



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVI No. 2

Summer 2002

## WELCOME TAFT CLASS OF 2002

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2002! 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 news-letter 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! We wish the best of luck to you. Hold your head high and be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

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## Alumni Scholarships

By **Shirley DeWeese** (June 1960)

Four scholarships were presented to deserving Taft graduates this year. Two \$500 awards and two \$1000 awards were given out, thanks to the generosity of former Taft students.

**Arlyn Dianne Larin Griego** was a Beat 1680 Club volunteer, a member of the Academic Decathlon, Math Club and National Honor Society. She hasn't completely narrowed down her vocational choice yet, but is leaning towards a medical or business field. As of press time, she had not chosen which of the four universities she has been accepted to. She was awarded a \$500 TAA scholarship.

**John Tsarouchas** earned the other \$500 TAA scholarship. Northwestern University has the honor of being chosen by John to help him with his goal of becoming a magazine/newspaper reporter or editor. With his excellent scholastic aptitude and strong physical presence, he earned the school's "most likely to succeed" and "most school spirit" recognitions by his peers. He was President of the National Honor Society, Captain of Varsity Football and Editor of the Taft Today newspaper and still maintained a 4.55 grade point average overall.

The **Robert "Bill" Hendricksen** Scholarship Award was begun last year by his wife, **Darlene Bruemmer** (June 1962). She has committed to funding a \$1,000 scholarship each year in his name. Bill was a member of the June 1960 class and passed away in 1991. Darlene encourages other alumni to do the same for loved ones they have lost.

This year's recipient of the Hendricksen scholarship is **Gabriela Escobar**. Five Universities want Gabriela to come to their school this fall. University of Illinois - Chicago will be her goal this fall to start towards her dream of being a children's psychologist. Although she worked after school for four years, she enjoyed being part of the Poetry Club and maintained a 3.03 grade point average overall.

A second special Alumni scholarship award was created in honor of **Penny Rhodes Ek**. Her classmates and husband, **Ron Ek**, established the Penny Rhodes Ek Memorial Scholarship as a onetime award in Penny's honor. She was a member of the June, 1960 class and passed away in February 2002. Penny, Ron and their three sons are all Taft alumni. They are very proud Taftites and Penny was an incredible person.

The recipient of the Penny Rhodes Ek Memorial Scholarship is **Jessica Bernal**. As a very active student at Taft, she excelled at both sport and academic interests. She earned the honor of being Varsity captain of the girls' swimming team (member for 4 years) and also was on the Taft girls' soccer team for the last two years and coached the boys' Varsity soccer team for 4 years. Last fall she earned the first "student of the month" award from her efforts of directing a massive fund-raiser to help victims of 9/11. She and her mother made hundreds of flag ribbons that were sold at school, raising almost \$900. Jessica

See **Scholarships** Page 11

## Class Reunions

### All Taft Classes

Date: To be determined (1/2003 – 4/2003)  
Place: To be determined (in Florida)  
Contact: **Leon Kathan**  
1729 NW Madrid Way  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
Phone: (561) 367-8945  
E-mail: leonkathan@yahoo.com

### 1946 - June

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

### 1948

Date: September or October 2003  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Frank Heyer**  
Phone: (773) 631-4701

### 1952

Date: September 21, 2002  
Place: Rosemont Convention Center  
Contact: Reunions, LTD  
Phone: (847) 259-1130

### 1953 - January

Date: May, 31, 2003  
Place: Westin – O'Hare, Rosemont  
Contact: **Valerie (Zetek) Blaue**  
Phone: (847) 824-5577  
FAX: (847) 298-4689  
E-mail: valerieblaue@aol.com

### 1953 - June

Date: To be determined  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Frances (Marino) Hughes**  
117 N. Broadway Ave,  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
Phone: (847) 698-5475  
E-mail: bowlingbabe1@msn.com

### 1955 - January

Date: September 2002  
Place: Picnic – Dam #2 Des Plaines  
Contact: **Meg (Goodell) Magee**  
9918 Windflower Ct.  
Elliott City, MD 21042

### 1963 - January/June

Date: October 11, 2003  
Place: Holiday Inn – O'Hare  
Contact: **Kay Kuciak**  
17667 N Estrella Vista Dr  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
E-mail: [Kayariz@cox.net](mailto:Kayariz@cox.net)

### 1967 - January/June,

Date: October 26, 2002  
Place: Radisson O'Hare, Rosemont  
Contact: **Paulette English** - (219) 271-8742  
E-mail: [www.alumnisystems.com](http://www.alumnisystems.com)

### 1992

Date: To be determined  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Karen (O'Connor) Dibas**  
Phone: (847) 647-5629  
Email: [karendibas@yahoo.com](mailto:karendibas@yahoo.com)



## Grammar School Reunions

### Edison – 1967

Date: to be determined  
Place: Any interest (35 years!) ??  
Contact: **Barb (Carson) Thayer** with ideas, etc.  
E-mail: [bncthay@aol.com](mailto:bncthay@aol.com)

### Farnsworth – 1942 - June

Date: September 14-15, 2002  
Place: Holiday Inn – North Shore  
5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, IL  
Contact: **Mary Jane Struberg**  
26926 Circle Verde Dr.  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
E-mail: [jstruberg@aol.com](mailto:jstruberg@aol.com) Or  
**Jean (Whitehead) Smith**  
N4724 County P, Delavan, WI 53115

### Norwood Park –1958 - June

Date: Summer 2003  
Place: Door County, WI (?)  
Contact: **Jerry (Beesley) Bloom** –  
Phone: (920) 743-8449  
E-mail: [jbbloom@doorpi.net](mailto:jbbloom@doorpi.net)

## Letters to the Editor

I enjoyed seeing the picture of the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps from 1932. [See Spring 2002 issue] I belonged to the Corps but a little later. It was during World War II. At Douglas Field (which is now O'Hare) the B-17 bomber was built. The citizens of Norwood Park got together and decided to have a B-17 hospital plane built. At the corner of Raven Street and Northwest Highway, on the side of a four story building a painting was done of the airship with the title "SPIRIT OF NORWOOD".

Shoes were rationed during the war and I needed a pair. My mother went to the ration board and they gave her a coupon for a pair because of my war effort in being part of Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps.

We played at many bond rallies and other functions until finally enough war bonds were sold to pay for the aircraft. When finished a dedication ceremony was held at the war plant. A prayer for the plane was said by a Rabbi, a Priest and a Minister. As part of the ceremony we got to play. It was an event in my life I will never forget.

**Ken Kaitschuck** (June 1948)



Ken Kaitschuck

Subject: Student Council Photo

The Student Council photo in the 2002 spring issue is most likely the 1953-54 council. I have the 55 and 56 yearbooks and David Nelson was the 54-55 council President, and this is not the Council picture in the 55 yearbook. They were elected for the school year like 53-54 or 54-55. It appears that Jim Hartzler is the President in this picture. He would have been a junior in this picture because he graduated in 55.

**Barbara (Gromke) Stephens** (June 1956)  
RISBGS@aol.com

Subject: Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps Picture

Great picture of the Corps in the last newsletter but had to make an addition of a name... **Maxine Merta** is the little Drum Major in the lower right hand corner. She was the Drum Major for many years and the only Drum Major that I can ever remember... I guess I should say Drum Majorette. She is now **Maxine Merta Clayton** and resides in Florida.

**Marillyn Kane Machon** (June 1948)  
Machon418@aol.com

Dear Kay,

Enclosed is my check to cover another two years of the newsletter. I apologize for being so late in renewing my subscription. I thoroughly enjoy each issue and would hate to miss one. [Editor's note: the \$15 fee is for membership into Taft Alumni Association. The newsletter is just one benefit of being a member. There is no subscription available for only the newsletter. J. Bloom, Editor]

My classmates and I graduated from Taft in June 1957. There seems to be quite a bit of news from the January class (and I enjoy reading of those friends also) but not a lot from the June class. I did enjoy the article by **Bev (Sprecker) Laseke** (June 1957) in the last newsletter. I too am a graduate of Ebinger and would like to hear from some of those friends also. Especially **Sue Enabnit**, a good friend from Ebinger and Taft. Any news would be welcome.

My husband and I have been in Atlanta since 1961. We have three grown daughters and seven grandchildren. Up until January of this year we spent our time between Atlanta and Venice, FL. I did speak with **Willie (Monk) Murphy** a few times and she filled me in on the whereabouts of some friends. We were trying to get together with others in the area but never did. (My fault, as we had to go back and forth so much to Atlanta). We are now in Atlanta full time, enjoying our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for all the hard work you do getting the newsletter out. You and all the others involved are doing a great job.

**Ginny (Bobeng) Lewis** (June 1957)

Dear Kay,

How nice of you to put the photograph of our Fife Drum & Bugle Corps in the Taft newsletter. What great memories it brought back. We marched in the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago. If my memory holds true, we won for best band, but disqualified for having fifes included. It was quite a blow, but at least we knew for a while we took first.

I would like to mention that you forgot or I should say, Jeanne forgot to add Maxine Merta's name. She was our majorette and such a pretty young lady. Thanks for the memories!

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

Dear Editor:

I, too, am grateful to all the hardworking people who put the Taft Newsletter together. When it comes in the mail I put everything down to read it. It is interesting to read it and find out where a lot of my classmates have settled down. But it is sad to read about the death of many people that I knew.

Among those that have died recently was my sister **Jackie (Drisch) Kuflewski** (June 1946) [See "In Our Memories"]... During the early part of our high school years Jackie took accordion lessons. One of our assignments in Art class (**Ms. Unseth**, a great teacher) was to draw something that happened in our home. So I drew a picture of Jackie practicing her (blasted) accordion. I won an art scholarship to the Chicago Art Institute for my efforts! Jackie was one of thousands of accordion players who performed at Soldiers Field. Funny what little things we think about that happened in the "olden" days!

**Phyllis (Drisch) Juiris** (June 1944)

P.S. Hello to **Frank & Jane Zemaitis**

Dear Kay, et al,

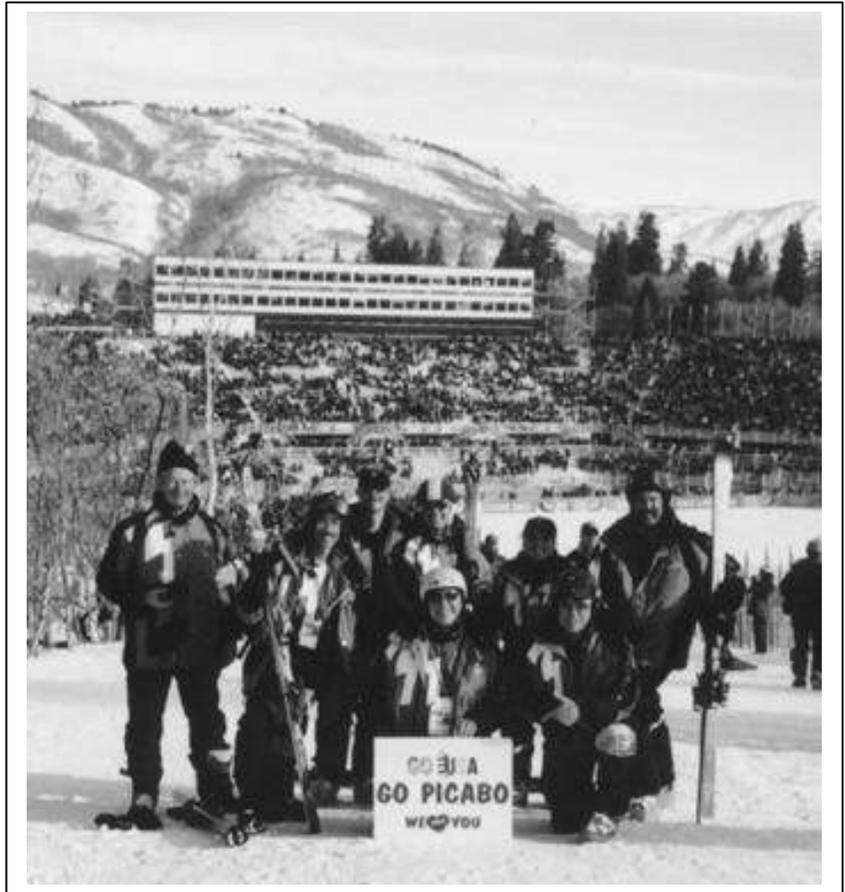
We enjoy the newsletter very much and just received my info on our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion next year – Jan '53. Always like the various articles written by fellow Tafties on their comings and goings.

This past Feb. 2002 my wife and I worked as volunteers at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, UT. My job was located at Snow Basin Resort (45 miles north of SLC) site of the Men's/Ladies Downhill, Combined and Super G Ski Races. We had 1500 volunteers working on the two racecourses doing all the grooming and preparation by hand, i.e., shoveling snow, raking and stomping the snow etc... for 12 straight days – Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 'til Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. The day started at 0330 wake-up, then a one hour drive to the parking lot to arrive by 0500 and on the mountain by 0600 (before dawn) to start our daily grooming. At 1000 the event(s) would start, so we had to have our various things done by then and become spectators until the event was over, about 1300. Some days we had to go back out and work until 4 or 5 in the evening, other days we could ski the rest of the afternoon for free. I also worked at Snow Basin during

the Paralympics, which followed the Olympics by about 10 days. These events lasted for another 12 days. All in all I worked 24 days at Snow Basin grooming the race course(s).

My wife's job was in event services at Park City and Deer Valley but she only worked the Olympics and not the Paralympics.

We both had a great time working these Winter Games, along with a total of 26,000 other volunteers, even though the work was hard and the hours were long. We both received a complete Olympic uniform, an Olympic watch, tickets to the Opening Ceremonies (Dress Rehearsal) and Opening Ceremonies for the Paralympics, tickets to the Medal's Plaza and a post-



Olympic thank you party. We also were able to attend various events we had bought tickets for (son Jay joined us from Chicago) along with free events in the city. Truly a great experience for both of us, we would volunteer again in a heartbeat.

Thanks again for all your hard work on the newsletter.

**H. Paul Rebscher** (January 1953)

Dear Jerry,

I just re-read my last newsletter [Autumn, 2001] looking for the cost of renewal and the mailing address. (check enclosed). I enjoyed re-reading my classmate Eugene Phillip's letter recounting Shirley Kalivoda DeWeese's  
See **Letters** page 8

# CLASS NOTES



## 1940s

CHARLETON BARD (JUNE 1941) MARRIED EVELYN (SIEVERS) (January 1942), he graduated from U of Chgo BS & BPh 1946, MS 1948, PhD 1950, they live in Rochester, NY, have 4 children, 11 grandchildren. He is a Chemist, Evelyn is a housewife.

MARGE ROSBERG (JUNE 1941) lives in Mt Prospect, IL and has 2 children.

SAMUEL WELLS (JUNE 1941) lives in Chicago, has 5 children (all graduated from Taft), 9 grandchildren and is a retired butcher.

MARILYN (SONDERMAN) BYDALEK (JANUARY 1942) lives in Two Rivers, WI, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

WARREN BERG (JUNE 1942) graduated from Luther College BA 1948, U of IA MA 1950, PhD 1960, lives in Decorah, IA and is a Emeritus College Professor at Luther College.

ELENOR (SCHREIBER) GUNDLACH (JUNE 1942) lives in Viroqua, WI, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired interior decorator.

MARY LOU (ENGER) KRAKOWSKI (JUNE 1942) lives in Sebastian, FL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a housewife.

MURIEL (HEYDEN) MAGILL (JUNE 1942) lives in Chicago, has 3 sons who all graduated from Taft, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

HENRIETTA (waiter) SMITH (JUNE 1942) lives in Clearwater, FL, has 5 children and works in the Avon complaint dept.

TED PFISTER (JUNE 1943) MARRIED HELEN (HERMANN) June 1944), he graduated from Monroe Co of Optometry, Roosevelt School of Music, lives in Montpelier, OH, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren

and 1 great grandchild and is retired.

OLIVER TODD (JUNE 1943) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 16 children, 30 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and owns a stamp and sports card store in Des Plaines.

LEONARD MAYER (JANUARY 1944) graduated from U of MN BBA 1950, lives in Coral Gables, FL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

HOWARD NELSON (JANUARY 1944) graduated from Northwestern BSBA 1949, North Park, AA 1948, lives in Gulf Breeze, FL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired CPA.

EARL BELZER (JUNE 1944) lives in Bensenville, IL, has 5 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT FORNEY (JUNE 1944) graduated from Purdue BSCH 1947, PhD 1950, MS 1948, lives in Unionville, PA, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired.

JOSEPH KOBEK (JUNE 1944) lives in Rensselaer, IN, has 1 child and is a retired mfgs rep.

TAFT LOWELL (JANUARY 1945) MARRIED HAZEL (IDLE) (JANUARY 1946, he graduated from Lake Forest BA 1949, they live in Arlington Hts, IL, have 3 children, 2 granddaughters and are retired.

RICHARD STAHL (JANUARY 1945) lives in Evanston, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

DAN VRABEC (JUNE 1945) graduated from Chgo Academy, Institute of Design, Northwestern, lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children and is a retired graphic designer.

EVELYN (FISCHER) MILLER (JANUARY 1946) lives in St. Petersburg, FL, has 7 children and is retired.

WALTER ROGERS (JANUARY 1946) graduated from Roosevelt BA 1951, Chgo Teachers MA 1957, has 2 children, is retired and splits his time between Monroe, NC and Nestor Falls, Ontario, Canada.

JUDITH (ERICKSON) STUYVESANT (JUNE 1946) graduated from Cosmopolitan School of Music, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is retired.

KEN HENRY (JANUARY 1947) was elected into the Chicagoland Hall of Fame and in September 2001 at the winter Olympic games in Salt Lake City was presented the Jack Shea Award by Erick Heiden for speed skating.

JUNE (BALEY) BRINKMAN (JUNE 1947) lives in Bristol, WI, has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

DORIS (JOHNSON) WOLTER (JUNE 1947) lives in Lincoln, NE, has 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

NANCY (CATO) VOSS (JANUARY 1948) lives in Northbrook, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired

RICH EVERITT (JUNE 1948) lives in Prescott, AZ and Surprise, AZ. Has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM HOPKINS (JUNE 1948) graduated from Wright AA 1950, lives in Elgin, IL, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren and is retired.

KENNETH KAITSCHUCK (JUNE 1948) graduated from USC BS 1956, lives in North Hollywood, CA and is a retired banker.

EMIL MEIERKORD (JUNE 1948) graduated from IL State, lives in Lacon, IL, has 5 children and 2 grandchildren and is a real estate broker.

JAMES PETERSON (JUNE 1948) graduated from U of I BSME 1953, lives in San Diego, CA, has 5 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

T. DALE SHELDON (JUNE 1948) graduated from Northwestern BS 1952, U of Pittsburgh MBA 1960, lives in Napa, CA, has 3 children and is retired

PATRICIA (HARRIGAN) ADAMS (JUNE 1949) graduated from Marquette, Sotheby;s London 1986, lives in Santa Fe, NM, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is an antiques dealer and lecturer.

MARY (MULKERN) BEHR (JUNE 1949), graduated from IL State BS ED 1953, lives in Boulder, CO, has 3 children and is retired

## 1950s

ROBERT SCHMIDT (JUNE 1950) lives in Bossier City, LA, has 5 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired

JOHN SLADKEY (JUNE 1950) graduated from IA State BS Science 1954, lives in Leawood, KA, has 6 children, 16 grandchildren and is a Professor at U of KC.

ELAINE (PHILLIPS) SINCLAIR (JANUARY 1951) lives in Ocala, FL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

ALICE (ARMSTRONG) ENGELKING (JUNE 1951) graduated from Masonic Hosp. 1956, lives in Fair Oaks Ranch, TX, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM FORNEY (JUNE 1951) graduated from IN U BS 1955, lives in Bloomington, IN, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired accountant and farmer.

DOUGLAS MEDER (JUNE 1951) graduated from Wright AA 1955, De Vry 1961, Pakton CC AAS 1985, AA 1987, AA 1988, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children and is retired.

LILLIAN (GRUNDGEIGER) SHUMAN (JUNE 1952) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired real estate agent.

KENNETH ZELL (JUNE 1952) lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is retired.

MARILYN (GLAWE) SMITH (JANUARY 1953) graduated from FL Southern College BA 1956, Rollins College M ED 1974, lives in Columbus, MS, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

MARION (JOHNSON) CHABOT (JUNE 1953) graduated from U of I BS Math 1957, Med School MD 1961, lives in Berkeley, CA, has 2 children and is a Pediatrician.

JEANNINE (SEBBY) MAY (JUNE 1953) lives in Harvard,

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IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a volunteer choir director.

BARBARA (ROESS) SIWIK (JUNE 1953) lives in Ridgedale, MO, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is a reservationist.

JOSEPH O DONNELL (JANUARY 1954) lives in Williams Bay, WI, has 4 children and is retired.

RONALD CORRAGO (JUNE 1954) graduated from Wright AA 1957, Park College 1959, lives in Walla Walla, WA, has 3 children and is a semi retired aircraft mechanic.

MARLENE (FENSKE) DOUGLAS (JUNE 1954) graduated from U of I BS Special Ed 1957, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

DIANE (GORANSON) WIDING (JUNE 1954) lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

LOLA (BRUHN) KEIL (JANUARY 1955) lives in Park Ridge, IL and has 2 children.

JACQUELINE (EARNEST) NELSON (JANUARY 1955) lives in Apple River, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

KAREN (KELLEY) NOBLE (JANUARY 1955) graduated from Chgo State Bed 1958, U of VA Med 1982, lives in Springfield, VA, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is a teacher/real estate agent.

JUDY (CARLSON) BORTA (JUNE 1955) graduated from Chgo Teachers BEd 1961, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT ENGEL (JANUARY 1956) lives in Champaign, IL, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

ARLETTE (SABEY) SWANSON (JANUARY 1956) lives in Santa Barbara, CA and has 2 children.

CAROL (SMALL) SMALLEY (JUNE 1956) lives in Wood River, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

LEO DRUMMER (JANUARY 1957) lives in Huntley, IL, has 1 child and 10 grandchildren and is a regional sales manager.

RONALD ENCK (JANUARY 1957) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

ANTOINETTE ALLEGRETTI (JUNE 1957) graduated from De Paul and Lake Forest MBA 1987, lives in Mexico City, has 1 children and is president of a consultant and mkt research company.

MARJORIE (EATON) BLOCKS (JANUARY 1958) MARRIED ROGER (JANUARY 1958), She graduated from De Pauw BSN 1962, U of WI MSN 1986, Roger graduated from Purdue Eng 1962, they live in Racine, WI, have 2 children, 6 grandchildren, Roger is an engineer and Marjorie is retired.

DIANE (BIESTER) CARLSON (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Roosevelt BA 1979, Webster MA 1990, lives in Palatine, IL and is retired.

RODNEY MARKGRAF (JANUARY 1959) lives in Inverness, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

NANCY (PETERSON) SMITH (JANUARY 1959) lives in Appleton, WI, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is a district leader for Goodwill Ind.

## 1960s

TERRY ENLSON (JUNE 1960) graduated from U of I BS MKTG, Northern MS MKTG, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a managing systems consultant.

PAUL VERISARIO (JUNE 1960) graduated from Northeastern BA 1968, lives in Inverness, IL, has 3 children and is an insurance executive.

LINNEA (LUNDBERG) CONWAY (JANUARY 1961) graduated from Southern IL BA 1964, Washington U MSW 1971, lives in Mc Allen, TX, has 4 children, 1 grandchild and is a clinical social worker.

RUDY DROST (JUNE 1961) MARRIED LYNN (ANDERSON (JUNE 1961) he graduated from COE College BA

1965, Lynn graduated from St Olaf BA 1985, they live in Palatine, IL, have 2 children, 4 grandchildren, she is a Psychologist in private practice, Rudy owns an insurance agency.

CAROLYN (GIMNIG) WANGROW (JANUARY 1962) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is an asst. preschool teacher.

JAMES BACH (JUNE 1962) lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a retired Chicago Police Officer.

TOULA (DEMAS) GARBIS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northeastern BA Ed 1966, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children and is a retired teacher.

LESLEE (DOUBEK) LAMP (JUNE 1962) graduated from Evanston Hosp. RN 1965, lives in Louisville, KY, has 3 children and is an RN.

BARBARA (PUCCINELLI) MONSTVIL (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northern ACS, lives in Morton Grove, IL, has 2 children and is a travel services administrator.

EILEEN THORNE (JANUARY 1963) lives in New Port Richey, FL and is retired.

MALAMA (MITCHELL) XERRAS (JUNE 1963) graduated from Boston U BS 1967, lives in Peabody, MA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired accountant.

RICHARD BEAVER (JANUARY 1964) lives in Buffalo Grove, IL and is retired.

BETTY (PAPPAS) ELLIS (JANUARY 1964) graduated from Wright AA 1966, lives in Palos Park, IL, has 4 sons and is self employed.

RICH SCHUTZ was listed as June 1964 last issue, should be June 1965.

JOHN HENDRICKSEN (1965) MARRIED PAMELA (STERN) (1965), he graduated from Northwestern BS 1969, Pamela graduated from U of I BA 1969, they live in Prospect Hts, IL, have 2 children, 1 grandchild and are president and admin. Asst for Hendricksen, The Care of Trees.

BILL PAVELEC (JANUARY 1965) graduated from College of Artesian NM BA 1969, lives in

Chicago, has 1 children and is in sales management.

LYNN (JOHNSON) WALLACE (JUNE 1966) graduated from North Park BA 1970, U of CA MS 1995, lives in Santa Barbara, CA, has 3 children and is an education consultant.

LARRY HERZOG (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Harper BS Law Enforcement 1972, U of I BA Criminal Justice 1976, Northeastern MBA 1996, lives in Grayslake, has 3 children and is now Chief of Police in Grayslake.

MARY MOUNT (JANUARY 1967) lives in Austin, TX and is a US Customs inspection assistant.

EDWARD PEARSON (JANUARY 1967) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 children and is a cardiotech.

RICHARD CARSELLO (JUNE 1967) graduated from Wright AA 1971, lives in Las Vegas, NV, has 4 children and is GM and President of Classic LTG Co.

NANCY CRILLY (1967) graduated from Northern BS ED 1979, U of WA MS, lives in Seattle, WA and is a facilities manager.

JIM MULARZ (JUNE 1967) graduated from Wright AA 1970, lives in Locust Grove, GA, has 1 child and is a tractor trailer driver.

NICK STENGEL (JUNE 1967) graduated from U of TX BS, O of Denver MBA, lives in Aurora, IL and is a consultant.

BARB (EURICH) ANDERSON (1968) graduated from Western, lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 2 children and is a human resources manager.

MAGGIE (SCHMIDT) CROSS (1968) graduated from Carthage BA 1972, U of NM MA 1973, lives in Naperville, IL, has 2 children and is director of marketing and publicity.

CAROL (SMYTHE) EVANS (1968) graduated from Rosary College BA English 1972, US Intl U MA Human Behavior 1979, lives in Spark, NV and is a Commander US Navy.

LINDA JOHNSON (1968) graduated from Northern BS Art

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1974, lives in Barrington, IL and is an editorial/computer consultant.

**BONNIE (BROOKS) LOPEZ** (1968) lives in Arvada, CO, has 2 children and is an administrative secretary.

**NANCY LUIKAART** (1968) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 1 child and is a layout artist.

**GERALD BENSON** (1969) graduated from Northern BS Acct 1973, MBA 1976, lives in St Charles, IL, has 2 children and is owner of a financial info processing company..

**GARY LUNDRGREN** (1969) graduated from Northeastern lives in Long Grove, IL, has 2 children and is a partner in a real estate co.

**MICHAEL WOJCIK** (1969) lives in Mt Prospect, IL and has 1 child.

## 1970s

**PEGGY (MARTIN) BETZEL** (1971) graduated from U of AR BS Dental Hygiene 1975, lives in Charlotte, NC, has 2 children and is a dental hygienist.

**RANDY BERGSTROM** (1972) graduated from North Park BA Acct 1976, John Marshall Law JD 1980, lives in W. Des Moines, IA, has 3 children and is a tax attorney.

**CAROLE (JACOBUCCI) SCARDINA** (1972) lives in Berwyn, IL, has 5 boys and is a special ed teaching asst.

**MARK KREJCI** (1973) lives in Temperance, MI, has 4 children is a senior electrical designer.

**BARBARA (SULLIVAN) KOPOLOVIC** (1973) graduated from U of I BS 1977, BSN 1980, MD 1989, lives in Oak Brook, IL, has 3 children and is a radiologist.

**ROBERT SCHMIDT** (1973) graduated from U of I BA Arch 1978, Washington U 1980, lives in London, England and is an architect/urban planner.

**LINDA (ROSS) WEISS** (1973) MARRIED **ROBERT** (1974) they live in Mt Prospect, IL, have 2 children, Linda works for School District 21, Robert is a LT with the Schaumburg Fire Department.

**GLENN LUIKAART** (1974) lives in Machesney Park, IL, has 3 children and is a railroad repairman.

**BROWYN (STRASS) ESTEPHAN** (1976) graduated from cosmetology school, lives in Lakewood, CA, has 1 children and is a consultant, also board member of the Autism Society of Long Beach, CA.

**TINA (ATHANASAS) ATSAVES** (1978) graduated from Northern BS 1982, lives in Glenview, IL, has 2 children and is a housewife.

**DENICE (HERMESDORF) HIZEL** (1979) MARRIED **LOREN** (1979), She graduated from Mundelein 1984, Loren Southern 1984, CPA 1989, they live in Chicago, have 2 children, Denice works at Walgreens on Nagle, Loren is with the Spectrom Group.

## 1980s

**THOMAS HARVEY** (1981) graduated from Chanute AFB Firefighter 1983 & 1986, Olympia College AA Fire Command Admin 1997, lives in

Poulsbe, WA, has 1 children and is a firefighter/EMT.

**LISA (LICCIARDI) MEDINA** (1985) graduated from UIC BA Criminal Justice 1988, MA Ed Admin 1990, lives in Las Vegas, NV, has 2 children and is an assistance principal.

**LISA (BUSCHMANN) PARISI** (1985) lives in Bartlett, IL has 1 child.

**PATRICIA GUTHRIE** (1988) graduated from U of I BA Psychology 1992, lives in San Jose, CA and is an information systems business analyst.

**SUSAN (WHITE) LAPITAN** (1988) graduated from Northern BS 1992, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is an operations mgr.

## 1990s

**LISA (PIERCE) GONZALES** (1992) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is an accounts payable manager aty Max Gerber, Inc, also sells Partylite Candles.

## In Our Memories

**Nina (Christensen) Hansen**, class of 1941, died May 19, 2002. She organized several Ebinger Grammar School reunions over the years and was very active on her Taft reunions, too.

**Sonia (Paulson) Snyder**, class of June 1941 passed away on November 3, 2001 from ovarian cancer.

**Lillian (Aehlert) Jannusch**, January 1942, passed away January 28, 2001 from a blood clot after surgery.

**Richard (Dick) Hanisch**, June 1944, died March 13, 2002 of cancer. Husband of **Annette (Stieber)**, June 1946.

**Art Wegner**, June 1944, died from cancer on March 28, 2002.

**Patricia (Milkern) Endres**, June 1946, died November 18, 2001 of cancer.

**Jackie (Drisch) Kuflewski**, June 1946 died February 16, 2002. She was married to **Steve Kuflewski** (June 1943).

**Marilyn (Siuda) Litch**, June 1946, died April 1, 2001 from complications of diabetes.

**Ed Stanell**, January 1947, died February 13, 2002 of cancer.

**Miriam (Marum) De Breau**, June 1948, passed away on September 10, 2001 while on vacation in New Orleans.

**Don Bean**, January 1949, passed away on October 29, 2001 from cancer of the bladder.

**Joanne "Joey" (Herschbach) Dilsaver**, January 1949, passed away suddenly on April 23, 2002.

**Marilyn "Sue" (Wevang) Lingen**, January 1958, died February 15, 2001, the result of an automobile accident.

**Doris (Wilson) Cantwell**, class of 1950, died on September 28, 2001.

**Dorothy (Mathisen) Huebner**, June 1952, died May 4, 2002 of cancer.

**Georgia Bartholomew**, June 1953, died – date unknown.

**Mary Fiddler**, June 1953, died April 24, 2000.

**Judith Froelich**, June 1953, died – date unknown.

**Paul Wharton**, June 1953, died January, 2001.

**Paul Lohr**, January 1957, died at home in Vernon Hill on May 4, 2002 of lung cancer.

**John Mount**, January 1963 died May 20, 2002 from lung cancer.

**Joseph F. Polka**, taught Math and Shop Class at Garvy during the 50s and 60s died April 25, 2002.

**Letters** *Continued from page 4*

search for June 60 grads to attend our reunion. Beyond that success, Shirley searched, found and exhorted 1956 Ebinger grads to attend a grade school reunion at her house last July. If every class had a Shirley, what a wonderful world it would be!

Thanks, Jerry and Shirley and the whole crew, for everything you all do to keep us in touch!

**Tom Klein** (June 1960)

Hello One and All,

Thanks a million for your great dedication to all we graduates-you are very special people.

Do hope your operations have healed and you are back feeling good again. The paper is a bright spot in so many lives, cheers from,

**Marianne (Holden) Harris** (January 1943)

Dear Alumni Assn. and Editor of the Newsletter:

Taft opened (?) still unfinished in 1938. The members of the class of 1942 started their high school careers in another school. My group, from Edgebrook, went to Schurz for their first year. We had the option of staying in place or moving on. Most of us went to Taft but a few stayed in place.

Age is a relative thing. I read about the death of a young girl in the "In Our Memories" column. This young lady was in the class two years behind me. When you are 16-17 two years is a long time. After a while, I realized that she must have been 75 when she passed. She may have been 75 to some, as old lady to others, but to me she was and will always be a lovely sweet young thing that I was fortunate to have known.

**Norm Esserman** (June 1942)

**Subject:** I have been meaning to write...

I wanted to let you know that your newsletters have spurred a few of us on to search out our former classmates and friends from the Dark Ages.

**Sue Schmid**, who attended Hitch grammar school and a year or so at Taft, contacted me through Classmates.com and we have not only been in contact via email, we have met twice...once in Chicago and once here in Florida. She was also able to locate **Greg Nielsen** (June 1962), another Hitchite and Taft graduate via the same method. I had been looking for Greg on and off for years as he was a close friend of mine back then.



Photo here –L-R: Sue Schmidt, Phyllis Miller; seated – Greg Nielsen (all June 1962)

Sue, Greg and I met in south Florida a few weeks ago and spent the day on the beach talking and reminiscing and talking some more. I am including a photo for your collection. I am the one on the right.

Thanks so much for your work on the newsletter. I really enjoy reading about old classmates and what they are doing now.

**Phyllis Miller** (June 1962)  
phyllismiller57@msn

Dear Taft Alumni Association:

I've received your Alumni Newsletter for the past four (or has it been six?) years. It's great! You do a wonderful job!

I need your help. I graduated from Taft in June 1964. There was a girl I was very good friends with through grammar and high school, and then for a while after high school. We even worked at the same place in 1967 (I think the year is correct). I won't go into all the details of why both of us quit college.

Anyways, one day after work, (we drove together) she said she wanted to move to Macomb, Illinois, home of Western Illinois University. Her boyfriend was there. So, the next morning we "pretended" to go to work. When her mom left for work, we returned to her home, cleaned out her closet and dresser, loaded the car, and headed for Macomb. We got there, she found her boyfriend, **Gary Reed** (January 1964, I think). We unloaded my little VW and I left. That is the LAST time I saw her. That was 38 years ago.

Late last week, I was on our computer and checked for June 64 graduates. There was her name. I could not believe it!

I have wanted so badly to find her all these years. Now, I need your help. If she subscribes to the Newsletter, you can forward my letter to her. If not, maybe someone who gets the Newsletter knows where I can find her. Her Name? **Lillian Norris**. Thank you for anything you can do.

**Judy (Waters) Grundke** (June 1964)  
Arlington Heights, IL

**Subject:** reunion/thanks

Dear Kay,

Thanks for the quick reply. I really appreciate your help once again. I'll remember to send you the information from now on, now that I know. I'm getting over my most recent surgery, a hysterectomy, so I'm on slow freight for a while, but we are hoping to get a date shortly. If we have one before the next issue, doubtful, I certainly will let you know.

Thanks again, Kay. Hope you and Tom are enjoying you new digs.

**Frances (Marino) Hughes** (June 1953)  
Bowlingbabe1@msn.com

**Subject:** reunion/

Hi Jerry, Kay and Tom,

Thanks for keeping us all together by way of the Taft Alumni Newsletter.

For all those 1953 Grads, who are wondering about a 50-year celebration, yes, there will be one. We haven't determined exactly when or where, but I plan to start contacting my classmates very soon to get the show on the road. Of course, anyone who would like to participate in the plans is free to contact me, either by phone, mail or e-mail.

Our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion was quite a success. With people like **Marlene (Fenske) Douglas, Judi (Hardman) Moers, Ed Iverson, Don Gregornik**, just to name a few. How could we miss?

The reunion is a joint effort and can't be accomplished solely by one person. We appreciate all the ideas and help we can get. We would also appreciate hearing from anyone who has a new address so we can send information regarding the upcoming reunion in 2003.

**Frances (Marino) Hughes** (June 1953)  
Bowlingbabe1@msn.com

Taft Alumni Newsletter:

Just want to say how much I enjoy getting the letters. Enclosed is an "obit" notice of James E. Szurek from our local newspaper. [See "In Our Memories"] We left Chicago for McHenry County (Cary) in 1961 and to Woodstock in 1971. We met Dr. Szurek through his dental practice. However the subject of where we had gone to school had never come up and I was surprised to read this. I'm guessing that from the date of his

graduation from North Park college in '61 he probably was a Taft grad of 1958 or 1959. My husband was active with him at one time in the Woodstock Lions Club.

Today, we are well and happy living on the Fox River again in the Cary area. We do get together each year with dear old school friends, class of '54: **Barb Topczewski-Martini**, husband deceased: **Marilyn Dillon-Blumquist**; **Marge Hase-Harris**; **Virginia Rosenke-Koelling** and **Arlene Nielson-Vecchio**. After many years of no correspondence with each other, it took the death sadly of Barb's husband to reunite us. In the days when we graduated, our yearbook consisted of the compilation of the past years Taft Tribune. The Prophecy Committee had the brainstorm to write a story about Ralph and I in the future fifteen years. As we attend the opening of the new amusement park, El Dorado Isle, out in Lake Michigan, we encounter in one way or the other all of the classmates. It was written by **Carole Dolesh** with the help of others. Very ingenious. It seems like yesterday. Ralph and I will be married 45 years this October. Time does go by. Anyway, keep up the good work.

**Dorothy A. Teufel-Wenzel** (June 1954)

Dear Kay,

Enclosed is my check to cover four years of the Taft Alumni Newsletter. Sorry, but I am two years behind in payment.

When I read the Spring newsletter about retiring our Taft Eagle as our mascot and getting a new LOGO, I felt like someone punched me in the gut! Why? We all grew up with the TAFT EAGLE. He's on the cover of my yearbook. He is the American symbol. The Eagle signifies strength and determination and that's what our Alumni is all about. A lot of us WAR VETERANS that graduated from Taft look to that Eagle with pride. Before you decide on a winner of the TAA Logo Contest, how about putting this issue up to a vote among the Alumni whether the Eagle stays or is replaced.

I am looking forward to the 1967 reunion in October. I am sorry to hear that **Mrs. Mila Nolan** has died. She, along with **Mr. Stamm**, [was] my music teacher. GOD BLESS.

**Jim Mularz** (June 1967)  
Locust Grove, GA

*[Note from the TAA President: I have received many e-mail's concerning replacing the "Alumni Eagle" logo. We are looking to replace the eagle on the back of the newsletter which I designed 25 years ago when we formed the Alumni Association, not the Taft Eagle, which has been the symbol of Taft since its doors opened in 1939. I hope this puts everyone's fears about the Eagle to rest and inspire many of you artists to come up with something new. Kay Kuciak, President]*

## Remembering Our Teachers

**Subject:** Taft Alumni Newsletter

Guess what? The spring 2002 issue of the Taft Alumni Newsletter arrived today... I really enjoy reading the letter and often wonder how you manage to gather and keep track of all the news. I especially enjoyed the letters to the editor concerning **Dr. Buchwalter**. While I never took German, I did have Dr. Buchwalter for Latin for several years. It was a great class because, although she was really tough, she managed to fill in a great deal of Roman history along with the Latin studies. I too, shall always remember her and I appreciated her as a teacher very much. The letter from **Roy Rauschenberg** [June 1947] about Dr. Buchwalter was particularly interesting.

I also remember Mrs. **Christine Lauscher**. She taught English and was our Senior Class advisor. I was the Senior Prom Chairman and I worked closely with her. She guided us correctly and made sure that everything we did was appropriate. Her English classes were a delight too; she instilled a genuine interest in reading in me.

Thanks again for doing a great job on the newsletter.

**Richard E. Scott** (June 1946)  
Mountainside, NJ  
Richard\_SuzannaScott@msn.com

*[Editor's Note: Thanks for the kind remarks. The greatest source of history on Taft and its teachers and students is from our own alumni. Please keep the letters, photos, emails, etc. coming! We all enjoy them. J. Bloom, TAA newsletter editor]*

Hi, Kay & Tom

This is to inform you as of July 29, 2002, I will have a new mailing address. [I] close on my house here in Tenn. 7-19, & the new one in Illinois 7-26. Yes, am moving back "home" to Illinois. My family is beckoning me to come back, especially my grandchildren. So, next month I make the move.

Also, want to tell you, how much I enjoy this newspaper & all the interesting articles. Reading about some of the teachers whose names are familiar to me, brings back a lot of nice memories. Enjoyed reading about **Miss Devenish**, as I had her for sewing & foods classes. Along with **Miss Nielson**. [I] think about some of the teachers & wonder if some are still with us. One I often think of is **Mrs. Suter**. She taught Science. One in particular, is always in my thoughts, & probably with a lot of other alumni, is **Mrs. Walker** [Phys.Ed]. We kept in touch until her passing. She was a wonderful person/teacher.

Thanks so much for all your hard work with this paper. Your efforts are extremely appreciated. Thanks for sending the one edition of the paper [thought I'd lost it]. And of course, after receiving it, I found the other.

Always the way. Still haven't found what I was looking for. Went thru a lot of past issues, & know I read about a particular person, & to this day, cannot find the information. Think I wrote you about it, & wondered if you ever found out anything about him? His name was **Ron Schilke**. He's a cousin to **Marcia Murray**. She graduated after me, & he graduated before. Think Ron graduated in 1953 or 54. Not sure. If you should happen to come across anything about either of them, would you please let me know? [I] lost track of Marcia after graduation. Know her family [& she] moved to Deerfield. Last I knew of them.

Thanks for all you do to make the paper a huge success, & for any help you can offer me about Ron & Marcia.

**Paula Hovland** (January 1956)  
GPHOVLAND@aol.com

Hi,

How great that **Dr. Buchwalter** (German), **Mr. McCalmont** (chemistry), **Mr. Osborne** (U.S. History) are remembered. May I add **Chrissie Loscher** who taught us impeccable punctuation and usage – as seniors.

**Jean (Whitehead) Smith** (June 1946)

Dear Editor & Staff:

I appreciate your marvelous good work in publishing the Taft Alumni Newsletter. I have told friends about my high school alumni newsletter, I've shown it to them. All wish their schools had an alumni association and publication.

In a recent letter to the editor someone mentioned Mr. Dolnitsky. He was my home room teacher – what a character. Total uncontrol!

During my years at Taft yearbooks were not allowed. I've never really known why. What a shame.

I continue to work at a seasonal job April to December. I make reservations for individuals coming to Branson. Working these months keeps me busy, then I really enjoy my winters at home. Branson is a great place for seniors to find employment, whether its for necessity or just something to do.

**Barbara (Roess) Siwik** (June 1953)

### New e-mail Address

Due to the server going out of business, we have changed our contact address. Please update your records to reach us at: **taftalum@cox.net**  
Our Website address remains the same:  
**www.taftalumni.org**

## Scholarships Continued from Page 1

spent 4 years as Latina Peer Facilitator, bringing the awareness at Taft to issues such as diversity, racism and stereotype. Although she was accepted at three different universities, she decided to follow her brother's example and accepted to enroll at Iowa State University in Ames, IA, majoring in Speech Pathology with a minor in Latino/a American Studies.

We would like to encourage any other classes who might unfortunately lose a classmate to consider setting up a scholarship fund in memory of their classmate. It's easy to do. Checks should be made out to the Taft Alumni Association and sent to TAA at Taft's address, with a complete note of explanation as to whose memory the scholarship will be, their class, etc., and a contact person with address and phone. If there is a specific criteria for the recipient, the scholarship committee will abide by that, or a person(s) representing the group could certainly be involved in the selection.

## Parade Marshall from Taft

Norwood Park's annual Memorial Day parade this year honored former Taft teacher, **Joe Giambrone**. Besides teaching business courses at Taft High School for 17 years, he previously taught at other Chicago schools 13 years, and then retired to go into selling real estate full time. He is president of the Norwood Park Citizens Association, treasurer and past president of the Norwood Park Memorial Association, past commander of American Legion Post 740, and past president of the Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also worked ten years for the Cook County's Sheriff's Department.

Joe was also involved with many local groups, such as the Lions, Kiwanis, Norwood Park Garden Club, Italian American Police Association and Park Ridge Veterans of Foreign Wars.

However, the honor of heading this year's parade was mainly due to his service in the Army Air Corps during WWII. With his training as a gunner, he was assigned to a B-17 squadron that was based in England and flew 32 missions over Nazi-held territory in France and Germany. We are proud to have had the opportunity to honor this dedicated man.

## New Members Wanted

The Taft Alumni Association is always looking for alumni who are not currently members of our Association. If you know anyone who is not a member, please contact the Taft Alumni Association, 6545 W. Hurlbut Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631 or e-mail us at [taftalum@cox.net](mailto:taftalum@cox.net).

## Taft Library Updated

Thanks to the efforts of Taft librarian, **Jeanette Mehr**, we will be getting a new 3M detection system to help the library reduce losses of valuable library materials. She applied for a special grant through the American Association of School Librarians and was one of 112 middle and high schools in the United States to receive this grant, which amounts to approximately \$15,000 for Taft. It is part of the 2002 3M Salute to Schools program. The system is anticipated to be in place for the upcoming fall semester.

## NJROTC Marquez Memorial Award

A special honor was awarded last month to a deserving NJROTC student, Roberto Cuevas (class of 2005). This memorial award was created this year by Taft's Naval JROTC program in honor of Chicago Police officer Donald J. Marquez who was killed in the line of duty in March 2002. He was a resident of Oriole Park area and his wife a member of the Taft office staff. Their son, Donald, Jr. attends Taft H.S. Each year the NJROTC will present this award to a cadet who shows dedication, devotion and commitment in their duties with the NJROTC

"The Taft High School Navy JROTC is one of the top Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit in the city. The Taft Eagles earned the Distinguished Unit Award, given by the chief of Naval Education and Training. The award is given to the top 20 percent of the more than 500 units nationwide."

*[Alan Schmidt, staff writer, Edison-Norwood Times, Pioneer Press; May 30, 2002 issue].*

## Classmates In the News

Did you see the nice article on **Jim Downing** (January 1943) that was in the May 16, 2002 issue of Edison-Norwood Times (Pioneer Press)? It highlighted his experiences in the Navy Armed Guard during WWII and his years afterwards of teaching acting and ballroom dancing in Park Ridge and Edison Park. He is currently volunteering as storyteller at Ebinger Grammar School, where he and his brothers attended as a child during the Depression years.

## 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 can help you in **your** search by publishing names in this newsletter. If that party responds to us, we forward that person's name/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.

## 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, fundraisers and donations, we have occasionally sponsored productions at Taft to encourage continuing interest in the drama department. A special drama workshop headed by a Taft alumnus and our Taft students performed a specially written play 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 are \$15 bi-annually. 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 obtained 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 Taft Alumni 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!

## Do You Remember?

By *Juanita Amado Phillips (1958)*

We went to school each day by bus. You could obtain a buss pass from your homeroom teacher each semester that would allow you to take the bus for ten cents a ride. Parking a car was for faculty only and if you were lucky enough to drive a car, you had to register it with Mr. Miller and part it on the street.

Twice a month on a Friday night, there was a dance held in the gym. There were dance instructions from 7:30 to 8:30 and General Dancing was from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m. The cost was \$.50. Girls were to wear ordinary street dresses, no slacks or jeans. The boys were to wear suit coats and ties. If you were to go to the "show", you would go to the Times Theater or the Gateway Theater in Jefferson Park or the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge. There was an Outdoor Theater at Harlem and Irving. The Hub Roller Rink was a popular place to go as well as Riverview, where if you went on certain days, the rides were only five cents.

Pizza was very popular then as it is now. Favorites were Orsi's in Edison Park, Canale's on Higgins Road near Harlem, El Centro at Elston and Central and Brigante's Salad Bowl on Harlem at Belmont. If you wanted a hot dog or hamburger, our Arnold's was Super Dawg at Nagle and Milwaukee, which is still there.

We listened to music by Elvis Presley, Pat Boone, Kingston Trio, the Four Lads, Four Aces, etc. and we heard it on the Howard Miller radio show. The clothing that the girls wore were felt shirts, white bucks, saddle shoes, peter pan collared blouses with a little bunch of flowers pinned at the neck. We had scarves tied to our pony tails. The guys would have crew cuts, or DA's, draped pants, box-toes shoes, pink shirts with T.C. collars and skinny ties. They also wore white bucks and, if they were not going with a particular girl, they wore their letterman's sweater or she may be wearing it.

You took an active part during high school by being a part of sports, cheerleading or R.O.T.C., French, German or Spanish clubs, drama, chorus, orchestra and band, chess science or inventors clubs, or worked on the Taft Trib, at the Box Office, the Aerie (yearbook) or be a teacher's helper. Several worked as hall guards or in the lunchroom.

The "TAFT CODE" was presented to help smooth the way of life in the area where student, teachers, and parents meet – that they may do the right thing at the right time and in the right way. DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?

## THE TAA EAGLE RETIRES!!

Say farewell to our old logo and help us find a new one. Put your artistic talents to work! Create a new mascot for the TAA that will reflect the pride and spirit of Taft High School

Artwork may be hand drawn or computer generated, but it must be original. The entry should be submitted in black and white on 8 ½ x 11 paper and mailed in a 9 x 12 envelope—please, do not fold the artwork

Don't forget to include:

- √ Your Name      √ Your Telephone
- √ Your Address    √ Your Graduation



Questions? Send your query to the TAA address listed below or e-mail at [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org).

Send entries to:  
*Taft Alumni Association  
6545 West Hurlbut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60631*

You must be a paid TAA member to enter. The TAA Board of Directors will judge entries, but it's not a contest without a prize.

Our winner will receive an exquisite crystal eagle and the satisfaction of seeing his or her creation featured on new TAA items.

Deadline: Submissions must be received by September 1, 2002. The lucky winner will be announced in the Fall issue of the Newsletter



<b>TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM</b>			
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. <b>Return to: Taft Alumni Association</b> <b>6545 W. Hurlbut St.</b> <b>Chicago IL 60631</b>			
			<i>Summer 2002</i>

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**President:** Kay Kuciak (1963)  
**Alumni Liaison** Frank Heyer (1948)  
**Vice-president:** Jeraldene Bloom (1962)  
**2nd Vice President:** Anne Lunde (1969)  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Shirley DeWeese (1960)  
**Directors:**  
 Cliff Raiman (1947) Tom Kuciak (1962)  
 Joe Popp (1966) Paulette English (1967)  
 Barb Rodriguez (1970) Kevin Kreiger (1973)  
 Judi Lenihan (1973) Mike Guercio (1978)  
 Michael Marras (1982)

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 Website – http://www.taftalumni.org

**Teacher Rep:** Mike Hionis

## 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.

The Taft Alumni Association publishes Taft Alumni Newsletter quarterly. Send all general correspondence and changes of address: Taft Alumni Association, 6545 W. Hurlbut St., Chicago, IL 60631 or E-mail at **Taftalum@cox.net**.  
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