



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XV No. 3

Summer 2001

Alumni Scholarships

The Taft Alumni Scholarship this year was split between graduating seniors **Ariana Vanegas** and **Michael Hannan**. They each received \$500.

Ariana will be going to U of I at Urbana and she hopes to become an attorney and earn a PhD in Criminal Justice. While at Taft she was involved in student government, Academic Decathlon, Rockets for Schools, College Bridge, College Excell, Virtual Trade Mission, winner of the essay for the Bulls team competition, building leaders for the 21st Century, Gallery 37 acting and stage direction, also tutored in Chemistry, History and Math.

Michael Hannan will either go to Loyola, U of I at Urbana or De Paul, he hopes to become a lawyer and possibly a Judge. At Taft he was involved in Football, Baseball and wrestling before an accident involving his knee, he went through 3 separate surgeries, missed a lot of school and was still number 6 in the class. He was President of the National Honor Society, Honor team for Academic Decathlon and CPS Gifted Program for Aquatic Science at the Shedd Aquarium.

Also, the first **Robert Hendricksen Scholarship** award went to **Catherine Nunez** she will be attending Northeastern this Fall and hopes to become an Elementary Teacher. At Taft she was a member of the Multicultural Club, Rockets for Schools, Chorus and worked in the Counselors office.

The following is a letter from Darlene Hendricksen explaining the new Robert Hendricksen Scholarship:

Dear Taft Alumni Association,

I am proud to be a Taft Alumni and that is the purpose of this letter. I graduated in June 1962 and my name was Darlene Bruemmer. I married Robert W. Hendricksen (Bill) in 1964. He died in 1991 of cancer. Last year I contacted you in order to establish a \$1,000.00 scholarship in his memory. I have chosen the first recipient and am looking forward to doing it again and again in the future.

Last year I read about your anonymous donor, who had died, and felt someone should step up and replace him. My husband was a member of the June 1960 class and I wanted to challenge them at their 40th class reunion to come forward and fill that void. I didn't get around to it in time for that reunion so I instead will challenge all Taft Alumni to it.

Taft has done something for all of us. Isn't it time we did something for Taft? There are so many of us Alumni. If we all contributed something in memory of someone, whether it be a loved one, a special teacher or a special moment that Taft gave us, think of the difference we could make in the life of a Taft Student.

Please help fund the Taft Scholarship fund. Do it for Taft, for yourself and for someone you don't even know. We can make a difference.

Pres.note: if you wish to contribute contact Kay at the Alumni address or at Taftalum@aol.com.

WELCOME TAFT CLASS OF 2001

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2001! 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 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 \$15 - 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

June 1946

Date: To be determined
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Jean Whitehead Smith**
N4724 County Rd P
Delavan, WI 53215
E-mail: don-jean@elknet.net

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: To be determined
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Diane Jung (Young) Braasch**
E-mail: Newbraaschps@cs.com

January 1957

Any interest in a reunion?
Date: May 24, 2002
Place: Drendel Hall – Sun City Huntley
Contact: **Leo Drummer**
11667 River Terrace Ln
Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 515-8879

January/June 1963

Date: October 11, 2003
Place: Holiday Inn O'Hare
Contact: **Kay Kuciak**
17667 N Estrella Vista Dr.
Surprise, AZ 85374
E-mail: Taftalum@aol.com

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)

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, 2001
Contact: **Maureen O'Donnell**
(847) 677-2479
rosati11@aol.com

St. Juliana's - 1952

Date: May 2002
Contact: **Bonnie Manning Bernico** – (773) 775-5905
7024 N. Odell Avenue
Chicago IL 60631

Taft Baseball Reunion

1957 & 1958 City Champions Baseball Teams

The possibility of having a reunion for the '57-'58 baseball players is being considered. Several of the players have already indicated a strong interest in the concept. Those interested players include **Gordon Arnspiger, Ken Eeles, Gordie Lund, Larry Marsh, Jerry Meyer, Mike Peterson, Denny Pickett, and Lynn Terry**. As of now, no final date or location has been decided upon. However, it is hoped that this gathering could occur within the next 18 months. If you are or know of any of these players who might be interested, please contact either **Lynn Terry** (theterrys@earthlink.net) or **Denny Pickett** (dekpickett@niu.edu) (815) 758-2777. We will keep you posted as to how plans develop.

Taft Grad the Grand Marshal Memorial Day Parade

World War II veteran and Korean War veteran, Floyd Gilbert (January 1941) had the proud honor of sharing the position of Grand Marshal of the 2001 Norwood Park Memorial Day Parade with World War I veteran Lawrence Hansen (age 104). Both men have been long-time residents of Norwood Park. Gilbert was a veteran of the Army Air Corps and later the U.S. Air Force during the years he served our country. He served from November 1942 through February 1946 for World War II and again activated as a reservist for the Korean War in February 1949.

Letters to the Editor

As I lay waiting for my Maker to come and get me, the Taft Alumni Newsletter arrived and I was happy to see that my little class note was included. But as I lay there, I felt something was missing and I realized the most important part of my life was the past 12 years that I have been married to **Mike Cremin**. His strength and support has guided me through this illness.

God will be done, Keep the newsletters coming.

Betty (Loehr) Cremin (January 1947)

Hi Kay,

Hope you're enjoying life in Arizona!

After all these years, I continue to look forward to receiving the TA newsletter. In the Spring 2001 issue, there was a picture of the "Taft Girls Club" but no names to identify anyone. I recognized one as being **Mary Jane Chmielowski** even though I didn't know her personally. Are the other names available? Were some of this group also known as "the big eleven"? Some of my alumni friends and I are curious.

And here's something else: one of my classmates (and dear friend) passed something on to me. It's a mother of pearl anchor with the Taft HS emblem on it. It's on a gold chain. She obtained it at a garage sale in the Edison Park area over 25 years ago. I wonder if this might sound familiar to some alumnus out there.

Thanks for your help, all good wishes,

Lois (Magoon) Rose (January 1949)
Pres. Note: Sorry about not including the names on the picture, here they are

Dear Kay and Jerry,

First, let me thank you for printing the letter from **Lynn Terry** (June 1957). The story of Captain **Dale Luster** and the memorial in Norwood Park was sad, but interesting. The newsletter came on June 6th VE Day and so I decided to pay my respects. It had been beautifully decorated for Memorial Day and well cared for. I read the inscription (Recognition for their ultimate sacrifice in Viet Nam. Memorial dedicated with honor, gratitude and pride:

PFC G. Kasper, PFC D. Fries, Capt Dale Luster, 173rd Air Brigade



I've also visited the Wall and Arizona Memorial in April this year to remember our classmates who didn't return.

Mariann (Leversen) Erlenbach. Januarv 1946

beginning with the back row left to right, June Schmid, Sug Esterquest, Dorie Johnson, Marilyn Schimdt, Mary Jane Chmielowski, Lucille Hamachek, Phil Serpico, Lidia Rigoni, Shirley Bergren, Jean Fallbacher, Dorie Bockhaus, Violet Mitchell, Nancy Harrington.

Dear Kay,

Marilynn Wennerstrom converses with Marilyn Wennerstrom.

Yes, Taft has two Marilyn Wennerstrom's in the Alumni Association. We had a very nice talk and discovered many similarities in our lives. **Marilynn**

(Loh) Wennerstrom (1953) of Mesa Az and me **Marilyn (Hanish) Wennerstrom** (1947) of

Des Plaines IL both graduated at age 16, bought our current homes in 1965 and have a grandchild age 4, just a few of our coincidences.

Thanks, Kay, for letting me get in touch with Marilyn.

Marilyn (Hanisch) Wennerstrom (1947)

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Letters (Continued from page 3)

Dear Jerry,

Thanks for all your hard work on the newsletter. I have some sad news to pass along for the "In our memories" section of the next issue: my best friend from elementary school and at Taft passed away recently. She was also a member of the alumni association and had attended the 40-year reunion of the class of 1958 in summer, 1998:

Darlene (Goodmonson)

Peddicord (January 1958) died April 15, 2001.

Sorry to be sending you bad news, but I wanted our fellow classmates to know. Many of them had seen Darlene, who had been living and working in California for many years, and visited with her at the reunion in 1998.

Thanks again for all your hard work,

Marianne (Burgbacher) Celce-Murcia (Jan. '58)

celce-m@humnet.ucla.edu

Jerry-----

I saw the letter from **Marv Maier** in the latest newsletter asking about articles regarding his brother George LITTLE SOO-EE. I was reminded how that nickname started. For a few years we played softball at Brooks Park in Edison Park. Marv was our left fielder and he never dropped a fly ball he could get to. We finally said, when a ball was hit his way, "it's in the well". He was so consistent we said he's bigger than a well --- it's in the sewer. The nickname SOO-EE came about.

His brother George went to the Univ. of IL on a baseball scholarship and signed a contract with the Yankee organization after his sophomore year.

You're doing a great job with the newsletter -- keep up the good work.

Bill Fassnacht (January '48)

Hi There,

Well, I have just finished reading another wonderful edition of the Alumni newsletter. Each time I read one, great memories pop into my old head. This time..... the death of **Darlene Goodmonson** on April 15, 2001 prompted me to write. Many have alluded to the places where they had the most fun in high school. Darlene's house was the best place ever for many of us in the class of January 1958. Does anyone remember???? How could we forget!

Our class is beginning to lose members on a nearly regular basis, there is nothing we can do...it is simply time, I guess.

What I want to say is this: Taft High School has given us a prideful basis for our lives, it seems. I am grateful for that, as I am for the memories.

I am at home in Canon City, CO and Placitas, NM. Anyone close?

Susan Dickerson-Seufer

(January 1958)

susanseufer@prodigy.net

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Greetings from on board the USS Enterprise. We are currently in the second month (June) of a six-month Mediterranean cruise. All interested parties who would like to correspond via email are welcome to send me a message at the following address:

walshd@enterprise.navy.mil

I would be glad to send back an email with an action photo of our daily front line carrier operations.

LCDR Dan Walsh, Asst Air Ops Officer
USS Enterprise (CVN65) (Taft Class 1980)



LCDR Dan Walsh Taft 1980 here onboard USS Enterprise. We are currently conducting Naval flight operations in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I've forwarded you a picture from work -- a perspective not everyone gets to see every day. I hope you enjoy it and are free to publish it in the next TAFT Newsletter.

Dan Walsh

CLASS NOTES



1940s

DONALD GIFFORD (JANUARY 1941) graduated from U of I BS 1949, lives in Ballwin, MO, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired

VIRGINIA (HUNT) BARNETT (JUNE 1941) lives in Placerville, CA, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

LOUISE (SOPER) MC CULLOUGH (JUNE 1941) graduated from Wright AA 1943, lives in Locust Grove, VA, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a homemaker and piano player.

BETTY (SORENSEN) WELKER (JUNE 1941) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

DORIS (CARLSON) ALLES (JANUARY 1942) graduated from North Park College, lives in Bradenton, FL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired school secretary.

MARDELL (YOUNG) COONEY (JANUARY 1942) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a housewife.

FLORENCE (RODE) ELDRENKAMP (JANUARY 1943) graduated from IL Wesleyan BA 1948, lives in Des Moines, IA, has 6 children, 8 grandchildren and is a resource room teacher in a middle school.

GEORGE KILLOREN (JANUARY 1943) graduated from MO Valley Bsed 1950, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

JAMES DOWNING (JUNE 1943) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

MARJORIE (CROCKETT) DRITTLEIN (JUNE 1943) MARRIED WARREN (JUNE 1942) they live in Naples, FL, have 3 children, 9 grandchildren and are retired.

ROBERT KOPP (JUNE 1943) lives in Villa Park, IL and is retired.

GLORIA (PRIMA) MORHEISER (JUNE 1943) lives in Trenton, SC, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired realtor.

GEORGE HAMILTON (JANUARY 1944) lives in Centerville, UT, has 3 children and is retired.

ROBERT MILLER (JANUARY 1944) MARRIED PAT (BERG) (JANUARY 1945) they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are retired.

RITE (PRZYBYLSKI) DE ROSIER (JUNE 1944) has 6 children, 6 stepchildren and 24 grandchildren.

JOHN O' CONNELL (JUNE 1944) lives in Morton Grove, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT PADDI (JUNE 1945) lives in Chicago and is retired.

MARGIE (TROESTER) MC BRIDE (JUNE 1945) lives in Brooksville, FL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

EDWIN SIENKIEWICZ (JUNE 1945) graduated from U of I, lives in Aurora, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT LENDY (JUNE 1946) MARRIED FERN (SCHULTZ) (JANUARY 1948) lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 5 sons, 14 grandchildren and is retired.

RICHARD SCOTT (JUNE 1946) graduated from Drake BAMktg, Harvard Business School. Lives in Mountainside, NJ, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired marketing consultant.

BOB SODERHOLM (JUNE 1946) lives in Torrance, CA, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

SHIRLEY (CLAUSEN) MAHAFFEY (JUNE 1947)

graduated from U of I BS 1953, AZ State MS 1958, lives in Urbana, IL, winters in Sun City, AZ, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

LIDIA (RIGONI) PIPER (JUNE 1947) lives in Chicago, has 4 children (all Taft graduates) 7 grandchildren and is a retired accounting clerk.

LOIS (SCHUMACHER) BEARD (JUNE 1948) lives in Lake Zurich, IL, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

FRANK CONSOLO (JUNE 1948) graduated from LA Valley College, lives in Granada Hills, CA, has 3 children and is a plumbing contractor.

BARBARA (KRIETE) KOEHLER (JUNE 1948) lives in Kissimmee, FL, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren and is a housewife.

TERRY MURPHY (JUNE 1948) graduated from Lake Forest College BA 1952, lives in The Village, FL, has 6 children, 16 grandchildren and is retired.

JON TRIPHAHN (JANUARY 1949) lives in Chicago, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and is in sales.

MARY (EHRlich) LUNDMARK (JUNE 1949) graduated from De Pauw BA 1953, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and lives in Albion, IL.

RICHARD SIENKIEWICZ (JUNE 1949) graduated from Northern Bsed 1954, Msed 1956, lives in Altamonte Springs, FL, has 4 children, 12 grandchildren and is retired from IBM, now self employed.

1950s

MARILYN (HUNTMAN) GIESE (JANUARY 1950) graduated from IA State 1992, lives in Aurora, IL, has 5 children, 16 grandchildren and is a writer.

WILLIAM RING (JANUARY 1950) MARRIED MARGUERITE (NICODEM) (JANUARY 1950) he graduated from Youngstown St BA, Kent St MA, Trinity

Seminary, they lives in Pleasant Hill, TN, have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and he is a retired Clergyman.

CAROLE (JOHNSON) JOHNSON (JANUARY 1951) MARRIED ARTHUR (JANUARY 1951) she graduated from Wright 1977, Oakton Community AAS 1979, Lewis U BA 1986, lives in Chicago, has 6 children, 15 grandchildren and are retired.

BOB WINKATES (JANUARY 1952) MARRIED NANCY (ZUEHLKE) (JANUARY 1952), graduated from Northwestern BS 1968, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, and is retired.

RICHARD HATHAWAY (JUNE 1952) graduated from U of I BSME 1957, lives in Groveland, CA, has 3 children and is retired, has a small museum of antique fishing tackle, collects and restores old golf clubs and woodworking tools.

LOUISE (VAN DE MERKT) LOWRY (JUNE 1952) lives in Mundelein, IL, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

JOHN LA GORIO (JANUARY 1953) has 2 children, is retired and spends winter in Sarasota, FL and summers in Bloomington, MN.

JANE (MEADOWS) ABRAMCHIK (JUNE 1953) graduated from Northern IL BS 1957, lives in Skokie, IL and is a retired special education teacher.

KENT ANDERSON (JUNE 1953) graduated from Northwestern BSME 1960, lives in Madison, WI, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

CAROL (UHL) CONNOLLY (JUNE 1953) graduated from U of MN BA Architecture 1958, lives in Chicago, has 2 children, and 3 grandchildren.

DOUGLAS GIFFORD (JUNE 1953) graduated from IA State BS 1958, lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and is a mfg. rep.

FRAN (MARINO) HUGHES (JUNE 1953) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is semi retired.

CLASS NOTES

HARRY MAGEE (JUNE 1953) MARRIED MARILYN (GOODELL) (JANUARY 1955), he graduated from Northwestern BA 1957, they live in Elliott City, MD, have 7 children, 5 grandchildren, he is branch chief, Social Security Admin., Marilyn is a health asst.

CHARLES SCHROEDER (JUNE 1953) graduated from U of I BS Civil Engr, MS Administration Science, lives in Bensenville, IL, has 6 children, 8 grandchildren and is a civil engineer.

ALICE (SARAU) BEBEE (JUNE 1954) MARRIED ROBERT (JUNE 1954) lives in Deland, FL, has 3 children, 13 grandchildren and is a criminal project specialist.

ALICE (MC CREARY) LUNDBERG (JUNE 1954) lives in Anderson, SC, has 5 children, 6 grandchildren and is a housewife.

ELLEN (FRISEN) SCHADEN (JUNE 1954) lives in Morton Grove, IL, has 2 children and 6 grandchildren.

JOY EVERETT (JUNE 1956) lives in Ormond Beach, FL and is an attorney.

KATHERINE (HANSEN) GUTIERREZ (JUNE 1956) lives in Boca Raton, FL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a photographer.

VIRGINIA (BLUM) SCHROER (JUNE 1956) lives in Streamwood, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

BRUCE WEINWURM (JUNE 1956) graduated from St Olas BA Chem. Loyola MBA 1976, lives in Middletown, NJ, has 2 children and is retired.

ROBERT FIZZELL (JUNE 1957) graduated from Beloit College BA 1961, Northwestern MAT 1966, PhD 1975, lives in Vancouver, WA, has 3 children and is a teacher, professor, consultant.

JUDITH SULLIVAN (JUNE 1957) lives in Niles, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

MARY (HUGHES) KOBER (JANUARY 1958) graduated

from Knox College BA Music Ed 1962, lives in Highland Park, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a music teacher.

ROBIN (EBERSOLE) ANDERSON (JUNE 1958) lives in Fair Oaks, CA, has 2 stepdaughters, 5 grandchildren and is battling breast cancer for the second time, classmates can contact her at Rrasales@aol.com.

KAREN (BERG) SANDBERG (JANUARY 1959) lives in Beaverton, OR, has 2 children, 3 grandsons and is a program assistant.

KENNETH WATSON (JANUARY 1959) lives in Oak Park, IL, has 2 children, 19 grandchildren and is a machinist.

1960s

CINDY (JACKSON) JOHNSON (JUNE 1960) graduated from Northern, lives in Marco Island, FL, has 3 children and is a substitute teacher.

JOYCE (JOHANSEN) STACKHOUSE (JUNE 1960) lives in Woodstock, IL, has 3 children and is a controller.

NANCY (WANKE) FORTY (JANUARY 1961) MARRIED PHILLIP (JUNE 1953), they live in Scottsdale, AZ, have 2 children and she is a legal assistant.

KAREN (RINKACH) JOHNSON (JUNE 1962) lives in Wautoma, WI, has 2 children and is in real estate sales.

NANCY RUHLOW (JUNE 1962) graduated from U of I BS 1966, Northeastern MA 1972, lives in Naperville, IL and is a retired PE teacher.

CRAIG SABEY (JUNE 1962) lives in Peoria, IL and is a maintenance worker for State of IL.

JANE (SPENNY) HEIDE (JANUARY 1963) graduated from Oberlin College BA 1967, Columbia U MSW 1969, lives in Kansas City, MO, has 2 children.

JAY HOGG (JANUARY 1963) MARRIED DEBBIE

(PIENERT) (JUNE 1962) they live in Sleepy Hollow, IL, have 4 children, Jay is a Mfg Rep. And Debbie is a Finance Asst for local village.

CAROL (LUNDBERG) MILLER (JANUARY 1963) lives in Larchwood, IA, has 3 children, twin grandsons and is retired.

PHYLLIS (BELTLE) BROWN (JUNE 1963) Graduated from Northeastern BA 1967, lives in Bartlett, IL, has 1 child.

SUSAN (MADL) HUGAS (JANUARY 1964) graduated from U of Redlands BS, lives in St Augustine, FL, has 2 children and is retired.

CHARLES MUGNOLO (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Northern BS 1969 Computer Mfg, lives in Fenton, MI and is retired from Ford Motors Computer Systems.

LYNN (HINTZ) POZSGAY (JUNE 1965) lives in Mt Prospect, IL and is a banker in real estate.

DEE (STECMAIER) TOBERMAN (JUNE 1966) lives in Carpentersville, IL, has 3 children and is a real estate agent.

PENELOPE (COUGHLIN) FLUGER (JUNE 1967) graduated from Southern IL Msed 1972, lives in Little Rock, AR, has 3 children and is a preschool director.

MICHAEL HIONIS (JUNE 1968) MARRIED CARMELLA (CESAIRO) (1969) graduated from Northeastern BS 1973, Chicago ST MS 1981, PhD 1995, they lives in Chicago and he is a teacher at TAFT.

KATHRYN (BICKLER) LESNIAK (1969) graduated from Western IL BA 1973, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children and is a medical asst.

SUE (CHERNIKOVICH) ORBESON (1969) lives in Island Lake, IL, has 1 child and is a collector.

MARK WICKMAN (1969) graduated from Ft Lewis BA 1974, lives in Clinton, SC, has 2 babies and is a sales manager for petroleum equipment.

1970s

KATHY (KWITEK) MOUNTFORD (1971) lives in Lake Zurich, IL, has 2 children and is a teachers aide.

DEBRA NYBERG (1971) graduated from U of Phoenix BA Mgmt 1996, lives in Long Beach, CA and is a senior account executive.

LINDA (ALEX) CONNORS (1972) lives in Henderson, NV, has 1 child and is a bartender in Las Vegas.

PAM (SHUEY) DETTMAN (1973) graduated from Northeastern BA Economics 1977, lives in Marengo, IL, has 4 children and is a homemaker.

JOE ANDERSON (1975) graduated from U of I BS Civil Engr, lives in Downers Grove, IL, has 4 children and is owner of a disposal company.

STEVEN BRAHM (1978) graduated from U of TN BS Aerospace Engr 1983, U of AL MAS 1986, lives in Huntsville, AL, has 3 children and is an engineering services manager.

JANET (SEMINER) TISZA (1978) graduated from U of I BS Animal Science 1982, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 3 children and is a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant.

1980s

GEORGIA (PAPPAS) FEE (1982) graduated from Bradley BS Business Mgmt 1986, lives in Geneva, IL, has 3 children and is a housewife.

RICK MALCZYNSKI (1982) graduated from US Naval Academy BS 1986, UCAL MD 1998, lives in Edgewater, MD, has 3 children and is a Plastic Surgeon.

1990s

ELSA (MONTOTO) VEGA (1991) graduated from UIC BSW 1995, MSW 1997, lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a school social worker.

In Our Memories

Thomas A. Brown, former Taft principal and teacher, from 1974 through 1999, died May 31, 2001 from cancer. He was our assistant principal since 1989 under both William Watts and Thomas Cunningham. He was acting principal following their departures until he transferred to the main office of the Chicago Board of Education in 1999.

Vincent Johnson, class of 1941, passed away on January 19, 2001.

Audrey (Dietz) Parker, class of June, 1942, died in November 2000 of a heart attack.

Robert De Rosier, class of June 1945 died on March, 29, 2001 from leukemia.

Daniel Erickson, class of 1952 and was married to Taft grad Lynn Jacobson, died August 10, 2000 after a 15 month struggle with cancer. Dan's father owned Erickson's Cleaners in Norwood Park on Northwest Highway.

Marjorie Draheim Mooney (June, 1956) died from cancer of the spine on September 17, 1998. She married **Robert Mooney** (class of 1953????), who was captain of Taft football team in the 50s.

Gabriel (Gabby) Wleklinski died August, 4, 2000 from lung cancer. His daughter, **Mary Jane (Wleklinski) Tully**, is from the class of 1969.

Darlene (Goodmonson) Peddicord, class of January 1958, died April 15, 2001.

Robert Sullivan, class of June 1961 passed away March 25, 2001 of cancer.

Eva Alley, class of June 1965 died on July 26, 2000 after a brief illness.

Gil Walendy, class of January 1965 passed away April 14, 2000 of complications from MS.

Frederick Hentz, class of 1970 passed away May 20, 2000 from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 4)*

Jerry-----

I noticed in the last newsletter that **Walt Drummond** [January 1945] had passed away.

Wally and I were great buddies in grade school. We both lived on Osceola Ave. in Edison Park. Being a little older than the rest of us, he was the idea guy for our daily games and activities. Because of this we nicknamed him "Chief". Another name we called him was "Bulldog" after the radio character Bulldog Drummond. He hated the name.

We had some great times growing up and I remember him fondly. I don't remember much about his family except he has an older sister, Helen, who was about my brother Fred's age. I think his father worked at the Post Office. Wally will be remembered by all who knew him.

Bill Fassnacht (January '48)

PBFAZZ@aol.com

Dear Jerry,

I received the Spring 2001 newsletter yesterday and realized that I am WAY behind in my membership dues. Sorry 'bout that -- I put a check in the mail today for \$15.00 to cover the two-year renewal.

Also included an update as I have left a career in Corporate Finance to pursue a new venture in residential real estate. Taking the "bull by the horns", I completed a Home Study course, passed the IL State test and joined Starck & Co. Realtors in West Dundee, IL. I am excited to have an opportunity to help people fulfill their dreams to purchase a "dream home" or sell their house and relocate, should this be the time in their lives to do

so. It would be a thrill for me to hear from anyone of the Taft alumni, and what a great chance to "give back" to some of those who so enriched my early years in Chicago! Feel free to pass this information on to anyone in the area - especially the NW suburbs and those who are living in the Fox Valley.

To all of your staff, thanks for the hard work and dedication in keeping the Taft Alumni well informed and connected!

Dee (Stegmaier) Toberman (1966)

DTOBERMAN@aol.com

P.S. Anyone out there from the Class of '66?

(O) (847) 428-4000

(R) (847) 428-1192

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Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 5)*

To: Newbraaschps@cs.com

CC: Taft alum, JBBloom

To: Diane Jung

Classmate **Jane LaMarche Adair** and I had the opportunity for a visit in Florida a few weeks ago and were discussing our class's upcoming 50th reunion. We noted in the alumni newsletter that you were organizing a reunion for the class of June 52, and we thought it would be most appropriate, if it was agreeable to your June class, to join forces for a main event. Our class president, **Paul Lauschke**, will hopefully spearhead our class's reunion turnout effort, and I and Jane are willing to work on the

reunion. I look forward to hearing from you to discuss possibilities for combining our efforts. I also welcome hearing from the other active Taft Alumni Assn. members to whom I have cc'd this communication. I welcome your suggestions, and also would appreciate being able to have access to other classmates to enlist their participation in working on and attending our reunion.

My phone number is: 847-234-7062; my address: 36 Warrington Drive, Lake Bluff, IL 60044.

Phyllis Holowaty Albrecht (June, 1952)
Albrecjp@aol.com

To: eagleemail@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: Taft

I viewed the web site and it looks good. I also used your service to contact an old school mate and you gave me his address. We have been corresponding for weeks and it sure is fun. Thank you Taft Staff.

Bob Oleskow (June 1956)
Robtdiana@aol.com

[Editor's note: Anyone wishing to contact us via e-mail. Please use Taftalum@aol.com or JBBloom@aol.com.

Eagleemail@yahoo.com is for our e-mail updating and listing only. Our new website is <http://www.taftalumni.org>. Thank you. J. Bloom, editor]

Remembering Our Teachers...

Dear Taft Alumni.

I really enjoy reading all the letters sent to the newsletter. I came from the Taft era of the U shaped building, and the office faced Natoma Avenue.

I, too, was a student of **Dr. Buchwalter's**, but we didn't quite see eye to eye. My grades started with an S and steadily declined to just passing. She said she would pass me only if I promised not to take German the following year. The following year she was gone, however I didn't sign up for German because of the fear that she had instilled in me. That woman had an icy stare that would have stopped Mike Tyson in his tracks. One day in the classroom next door, **Mr. Dolnitsky's** history class was raising it's usual hell when the good Dr. who had had it with the riotous demeanor of the class opened the door between the rooms. In an instant there was dead silence. What control!!!

Mrs. Wolevka (that is the correct spelling) (just having fun, Carol) who lived just across the street on Nina from Norwood Park School in 1948 taught us the metric system. This was seventh grade, I remember it to this day. Dear old Mr. Reagan put the kibosh on the conversion while he was at the helm. Oh what an easy and sensible system. Thanks for nothing Ron. (And to think that I voted for him once.) Enough politics.

I'm hoping that someone with organizing abilities is going to start the ball rolling for the fiftieth year

reunion in 2003. I've been to three reunions and had a ball every time. Since I live in Sacramento I haven't kept in touch with my former classmates very much, but it sure is fun to see them again at these reunions. My love to all.

Gordon Snyder (1953)
gorsny@aol.com

To TAA:

Thank you for all your efforts in producing an interesting periodical. Just want to mention the fond memories I have of my 4 years at Taft. It was during the WWII years and we were all so patriotic-plus we had some of the best, strictest, and most interesting teachers. For Spanish I had Ms **Virginia Clark** who was super nice (plus very cute, as I recall), **Mr Korzen** for History with the nickname of "nails" because he was tough as--and of course **Dr Buchwalter** for German, she was absolutely no nonsense. I don't think she ever smiled (or knew how). My homeroom teacher for all 4 years was **Mrs Johnson** (forget her altogether). I am still touch with 2 girls from Taft, two of my best friends even tho we graduated in June 1943, 58 years ago.

I've lived in California for 48 years, but return to Chicago every few years, its still a great city. Thanks again,

Mary (Nemeth) Kovacs (June , 1943)

Why 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 are used to 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, fund raisers and donations, we occasionally sponsor productions at Taft to encourage continuing interest in the drama department. Some of our efforts in the past are "Mame" (1991), "Play On"" (Fall 1991), "Bye, Bye Birdie" (1992), and "The Dining Room" (1993). A special drama workshop headed by a Taft alumnus and specially written play was performed by Taft students in 1994.

Also, we have provided funds for buying hats and overlays for the marching band and a laser printer for the journalism department. Four new trophy cases sit in the Hall of Fame area just off the front entrance of the school (Hurlbut Avenue side) with our support. The free-standing sign at the corner of Hurlbut and Northcott is also a new addition, thanks to "your" funding through dues.

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 is \$15, which covers two years. Why bother? What do I get from it? Yes, I'm already an alumni, 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. any 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.

Your were an Eagle in high school. Now join the Alumni Association and soar like an Eagle for the rest of your life!

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, c/o Taft High School, 6545 W. Hurlbut Ave., Chicago, IL 60631.

Alumni Directory E-mail Address Change

The E-mail address for the Alumni directory has been changed to EagleEmail@taftalumni.org. Please correct your address books and bookmarks.

TAFT 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 \$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			

Summer 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. Alumni Directory E-mail address: EacleEmail@taftalumni.org

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