - Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.



TAFT ALUMNI BARGAINS

Cookbooks: \$5.00 each

Taft Alumni recipes from 1940s through 1990s, including some Taft lunchroom 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) **\$30** each
- Large (42-44) **\$30** each
- Extra-Large (46-48) **\$30** each

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

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Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
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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 \$15. 00 for two-year membership. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$20. 00 for two-year Husband & Wife membership. Return to: Taft Alumni Association 6545 W. Hurlbut St. Chicago IL 60631			

Spring 2001

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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RENEW NOW !!

Look at your address label on the back of this page. Check your year of graduation on the upper left corner. Is it correct? The most important area is on the **top right** corner. This is the expiration date of your current membership status of the Taft Alumni Association. If the date is close, the TIME is **NOW** to sit down and write out a check for \$15. 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 above to fill in the latest updates in your life.

Taft Alumni Newsletter is published quarterly by the Taft Alumni Association. Send all correspondence and changes of address: Taft Alumni Assn., 6545 W. Hurlbut St., Chicago, IL 60631. Or **e-mail at Taftalum@aol.com**.
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