



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVII No. 3

Summer 2003

## Welcome Taft Class of 2003

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2003! 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 only \$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.

## Alumni Association Awards Five Scholarships

In a magnanimous gesture, the Taft Alumni Association Executive Board voted to award a record five scholarships for the class of 2003. A special \$200 scholarship, donated by the Taft class of 1967 was awarded to **Tzviatko Chiderov**. Arriving in the United States from Bulgaria in April 2000, he quickly assimilated into his studies and became a member of the National Honor Society and graduated with six departmental awards, including one from the English Department. Considering he knew only a few basic phrases in English when he came to this country, he was most proud of that award. **Tzviatko** plans to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in computer science. He is particularly interested in web design and computer programming.

A second scholarship was given in honor of **Robert Hendricksen** from the class of 1960. This \$1000 award went to **Magdalena Kamperda**. In addition, three \$500 scholarships were given to graduates **Denisa Anghel**, **Alba Escobar** and **Katie Reykjalin**.

**Denisa Anghel** - \$500.00 TAA Award - Her goal is a career in Marketing/Business. She has applied to and been accepted by both De Paul and Loyola. She has too many extra activities to list. She was 8<sup>th</sup>, in class standing.

**Alba Escobar** - \$500.00 TAA award - Not sure of her career path yet but is leaning towards Marketing. Has applied to and been accepted by Loyola, UIC, Tulsa Univ. and Ill. State. Member of Poetry Club and Int. Baccalaureate program. Was 16<sup>th</sup>, in class standing.

**Katie Reykjalin** - \$500.00 TAA award - Becoming a Forensic Scientist is her goal. Has applied to and been accepted by Loyola and UIC. Spent over 300 hours as a volunteer at the Field Museum speaking to visitors about fossils. During Spring Break she assisted handicapped children at the Duvall Home in Florida. Was 59<sup>th</sup>, in class standing.

**Malgorzata Kamperda** - \$1000.00 Hendricksen Award - Her career goal is to become a Pediatrician has applied to and been accepted by UIC, Ill. Univ. (Champagne), and Loyola. Member of Nat'l. Honor Soc. in Soph., Jr. and Sr. years. Extra activities, Soccer team, Senior Council, Unarmed Exhibition ROTC. Was 11th in class standing.

**Tzviatko Chiderov** - \$200.00 Class of '67 Award - Wants to be a Computer Programmer for a large software company. Applied to and been accepted by, Univ. Ill. Champaign, IIT, De Paul Univ. Chi. As in the case of **Denisa**, **Tzviatko** has too many activities to list. Was 9<sup>th</sup>, in class standing.

# CLASS REUNIONS

## Second Annual all Taft Classes

Date: February 29, 2004  
Place: De Soto Park, St Petersburg, FL  
Contact: **Leon Kathan**  
1729 N W Madrid Way  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
leonkathan@yahoo.com

## 1946 – June

Date: September 26-27, 2003  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Barbara (Lawton) Loeschen**  
SarasotaBarb@webtv.net

## 1948

Date: September 20, 2003  
Place: O'Hare Marriott  
Contact: **Frank Heyer** - (773) 631-4701  
frankheyer@email.msn.com

## 1953 – June

Date: September 5-7, 2003  
Place: Indian Lake CC, Bloomingdale, IL  
Contact: **Frances (Marino) Hughes**  
(847) 698-5475 - 117 N. Broadway  
Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

## 1955 – June

Date: 2005  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Bill and Sue Oberheide**  
(847) 823-1955

## 1963 – January/June

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

## 1964 - June

Date: Are we planning one?  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Judy Waters Grundke**  
PJGrundke@aol.com

## 1993

Date: August 9, 2003  
Place: Marriott - O'Hare  
Contact: Brandee (Abbott) Taber  
BrandeeTaber@juno.com

## Other Reunions

### 1957-1958 Taft Baseball teams

Date: September 12-14, 2003  
Place: To be announced  
Contact: **Lynn Terry** (June 1957)  
(415) 751-4579 (theterrys@earthlink.net or  
**Denny Pickett** (June 1958) –  
(815) 758-2777 dekpickett@niu.edu

### 1980-1984 Performing Arts Party

Date: August 9, 2003  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Helga Richter** (1983)– 847-551-3365 or  
**Ingrid (Jillich) Myszka** (1983) – 309-378-3600  
Or myszka7@juno.com

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL REUNIONS

### 1958 – June – Norwood Park Grammar School

Date: September 12-13, 2003  
Place: Crippen House Museum –  
Norwood Park Historical Society  
5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago  
Contact: **Jerry (Beesley) Bloom**  
(920) 743-8449 - jbbloom@charter.net

### 1964 – Ebinger Grammar School

Date: To be determined – Can we do it?  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Yoit (Pat Stratton) Callaghan**  
yoitycakes@msn.com

## Performing Arts Reunion Party

**Helga Richter** (1983) and **Ingrid Jillich Myszka** (1983) are planning a Performing Arts Reunion Party on Saturday, August 9, 2003. All that were involved in Chorus, Drama, Traveling Troupe, etc., from 1980 through 1984 are welcome. Bring the family for a day of old friends, food and fun. For more information and to RSVP please call Helga at 847-551-3365 or Ingrid at 309-378-3600.

## Beating Drums to Retirement

Ending a thirty-four year career with the Chicago Public Schools, Taft Steel Band director Lloyd Hoover retired this June. Hoover transferred to Taft from Clemente High School in 1995 and shortly formed a new band at Taft – with steel drums. The program gained popularity quickly and many concerts were highly attended over the next several years. His last official performance was with his students during the Taft International Festival in June. Since steel drums are very unique instruments, this part of the Taft music program will most likely retire with Mr. Hoover. No other teacher at Taft is qualified to carry on this program. The drums will probably be sold.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Jerry and Kay,

Receiving the Taft Alumni newsletter keeps getting better every issue and especially the news and pictures of former classmates. It's great living in the Norwood Park area and having fond memories every day of early years. Thanks for keeping us up to date on our classmates.

Celebrating a May birthday gave us a chance to also have a reunion in Wilmette with classmates from Ohio, Florida and Chicago area. Over the years our topic of conversation has changed but our friendships remains the same.

I knew eight classmates in the last issue; we sure are busy!

**Mariann (Leversen) Erlenbach** (January 1946)



**Eve Stanley Thourson** (Ohio), **Gladys Olafson Healy**, **Shirley Krueger Shaw**, **Ev Fischer Miller** (Florida) and **Mariann Leversen Erlenbach** January 1946 Class.

To TAA:

I really enjoy the newsletter and I would like to seek your help in locating two "lost classmates".

I played in the Taft concert orchestra and concert band for four years and the concertmaster of the orchestra was **Bill Schneider**, who was an out-standing violinist. I also played in the Northwest Jr. Symphony Orchestra and **Bill Schneider** beat out **Franz Benteler** from Lane Tech and has been a professional violinist in Chicago for the job as concertmaster of that orchestra. **Bill** also had a brother, **Dan Schneider** who played trumpet in the orchestra

and who graduated with me in January 1945. I would sure like to know if anyone has any information as to the location of these two Taft graduates.

Thanks for your help,

**Gerald Tapp** (January 1945)

*[Editor's note: Please see "Lost Classmates" section, elsewhere in this issue. If you can help, send your information to TAA. There is a \$5 suggested donation for this service. J. Bloom, Editor]*

Dear Kay and Alumni,  
I have been getting quite a kick out of seeing all of the comments and pictures concerning the Norwood Park Drum & Bugle Corps. I had a load of pictures somewhere and have not uncovered them since our last move, but it is a wonderful reminder of one of the activities that kept us all busy during our high school years. I had visited my sister in Elk Grove about 4 or 5 years ago and one evening she invited a number of our old acquaintances from the Corps for the evening and what a great time it was. There were quite a few of them that attended Taft so we built up some really strong friendships.

**Dick Murbach** (January 1950)  
oneoldram32@Alvcm.com

Dear Alumni Staff,

The new logo is great! And so is the newsletter. It revives many memories of my years at Taft from 1939 to 1943. I played a piano solo and accompanied the Girl's Chorus in the 1942 spring concert. Those were wonderful years for me. The baseball photos and stories in the autumn edition recalled my love of baseball. I joined a church team but had to drop out due to my bifocals. Couldn't catch flyballs. My brother, **Bob Holiday**, 1941, who was the class clown of the year, played on Taft's first team. He commanded a Marine fighter squadron in WW2 and the Korean Conflict, then died at the age of 44 from cancer.

I was thrilled to read of **George Zima's** induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame. I lived for a while at his house in 1945 when housing was scarce and played "The Sheik of Araby" as George performed his tapdancing. On a trip to California after the war ended in August 1945, we happened to eat in a restaurant in San Francisco where George and Mildred were featured on stage under their stage names of George and Mickey Winters.

**Betty (Holiday) Boggus**  
(January 1943)

To TAA Newsletter Editor:

It seemed almost providential that when my mother arrived for my own two children's high school graduation this weekend that she gave me my sister's copies of the Winter and Spring 2003 Taft Alumni Newsletter. What a treat to read about Taft and my how it has changed!

I suppose we have our courts to thank for the demise of the neighborhood high school most of us knew. The Taft I attended in the early 60s was per-haps the finest public high school in the city. Being on the swim team, coached by **Joe Kupcinet**, we visited many other high schools for our swim meets. I was always surprised with the way they viewed Taft as an almost "ivy league" high school. Only Lane Tech seemed to give us no respect – and usually beat our swim team handsomely.

Here in Raleigh, a high school has a sign that says, "Step inside and feel the pride". That was the Taft I attended.

I had a hint of the change a few years ago when I decided to revamp my letter sweater. Some fool, probably me, had washed it and tossed it in the dryer. My fine wool letter sweater was now a size 7. My daughter, then 15, wore it to school just once but returned it saying, "It was too hot".

I called Taft and asked for the name of the sports store that sells the letter sweaters for Taft. I was politely informed that schools no longer do athletic letters, there is no "letterman's club" and I could probably find a replacement sweater on the Internet.

In Raleigh, I have found several Taft people. My next door neighbor, **Howard Lechler**, graduated from the first Taft class in 1945. I also had another neighbor, Peter Kusterer whose father was my Cub Scout leader at Edison Park Lutheran, but Peter attended Lane.

I believe the Taft teachers prepared us well for the next steps in our lives. How many times I agonized

Dear Jerry,

Just received my Spring 2003 edition of the Alumni newsletter. I was in the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps (B) along with **Joan Denny, Marlene Pawlowski, Marilyn Richter** and another girl (not from Onahan) named **Joyce Wade**. We were the first all girl color guard in Chicago. I was the color guard sergeant and I remember many times giving the wrong command. Originally, our uniform was long maroon pants, white blouse, cap and cape lined in gold satin. Later we wore a short skirt with majorette boots. **Marlene's** Mother made the skirts and panties for us. I have happy memories of the parades, practice and friendships.

Thanks for bringing back joyful times for all of us.

**Arlene (Johnson) Schoessling** (June 1955)



March 1949



July 1950

over learning Spanish, convinced I would never use this language as an engineer. Well, I never became an engineer because God had another plan. Instead I spent a year in Europe and then seven years in Mexico teaching English. I have been on several medical mission trips with my church as a translator and now I do a Bible study in Spanish every Monday night at a nearby prison. Ain't life a hoot?

After 20 years in the executive search business, my wife and I now work full time for the Lord. Christian Library International donates

Christian books and Bibles to YMCAs, homeless shelters, prisons and international missions. We have over 100 outreaches and seem on track to be the largest lending library in the world.

My sincere thanks to those of you who keep the Taft Alumni Newsletter going. I expect it will soon become a paperless web site that we all can look at occasionally. Best wishes to all of you. Taft has a great tradition!

**Anders Skaar** (January 1963)  
askaar@ipass.net

# CLASS NOTES



## 1940s

GEORGE FILLEBROWN (1940) lives in Stuart, FL, has 2 children and is a consultant.

LA VERNE (GUTZMAN) ANDERSON (JUNE 1941) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

LARAINÉ (PETERSON) CASEY-DAYTON (JUNE 1942) lives in Sun City, AZ, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

CAROLYN (RAPPOLD) REID (JUNE 1942) graduated from North Park AA 1944, U of Chgo BS 1946, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

ELIZABETH (HOLIDAY) BOGGUS (JANUARY 1943) lives in Green Forest, AR, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

HELEN (BOOTH) FESS (JANUARY 1943) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired school secretary.

MARGARET (MAREK) NEUMAR (JUNE 1943) lives in Glenview, IL and is retired.

SHIRLEY (RAIMAN) KENNEDY (JANUARY 1944) lives in Chicago, has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

JERRY TAPP (JANUARY 1945) graduated from U of I BS 1949, MA 1964, lives in Teton Village, WY, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

KENNETH TYSSÉN (JANUARY 1945) graduated from U of I BS 1950, lives in Wimberley, TX, has 4 children 2 grandchildren and is a retired electrical engineer.

GERRY (SHRAMEK) PAYSON (JUNE 1945) graduated from U of I BS 1955, lives in Northbrook, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

VIRGINIA (CUMMINS) VEIT (JUNE 1945) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 6 children, 19 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and is retired.

SHIRLEY (SEAHOLM) LUNDGREN (JANUARY 1946) lives in Littleton, CO, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

DOROTHY (BOWEN) MICHELSON (JANUARY 1946) graduated from Northern BA 1961, lives in Punta Gorda, FL and Park Rapids, MN, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired teacher.

ROBERT PLOETZ (JANUARY 1946) lives in Pleasant Prairie, WI, has 6 children, 14 grandchildren and is retired.

EVE THORSON (JANUARY 1946) lives in Westerville, OH, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

JOAN (JEPSEN) BELL (JUNE 1946) lives in Fontana, WI, has 1 child, 1 grandson and is retired.

ROMAN BRYKOWSKI (JUNE 1946) MARRIED TRUDIE (HELMER) (JUNE 1949) he graduated from SW MO St, IL College of Optometry 1951, they live in Cary, IL, have 2 children and he is an optometrist.

DOROTHY (WOLF) GARRITY (JUNE 1946) lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and is retired.

MARILYN (BERGSTROM) MOORE (JUNE 1946) lives in Tacoma, WA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM ROEHL (JUNE 1946) graduated from U of KS BS 1950, Princeton MFA 1955, lives in Noank, CT, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an architect/professor emeritus at City U in NY.

KEN LUTZ (JUNE 1947) graduated from Lawrence BS 1951, lives in State College, PA, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

MARILYN (HANISCH) WENNERSTROM (JUNE 1947) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

MARY (CONN) BRILANDO (JANUARY 1948) lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM PEESEL (JANUARY 1948) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

JEROME ROGERS (JUNE 1948) lives in Richmond, IL, has 7 children, 13 grandchildren and is retired.

DOLORES (MEYER) POWELL (JANUARY 1949) lives in Vallejo, CA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM BLAZEK (JUNE 1949) has 1 child, lives in Wheaton, IL and is a customer service rep.

DONALD JAMES (JUNE 1949) graduated from Beloit BS 1953, lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

PHILIP KLEZEK (JUNE 1949) graduated from Purdue BS 1953, lives in Brighton, MI, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

BARBARA (LATTNER) KOSMEN (JUNE 1949) graduated from Chicago School of Nursing, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

## 1950s

RICHARD MURBACH (JANUARY 1950) lives in Las Vegas, NV, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren and is retired.

RUTH (EGELAND) WITTHOEFT (JANUARY 1950) lives in Unionville, CT, has 1 child and is retired.

ED GAVUA (JUNE 1950) lives in Arlington Hts, IL and is retired.

CHARLENE (STUECKEMANN) JOHNSON (JUNE 1950) lives in Appleton, WI and has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

BETTY (HARRIGAN) ROCHE (JUNE 1950) graduated from Northern BSEd 1969, lives in Brandon, FL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

RON PLOETZ (JANUARY 1951) lives in Mesa, AZ and is retired.

ROBERT EBENHAHN (JUNE 1951) graduated from U of No Dk 1953, U of IA BSC 1955, lives in Saratoga, CA, has 3 children and is a retired airline pilot.

ROSEMARIE (YELE) SIMPSON (JUNE 1951) lives in Lady Lake, FL, has 3 children (also graduated from Taft), 5 grandchildren and is retired.

THOMAS VRABEC (JANUARY 1952) lives in Lake Barrington, IL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is a builder and business owner.

JAMES FIZZELL (JANUARY 1953) graduated from U of I BS 1957, MS 1962, Loyola Law, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 6 children, 12 grandchildren. (see related article elsewhere in newsletter).

JOHN LA GORIO (JANUARY 1953) lives in Sarasota, FL, has 2 children and is retired.

DAVID BENTLEY (JUNE 1953) lives in Decatur, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is the owner of a bowling center.

MARILYN (ERICKSON) RAPINCHUK (JUNE 1953) graduated from West Suburban Hosp RN 1956, lives in Oakdale, CA, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is an RN.

DANIEL RICE (JUNE 1953) graduated from Northwestern BA 1957, Drew U BD 1961, PhD 1966, lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is a college professor.

JANET (REBSCHER) EASTMAN (JANUARY 1954) lives in Northbrook, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a meeting planner.

WAYNE MIONSKE (JUNE 1954) graduated from Concordia BA 1959, Luth School of Theol. STM 1964, U of WI MS 1969, lives in Racine, WI and is a retired Episcopal Priest.

JEAN (PLANK) SCHWEDA (JUNE 1954) graduated from Quincy College BA History 1976, lives in Quincy, IL, has 1 child and is retired.

ROBERT STANEK (JUNE 1954) graduated from U of I

# CLASS NOTES

BFA 1959, lives in Marietta, GA and is retired.

GERALD THOMSEN (JUNE 1954) MARRIED AGNES (MALLAK) (JUNE 1953), they live in Sun City AZ and Florence, WI, have 5 children, 2 grandchildren and are retired.

NANCY (SMITH) BECHTOLD (JANUARY 1955) lives in Arlington Hs, IL, has 4 children (all graduated from Taft), 8 grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM HERBST (JUNE 1955) graduated from IL State BS 1959, Northern MS 1964, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

JEAN (NIELSEN) LEHMAN (JUNE 1955) lives in Galena, IL and is retired.

ROLF NORMANN (JANUARY 1956) MARRIED KAY (BERG) (JANUARY 1959) they live in Scottsdale, AZ and Washington Island, WI, have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and are retired.

AUDREY (HILL) STANTON (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Elmhurst College, American Academy of Art, lives in Brookings, OR, has 6 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired graphic artist.

D. PATRICK RAETZMAN (JUNE 1957) graduated from U of I BS 1961, Geo. Washington MSA 1978, lives in San Diego, CA, has 4 children and is retired.

LAWRENCE FOERSTER (JANUARY 1958) graduated from U of So IN BA 1972, lives in Elgin, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is an account executive for Yellow Pages.

DONALD GIFFORD (JANUARY 1958) graduated from IA State BS 1963, lives in Glen Ellyn, IL, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a sales engineer.

MIKE BAIN (JUNE 1958) graduated from De Paul BS 1975, Northwestern AA 1971, lives in Chicago and is retired.

SANDRA (BARTOS) BANNER (JUNE 1958) lives in Clive, IA, has 1 child and is a travel agent.

CLIFFORD STOLL (JUNE 1958) graduated from Wright AA 1960, De Vry AA 1963,

lives in Columbus, OH, has 2 children and is retired.

BARBARA STEWART (JUNE 1958) graduated from Northern BA 1962, MA 1971, lives in Chicago and is a retired teacher.

MARY LYNNE (MARCUS) BARRIS (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Western IL BA, lives in Redlands, CA and is a college instructor.

MILLICENT (EICHIN) ISAACSON (JUNE 1959) lives in Deerfield, IL and is owner of Hookers Nook in Deerfield.

## 1960s

NORM PHOENIX (JUNE 1960) graduated from Wright AA 1963, IIT BSEE 1967, MSEE 1972, lives in Chicago and is an electrical engineer.

CONRAD STOLL (JANUARY 1961) MARRIED JANET (KNOLL) (JUNE 1962) they live in Wheaton, IL, have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and he is an Optometrist.

WILLIAM SARACCO (JUNE 1960) MARRIED LYNN HIBARGER (JUNE 1962) they live in Snellville, GA, have 5 children and 2 grandchildren.

MARSHA (ROBINSON) KANABLE (JUNE 1962) lives in Columbus, IN, has 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

JOYCE (ERLANDSEN) KLODNICKI (JUNE 1962) graduated from U of I BS Nursing 1966, Rolling College MA Counseling 1987, lives in Rockledge, FL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

RICHARD HOEHN (JANUARY 1963) MARRIED MARGE (SAUER) (JUNE 1964) they live in Chicago, have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are retired.

BARBARA (BOLLING) RIMINGTON (JANUARY 1963) graduated from Augustana BA 1967, lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a part time interior designer.

LEON SCHURTER (JUNE 1963) lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, has 2 children and is an attorney/negotiator.

DIANA (RHODES) WEST (JUNE 1963) lives in Thomson, IL, has 5 children, 5

grandchildren and is in full time ministry with her husband at Cordova Dragway Park.

LINDA (BERG) HERMANN (JUNE 1964) lives in Kent, OH, has 2 children and is an assistant to the President at Kent State.

LAURA (VALTERS) SCHULTZ (JANUARY 1965) lives in Montague, MI, has 2 children and is a school secretary.

MARIE (MARQUARDT) RODGERS (JUNE 1965) graduated from Interior Designs Inst. 2001, lives in Irvine, CA and has 2 children.

CHERYL (KOSLOFF) KOPINSKI (JANUARY 1966) lives in Norridge, IL and is a word processor for a law firm.

JACK BRISENO (JUNE 1966) lives in Naperville, IL, has 2 children and is a director of clinical services and owner of Rustic Pines Lodge in Whitewater, WI.

WILLIAM OTT (JUNE 1966) graduated from De Vry BEET 1976, Keller Grad School MBA 1988, lives in Naperville, IL and is an engineer and Captain in the US Navy Reserve.

WAYNE GIBSON (JANUARY 1967) lives in Arlington Hts, IL and is a postal clerk.

MEL ELLINGSEN (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Western IL BS 1971, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 2 children and is in sales administration.

AL SIEWERT (JUNE 1967) lives in Williamaston, MI and is a sales manager at Sears.

AVIS (THORNTON) WALKER (JUNE 1967), graduated from Northeastern BA 1974, lives in Glenview, IL, has 5 children and is an advertising copywriter.

WAYNE GENERAL (1968) graduated from Loyola BS Psych. 1972, FL Inst of Tech PhD 1980, and lives in Mesa, AZ and is a clinical psychologist.

GAIL (MATHISEN) CRISTOE (1969) GRADUATED FROM Northeastern 1973, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

## 1970s

JEAN JASTER (1971) graduated from North Park BSN 1976,

lives in Palatine, IL and is an RN.

DIANE (RUTLEDGE) SUNDBERG (1971) graduated from Milton College BA 1975, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children and is a teacher's aide for students with learning disabilities.

NANCY (HINRICHS) WARMOTH (1971) graduated from U of I BSF 1975, De Paul MBA 1981, lives in Downers Grove, IL, has 2 children and is an accountant.

CINDY (COUMBE) CLAYTON (1972) graduated Western IL BS 1976, Northern MA 1983, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children and is a library media center director.

JAMES GARZINO (1972) MARRIED KAREN (MC DONOUGH) (1973) he graduated from SIU BS Fire Science Mgmt 2003, they live in Naperville, IL, James is a paramedic/firefighter and Karen is an accounting clerk.

TERESA (TISINA) NOWAK (1973) lives in Lake In The Hills, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a Police Officer.

DIANE (SICILIANO) BUGAJSKI (1975) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 1 child and is an audit assistant.

CYNTHIA (CLAY) CROUSE (1975) graduated from Columbia College SA 1991, lives in Crystal Lake, IL and is a CEO int'l trade assoc. also competes in adult national level in ice skating.

LAURIE (HILLSTROM) KARMAN (1975) graduated from Western IL BBA 1978, U of I MBA 1984, lives in Springfield, IL and is a credit manager for the utility company.

SAM MECCIA (1975) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is an exec VP in business insurance.

LARRY COFFEY (1976) lives in Kildeer, IL, has 2 children and is an insurance account manager.

SANDRA (SANDERSON) DARNELL (1976) lives in Lake Zurich, IL, has 2 children and is a housewife.

# CLASS NOTES

RUSSELL ANDERSON (1977) lives in Spring Grove, IL, has 2 children and is a firefighter/paramedic

JOHN MATELING (1977)  
MARRIED KAREN (BECKER) (1977) he graduated from Northwestern BS 1981, U of I MS Public Health, Karen graduated from U of I BS 1981, they live in Grayslake, IL, have 4 children, John is a sr. safety specialist at American

Pharmaceutical Partners and Karen works for Grayslake school district as an occupational therapist.

KAREN (KLODA)  
STOLZMAN (1977) lives in Lake Forest, IL, has 4 children and is self-employed.

## 1980s

JOHN GILMORE (1980) graduated from Milwaukee

School of Engr. BS 1986, AAS EMT 2003, lives in Racine, WI, has 2 children and is a K9 handler on search and rescue team.

RICK MALCZYNSKI (1982) graduated from US Naval Academy BS 1986, lives in Geneva, IL, has 3 children and does sensitivity training and wedding planning.

LISA (ALBERTI) CONTE (1983) graduated from De Paul

BS 1986, U of I CPA 1987, MBA 1991, CEB 1991, lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a housewife.

## 1990s

JOSE BELLO (1999) lives in Chicago, graduated 2003 from U of Chicago BA Biology, expecting his MD in 2007.

## In Our Memories

**Richard C. Wessell, Sr.**, class of 1940 died June 27, 2003 after long bout with stomach cancer. He was a Des Plaines newsman well respected in his profession.

**William Lessmann**, class of January 1942 passed away on February 8, 2002.

**Vivian (Cripe) Lutz**, class of January 1942 died on May 19, 2003.

**John Granath**, class of June 1943 passed away on April 24, 2003 unexpectedly, recovering from surgery.

**Walter Kosmen**, class of June 1945, passed away on August 26, 2002.

**Robert (Rusty) Petersen**, class of June 1946 passed away on April 15, 2003 from a stroke.

**John Truelsen**, class of June 1949, passed away in March, 2003.

**Allen Mieritz**, class of June 1952 passed away in February 2003 after heart surgery.

**Ann (Breen) Wrisley**, class of January 1953 passed away in Spring 2003.

**Jerry Mieritz**, class of June 1955 passed away in June 2003 after a heart attack.

**Donald Learn**, Class of June 1955 died of cancer on June 18, 2003.

## 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 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 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 Avenues 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, which covers two years. Why bother? What do I get from it? Yes, I'm already an alumnus, so why do I need a "membership card"?

As "Sponsoring Alumni" you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high school alumni in the area. It is a fact that Taft graduates are dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition with which few other high schools can compare. We got our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring. 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.

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

## Classmates in the News

**James Fizzell** (January 1953) became a horticulturist after growing up in Edison Park with an avid interest in gardening and plants. He publishes gardening columns for 200 Midwest newspapers as well as writes numerous articles for professional horticultural association publications. Thirteen books has been authored by Master Gardener James Fizzell, with his latest being the "Illinois Gardener's Guide." It is a revised edition this year and can be found at most garden centers and book stores in the area. You may see him, on occasion as a featured guest on TV or radio. His most coveted honor is the Linneaus Award from the Chicago Horticulture Society for lifetime contributions. Jim formed his own company, James A. Fizzell & Associates and is a consultant to the commercial horticulture industry. He also regularly works with landscape contractors on major projects around the Chicago area.

The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) has installed a new president and elected a new governing council. All terms began on July 1, 2003. **Carl Peterson** (1959) is the new president.

Mr. Peterson, is a Senior Consultant with Wiss Janney Elstner Associates Inc. His specialty is the application of engineering principles to forensic evaluation of structural failures, distress and deterioration and restoration of such structures.

As the new president, Mr. Peterson has outlined an agenda that addresses a number of challenges. The agenda emphasizes the following: Increase training and technical courses to improve the quality of engineering work and projects while also meeting increased continuing education credits for Illinois Structural Engineer licensure requirements; Maintain level of Association services by increasing membership; Advance dialogue with other construction industry related organizations to assist in coordination, prioritizing and scheduling conflicts for SEAOI members; Foster greater interaction between Civil/Structural Engineers and our communities; Inform the Public on who SEAOI is and what Structural Engineers do; Maintain pressure against re-enacting of the Structural Work Act; and Promote expansion of the role of structural engineers.

The Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI) is an organization established in 1965 to represent all licensed structural engineers in the State of Illinois. SEAOI monitors legislation affecting the design profession. The association recognizes distinguished engineers and holds an annual design competition honoring excellence in structural engineering. SEAOI holds monthly dinner programs to keep the practicing structural engineer aware of the latest advancements in the field. Interested parties are invited to contact the organization at (312) 372-4198 or

visit the SEAOI website at [www.seaoi.org](http://www.seaoi.org) regarding membership and general information about the association's activities.

## Color Guard Champions

Taft High School's NJROTC (Naval Junior Officers Reserve Training Corps Color Guard won top honors in the April, 2003 citywide Chicago Public Schools color guard competition.

Billed as the "first annual" competition, 43 city schools participated that have ROTC programs representing the various US military branches. Taft has the only Naval JROTC program in the city, and is very proud of its status. The Taft unit was a four-member color guard that was judged on their abilities to execute a series of commands. They won two trophies – for best North side school and the best school overall. Team members were **Jason Trotter, Joel Garcia, Edward Makowski** and **Brandon Mecher**.

## 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, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631.

The following are Taft graduates who are asking for your help.

**Gerald Tapp** (January 1945) is looking for **Bill** and **Dan Schneider** from the Taft concert orchestra of the 40s. See his note in "Letters to the Editor."

**James Argyropoulos (James Argyris)** would like to locate a couple of his friends/classmates. They are **Tim Petersen** (or Peterson) and **Gerhardt Gotlieb**, both of the January 1964 class.



## What a Difference...

The year is 1903 ... one hundred years ago ... what a difference a century makes! Here are some of the US statistics for 1903:

- The average life expectancy in the US was 47 years.
- Only 14% of the homes in the US had a bathtub.
- Only 8% of the homes had a telephone.
- A 3-minute call (Denver to NYC) cost \$11.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the US, and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The max. speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st-most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the US was 22-cents/hour.
- The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95% of all births in the US took place at home.
- 90% of US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."
- Sugar cost four-cents/pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee, fifteen cents/pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.
- The five leading causes of death in the US were:
  1. Pneumonia and influenza
  2. Tuberculosis
  3. Diarrhea
  4. Heart disease
  5. Stroke
- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- One in ten US adults couldn't read or write. Only 6% of all Americans had graduated high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."
- 18% of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.
- There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US.

**Just think what it will be like in another 100 years...It boggles the mind.**

## Security is Serious Business

Although metal detectors were not a new item at Taft, a new directive was implemented this spring, thanks to heightened security throughout the country. The seldom-used equipment that stood at the main doors will now be used **every** school day. Beginning on June 6, 2003, all students are required to pass through the metal detectors. If something in a student's backpack, purse or other package sets off the alarm, a second scan will be performed on that student with a hand-held wand or, if necessary, searched by hand. Of the over 1700 students that attend Taft each day, early reports of irregularities being brought into the school were small. The biggest infraction was with cell phones. At Taft, cell phones are not allowed, and are considered contraband. When confiscated, parents must retrieve the phones.

### LOST RING FOUND

I'm writing in regards to see if I can get some information. I went metal detecting and found a class ring at the park North on Austin Av. The initials inside are EAC and year of 1964. I was wondering if you have a yearbook or an Alumnae list that would give me a name and address, so I could contact them. I would appreciate any information, I would like to return this to them. It's a boy's ring.

**Frank Yeager**  
Mansfield, Ohio

*President's note: I received this letter and had my brother check his yearbook and found the person, but I thought OK this is where it ends because usually I can't come up with a current address. Well, when checking our active files I came up with the name, address and phone number. I called this person and sure enough he had lost the ring before his graduation, connected up the two people and he now has his ring back after almost 40 years.*

*This is a good example why you should join up or at least keep your address and phone number current with us. You just never know when they might be needed by us to contact you instead of just for a reunion.*

## Items For Sale TAFT Alumni Association

**Static window stickers:** \$3.00 (plus \$1 S/H)  
"Taft High School - You Can't Hide Eagle Pride"  
(Profits go to the Taft Athletic Department)

**T-Shirts:** \$10 each (XXL & XXXL - \$12 each)  
Light grey with NEW Eagle logo silk-screened in blue. Sizes - Medium thru XXXL

**Jackets:** \$30 each  
Special purchase blue nylon windbreakers with a white flannel lining and snap front with a drawstring bottom. The silver emblem on the left breast area reads "TAFT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI" with an eagle in the center: M (38-40), L (42-44) only (XL **SOLD OUT!**)

**Yearbooks:** \$25.00 each. Quantity available in parentheses.

June 1949 (1)	1975 (1)	1992 (123)
June 1955 (1)	1982 (5)	1993 (2)
1960 (1)	1984 (4)	1994 (29)
1962 (2)	1985 (33)	1995 (152)
1963 (1)	1986 (70)	1996 (86)
1964 (1)	1987 (90)	1997 (8)
1967 (1)	1990 (44)	1998 (1)
1971 (1)	1991 (6)	1999 (146)
1974 (1)		2001 (156)

## 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 came from Taft and is not a member, please encourage them to join. Send us their name and address (and year of graduation, if known) at:

Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or email us at [taftalum@cox.net](mailto:taftalum@cox.net).

## TAFT Alumni Order Form

Quantity Ordered	Description	Price	Extended Price
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

+ 6.00 postage/handling

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

Send check to: Taft Alumni Association  
6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60631

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

<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>6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.</b> <b>Chicago IL 60631</b>			
			<i>Summer 2003</i>

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)  
 Asst. to President: 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)  
                   Kevin Kreiger (1973)  
                   Judi Lenihan (1973)  
                   Michael Marras (1982)  
                   Barbara Rodriguez (1970)

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                   E-mail - Taftalum@cox.net  
 Website Coordinator: Kevin Krieger

### RENEW NOW !!

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

The Taft Alumni Association publishes the Taft Alumni Newsletter quarterly. Send all general correspondence and changes of address: **Taft Alumni Association**, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or  
 E-mail at Taftalum@cox.net  
 Website: <http://www.taftalumni.org>  
 Alumni Directory E-mail address: eagleemail@taftalumni.org

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.  
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