



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVII No. 1

Winter 2003

## Alumni Association Logo Contest We have a winner!!

The winning designer of the new Alumni Logo is Robert Berns (June 1946). Bob has his own Ad Agency in Des Plaines, IL. His wife Doris is also a Taft grad (June 1947). A beautiful crystal Eagle and a blue Taft windbreaker jacket (winner's prize) were presented to Berns at the annual Taft Alumni Association meeting on November 7, 2002 held at Taft. Unfortunately, nobody thought to bring a camera so there are no pictures of the presentation.

Bob's winning entry was among several excellent submittals that were judged by the Taft Alumni Board of Directors. It was a difficult task, but we feel quite pleased with the end result. Let us know how you like it! If you didn't notice, it appears below and on the outside cover of the issue. There it is!



## Ah, Retirement!

Starting in 1967 as a substitute teacher for the Chicago Public School System, English teacher **Judy Zajac** never thought she would remain in teaching for 34 years. But she did, with most of that time as English, mathematics and drama instructor at Taft. Her passion was the theatre and loved working with students in the intimate Drama Lab located in the new addition at Taft, where she shared production talents of various plays with another dedicated Taft teacher, **Ron Dluger**. She left on a high note – by ending the day after her colleagues' reception riding home in a limousine.

Best wishes on your retirement – enjoy your life, Ms. Zajac!

## New Address for Taft Possible

Since the main entrance is now located on the south side of the building on Bryn Mawr, Taft Principal Dr. Tarvardian is campaigning to change the official school address from its present one at 6545 W. Hurlbut. The Hurlbut address became the official address for the school after the completion of the 1970s addition and moving of the school offices off the Hurlbut side of the school.

With the confusion of the Hurlbut address, people looking to access the building wind up on the wrong side. Also a consideration, extra guards are now needed to cover both the Hurlbut side and the Bryn Mawr doors.

The new main entrance was created last year on Bryn Mawr to allow for efficient traffic flow, allowing CTA busses to access the circular driveway in front of the new entrance. School officials stated there needs to be coordination with the Chicago Fire Department and US Postal Service before it can be changed. He suggested using 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue. We'll keep you posted on any future decisions on this potential change.

### *President's message:*

*As of the beginning of January the new address for Taft and the Alumni Association is 6530 W Bryn Mawr Av, Chicago, IL 60631.*

## Beauty And The Beast

TAFT HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS A VERSION OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Show Dates:

Thursday April 3, Friday April 4, and Saturday April 5, 2003 - 7:00 PM

Sr. Citizen Day Performance Sunday April 6, 2003 - 2:00 PM

Wednesday April 9 and Thursday April 10, 2003 - 7:00 PM

Prices Adults: \$10.00

Children under 10: \$3.00

Sr. Citizens: \$5.00

Tickets available 2nd week of March, for tickets and information call: Taft High School, Mrs. Pauley at 773-534-1000.

## CLASS REUNIONS

### 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 - January

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

### 1953 – June

Date: September 5 to 7, 2003  
Place: Indian Lakes CC, Bloomingdale  
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  
bowlingbabe1@msn.com

### 1963 – January/June

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

### 1983

Date: July 26, 2003  
Place: Edison Park Inn  
Contact: **Laura (Fiore) McGrady** - (847) 318-0769  
tmcgrady@excite.com or  
**Cassie (Webber) Cerniglia** - (847) 696-0237  
joecerniglia@waterpic.com or  
**Cathy (Cummings) Milbrandt**  
(773) 775-9997

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL REUNIONS

### 1958-Hitch Grammar School

Date: June 20,21,22,2003  
Place: Hitch and Paterno's Sports Bar  
Contact: **Phyllis Miller** - (386) 258-6797  
phyllismiller57@earthlink.net  
**Sue Schmid** - (209) 333-7650  
jibboomst@onemain.com  
**Jim Bach** - (773) 631-8523  
jimbach17@aol.com

### 1958 – June – Norwood Park Grammar School

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

### 1963 – Prussing Elementary

Date: June 2003  
Contact: **Nick Varallo** - (329) 772-9166  
nvarallo@swfla.rr.com

### 1968 – Ohnahan Grammar School

Date: June 7, 2003  
Place: To be announced  
Contact: **Jan Busch** - (312) 577-8414  
jan.busch@kmzr.com

### Taft Baseball Champs Reunion

The previously announced plan to organize a combined reunion of the 1957 and 1958 Taft city championship baseball teams has progressed to the point where the weekend of September 12, 13, 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 has now been identified as the likely date of the event. While a good turnout is expected, there are still a number of team members that we have not been able to locate and we are hoping that someone out there among the alumni has had some contact with them, either recently or sometime in the years since we all left Taft. The former teammates that we are looking for are **Ray Maize, Bob Gunderson, Carl Peterson, Steve Thompson** and **Pat DeVries**. If you know any of these former Eagles or have any suggestions on how we might locate them contact one of us.

**Lynn Terry** (June 1957) – (415) 751-4579  
(theterrys@earthlink.net)  
or **Denny Pickett** (June 1958) – (815) 758-2777  
dekpickett@niu.edu

## Letters to the Editor

Greeting Taftites,  
Almost let my membership expire,  
happened to be looking at past  
issues and noticed expiration date.  
OOPS.

I enjoy the letters so very much.  
The names from the past bring  
wonderful memories of times past  
that today seem so simple and  
unhurried. However as we lived  
them then they were very serious to  
us, As today's issues are.  
Thanks to all and your great effort in  
putting out a magnificent newsletter.

**Richard Lindquist** (June 1954)

Dear Kay,  
We want to share the [following]  
story with the Alumni Association.  
It's always nice to see what alumni  
are up to across the states, but

when it's your own parents, it's really  
special.

As you know, Mom and Dad (**Jane  
Jewell** '43 and **Frank Zemaitis** '40)  
have been long-time supporters of  
the Taft Alumni Association. They  
love to see the "do-you-remember"  
letters from old classmates in the  
newsletter, such as from their old  
acquaintance, **Phyllis (Drisch)  
Juiris** (June '44), and to read about  
other alumni of the 40s in Class  
Notes.

From the time we were young  
children, we were regaled with  
stories about Taft's early years, the  
opening days, the teachers, the  
mischief-makers, the football games.  
(It was at a Taft football game that  
Dad met Mom – it was cold so he

rubbed her feet to warm them.) So  
we have them both to thank for  
passing on their school spirit.

It's that same spirit they now share  
with their adopted community  
around the Indiana National  
Lakeshore. Mom volunteered her  
time until arthritis made it too  
difficult, but Dad continues on,  
mainly through his writing. The  
*Singing Sands Almanac* isn't the  
*New York Times*, but we couldn't be  
more proud.

**Paulette (Zemaitis) English** (1967)  
**Frank M. Zemaitis** (1972)

*[Editor's note: Frank was the founding  
leader of the original Taft Alumni  
Association in 1940 and we are proud  
to follow in his tradition. The Sing  
Sands Almanac is a quarterly  
publication put out by the Friends of  
Indiana Dunes, an Indiana not-for-profit  
organization with offices at the Visitor  
Center, Indiana Dunes National  
Lakeshore.]*

### Christmas Concert With JJ Stamm

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Walter  
Church in Roselle, IL was a  
memorable day for some twenty Taft  
Mixed Chorus Alumni, as they had  
the wonderful opportunity of being  
reunited with their high school  
director, JJ Stamm. For the second  
year in a row, JJ accepted the  
invitation of David Barth (Jan. '62) to  
attend the SPIRIT OF LIFE  
Christmas concert. David is the  
founder and musical director of SOL,  
a 90 member ecumenical Christian  
chorus that performs approximately  
sixteen concerts in the Chicagoland  
area each year.

JJ was also given the opportunity to  
display his talent as both an  
arranger and accompanist as he  
wrote an arrangement of "You'll  
Never Walk Alone" from Rodgers  
and Hammerstein's "Carousel." The  
selection was used by SOL  
throughout their Fall concert series  
as a motivational piece to conclude  
their concerts. At St. Walter, JJ also  
accompanied the Chorus, plus  
soloists Lucia Barth and Kevin Miles.  
Lucia is David's wife and a charter  
member of the thirteen year old

TAA:

Cliff and I did get to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Enclosing  
a picture taken of "3 great guys". This was taken at the 1940-1946  
class reunion in 1989. Cliff and Charleton were in the "Taft Top  
Hatters" band. I will always remember hearing "A Sleepy Lagoon"  
floating past **Miss Marquart's** English class windows.

I enjoyed seeing the picture on page 11, Taft Newsletter, Autumn,  
2002. That, too, was a most enjoyable evening. **Phil Nelson** (June  
44) and his wife did a great job in putting this together. Also enclosing  
a check for renewal dues. Keep the newsletter coming – you're doing  
a great job.

**Jean (Novak) Smith** (June 44)



William Stephan, Jan. 1942; Charleton Bard, June 1941 and Cliff  
Smith, June 1941

## Frank Zemaitis A VIP who Enjoys Children and Writing

By Joyce Russell, editor, Singing Sands Almanac,  
2002)

Vol. 23, No. 1 (Fall

Frank Zemaitis tells the story of a young girl who came to Chellberg Farm for a visit and left with his heart. The girl, said Zemaitis, called him "grand- pa" and wanted to take him home with her because who didn't have her own grandfather. "I love children," said the father of two, grandfather to one and step great-grandfather to two.

That's one of the rewards of volunteering, said Zemaitis, who, with his wife Jane, moved to Porter in 1990 from Chicago. They'd visited the dunes for decades, but primarily visited the Indiana Dunes State Park. Then they went to their first Duneland Harvest Festival and Zemaitis said he saw "a gentleman my age" helping direct traffic. That, he said, was something he could do.

Zemaitis began working both the fall festival and the spring's Maple Sugar Festival. He became a member of the Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc., serving on its board for three years and most recently receiving the group's Founder's Award.

Much of his early years volunteering were spent giving tours of the Chellberg Farm barn area to school groups; telling them the history of the barn and all about the animals from the chickens to pigs to horses. Most recently, though, Zemaitis has been a regular contributor to the Singing Sands Almanac, researching and writing articles pertaining to history or nature. He's the author of the continuing Talking Tree series of stories.

It is a passion that dates back to his days in high school before operating his own camera repair business in Chicago. "I wrote a column for our high school paper," he said. He also took courses in creative writing.

At age 75 and at the encouragement of his children, he obtained a computer and began using the Internet for research. Now, at age 80, Zemaitis has completed a children's book "Tasos and the Arms of Venus" and most recently had an article of the history of the Chellberg family published in the summer 2002 edition of Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History.

"I always felt that one should give back to the community if you can. I never had the opportunity when I lived in Chicago," he said about why he volunteers. "We are basically people people."



"Voice of Walt Disney World" in Orlando, FL, as the guest narrator and soloist. David noted afterward that "JJ has not lost his touch."

Alumni spent time after the concert talking with JJ and reminiscing about the glory days of the choral program at Taft. JJ tentatively plans on returning again next year for the concert and if possible would like to try and make it up for one of SOL's Spring concerts

Although David had a chance to speak with a number of his fellow Alumni after the concert, he wishes to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of them for taking time from their busy Holiday schedules to come and say hi to JJ, and particularly to Kay and Jerry for their assistance in promoting the concert to the Alumni.

**Subject:** JJ Stamm

**To:** David Barth, Director, Spirit of Life Chorus

Your concert last night was superb! Thanks for bring it to our attention at TAA. ...I'm so glad I was able to come. The ride was long, but the adrenaline rush kept me alert the entire way, even all the way home. I arrived back in Sturgeon Bay by 11:45 pm AND, I just was 2 minutes ahead of the end of the Packer game as I was passing by Green Bay. I was able to miss ALL the traffic coming from the stadium. I listened to it on the way home and it was exciting enough to keep me quite alert during the drive.

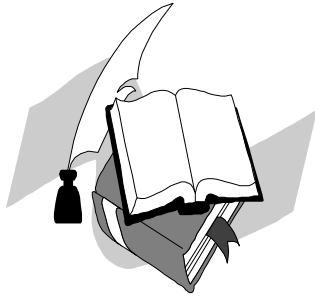
[When you see] JJ, tell him I tried to find out more about **Kathy Ries** (June 1962) from the Classmates.com website, but she wasn't listed in the classmates list - only in the message board responses of "The Hub" conversations.

**Jerry (Beesley) Bloom** (June 1962)  
jbbloom@charter.net

[Editor's note: Anyone looking for nostalgia on the old "Hub" roller rink on Harlem Ave. would really enjoy the conversations on the message board on the above referenced site. J. Bloom, Editor]

See **Letters To The Editor** | Page 9

# CLASS NOTES



## 1940s

JUNE (PEMBLE) ROBY (JUNE 1941) lives in Decatur, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

ARLENE (EDGREN) SCHALK (JUNE 1941) lives in St Charles, MO and has 3 children, 8 grandchildren.

RICHARD BOOS (JUNE 1943) graduated from Northern Bsed 1950, lives in Portland, OR, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

KEN DAVIS (JUNE 1943) graduated from U of I BS Marketing 1950, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

STEVE KUFLEWSKI (JUNE 1943) MARRIED JACKIE (DRISCH) (JUNE 1946), he graduated from Loyola BSC 1949, they live in Kettering, OH, have 5 children and he is retired.

AL RETTENMIER (JUNE 1943) lives in Lacey, WA, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is semi retired.

CLAIRE (CHULAY) AGGER (JANUARY 1944) graduated from U of I BS 1947, MS 1949, lives in Northfield, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired Biology Teacher.

RICHARD HILGENBERG (JANUARY 1944) lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is self employed in neon signs and plastics.

DOLORES (ANDERSON) JOHNSON (JANUARY 1944) lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

AUDREY (RUNDE) FLETCHER (JUNE 1944) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired secretary.

JEAN (NOVAK) SMITH (JUNE 1944) lives in Olympia Field, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a housewife.

JOANNE (CROCKETT) FISH (JUNE 1945) MARRIED JOHN (JUNE 1945), lives in Blairsden, CA, has 2 children, 16 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and is retired.

DORIS (WALGREN) PITTS (JUNE 1945) lives in Bremerton, WA, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

LEONARD BUNGE (JANUARY 1946) graduated from St Olaf BA 1950, lives in Bonita Springs, FL and Huntley, IL, has 6 children, 16 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

LOIS (BASSETT) WILLHARD (JANUARY 1946) lives in Webster, WI, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

ED CARLSON (JUNE 1946) lives in Ft Collins, CO, has 3 sons, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

DONALD DAHL (JUNE 1946) graduated from Northwestern BA 1956, lives in Sequim, WA and is a Grologist.

RICHARD STRAUSS (JUNE 1946) graduated from De Paul BS 1956, lives in Elk Grove, IL and is retired.

GLORIA (BONKOWSKI) WAHLEN (JUNE 1946), lives in Concord, MI, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and is a retired accountant.

JULIANNE ( STAMER) HOLLANDER (JANUARY 1947) has 2 children, 1 grandchild and lives in Punta Gorda, FL.

DOROTHY LAMBERT (JANUARY 1947) has 5 children, 7 grandchildre, lives in North Ft Myers, FL and is retired.

CHARLES AVICHOUSER (JUNE 1947) graduated from Roosevelt BA 1958, MA 1970, lives in Chicago and is a retired teacher.

PAT (KENNEDY) LEAHY (JUNE 1947) lives in Rialto, CA, has 4 children, 13

grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and is retired.

SHIRLEY (MACK) MC CORMICK (JUNE 1947) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

VIRGINIA (BEHR) MEYER (JUNE 1947) lives in Fox Lake, IL and Jensen Beach, FL, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired from the USPS.

DORIS (HERZOG) ORR (JUNE 1947) lives in Northlake, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is retired.

VERNON UNGAR (JANUARY 1948) graduated from U of I BSME 1952, lives in Orlando, FL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

NORBERT ANETSBERGER (JUNE 1948) graduated from Bradley BS 1957, lives in Pal m Harbor, FL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

IRENE (DU BOIS) RAY (JUNE 1948) MARRIED BOB (JUNE 1947) they live in Algoma, WI, have 5 children, 12 grandchildren and are retired.

WANDA (NELSON) STENZEL (JUNE 1948) graduated from North Park AA 1950, lives in Princeton, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is a piano teacher and organist.

DUANE WIECHMANN (JUNE 1948) graduated from U of MO 1959, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

NARDELLE NORDGREN (JANUARY 1949) lives in Chicago and is retired.

## 1950s

RONALD EWALD (JANUARY 1950) MARRIED DORIS (COLEMAN) (JANUARY 1950) they live in Rolling Meadows, IL, have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and are retired.

SHIRLEY (MEYERS) HAHN (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Ravenswood Hospital RN 1953, lives in Ladoga, IN, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired nurse.

NORMAN JOHNSON (JANUARY 1950) graduated from U of I BS, lives in Mt

Prospect, IL, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

MARGARET (SCHWENDEMAN) MURDOCK (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Grinnell College BA 1953, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired kindergarten teacher.

SHIRLEY (SCHMIDT) WEGENKE (JUNE 1950) graduated from Concordia U BSEd 1955, lives in Fitchsburg, WI, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

ED ARCHAMBAULT (JUNE 1951) graduated from De Vry Tech Inst 1953, lives in Sun City West, has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, retired from WGN TV now a volunteer Math Teacher 4-8 grades.

RONALD BETZ (JUNE 1951) graduated from U of I BS Pharmacy 1955, Roosevelt MA 1987, lives in Northbrook, IL, has 2 children and is a Pharmacist.

JOHN HEINZ (JANUARY 1952) graduated from Wright, U of CO, U of IL BA 1957, lives in Aurora, IL and is a freelance writer.

MARILYN (DAHLKE) COMPTON (JUNE 1952) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is a receptionist.

KEN SCHMIDT (JUNE 1952) MARRIED CAROL (WOLD) (JUNE 1957), they live in Palatine, IL, have 1 child, 2 grandchildren and are retired.

LESLEY (LENIK) PARRISH (JUNE 1952) lives in Cedaredge, CO, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired Paramedic.

RICHARD SCHIEFELBEIN (JANUARY 1953) graduated from Ripon College BA 1961, Northern Msed 1981, lives in Waterton, WI and No Ft Myers, FL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

JOAN (ESTEP) SCHOENING (JANUARY 1953) live in Streamwood, IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

NORTON (BUD) WRISLEY (JANUARY 1953) MARRIED MARCIA (LIEN) (JANUARY

# CLASS NOTES

1953), Bud graduated from U of CO BA 1957, they live in Valley Center, CA, have 7 children, 7 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, Bud is a CPA, real estate consultant.

BLANCHE (REINHARDT) PETERSON (JUNE 1953) lives in Chicago and is retired.

MARJORIE (GAY) TUCK (JUNE 1953) graduated from Duke AB Hist 1957, Vanderbilt MA Hist 1958, lives in Gainesville, VA, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a HS History teacher.

ARLENE (ROGOWSKI) WARNER (JUNE 1953) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children and is a homemaker.

JOAN (RASCHKE) ZIMMERMAN (JANUARY 1954) graduated from U of I BS 1958, lives in Huntington Beach, CA, has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

SUZANNE (WHEAT) FARWELL (JUNE 1954) graduated from Wright AA 1956, lives in Miami, FL and is an aide to a county commissioner.

JERRY IVERSON (JUNE 1954) graduated from FL State BA 1958, lives in Golf, IL, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is President of Iverson & Co.

RICHARD KELLICK (JUNE 1954) lives in Morton Grove, IL, has 3 children and is a typesetter.

JOY (PERCIVAL) KRUTO (JUNE 1954) lives in Huntley, IL, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT YATES (JUNE 1954) lives in Orange Park, FL, has 2 children and is retired.

LOU KNUDTSON (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Coe College BS Physics 1960, AZ State CPMR 1996, lives in Bartlett, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a manufacturing rep.

HAL OSUCHA (JANUARY 1956) graduated from MI State 1960, lives in Pak Ridge, TN, has 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

MARLENE (LILJEGREN) PICKERING (JANUARY 1956) lives in Renton, WA, has 3

children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

RON EK (JUNE 1956) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children, 11 grandchildren and builds and drives street rods.

MARGARET (BROUILLARD) FRANKLAND (JUNE 1956) lives in Calumet City, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandsons and is a cashier.

JOYCE (RUTTKAY) LEWIS (JUNE 1956) MARRIED MERRITT (JUNE 1953) they live in Arlington Hts, IL and have 2 children.

JEAN (MC COMB) CUTRERA (JANUARY 1957) graduated from NIU BS 1962, IL Benedictine BSN 1983, lives in Charlotte, NC, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is an RN, Clinical Auditor.

RONALD JEDLINSKI (1957) graduated from Northwestern 1961, lives in Wood Dale, IL, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is owner/ceo Roman, Inc.

ROBERT SOSKE (JUNE 1957) lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children and is owner of Press Tech in Des Plaines, IL which prints our Newsletter.

GLORIA (CHOWANEC) SAGAN (JUNE 1957) MARRIED JOHN (JANUARY 1954), they live in Hot Springs Village, AR, have 1 child and are retired.

ALICE (SIMECA) TUCKER (JUNE 1957) graduated from Harper BA 1985, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

RICHARD SHATTUCK (JANUARY 1958) graduated from IA State BS Forestry 1963, lives in Mountlake Ter, WA, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a sales manager.

DONALD GRABOWSKI (JUNE 1958) graduated from U of I Finance 1967, De Paul Law 1975, lives in Lake Forest, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is an attorney.

ANNA (LUNDBERG) OTTO (JUNE 1958) lives in Waynesboro, VA, has 8 children, 7 grandchildren and owns D'Loho Trucking Co.

MARTIN PALUGA (JUNE 1958) graduated from

Northwestern BS 1962, lives in Las Vegas, NV, has 2 children and is retired.

DENNIS PICKETT (JUNE 1958) MARRIED KAREN (JENSEN) (JANUARY 1960) he graduated from Northern BS 1963, MS 1969, Karen graduated Northern BS 1973, MS 1977, they live in De Kalb, IL, have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are retired.

JOANNE (PULLEY) WILLMS (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Southern IL BA Ed 1963, lives in Egg Harbor, WI, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired teacher.

ALLEN BLUME (JUNE 1959) MARRIED SHIRLEY (MOLINARE) (JUNE 1956), he graduated from Chgo Tech 1969, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and are retired.

ARDEN BYERS (JUNE 1959) graduated from Blackburn BA 1963, lives in Lake Villa, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

LES ZURAWIC (JUNE 1959) MARRIED ELLEN (BURKE) (JUNE 1964) He graduated from Northwestern Dental DDS 1965, Loyola Dental MS 1972, Ellen graduated from U of IL 1970, they live in Frankfort, IL, have 2 children and are retired.

## 1960s

In the last issue TERRY ELSON (JUNE 1960) was printed, it should read TERRY NELSON (JUNE 1960).

GERALD RONGNER (JUNE 1960) lives in Huntley, IL, has 3 children and is a regional sales manager.

NOEL (TUREK) THOMSON (JUNE 1960) MARRIED DONALD (JUNE 1961) they live in St Charles, IL have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and Don is an insurance agent.

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

ARTHUR HELT (JUNE 1961) graduated from Wright 1963, lives in Lake Forest, IL, has 5 children and is an industrial consultant.

ART KAY (JUNE 1961) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a tool engineer supervisor.

ELAINE (GUNTHER) BRUMMITT (JUNE 1962) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a senior field promotion manager.

DARLENE (BRUEMMER) HENDRICKSEN (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northern BA 1966, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, has 2 children and owns a tree business. Also gives an annual scholarship at Taft in the name of her late husband, ROBERT HENDRICKSEN (JUNE 1960).

JOHN KNECHT (JANUARY 1963) graduated from U of I BSEE 1968, Loyola MBA 1973, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a regional quality manager for Intertek Services.

RUTH (NELSON) OTTOLINO (JANUARY 1963) lives in Spring Grove, IL and has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

DONNA (GRIESSMER) CATLETT (JUNE 1963) graduated from IL Wesleyan 1967, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children and is an administration assistant.

KAAREN (RICHERT) DROESE (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northern 1967, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

DONNA (MAAG) ESPOSITO (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northeastern BA 1966, lives in Naperville, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a sales rep.

DAVID GUETTLER (JUNE 1963) lives in Pasadena, CA, has 1 child and is president & CEO of Crown Coffee Service and for the last 20 years has been a "White Suit" at the Tournament of Roses Assoc.

RICK KASPER (JUNE 1963) lives in Chicago, owns a real estate office and employed by the city of Chicago.

DONALD MAU (JUNE 1963) graduated from Yankton College BA 1969, lives in Hot Springs, AR and is a professional chef.

CATHY (SCHNEIDER) VOLSTORF (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northern BA 1967, MA 1973, lives in Bonita

# CLASS NOTES

Springs, FL, has 2 children and is an art history teacher.

ROBERT BUELOW (JUNE 1964) MARRIED MARLENE (LOUNSBURY) (JUNE 1967), they live in Bensenville, IL, have 2 sons, 1 grandchild and Bob is a sheet metal foreman.

JOE MORSE (JUNE 1964) graduated from IL Wesleyan BA History 1968, Loyola JD 1976, lives in Wilmette, IL and is an associate judge in Skokie.

MARIE (WITTENDORFER) GOODKIN (JUNE 1965) graduated from U of I BA 1969, MA 1972, lives in Oak Park, IL, has 2 children and is an office administrator.

JUDY (MUSSO) DUMELE (JUNE 1966) lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is a promotions analyst.

GARY HAMILTON (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of Chgo BA 1978, lives in Montclair, NJ, has 3 children and is a chief information officer.

KAREN (CLAUSEN) REGAN (JUNE 1966) graduated from Mayfair College AA 1969 and lives in Kansas City, MO.

RICK HUNT (JANUARY 1967) lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 3 children and is a distribution center manager.

KATHY (MC ALLISTER) SCHRAMM (JANUARY 1967) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an administration assistant.

CHARLES BAJERSKI (JUNE 1967) lives in Cary, NC, has 3 children and is a supervisor.

GLENN JENSEN (1967) lives in Maple Park, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a computer tech.

JUDITH (INGRAM) OWENS (1967) graduated from Northeastern BSEd 1971, lives in Chicago, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is a teacher.

RICHARD ROZYCKI (JUNE 1967) graduated from U of I BA Math 1971, U of NH MA 1977, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 1 child and is a math teacher at Rolling Meadows High School.

YOIT (STRATTON) CALLAGHAN (1968) LIVES IN Naples, FL, has 1 child and is

director of youth services at Unity of Naples Church.

GARRY COMPTON (1968), lives in Willow, AK, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and has been a construction superintendent for 28 years in AK.

BARBARA (COY) JANSSENS (1968) lives in Northlake, IL and is a homemaker.

WINNI (JOYCE) JOHNSON (1968) lives in Cincinnati, OH, has 11 children and is a Mom.

KAREN (ANDERSON) MANZELLA (1968) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is an executive assistant.

CYNTHIA (PASKA) NORTHRUP (1968) graduated from Northwestern BSM 1972, MD 1974, lives in Sheboygan, WI, has 2 children and is a family physician who lives on a 30 acre farm.

TIM RAETZMAN (1968) graduated from Northeastern BS, Northern MA, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is a TV producer/director.

PAT (WARD) BEERS (JUNE 1969) graduated AA Criminal Justice, lives in Reno, NV, has 2 children and is a Washoe CO deputy sheriff.

CHRISTINE (WIRTH) MAXWELL (1969) graduated from IL State BS Spec Ed 1973, lives in Wheaton, IL, has 2 children and is an executive director of "Keep De Page Beautiful".

GLENDIA (HODGSON) VITEK (1969) graduated from Chicago City College AA Nursing 1971, lives in Wichita Falls, TX, has 2 children and is a comptroller.

## 1970s

CATHIE (LESSNER) BARBER (1970) graduated from Northern BS 1974, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is an administrative assistant.

RICH BOLINDER (1970) graduated from IL State BSEd 1976, Nat'l College of Education MS 1983, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is a fitness director.

JIM BOBUS (1970) graduated from U of I BS MKTG 1974, Loyola MBA MKTG 1977, lives

in Palatine, IL, has 3 children and is a marketing director.

KATHY (LAVIN) CAMPBELL (1970) graduated from Triton AND 1984, lives in Schiller Park, IL, has 1 child and is an RN.

JUERGEN RUSNAK (1970) graduated from Roosevelt BA 1974, MBA 1983, lives in Des Plaines, IL and is a software consultant.

INEZ (LAVSKIS) INKA (1971) graduated from Mac Cormac Business College 1973, AA 1981, lives in Barrington, IL, has 3 children and is a housewife.

MARGARET (KELLY) MOELLER (1971) graduated from Northeastern BS Earth Science 1977, lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is an athletics administration assistant at Loyola Academy.

CHARLES RIGGLE (1071) graduated from Georgetown U BS Foreign Service, U of MD MA Public Policy, lives in Ft Washington, MD and is an international trade analyst supervisor.

META (ROSZ) GREEN (1972) lives in Belvidere, IL, has 3 sons, 1 grandchild and is in cold drink service.

SUZANNE (PUCHMELTER) JOHNSON (1972) lives in Elgin, IL and is a manager at Wheels, Inc.

JOANNE (MANTHIE) KAHN (1972) lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 1 child and is a manager MIS Operations.

NANCY MATELING (1972) graduated from Roosevelt BS 1998, lives in Algonquin, IL and is a FAA airport program manager.

JACK HENRIKSEN (1973) graduated from Oakton Comm Col. Fire Science, lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children and is a LT in the fire department.

SUE (POULSON) JAMES (1973) graduated from Swedish American Hospital RN 1977, lives in Santa Clarita, C

GARY METELAK (1973) graduated from U of I BS 1979, lives in Lockport, IL, has 2 children and is an airline captain for Northwest.

KAREN (JONES) COGAN (1974) graduated from IL State BSEd 1978, lives in Fairfax, VA, has 3 children and is an IBM planner.

DIANE (KOHLER) ALEXANDER (1975) graduated from U of I BS Math 1979, has 2 children, lives in Savoy, IL and is a financial manager.

TERESA (MONAHAN) LANPHEAR (1975) lives in Elburn, IL, has 2 children and is a medical office manager.

DONALD WOLFF (1975) graduated from Northern 1979, lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 2 children and is owner of Wolff's Market Place,

LENORE (SPIEROWSKI) DALLMAN (1976) graduated from Triton AA 1978, lives in Wabeno, WI, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is a bar and restaurant owner in Wabeno.

CATHY (PADDACK) HOFFMAN (1977) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and is a senior information systems specialist.

NANCY (PIPOWSKI) FREDERICK (1978) lives in Rolling Meadows, IL and is a property claim rep.

DEBORAH ALTMAN (1979) lives in Chicago and is a graphic artist.

JOSEPH LAUDADIO (1979) MARRIED LAURA (RATZOLL) (1979), he graduated from Elmhurst College BS 1983, Keller MS Finance 1992, they live in St Charles, IL, have 2 children and Jos is an account/invoice manager.

KAREN (BIELAWSKI) MEYERS (1979) lives in Huntley, IL and is a Home Depot assistant manager.

DAWN (RUSCITTI) SIMMONS (1979) lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 3 children and works at ERA American.

ROSEMARIE WOLSKI (1979) graduated from Northeastern BA History 1983, lives in Chicago and is a service representative.

## 1980s

PAMELA (BOESCH) MC ALOON (1980) lives in

# CLASS NOTES

Addison, IL, has 1 child and is self-employed.

SAM POLLINA (1984) lives in Scottsdale, AZ and is a realtor.

TRACY STAPLETON (1988) graduated from Northeastern BA

Communications 1993, lives in Los Angeles, CA and is an actor/host.

CARA (DUNNE) YATES (1988) graduated from Harvard BA 1992, UCLA JD 1997, has 1 child and is an attorney/writer

who also competes in Paralympics, Silver & Bronze medal winner, also a Taft Alumni Hall of Famer.

## 2000s

JESSICA BERNAL (2002) lives in Chicago and is attending IA State.

## In Our Memories

**Margaret (Newman) Moshier**, Taft Mathematics Teacher and Counselor (1949-1961) died December 3, 2002.

**Charlene (Meyer) Filas** class of January 1943 died January 5, 2003.

**George "Buzz" Killoren**, class of June 1943, died August 20, 2002. He played with the 1943 Taft Football championship team that went to the city finals against Tilden High School.

**Robert (Red) Jackson**, class of January 1945, died December 9, 2002 of a heart attack.

**Robert Heimrath**, class of January 1947 died on October 24, 2002 of cancer.

**Raymond Normann**, class of January 1947 died on August 1, 2002 of cancer.

**Jane (Lindgren) Altmayer**, class of January 1948, passed away in August 2002.

**Donald E. Mede**, class of June 1948, passed away December 1, 2001. He was married to **Irene Phiffer**, also of June 1948. They lived in Brooksville, FL.

**Betty (Madsen) Jankowski** class of June 1948, passed away on November 3, 2002.

**Joanne (Esterquist) Strauss**, class of June 1948, passed away October 21, 2002 of cancer.

**Ed Wuchterl**, class of January 1953, died suddenly while cutting grass on November 2, 2002.

**Thomas A. McGlade**, class of 1952, of Park Ridge, IL died October 15, 2002 of a heart attack. He was a former vice president at Fisher Scientific International, Inc.

**Ralph Egeland**, class of June 1953, passed away November 2, 2002 in Aurora, IL after a long fight against cancer. He had been in the banking industry for many years, and at the time of death, was director of the Benchmark Bank in Aurora.

**Dorothy (Weed) Swanson**, class of June 1953, died in April 2002. She died of throat cancer.

**Ron Ware**, class of January 1956, passed away of cancer November 5, 2002. He was the husband of **Arlene Laufer**, class of June 1960.

**Robert H. Olson**, class of June 1965, died from lung cancer on November 1, 2002.

## 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.

**Marj (Beesley) Pelton Anderson** (June 1945) is looking for her old girlfriend who lived across the alley from her old homestead on Ardmore and Newark Aves. **Alice Harrington** also had two sisters, Nancy and Doris. Marj would love to hear from them.

**Lynn Terry** (June 1957) has lost contact with classmate **William Uhl** (June 1957). He'd like to renew their friendship again.

## Elevator Dilemma

To bring the Taft into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, some modification to the current elevator is needed. Budget belt-tightening at the Chicago Public School headquarters discourages the school from installing a more accessible elevator than what is currently used. What is proposed would change the current elevator location (freight elevator at end of narrow hallway behind the auditorium) to something in a more accessible area of the school. Dr. Tarvardian, Taft's principal says it is a big safety issue. The narrow hallway to the current elevator is too small to allow a wheelchair to turn around, if necessary. Also, the access from the main corridor has turns that constrict good visibility. If someone is in trouble near the elevator, he or she could not be seen. In addition, the elevator door modification necessary to comply with the ADA requirements might not open wide enough to serve the elevator's original purpose. The Local School Council is working with Dr. Tarvardian to come up with an acceptable solution.



Dear Kay & Alumni,

It's always a pleasure to receive the latest Alumni Newsletter and memories of those who live far away. I'm lucky to be able to ride down the familiar streets and see many of the changes and recall many fond memories. So I'm enclosing a picture of the Norwood Park pool now closed till next season.

We walked or pedaled our bikes many blocks to be able to cool off for a while. No A/C then, maybe ice cream at Hedlins Dairy if we could afford it. The pool now is 10 feet deep and has a swirling slide about two stories tall. It s open from 10AM-8:30PM and has adult time convenient for seniors. The synchronized swim team featured "Grease" for their 2002 water show held August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It sure looked inviting on a hot August morning when this picture was taken.

**Mariann Leversen Erlenbach**  
(January 1946)



Jerry:

Thank you for the compliment! We had a great time presenting it. I will pass on your message about **Kathy Reis**. JJ and I are having lunch Tuesday at 11:30. Wasn't it great to have him play piano during "Walk Alone"? Even though we rehearsed earlier in the afternoon, his timing was a little off when the Chorus came in and he had me worried for a second. However, I gave him the stare we all used to get when we didn't do something right and he recovered nicely.

...What a great pleasure it was to have alumni in the audience and what a great thrill for JJ to be able to catch up on old memories.

**David Barth** (June 1962)  
davidbarth@Ameritech.net

Attention: Editor of the TAA:

I was recently in NC, visiting my brother and sister-in-law, who are in a Nursing Home. I saw the Alumni Newsletter and had a great idea (at

least I thought so).

My sister-in-law's name is **Alice (Hachmeister) Press...** (June 1944). She had a stroke a few years ago while visiting her sisters in Chicago. Alice is in a wheelchair but very alert and the mind works well. My brother has Parkinson's and his mind isn't functioning well.

I know Alice would love receiving a card from any of her former classmates. I really would appreciate this.

Mrs. Alice Press, Litchford Falls Healthcare, 8200 Litchford Road, Raleigh, NC 27615.

My husband and I are 1951 graduates of Lakeview. I look forward to receiving our Alumni Newsletter. Fred Ruben does an outstanding job with our [news] letter, as you do. I read the Taft Newsletter and was very impressed. KUDOS to you.

With sincere appreciation, Marilyn Poltzke



L-R: **Nancy (Haaning) Johnson, Dorothy (Almquist) Engquist, Judy (Foss) Lillebo, Mary (Bennett) Lundegard, Shirley (Molinare) Blume**

Dear Alumni Association:

Really enjoy newsletter. Enclosed is a picture of some Taft alumni, all June 1956 graduates. We manage to get together at least once a year. Judy lives in California, so whenever she comes "home", it's a great time to get together. Nancy, Dorothy, Judy and Shirley all started kindergarten together at Garvey School.

**Shirley (Molinare) Blume** (June 56)

Subject: Spirit of Norwood  
To: Taft Alumni Newsletter

Being a member of a family who never discarded very much sometimes is a burden. However, I knew I had a postcard somewhere with the picture of the Spirit of Norwood. I found these copies, which I made some time ago, but am unable, at the moment to find the originals. They will turn up, I am sure. In the meantime, please use the information. I'm glad someone else recognized the plane as a Douglas product, rather than Boeing. We, in the Northwest, are sensitive about those things!

Those of us whose memories can creak back to the war years remember paper drives, savings stamps and rationing. Remember air raid drills? I was supposed to be a runner – from post to post or captains. If there had been an emergency, my mother would have never allowed me to really fulfill my duties. It did make us feel we were a part of things. Yes, we did ride our bikes out to Dam #4 and environs. We were not teenagers with cars. Gas was rationed.

I enjoy the news. The Trieger family lived in Norwood for many years up to 1948 when my parents moved to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and I went off the Knox College in Galesburg, IL.

**Myrle Trieger Summerford** (June 48)  
cfmsummer@aol.com



Dear Jerry,

Thanks for continuing to send me the Alumni Newsletter, even though I had forgotten to send the dues. I blame it all on old age.

The newsletter continues to bring fond memories of my high school days at Taft, and the great teachers that we had during the War years. Keep up the good work.

Napa, California is a long way from Chicago, Illinois, but I have been able to make the last two reunions. I might even make the next class gathering whenever that may be.

Best regards to you and Kay K. You keep the **spirit** alive!

**Tom Craft** (January 1945)  
Napa, California

Dear Kay & Tom,

Just a note to tell you that **Lois Meyers** (1947) is front center (carrying the violin) in the VE Day photo. I trust this gives **Robert Berns** (January 1946) a new name.

**Lois Meyers Harvey**  
(January 1947)

[Editor's note: see photo on pg. 12 of TAA Autumn 2002 issue. J. Bloom, editor]

Subject: Norwood Park Drum & Bugle Corps

I would like to correct the photo of the Corps that appeared in the Autumn 2002 newsletter [pg. 10].

The photo is of the 1947 State Champions as stated on the bass drums. Our music and competition drill improved greatly in 1948 and 1949 with the addition of new instructors and replacement of the ugly uniforms in this photo. We repeated as State champions in 1948 and 1949 and took 5<sup>th</sup> place at the National American Legion Convention in Philadelphia in '49. After that season some of us left to go to college and others got married. The next year the Corps took 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Legion Convention in Miami! (How did they do that without us?!)

The photos of **Wally Wolf** (January

1950) are from his days in the "B" Corps, which was the training corps for the "A" Corp pictured.

If you want to know why I'm so sure of these dates – I'm the one in the white uniform Wally referred to in the photo. I conducted some of our presentation in 1947 and then went back to the drum line where I belonged!!

**John A. Will** (January 1949)  
Fountain Hills, AZ

To Editor – Taft Alum newsletter

**Jackie [Jacqueline] Montville** (1963) of DeKalb sent me a copy of the newsletter. Although after graduating from St. Thecla, I did not attend Taft, I delight in reading about Norwood and looking for names of people from Norwood. The playgrounds at St. Thecla, Onahan, and Norwood and Rosedale Parks were so familiar to me.

I was in the B Corps of the Drum and Bugle Corps. The recent articles and photos brought back memories of those Saturdays at the Norwood Field House when we would have to shape up and listen to directions. **Don Rowe** (1955) taught bugle. Mrs. Grana tailored our uniforms.

In the fall of 1956, a few Taft alums started a football team at Rosedale Park. They had in mind helping to pick up the Taft football program. The boys I remember on the team were **Roger Gorkas, Eric Miller (1961), Bob Young (1961), Jim Grabowski (1962), Tom Isaacson (1961) and Rick Terry (1962)**. I

believe most of these fellows four years later were on the championship Taft football team. As I remember, Grabowski scrimmaged for a while in street pants, i.e., without knee, thigh and hip pads. All-star **Al MacFarland (1961)** played on the Edison Park team.

Here is a story not unlike other stories during WWII. My family lived on Nassau Av across from **Kenneth Reinert (1944)** (next door to young **Jack Grabowski – 1951**). Immediately after the graduation celebrations, Ken went through the swift basic training as a soldier and shipped out to the Philippines as a replacement. Within 7 months of graduation, his mother Lillian Reinert was devastated to receive the news: KIA, Philippines.

Lillian's grief was great, but she turned her attention to our young family across the street. In 1944, my parents had 5 children under 6 years old. While growing up, I remember "Mrs. Reinert" dotting on us and hugging us. She became a dear friend and helpmate for my mother.

**E. Patrick Morrissey**  
(Loyola Academy 1961)  
Sandwich, IL

Dear Kay and Jerry,

Thanks for putting my letter into the news. I received three e-mails from Tafties in my or Hanssen's class and one from a former FBI person in the 50s. All very interesting.

**Jim Ohlson** (January 63)  
jimohlson@comcast.net

**To:** frankheyer@email.msn.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2002  
10:01 AM

Hi Frank. I'm a Taft grad, Jan '58. I got your name from Kay Kuciak. She thought that maybe you could help find some information for me. I seem to remember in an old newsletter (@ 1995 maybe) a company in Chicago that would put old high school football films on video tape. I called them and they did have some from Taft but the cost was heavy @\$45 per game. I have been corresponding with **Lynn Terry** (June 57) and the subject came up. Can you shed any light on this?

**Bob Zaun** (January 58)  
Mundelein, IL

Hi Bob,

Don't know if this is the info you want but it's the only data I found after going through newsletters as far back as July '92, which is where I found their ad.

The name of the outfit is (or was) "Flashbacks Inc." and they were offering films from 1947 to 1987. Their address back then was 2132 N. Wayne, Suite 100--Chicago, IL. 60614. Phone number back then was 312-854-5992. I tried calling the number but either it's been changed, disconnected or no longer exists. Hope this helps.

**Frank Heyer (1948)**

frankheyer@email.msn.com

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## Remembering Our Teachers...

Another teacher, similar to **Dr. Buchwalter**, was **Miss Ella Luedemann**, who taught French, Latin, Algebra, and, perhaps, Geometry.

You were never late to her class, if at all possible. The bell rang and she began teaching and, heaven help you, if you didn't have your homework, and have it done completely and correctly. Although stern and uncompromising, she had a good sense of humor. She gave freely of her time to her students, if you asked her anything. She was always smartly dressed and looked very professional.

I took two years of Latin from Miss Luedemann and two and a half years of French. Thanks to her, when I began college, I was placed in third year French classes. In her class we often counted rapidly through the class in French and then played "Buzz." When someone couldn't quickly remember and say, in French, multiples of seven or number with seven in them, I can recall her smiling with a little laugh and saying, "You're out!"

Although I enjoyed her language classes, I knew when to quit while I was ahead. I never took math from Miss Luedemann.

**Bette Wagner Harding** (class of 1948)  
Spokane, WA

Taft Alumni Association,

The answer to **Beverly (Sprecker) Laseke's** (June 57) question on page eight of the [Autumn, 2002] Newsletter is: **Miss Strandberg**.

**Conrad Stoll** (June 61)  
STOLLPATROL@aol.com

*[Editor's note: The following exchanges might be of interest to some of you from the 60s. J. Bloom, Editor]*

Hi Jerry.....**Bob Zaun** here. Thought you might like to know the latest on **Margit [Wevang** - June 62]. When she saw the article about the Jazz Spectrum in the Alumni Newsletter (Autumn 2001), she called me and ordered 5 CD's. A few months later she hired us to play for her son's wedding... It was great fun. The reception was held on a Saturday afternoon in his two flat in the city.

About a year before, I had been in contact with **Jim Stamm** and sent him some of my arrangements. He called me in June and we arranged to meet at my house for dinner when he was in town in July. I invited Margit & Bonnie [**Merle Wevang** - June 59] too. So the four of us sat around drinking gin & tonics, laughing about the old days. Jim then drove out to Crystal Lake for one of our concerts a couple days later. And all of this came about because of that article in the Alumni Newsletter!

Also due to that article, I connected up with some old friends I hadn't heard from in years. I couldn't make the last reunion in '98 because of a band job that night! A question came up regarding old football films. I remember finding out (maybe from a Newsletter) about a company who had high school films from the 50's and would put them on video tape for a hefty fee (@\$45 per game). I called them and they did have some Taft games. This had to be circa 1995. Does this ring a bell with you? I have searched the Internet with no luck!

Hope things are going well for you. **Bob Zaun**  
jazzspect@aol.com

To: lon.bendler@att.net

[Your name was seen in a website I came across recently.] I sat in front of a **Leon Bendler** (June 62) for 4 years in my home room at Taft HS. Are you related? I think he had a different first name, but used Leon because he liked it better.

**Jerry (Beesley) Bloom** (June 62)

Jerry,

This is me, **W. Leon "Lon" Bendler**. Yes, we shared the distinct pleasure of home-rooming with **Robert E. Lee Robbins** for four years. He was the one who advised me I had to decide once and for all how I would deal with my name (I settled on using just the first initial)...Time flies...

**Leon** (June 62)  
[http://members.tripod.com/Frank\\_Randall/](http://members.tripod.com/Frank_Randall/)

Leon:

Your website was given to me by [a family relative], who has been keeping in touch with your father for years thru their association [with] roller skating at Riverview Park rink. I had told her of the Classmates.com site that had a

series of bulletin board messages around the "Hub" rink on Harlem Ave (our old haunt...) She specifically asked me about the old organ that Leon Berry played and what happened to it. I think your dad wants the info. I don't know, but there appears to be a couple people on that message board that might know. Also, a guy I know thru Norwood Park Historical Society – Marc Hansen -(who is affiliated with a pipe organ society) who might have some knowledge about it.

**Jerry [Beesley Bloom – (June 62)]**

P.S. I looked at your photo on the website - I tried to picture the guy in the photo with my memory of you from high school. Couldn't do it. I like the way you've turned out! jbb

*[Editor's note: If anyone reading this has knowledge on the old pipe organ, please let us know! J. Bloom, TAA editor]*

## Classmates in the News

**Craig Sabey** (June 62)– Peoria Is the place where Craig has made his home since high school and has made a rather unusual name for himself – He has the distinct honor of being the “new business – first customer” champion of the area. His hobby borders on obsession in some cases when he learns of a new store opening. He is a collector of grand openings. Armed with lawn chair and a thermos of hot chocolate, he waits for the opening of each new store in the Peoria area with great anticipation. “It really doesn't take much effort,” said Sabey. He watches new construction sites and checks local newspapers for details on openings. Craig was rather nonchalant about his efforts. “And you know what? If I miss one, it's not going to be the end of the world or anything. I'll just catch the next one.” He hasn't kept score of his attendance at the many grand openings, just enjoys the honor of being first.

**John Tsarouchas** (2002) a past recipient of an alumni scholarship made the news as having been selected the final walk-on as freshman offensive lineman at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. John graduated this spring as valedictorian of his class of 2002. He also took part in the Chicago Public League's all-start game this past June. His jersey sports number 61. Watch for it in the next few years!

**Wayne Schimpff** ( January 1959 ) is a science teacher at Von Steuben High School. But his recent activities with ASSIST (Agriculture Specialists Service in Science and Technology) and the Dominican Republic have earned him special recognition. As a joint summer project, he was part of a team teaching students to plant and cultivate fruit trees in the Dominican Republic to help them develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills. He believes this to be a big stepping stone towards giving the young people tools to become the country's strong future leaders.

## Class of '67 Thirty-five Year Reunion

On October 26, 2002, an enthusiastic crowd of 150 classmates and guests gathered at the Radisson O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois for an evening of sharing memories, enjoying old tunes and simply having fun. The years melted away as we renewed old friendships and struck up new ones.

Reunion committee members Paulette (Zemaitis) English, Ginny (Chandler) Lorenz, Mary (Gaughan) Coyne, Sharon (Blitzner) Deutscher, Ed Krzeminski, Sharon (Goritz) Lukas, and Beth (Samuels) Charvat began the planning in 2002 with the services of Alumni Systems, Inc., a professional reunion planner. The event took place without a hitch, amazing considering that the committee never met once in person during that time, but rather conducted all business via e-mail.

Joining us during the evening were teachers Beverly Conrad (PE), Gerald Cuny (Social Studies), Ronald Dluger (Social Studies), Donald Giannetti (Foreign Language), Daniel Lyons (English), Irving Stein (Social Studies), Julio Tiritilli (English), and Vernon Vanderah (Foreign Language). In tight conversation, several appeared



*Figure 1 - Committee members Beth (Samuels) Charvat, Mary (Gaughan) Coyne, Paulette (Zemaitis) English, Ed Krzeminski, and Ginny (Chandler) Lorenz*

to be enjoying a reunion of their own. Many other teachers were kind enough to write and tell us about their current doings.

Thanks to many generous donations, there was an abundance of door prizes, not the least of which were table prizes of 4-cd sets of the greatest hits of 1967 compiled by Ed Krzeminski (June '67), fine wines and liquors donated by Joe Conguisti (Jan. '67), and a reunion

poster with a composite of classmates' photos depicting an eagle created by artist Sharon (Blitzner) Deutscher (June '67). In a silent auction, Janet (Cote) LaFata (June '67) entered a bid of \$75 to win a like-new 1967 Aerie yearbook. In addition, we were very pleased to have raised \$250 to donate to the Taft scholarship fund on behalf of the Class of 1967.

It was easy to see that the reunion was a great success as, at the end of the evening, one entire table continued an animated conversation, completely oblivious that the room had nearly emptied. In the days that followed, we received numerous glowing messages. One of the best, making it all worthwhile, came from Steve Johnson (June '67) who not only reconnected with classmates he hadn't seen in 35 years, but also "buried the hatchet" with one of them.

We hope that all our classmates, whether or not they attended this reunion, will keep in touch so that the next reunion (2007 anyone?) will be equally successful.



*Figure 2 - Joe Conguisti (Jan '67), Mr. Julio Tiritilli, Mr. Daniel Lyons, Jim Schroeder (June '67)*

## To A Phenomenal Woman

by Maya Angelou

When I was in my younger days, I weighed a few pounds less,  
I needn't hold my tummy in to wear a belted dress.  
But now that I am older, I've set my body free;  
There's comfort of elastic where once my waist would be.  
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes my feet have not forgiven;  
I have to wear a nine now, but used to wear a seven.  
And how about those pantyhose-- they're sized by weight, you see,  
So how come when I put them on the crotch is at my knee?  
I need to wear these glasses as the print's been getting smaller;  
And it wasn't very long ago I know that I was taller.  
Though my hair has turned to gray and my skin no longer fits,  
On the inside, I'm the same old me, it's the outside's changed a bit.

But, on a positive note...

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.  
I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.  
I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.  
I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."  
I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.  
I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.  
I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.  
I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.  
I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.  
I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.  
I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

## 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 Bargains

Jackets: \$30.00 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!)

Look for new Taft merchandise with our new logo in our next issue of TAA newsletter!

### 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>Winter 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)  
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               Kevin Kreiger (1973)  
               Judi Lenihan (1973)  
               Michael Marras (1982)  
               Barbara Rodriguez (1970)

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 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>  
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