



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVIII No. 2

Summer 2004

2004 TAA Scholarships

At the June 17, 2004 commencement exercises for Taft High Schools Class of 2004, the Taft Alumni Association presented scholarships to three members of the class.

The \$1,000 **Robert W. "Bill" Hendrickson** Memorial Scholarship program, remembering this Taft 1960 graduate who became a success in the tree care business, is funded by his family but selected from among our applicants. **Jeffrey Maldonado**, 26th in his class of 240, was active in NJROTC, drama and National Honor Society at Taft. He hopes to go into aerospace engineering.

Receiving \$500 scholarships from the Taft Alumni Association were **Ana Moreno**, fifth in the class, and **Naomi Kanno**, ranked 13th. Ana, who participated in the licensed practical nurse program, played soccer, participated in pom-poms and was this year's Yearbook editor. She plans to pursue a career in medicine, nursing and later as a pediatrician. Naomi, a four-year member of the NJROTC program, was on the varsity swim team, in the National Honor Society and drama program. She plans a career in sociology.

Norwood Drum & Bugle Corps

If you enjoyed reading about Taft classmates who were involved with the Norwood and Edison Park Drum and Bugle Corps during the past few issues, you must make the efforts to go soon to the Norwood Park Historical Society museum. During a recent NPHS general membership meeting, the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps presented the NPHS with a collection of memorabilia donated by their alumni.

Among the artifacts are an album depicting the Corps history, a photo of the Corps at the time of their performance at the Century of Progress World's Fair, uniforms, medals, newspaper articles, and even a flute. These items are now on display at their headquarters, located in Norwood Park at 5624 N. Newark Avenue. Museum hours are each Saturday from Noon-4:00 pm. This display will remain until mid-November.

We're ready to celebrate and you're invited!

On Saturday, Oct. 23, 2004, Taft high School will be celebrating a double anniversary: the 65th anniversary of the opening of this Northwest Side Chicago high school and the 20th anniversary of the Taft Alumni Association.

We're planning an afternoon open house, from 1 to 5 p.m. where Taft High School and its seventh and eighth grade Taft Academic Center will have a chance to showcase some of the exciting programs and encouraging academic advances which are part of Taft in the 21st century.

You'll be able to tour the school, greet old friends and perhaps make some new ones. We'll have some special items for sale or order during the afternoon.

An evening program, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium, will feature the induction of the newest (and our fourth) class into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame, and the introduction of a new Book of Honor, which will recognize other alumni and staff contributions. Nomination deadlines for these honors were August 1.

For those who plan to attend both afternoon and evening events, there will be a buffet dinner served in the second floor lunchroom (above the Graven Library/Media Center in the 1970s Hurlbut Street addition) between 5 and 6:30 p.m. Advance reservations are required for this. Tickets are \$12 each.

Everyone is invited – alumni and their families, current students and their families, current and former faculty and staff, friends from the community, and potential Taft families. With the exception of the dinner, admission to everything is free.

The Taft Alumni Hall of Fame

Alumni Hall of Fame and the New Book of Honor

The Taft Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes alumni for special achievement in their lives, people of whom Taft folks, past and present, can be proud.

From the days of **Pops Rapier's** "Taft Founder's

(continued on page 3)

Class Reunions

3rd Annual all Taft Classes Reunion Picnic

Date: February 27, 2005
Place: Fort DeSoto Park, St Petersburg, FL
Shelter #14 (park# 727/582-2267)
Contact: **Leon Kathan** (863) 655-4559
117 Monte Real Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33876-8056
leonkathan@yahoo.com

1951 – January and June "mini-reunion"

Date: September 17 - 19, 2004
Place: Radisson O'Hare Rosemont
Contact: **Carol or Ron Bentsen**
(847) 506-9488 or ahbentsens@aol.com

1954 - January and June

Date: Friday, September 24, 2004
Place: Wellington of Arlington - Arlington Hts, IL
Contact: **Bob Eischen** bobinskokie@comcast.net
Or **W. Keith Weinwurm**
weinwurm@adelphia.net

1955 - January

Date: October 9, 2004
Place: Best Western Midway Hotel - Elk Grove, IL
Contact: **Walter Guyer** - 847-506-9336
wguyer1@comcast.net

1955 – June

Date: 2005
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Bill and Sue Oberheide**
(847) 823-1955
Boberheide@aol.com

1956 – January/June

Date: **Volunteers needed to form committee!**
Place: To be determined
Contact: **Judith Nelson**
858 Poplar Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 945-5523
heyjudefromil@webtv.net

1959 – January

Date: September 2004
Place: Wellington Restaurant – Arlington Hts., IL
Contact: **Nancy (Peterson) Smith** –
(847)497-3911
or **Norm Gunther** – NHGunther@aol.com

1960 - June

Date: September 24, 2005
Place: Durty Nellie's, Palatine, IL
Contact: **Shirley Kalivoda DeWeese**
1425 Caldwell Lane - Hoffman Estates, IL
60194
847-885-8655 or JTDSAD@earthlink.net

1964 - June

Date: October 23, 2004
Place: Double Tree North Shore, Skokie, IL
Contact: Sentimental Journey (847) 657-3639 or
(847)329-0111
FunReunion@aol.com.

1994

Date: November 6, 2004
Place: White Eagle, Niles, IL
Contact: Sentimental Journey (847) 657-3639

Elementary School Reunions

1950 - Onaham Elementary School

Date: September 25, 2004
Place: TBD
Contact: Ron Newmann
waterlue@voyager.net

Making Taft High School Possible...

If you pass Taft High School, you'll probably spot a modern sign on the corner of Hurlbut Street and Northcott Avenue: "William Howard Taft High School – Made possible by the Taft Alumni Association,"

The Taft Alumni Association made the SIGN possible. We paid for it. But we weren't the ones who made Taft possible.

The first high school for the Northwest Side was Jefferson Township High School, first located at Six Corners (Milwaukee, Cicero and Irving Park Road), and later closer to the old Chicago and Northwestern RR line. Even Des Plaines and Arlington Heights students attended there until they built their own high schools after the start of the 20th Century. This school closed when Schurz opened in 1908.

The 1920s brought a big building boom in the future Taft area, and with them, many new grade school structures. Norwood Park School had a 9th grade in 1916 when it opened, because Schurz was such a long way to travel and public transportation to it depended on Street cars and private buses.

The people who REALLY made Taft possible were the community leaders on the Far Northwest Side, who thought Schurz was too far away. A few families chose to send their sons to Lane Tech High School, or their daughters to Resurrection High School, which had a boarding program, but most parents wanted a good public high school in their own neighborhoods.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 1 "Hall of Fame")

March," which premiered in 1940, there have been many generations of graduates who set their standards higher, aiming "to the sky" as Taft's symbolic Eagles flew into the future

Leo Hoefler, Mary Gillies, Dr. Gerald Haley, Dr John Graven and Sam Osaki launched the first half century of classes. More recent principals have included **Dr. William Watts**, the late **Thomas Cunningham**, the late **Thomas Brown**, and current principal **Dr. Arthur Tarvardian** have set their own directions for the school — and we have new classes of alumni making their own marks on the world.

Starting with the 50th anniversary in 1989, we've inducted three "Classes" of graduates into the Alumni Hall of Fame, and we'll add a fourth group at the 65th anniversary.

Over the years, as people have sent in names for the Hall of Fame, we've found there were some people who did not fit in the criteria originally established. Some were not graduates but respected or beloved faculty. Some were men or women who gave their lives while in the armed services. Some had already died when they were suggested for the Hall of Fame.

We recognize, however, the importance of remembering how many people from Taft have carried those Taft standards and made a positive mark on people's lives.

This year, we've established a new Book of Honor, which will list the names of some of these other Taft legends:

- * Past faculty, administration and staff members who made Taft a special place to learn.
- * Deceased graduates who meet the same criteria as Hall of Fame nominees.
- * Servicemen and service women who attended Taft and died in service to their country.

Unlike the Hall of Fame, which inducts a limited number of graduates at a time, we've not set limits on how many will be added to the Book of Honor.

In order to have time to consider nominees carefully, we set an August 1 deadline for the 2004 induction.

Although we issue invitations for nominations once every five years, alumni are welcome to send in nominations for future Hall of Fame or Book of Honor additions at any time. They should be specifically labeled as "Hall of Fame" or "Book of Honor," however as many alumni regularly share memories of individuals for the newsletter.



Who's Already in the 'Alumni Hall of Fame'?

State Rep. Ralph Capparelli (January 1942), started as a sophomore when Taft first opened in 1939. Elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1971 from the Northwest Side of Chicago, he has served continuously, and currently has the most seniority, ranking as the Dean of the House. He has been a member of the Democratic leadership with Speaker of the House Michael Madigan. He also serves as 41st Ward Committeeman.

Ken Henry (January 1942) became the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic Speed Skating Team in 1948, earning a bronze medal in the 500 meters. In 1949 he dominated men's speed skating, winning many 500 and 1500-meter events, and placed fourth in the World Championships in 1949 and 1950. He was 1952 gold medallist in the

500-meter races at the Olympics and the World Championships. After retiring from skating, he stayed in sports, working for more than four decades as golf pro at Chicago area country clubs.

Lawrence Passow (January 1947) came to Franklin Park School District 84 – just west of Chicago – in 1953 as a teacher. While he pursued advanced studies in education, his career stayed in the same district, as principal of East School, assistant district superintendent and superintendent. When he retired in 1989, West School in the district was renamed in his honor, and a fund to provide fine arts for district students was established in his honor.

Jim Jacobs (June 1960) spent his high school years as a "greaser". He played guitar and sang with D.D.T. and the Dynamiters and Lefty and the El Rays. In a Chicago area theater group, he met future writing partner Warren Casey, they discovered common themes in their high school experiences. Their most famous collaboration, "Grease," broke records on Broadway and inspired an equally popular movie. He has returned several times to Taft, for the 1983 and 1990 student productions of "Grease," and in 1998 to set a hand jive record in the Taft auditorium with "Grease" guest star Frankie Avalon.

Jim Grabowski (June 1962) followed his success on the Taft Eagles football team, playing fullback at University of Illinois. In 1964 he was named Most Valuable Player at the Rose Bowl, and also earned All American, and Academic All American honors. After graduation, he was the top draft pick for the Green Bay Packers, where he played in Super Bowls I and II. After leaving the Packers in 1971, he played two years for the Chicago Bears. He announced University of Illinois and Big 10 Conference games for television and radio, then became president of Motivational Merchandise Conference.

Anne Lunde (1969) has made a career in community journalism over the past three decades. Now managing editor of The Edison-Norwood Times Review, the Edgebrook-Sauganash Times Review and the Norridge-Harwood Heights News, she is the author of "Kind Hands and Loving Hearts," a 1995 centennial history of the Norwood Park Home, and several hundred articles on community history.

Lynn Martin (June 1957) taught high school economics, government and English in Rockford, IL. Elected in 1972 to the Winnebago County Board, she was later elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, the Illinois Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. She later served in President George Bush's cabinet as US. Secretary of Labor. More recently she has chaired Deloitte & Touche's Council on the Advancement of Women.

Cara Dunne Yates (1988) was already accomplishing amazing things when she started at Taft. Losing her eyesight to genetic cancer at the age of 5, she learned to ski, partnered with her stepfather, Richard Zabelski, as her sighted guide. She competed on the U.S. Disabled Ski Team from 1982 to 1989, winning international medals. She won skiing medals at the Disabled Olympics in 1984 and 1988, then took time to attend Harvard University, and later, UCLA Law School. Although recurrences of the cancer stalled plans to return to competitive skiing in subsequent Winter Olympics, she took up competitive tandem biking, another partnered sport, and competed in the 1996 summer Paralympic Games in Atlanta. She and her husband, Spencer Yates, have two children. She has been honored for her efforts as an advocate for the disabled and as an athlete.

Jerry Krause (January 1957) had an interest in sports growing up on the Northwest Side. He wrote sports commentary for the Edison-Norwood Times Review while at Taft. At Bradley University he was a

baseball catcher and worked for the basketball coaching staff. He switched to recruiting, spending 16 years as a scout for major league baseball teams. In 1966 he switched his sights to recruiting for the National Basketball Association.

His most famous collaboration came in 1985 when he was hired by Chicago Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf. In his years as vice president of basketball operations he recruited all of the stars – except Michael Jordan– who brought the Bulls to their multiple national championships.

Larry Marsh (June 1959) graduated from the US. Naval Academy in 1963. In a career of more than 30 years, he rose from submarine duty in 1965 to duties at the Pentagon in 1984. Promoted to Rear Admiral, he served as director of the Office of Program Appraisal in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, and assistant chief of Naval Personnel for Personnel Readiness and Community Support before his retirement.

Don Mellema (January 1955) began his broadcasting career while still a student at Beloit College in Wisconsin. After jobs in Fort Wayne, IN. and Oshkosh, Wis., he returned to Chicago in 1966. In more than four decades of radio news broadcasting, briefly at WGN Radio and primarily at WBBM News radio 78, he chronicled many of the major stories for Chicago listeners and won many awards.

Donna Mills (Miller) (June 1958) headed for New York and made her first marks in show business on the soap operas, "The Secret Storm" and "Love is a Many Splendored Thing." Among more than 20 films, she appeared in "Play Misty for Me" with Clint Eastwood and became a household name as Abby in "Knots Landing," a spin-off of the prime-time soap, "Dallas." That led to additional television work and her own production company. She has worked on behalf of Easter Seals, Arthritis Awareness, the NOW Legal Defense Fund, and the Los Angeles Mission's Celebrity Action Council.

Clayton Mott (January 1944) had a brief career as a high school speech teacher before returning to the Chicago area and opening his own insurance company and Jet Car Rental in Des Plaines. Active in many Des Plaines area organizations and a founder of the Des Plaines Jaycees, he also helped to organize a series of reunions for multiple classes of the 1940s Taft alumni, starting in 1989.

Wayne R. Andersen (1963) attended Harvard University and earned his law degree from University of Illinois. A former administrative aide to Henry Hyde, then majority leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, Andersen went into private law practice in the 1970s. From 1981-84 he was deputy secretary of state to future governor Jim Edgar. He was elected as a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County in November 1984, and has been a U.S. District judge for the Northern District of Illinois since 1991.

Dr. Robert Forney (June 1944) turned his interest in chemistry into a distinguished career in chemical industrial engineering at DuPont. He worked in development of manmade fibers for 27 years, rising to president of plastic products and resins and later to the executive committee. He was appointed executive vice president at DuPont in 1981. He assisted as a volunteer consultant for NASA after the Challenger Space Shuttle explosion, and took many leadership roles in his industry before retirement.

Richard Klemm (January 1950) recently retired after a political career in the Illinois Senate, where he represented McHenry County. He began running for office in school district and county positions. In his family's manufacturing company, Food Warming Equipment Co., he rose to chairman of the board and holds five U.S. patents.

Richard Lindberg (1971) began his career as a newspaper reporter, moving on to assistant manager at Sears Roebuck, a scriptwriter for Montgomery Wards and an editor for

Crime Books, Inc., Illinois Police & Sheriff's News and as a senior business writer and marketing manager for Grubb & Ellis. His true avocation is writing about his passions: Sports, true crime and Chicago history. Among more than a dozen books, he has chronicled the Chicago Police Department, the Chicago White Sox and the cases in the city's criminal past, in his "Return to the Scene of the Crime" series and, recently completed with fellow alum **Gloria Sykes** (1969) "Shattered Sense of Innocence: The Child Murders that Changed the Way America Looked at Itself" on the Northwest Sides Schuessler-Peterson murders. Also soon to be released is "The Whiskey Breakfast: My Swedish Family, My American Life."

Nancy Noble Zorick (June 1964) had plans to be a commercial artist but got involved in acting instead after high school, leading to movie roles in California and on TV in "The Young and the Restless" and "A.E.S. Hudson Street." Volunteering with the Foundation of

Human Understanding put her in touch with her future husband. Mike Zorick, a blind Greco-Roman wrestler, who needed someone to read his mail to him. She shifted her career back to art, teaching home-schooled students, painting in oils, making porcelain dolls, and writing and illustrating children's books. The Zoricks also serve as advocates, explaining disabilities and abilities of the disabled.

George Zima (January 1945) was a tumbler, a cheerleader and a member of Pops Rapier's band at Taft. In one of his careers, he became a physical education teacher and an elementary school principal. In another career, as an actor and dancer on Broadway, he appeared in classic productions of "Pal Joey," "Milk and Honey," "Gypsy," "Li'l Abner" and "Most Happy Fella," and danced in Mary Martin's televised "Peter Pan." He was on "Captain Kangaroo" for seven years and appeared on "The Naked City," "Sesame Street," "Ed Sullivan," "Perry Como," "Jackie Gleason," and "Red Skelton." In

retirement he's been teaching dance for the Wheaton Park District.

Kay Carlson Kuciak, (January 1963) answered a call in 1983 for volunteers to help organize a new Taft Alumni Association. It was largely through Kay's efforts that by-laws were established, graduates were recruited and contacted, and the TAA went from distant dream to immediate reality. From the association's first event, the dedication of the boys' gym in memory of football coach **Joe Kupcinet** in 1985, to the schools 1989 50th anniversary, to the expansion of membership and the newsletter, Kay was at the heart of our group. When she finally agreed to allow us to induct her in the Hall of Fame in 2000, she had devoted more than 15 non-stop years to Taft and its graduates. We also recognize the less visible but very important efforts of her husband, **Tom Kuciak** (June 1962), without whose ongoing support this organization would not have come so far, or had Kay.

The Doors Into Education

Entering Taft High School was a big step in many of our lives.

We might not be considered adults, yet, but we were growing up. Most of us traveled farther to school, walking or by bike or by bus – and if we were lucky later, by car. Our hours of homework got longer. The end of our four years there might be the end of our education, or the stepping-stone to college or vocational training. We accepted more responsibility. Our opinions began to matter. We began to explore the world.

For nearly every generation at Taft there has been a new way to enter.

Until the 1960s, it was through the big double entrance along the center of Natoma Avenue, up the steps and in, under the carved stone letters and the up and down double staircase. They were still one-way routes when "Up the Down Staircase" became a 1960s best seller.

Jim Jacobs from the Class of 1960 recalls the other "front" entrances on Natoma in the first scene of "Grease," the record-breaking hit musical he co-wrote with the late Warren Casey. At Taft, there were the auditorium steps, a little island of their own, and the steps on the south end near the (girls') gym. At the mythical Rydell High, on one end, the boys press

Danny for his stories of "Summer Lovin" while the girls hear Sandy's version of her new romance at the other end. On stage it's hard to figure out why they don't hear or see each other. Only Taftites past and present have a true sense of how far away the two groups were.

While the original C-shape of Taft was squared off in 1956-58, creating the "old building" as many of us know it, it also added the new, larger boys' gym and the "cage" where the Taft Trib staff used to hang out with Mr. Stein. Remember the pep rallies and the junior proms and the homecoming dances? Remember escaping out the back way to trudge across the sports fields, past the fenced in aircraft control station for O'Hare, to get over to the bus stops?

Some of us remember our first "entry" at Taft as freshmen at Norwood Park School, a few blocks further west, where the entire ninth grade class was housed for nine years in the midst of the Baby Boom. The first full class, close to 900, moved in there in the fall of 1965, although some freshmen had been housed there before Taft was full in those days. In 1967, when the last January class graduated, there were split schedules, with morning and afternoon division periods breaking up the 10-period days, and they still couldn't fit us all in the building.

(continued from page 2 "Making Taft Possible")

By 1969 when there were close to 2,900 at Taft, the Board of Education finally got us approved for Public Building Commission funding to build a second addition. Construction began in 1973, and it opened in 1975. Relocated from the old building were the main office, the library, the art rooms, the band and chorus rooms, and the lunchroom. Added were a photography dark room, a drama lab, the Forum Room where many meetings are held, and many classrooms. The counselors moved from Natoma Avenue to new quarters just off the lunchroom. The new entrance in the 1970s was off a new, wide plaza along Hurlbut Street and facing Norwood Park across the Street.

Times change, and so did Board of Education guidelines for what should be the front entrance. A new parking lot at Hobart and Northcott, along the northeastern end of the Taft campus, later became the "new" main entrance, admitting visitors closest to the new main office.

When neighbors on those streets became concerned at the concentration of students going past, the entrance changed again, twice: back to Hurlbut's plaza doors, and two years ago, to a new entrance on the south face of the 1970s wing. The address is on Brvn Mawr Avenue, but the site is closer to where the old driver's ed trailers used to be in the 1960s. In the old days you had to get a pass from a hall guard. Modern guests will see the new metal detectors, which are used to keep everyone safer.

At first, their best chance seemed to be to get a junior high school. The rest of the block north of Norwood Park School was cleared of houses in 1927, but the arrival of the Great Depression cancelled plans to build anything. Parents and community organizations kept up the campaigns to get a high school built. Later, the site east of Natoma Avenue and south of Hurlbut was chosen instead.



As originally conceived, even on that site, Taft was to be only a junior high

school, but enough lobbying finally shifted it to a senior high school. No wonder we needed an addition in the 1950s. We can thank Norwood Park leader Frank Mies for the school's name. He and the Norwood Park Community Center Council, which ran that era's equivalent of a social center at Norwood Park School, suggested William Howard Taft, the only man to be both President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Henry Taft, a cousin of the late president, lived in the Norwood Park community. A major campaign within the community prompted local families and organizations to fund artwork to fill the school with paintings and prints of more famous works. In this era before posters or computer-based references, it provided an artistic exposure for the local students.

Support from community and parents continued to be an important goal at Taft, and a special part of the community were Taft's graduates.

Taft's first Alumni Association was organized by **Frank Zemaitis** from the very first graduating classes, but it eventually disbanded. For many years the women alumnae of Taft held an annual luncheon.

But it wasn't until **Kay Carlson Kuciak**, class of 1963, was recruited to look into founding a new Taft Alumni Association that the first five decades of Taft graduates were invited to pull together, to reestablish contacts, to support reunion classes, to help the school and to point out, to modern Taft students and to the new folks in the local neighborhoods, that Taft has an ongoing reputation to maintain.

Taft has turned around a lot of the drawbacks it faced a decade ago, refitting the curriculum, improving performance on standardized testing, a safer school, a cleaner school, a school with some exciting learning opportunities. The Taft Alumni Association has responded to many requests from the school to assist in supplying needs that support programs.

If you're proud of the school, as it was when you attended it, and you got a good education there – as many of us did – then it's important to be sure the school can continue to produce quality graduates. Taft helped to make our adult lives more possible—what can we do to help make possible the educations of the classes that follow us?

Letters to the Editor

Dear Taft Alumni Association,

Thank you so much for helping my son, James Swanek of Silverdo, CA to be able to get from you a picture from what would have been my class yearbook of January 1945. My name is or was **Edith Mauch**. I was engaged to a beautiful young man, whom I loved dearly. His name was **William Joseph Marum**. He was in Air Cadet training to be a pilot in the Army Air Force. Bill died before he could graduate from Flight School. My whole high school years were war years, They were hard years. Many of our friends did not return from the War, Taft lost a lot of fine young men.

It has been 60 years and I was able to finally have a good life with a fine man and had 2 children. But even when 60 years seems like a long time, for me it seems like yesterday. The type of pain I went through when Bill died is never forgotten, neither is he.

Thank you again for taking the time to go through the yearbooks to find the picture of Bill, it is truly, greatly appreciated.

Edith (Mauch) Swanek (Jan. '45)

(Pres. Note) Our man Frank Heyer is the one to thank for digging into our yearbook collection to find that picture, thank you Frank.

Dear Kay and Tom: I sent the attached message [below] to Jerry Bloom but Yahoo bounced it back to me as undeliverable. Can you give me Jerry's correct e-address, or can you answer my question? Thanks very kindly.

Art Nauman

[Art, I changed Internet service just prior to the time of the last newsletter. We regret we did not correct the address listing in that issue. Please note the new email address is: jbbloom@sbcglobal.net. J. Bloom, TAA newsletter editor]

Dear Jerry:

I'm a Taft alum... and I thoroughly enjoy the newsletter. I do have a question about something I saw in your spring issue, which just arrived.

On page three is a photo taken at the All-Taft Reunion Florida. The caption identifies by name five people. But there are six folks in the picture. I can easily recognize **Gordon Dahlquist** (a buddy from w-a-y back), **Bill Becker**, **Janie MaMarche** and **Phyllis Holowaty**. That leaves **Janet Swanson** and the mystery lady, the two gals on the left. My question, then, is two-fold. Which of these two is Janet and who is the other one?

The main reason I ask is I remember Janet so fondly from grammar school when she attended a couple of my birthday parties. And I've not laid eyes on her since the day we all left Taft. Thanks for you help.

Art Nauman (January '52)
anauman@sbcglobal.net
Sacramento, CA

Dear Art,

The "mystery lady" is **Edna (Johnston) Berkey** (June '52). I'm afraid I no longer have the original photo to look at for the order of names for you, but will put correction in next issue and ask Bill Becker for clarification. It will take a bit of time, but will get results for you.

Jerry Bloom, TAA newsletter editor
[Apologies to all who may have had problem getting through to me. I changed my e-mail address at the first of the year, and it was missed to update in last newsletter issue. My new address is jbbloom@sbcglobal.net. This is my way to ask for help. Bill, can you please respond? Jbb]

Dear Jerry, Kay and Tom,

I just noticed that I apparently forgot to renew my membership in the Alumni Association. I hope I haven't missed any issues of the newsletter. I always find something of interest in them. Thanks for all you work!

Some fine teachers I remember: **Mr Bigler** - Physics; **Mrs Shultz** - History; **Mr Mc Calmont** - Chemistry; **Mrs Holterhoff** - English; **Mrs Ockerby** - Algebra. There were many others; I'm amazed I can't think of their names. One interesting memory; I could not "catch on" to Geometry at all at first and one day

in study hall I asked Mrs. Ockerby for help. She embarrassedly said she couldn't help because she was not good in Geometry. I thought to myself "if Geometry was hard for Mrs Ockerby, then I'm not so stupid to be having trouble with it", and that ended my panic! I started catching on about a week later.

Rodney Lowell (June '47)

Dear TAA:

After reading your paper I decided to go back into past issues of the Taft papers and I found many names of deceased servicemen from WWII. I used to edit and write the Servicemen's News. It wasn't always easy to write, but necessary. Please include the names I've submitted into your "Hall of Fame" book.

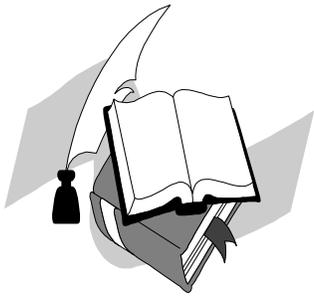
When I saw the Picture of Barb Loeschen and Bonnie and Gene Nugent, (also close friends) it brought back memories. We visited them in Florida the previous winter.

Our class was in high school during the 4 years of the war WWII. We grew up very sober because of this - however events at Taft always lifted our spirits. What wonderful memories. Many of us belonged to a silly club called the GFG's - **Barb Lawton Loeschen**, **Bonnie Weidman Nugent**, **Shirley Lou Steiskal Bell Gossen**; **Joyce Bjornsen Bailey**; **Marlis Brunner Breisch**; **Loretta Vlchek Skibbe**; **Sue Schiesser Wright**; **Shirley Peterson Bretwisch**; **Shirley Seaholm Lundgren**; **Ellie Behn Specht**; **Bea Korbus Harsch**; **Jeanne Rauschenburg Kirwan**; **Rri Brabec Isberner**; **Peggy Wieland Salisbury**; **Laurel Perkins Hoke**; **Audrey Peterson Anderson**; **Dorothy Bowen Michaelson**; **Nancy Vogel Glaser**; **Dorothy Workman Brouder**; **Carol Kelgard Da Valle** and myself - **Dolores Wenk Ebner**. We still keep in touch - after all these years

Dolores (Wenk) Ebner(Jan. '46)

[Dolores - What does "GFG" stand for? J. Bloom, TAA newsletter editor]

CLASS NOTES



1940s

DORIS (VENEMA) BRUNKHORST (JANUARY 1941) lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT SCHOLLER (JANUARY 1941) graduated from Northwestern BS Mech Engr 1948, lives in Corona Del Mar, CA, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is chairman for a medical equipment manufacturer.

GRACE (PETERSON) VAN ARSDELL (JANUARY 1941) lives in Solana Beach, CA.

DOROTHY (SCHNEIDER) ALTERGOTT (JUNE 1941) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and is retired.

WILLIAM STEPHAN (JANUARY 1942) MARRIED JUNE (RINGQUIST) (JANUARY 1943), Bill graduated from Northwestern 1949, they live in Radnor, PA, have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are retired.

LORAIN CHMIELOWSKI (JUNE 1942) lives in Chicago and is retired.

JOANNE (ALITIS) BAHNSEN (JUNE 1946) lives in Rio Rancho, NM, has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren and is retired.

RICHARD CARLSON (JUNE 1946) MARRIED PAT (SMITH) (JUNE 1946) they live in Palm Beach Gardens, FL and have 4 children.

CHARLES JAMIESON (JUNE 1946) graduated from De Paul BS CPA 1950, lives in Huntley, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a CPA.

JOAN (HACKELL) WILSON (JUNE 1947) MARRIED ROBERT (JUNE 1947) she graduated from Northeastern BA 1971, lives in Sarasota,

FL, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

JUNE (AXTATER) DAVIDSEN (JANUARY 1948) graduated from Northeastern BS 1965, lives in Fontana, WI, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

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

VIRGINIA (SCHULTZ) VERSCHUEREN (JANUARY 1949) lives in Spring Grove, IL, has 2 children, 3 granddaughters and is retired.

1950s

LEE (BLOCKHAN) LINDE (JUNE 1950) lives in Thomasville, GA and is retired.

FRED POTTINGER (JUNE 1950) graduated from Northern BA, U of Chicago MA, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

PHYLLIS (HOLOWATY) ALBRECHT (JANUARY 1952) lives in Lake Bluff, IL.

ANITA (NEBRING) PETERSEN (JUNE 1952) MARRIED RONALD (JUNE 1951), she lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 3 children and is a secretary.

GRACE (PETERSON) GOETTSCH (JUNE 1953) lives in Chicago, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

JACKIE (SASSANA) PATTERSON (JUNE 1953) lives in Chicago, has 3 children (all Taft graduates), 4 grandchildren and is retired.

THOMAS SOWKA (JUNE 1954) graduated from U of I BA 1958, lives in Decatur, IL and is a retired insurance broker.

JUDY (HOLZMAN) TRIDEMY (JUNE 1954) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is a homemaker.

DAVE LARSEN (JUNE 1955) graduated from Western 1961, lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired from UPS.

ARLENE (THOMA) STERN (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Cal State BA 1969, lives in Redondo Beach, CA and is a teacher.

ROD JAEGER (JUNE 1956) lives in Mundelein, IL, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

THOMAS MUCHA (JUNE 1956) graduated from Purdue BS 1960, Northwestern MS 1961, Purdue PhD 1965, lives in Mountain View, CA, has 2 children and is a retired engineer.

JUDITH (SULLIVAN) SORMAN (JUNE 1957) lives in Apopka, FL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

DENNIS DUSZAK (JANUARY 1958) graduated from IIT BS 1961, MBA 1969, lives in Batavia, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

JANET (LEWIS) BAKER (JUNE 1958) graduated from CO State BS 1962, Wesley ME 1990, lives in Greenwood Village, CO, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a HS teacher of English and Journalism.

JOYCE (WINTHER) FORD (JUNE 1959) lives in Marengo, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

NANCIE (CHYLES) KAERCHER (JUNE 1959) lives in Satellite Beach, FL, has 3 sons, 1 grandchild and is retired.

1960s

BONITA (DEPOWSKI) ECKARDT (JANUARY 1960) lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is the manager of a shoe store.

SANDRA (SWANSON) HIPPE (JUNE 1960) graduated from U of I BS Phy. Ed 1964, Northern MS, lives in Aurora, IL, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is a Biology Teacher.

VALERIE (DUSZAK) MESUN (JUNE 1960) graduated from Lutheran General Hospital RN 1964, Nicolet College AA Act 1993, lives in Lake Tomahawk, WI, has 6 children, 10 grandchildren, 6

great grandchildren and is the semi retired owner of an appraisal company.

JOAN (SZADY) WILSON (JUNE 1960) lives in Elgin, IL, has 6 children and 9 grandchildren.

GLORIA (KUHLES) ADAMS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northwestern and Mundelein College, lives in Tempe, AZ, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is an account rep.

KAREN (OLSON) SWENSON (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northern BS ed 1985, Nat'l College of Ed MA 1989, lives in St Charles, IL, has 1 child and is a kindergarten teacher.

ROBERT ZERWER (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northern 1971, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, has 1 child and is a buyer for Truserv Corp.

ALICE (ACKERT) DAVENPORT (JANUARY 1963) GRADUATED FROM Wheaton BA 1967, Mc Cormick Theological Seminary M DIV 1994, lives in Macomb, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a Presbyterian Minister and Hospice Chaplain.

RICK MONAHAN (JANUARY 1963) graduated from IL Wesleyan BA 1967, U of MO MA 1969, lives in Longwood, FL and is an insurance analyst.

KAREN (ERWOOD) JUGELMAN (JUNE 1964) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 3 children and is a homemaker.

KRIS (WARZECHA) TYLER (JUNE 1964), graduated from Northeastern BA 1968, Nat'l College of ED Med 1985, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is a retired teacher.

JOLYNN (CLOHER) SEIFERT (JANUARY 1965) lives in West Dundee, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren who are twins and is a fragrance rep for Liz Claiborne.

JOYCE (LUSTER) DONNER (JUNE 1965) graduated from North Park BA, Loyola Med and lives in Schaumburg, IL.

CLASS NOTES

DAVID BERGBREITER (JANUARY 1966) graduated from MI State BS 1970, MIT PhD 1974, lives in College Station, Tx, has 2 children and is a professor, Chemistry Dept. at Texas A & M.

MARTIN EMRATH (JANUARY 1966) graduated from U of I BSME 1970, MBA 1973, lives in Brentwood, TN, has 3 children and is a credit/ops manager for Caterpillar.

CHERRILYNN (BULAND) MALIK (JANUARY 1966) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a receptionist.

ROBERT BADGLEY (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northern BS 1971, lives in Los Angeles, CA and is an insurance underwriter.

TOM HIONIS (1967) graduated from De Paul BA History 1971, lives in Addison, IL and is a retired software engineer.

BILL MEYER (1968) graduated from Northern BA 1973, Northeastern MA 1990, lives in Chicago and is a HS counselor at Roosevelt.

1970s

PETE ANGELAKOS (1970) graduated from Wright AA 1972, lives in Mt Prospect, IL and is a machinist.

GARY DEMBEK (1970) lives in Schaumburg, IL and is a facility and security director.

EDWARD KNIGHT (1970) MARRIED MICHELLE (BONNIVIER) (1970) they live in Schaumburg, IL, have 2 children, 1 grandchild, Ed is a retired deputy director, Cook County Sheriff Dept.

KENNETH NAATZ (1970) graduated from U of I BS Acct 1974, De Paul MBA 1985, lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 3 children and is a benefits manager for Mc Donald's Corp.

BONNIE (SPREAD) SCHEER (1970) graduated from Western BS 1974, FL State MLS 1975., lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a housewife.

PAMELA (SLOWN) FENNER (1971) lives in Carol Stream, IL, has 2 children and is a

computer consultant and village trustee.

DONNA (SCHALLER) EVANS (1974) MARRIED RICHARD (1973), they live in Elgin, IL, have 2 children and she is a housewife, Richard is a branch service manager for an electronics company.

ANN MARIE (BURSONI) STEIN (1974) MARRIED DON (1972) he graduated from U of I BA 1976, De Paul MBS 1983, they live in Niles, IL, have 1 child and Don is an office manager.

STUART RUTLEDGE (1976) graduated from Wright AA 1978, Northeastern BA 1981, lives in Cary, IL, has 2 children and is in insurance sales.

PETER PONTIKIS (1979) graduated from Loyola BS 1983, U of I DDA 1987, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is a dentist.

ROBERT WALLACE (1979) graduated from Wright AA, Elmhurst College BS Biology, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is membership manager for

American Society of Anesthesiologists.

1980s

Jacqueline (Zerbe) Kitowski (1980) MARRIED RONALD (1980) lives in Chicago and is an account analyst.

LISA (TERDINA) HOROWITZ (1982) lives in Chicago and has 2 children.

WILLIAM E MEYER, JR (1985) graduated from Harvard BA 1988, Loyola Law JD 1991, lives in Chicago and is a lawyer.

MICHAEL YOUNG (1986) MARRIED RENEE (KICINSKI) (1987) they live in Bartlett, IL and have 2 children.

1990s

CHARLES KOENIG (1990) MARRIED HEIDI (GROSSE) (1990, they live in Chicago, Charles graduated from Wright AA 1994, is an admissions officer at Northeastern and Heidi is a student.

In Our Memories

Arthur Davidsen, class of January 1942, died May 6, 2004 of a complication from a fall.

Howard Behm, class of June 1942, passed away on March 23, 2004.

Robert Croston, class of June 1942, passed away on May 31, 2004.

Marilyn (Knight) Kasch, class of January 1944, passed away on June 13, 1004 from cancer.

Martha (Rettenmier) Murray, class of June 1944, died January 5, 2004.

Shirley (Steiskal) Bell Gossen, class of January 1946, died January 20.

John Booth, class of June 1947, died December 18, 2003.

Rudy Molinare, class of June 1950, passed away on May 3, 2004 from cancer.

Richard Blume, class of January 1956, passed away on March 13, 2004 from cancer.

Rich Melbye, class of June 1958, died May 25, 2004 from heart complications.

ROBERT L. ZAUN

Marching to his own drummer . . . and arrangements . . . and vocalists . . . and . . . High School memories
by Margit Wevang

(June '62)

He had dated my oldest sister when they were both freshmen and sophomores at Taft. During his junior and senior years, he dated my next older sister, while she was a freshman and sophomore. One summer afternoon in 1958, following his graduation in January and before I began my first year at Taft, the front doorbell rang. I opened the door. It was Zaun.

"Is Sue home?"

"Nope. She's working."

"Is Bonné home?"

"Nope. At the beach."

"Wanna go miniature golfing?"

"Wait here. I'll get my shoes."

The next evening, when again he came to the house to pick me up for golf, he was wearing pink pants. Not pink Bermuda shorts, which might have been somehow justifiable, it being summer and all, though, still, way over the top, color wise, at a time long before people had come to realize that there actually *was* a top that could be gone over and that to arrive at this place unaided, that is, without any instruction or assistance from others, spoke volumes not only about the individual who achieved such standing but about those who bore witness as well.

My father, the quiet Norwegian, seated in his favorite living room chair, happily wreathed in the slow drift of cigar smoke, his Martini within easy reach, looked up, saw Zaun and spoke two words:

"PINK PANTS???" Actually, the words *exploded* from him, unbidden, at the moment he had been swallowing, and it is a wonder he didn't require emergency treatment, given that the gin *had* to go *somewhere*, in conjunction with, or displacing, any residual cigar smoke already destined for expulsion.

Nothing, to my knowledge, had ever provoked my father to react in such a manner.

But, then, Zaun had presented a wardrobe choice never viewed firsthand before by anyone in my family, nor by the families of anyone I knew, nor, I would venture to guess, by anyone who lived in the Northern Hemisphere. Because we all owned black and white TVs, we hadn't even seen pink pants on television.

My mother scowled. "Be home by 10:00."

When I returned later, she said, "You're not allowed to go out with him anymore."

Jeez. The pink pants may have been a little off the charts, but they weren't a criminal offense.

"Why not?"

"Because he is too old for you."

Huh? What in the world did she mean by *that*? Too old? Would she be able to recognize someone who was too young for me as well? What about "just right"? By what measure might she possibly determine who would be "just right" for me?

I simply could not believe that she, an otherwise reasonable woman, had actually said what she had said and meant it. But because her rule was law, Zaun and I were forced thereafter to meet secretly and practice sins of omission.

Our romance didn't last long. Away at college, Zaun soon met the woman who would become his bride and remain his wife, while back at Taft I began going steady with a boy closer to my age, of whom my mother approved.

Over the years, Zaun and I picked up scraps of information about each other from other people. He had gone into real estate. I had gone into journalism. He had organized a jazz band. I had not.

Two years ago, I learned that his group, Jazz Spectrum, had recorded an album titled, *The Song Is You*, with arrangements written by Zaun, as well as lyrics written by him for a jumpy little tune called, "Leap Frog."



Reunited classmates visit in 2003 with Taft Mixed Chorus Director, James Stamm. R-L: Bob Zaun (June '58), James Stamm, Margit Wevang (June '62) and Bonne' (Merle) Wevang (June '59)

Some former Taftites would unquestionably respond to one of the album's numbers, "Sh-Boom," as I did on first (and subsequent) listening: with surprise and delight to discover that the song I knew so well as a teenager had somehow grown up.

There are 16 selections on the album, each one like a party treat, flavored with a little bit of this and a little bit of that, a little bit of swing and a little bit of scat, and when you've heard them all, you simply want some more.

Music professionals have written about the sound produced by Jazz Spectrum's four vocalists and five instrumentalists in flattering terms.

If I were asked to describe the music, my offering would be as mixed a bouquet as the songs themselves:

Zoomy. Delicious. Upbeat. Palpable. Elliptic. Sassy. Inquisitive. Anticipatory. Upbeat. Witty. Audacious. Upbeat. Astonishing. Sexy. Precise. And upbeat.

I hope I didn't forget to mention UPBEAT.

His new CD, *It's Christmas!*, features 17 holiday songs, including two that were written especially for the album, the title song, "It's Christmas!," and "Sleigh Bells Ringing Merry Christmas," both by Larry Boisen.

If I had to choose one song to justify buying the album, I would have to say, "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" (Jacques Brel would approve), "Little Drummer Boy" (played and sung like you've *never*

heard before), and "Auld Lang Syne (sung a cappella).

Obviously, I find it impossible to limit myself to one choice. It's like those party treats. You keep wanting more. **If you're interested to learn how to obtain your personal copy, please contact Bob at Jazzspect@aol.com.**

Ruskin once wrote that all art aspires to music. So, I think, do many other kinds of endeavors, such as engineering or performing brain surgery or raising children or preparing a fine meal, to name a few, so long as the engineer or doctor or parent or chef can recognize the point when his or her own work stops humming and begins to sing.

There is art in everything we do – or there should be – but for musicians the art of making music is not the metaphor it is for the rest of us, without which I need hardly suggest what our world would be like.

So, THANK YOU, Bob Zaun. Keep on aspiring - and - MAKE MORE MUSIC!!!!!!!



THANKS also to
James McCandless
My classmate, known then as **Jim Taylor**,
a June 1962 graduate,
for his most recent three albums
Splash of Red
Out West Somewhere
and
Sea of Freedom
which can be viewed, sampled
and ordered through
www.waterbug.com/mccandless.html
XXXX Margit

Remembering Leonard Teuscher...

To Taft Alum:

I have been meaning to write this letter for a number of years, but never got around to it. Maybe it's just as well, as it seems more appropriate now as Taft celebrates its 65th anniversary. I can offer a unique insight in to the first 25 years as my father, **Leonard Teuscher**, was Assistant Principal during that period, and my brother and I attended Taft in the mid-fifties.

Most of us realize how fortunate we were to have a quality education that Taft offered due to dedicated teachers and administrators. Did you know that until about 1960, when the Teachers' Union came into being, that teachers were not paid for any extra curricular activities that they were involved in at any Chicago Public School? Coaches, drama teachers, band directors, cheerleader sponsors and Friday Night Dance supervisors, all did this on their own time without any compensation. They did this for all of us and their families suffered. Teachers made the same salary whether they were involved in other activities or not.

There were three primary reasons that teachers remained at Taft rather than transfer to others schools offering greater responsibility and perhaps greater pay. My father was one of those, he only had to take his oral examinations at DePaul in order to obtain his PhD degree and accept a principal's job at another school. Like many others, he did not want to leave Taft and its staff.

First was Taft's first principal, Mr. **Leo Hoeffler**, who created the wonderful environment for teachers and administrators in which to work. He was someone who most students didn't know because he stayed in the background and let everyone do their job. It's interesting to note that after he died in 1955, many of the school's staff either left or other positions or retired.

Second [were] the parents. I remember my father, coaches like **Jim Smilgoff** and **Joe Kupcinet** and others praising the involvement and tremendous cooperation they received from the majority of parents.

Many will remember that when there was a problem at school, our parents were willing to meet with a school official to resolve the problem.

Third, and most important, were the students. The Taft Faculty enjoyed working with all of us.. Sure, there were a few problems along the way, but they were usually resolved with the student alone or with some parent help. I remember my father telling me, after I graduated, of his dealings with my classmate **Leo Golda**. It seems my father went to Lane Tech with Leo's father, so my father would call him whenever he felt things were getting out of hand and Mrs. Golda would intervene! I know that the faculties of the forties and fifties wanted to be at Taft and for the most part, remained there throughout their careers. We were fortunate to have good teachers and coaches who despite being paid little, never let that interfere with their desire to teach and try to steer us in the right direction. It was a very unique time at Taft when students, parents and teachers created a very special time. "Grease" tells it all!!!

After they retired, many kept in contact with each other even when they relocated away from the Chicago area. I was fortunate that my children had an opportunity to get to know Coach Smilgoff, **Paul Bigler**, **Helen Unseth** and others while they were growing up. When Coach Smilgoff attended our daughters swim meet, it was unbelievable to watch them hand on his every word after their event in the same way all of us who played for him had reacted. It was a very special place during that time for teachers and students alike and we were very fortunate to have been a part of it. It is great to read the many letters from the classes of the first 25 years in the Alumni Newsletter.

I might add that the best thing to happen to me was that I met **Adrienne Thompson** (1958). We've been married 43 years, have three children who have wonderful families that have given us seven special grandchildren.

Dick Teuscher (class of 1956)

Planning for Oct. 23, 2004

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS:

We will offer a buffet dinner, featuring chicken and beef entrees, side dishes and beverages, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., for \$12 per person, in the second floor lunchroom.

Required advance reservations should be made by Sept. 20. Payment must accompany the order. Mail reservation form (below) and check, payable to Taft Alumni Association, to Frank Heyer, 5549 N. Austin Ave, Chicago, IL 60630.

All tickets will be held at the Alumni information booth on the first floor Multipurpose room, (This is the west half of the Graven Library/Media Center, located in the center of the 1970s addition. If you enter from the Hurlbut Street plaza, this will be the door ahead of you on your right as you come into the building.)

If you have any questions, call Frank Heyer at (773) 631-4701.

STOCK UP ON "TAFT" SOUVENIRS

Oct. 23 will be an unusual opportunity to get some new Taft merchandise.

The Alumni Association's new Eagle logo is featured on new TAA T-Shirts. The shirts -- which run large -- are available in medium, large and XL for \$10; XXL and XXXL for \$12. They are in a silver gray with the logo in Taft blue.

To be introduced for the first time at the anniversary will be a new blue TAA baseball cap. The caps will be \$15 apiece, but on Oct. 23, they will be available for a special price of \$12.50 each.

We have a few, select sizes still available of the Taft Alumni Association blue windbreakers, first introduced at the 1989 50th reunion.

Through the Taft Physical Education Commission, several films of classic Taft football games will be available on videotape. There are plans to show the videos at the reunion; copies may be ordered.

Are you looking for a yearbook? We have some extras available for sale at \$25 each, especially in more recent years,

Taft High School and the new Taft Booster Club will also have tables with materials.

Taft High School 65th Anniversary Dinner

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of reservations @ \$12.00 _____

Total \$ enclosed: _____

Make check payable to: Taft Alumni Association and
mail to: Frank Heyer
5549 N. Austin Ave
Chicago IL 60630

University of Notre Dame Naval Leadership Weekend

In March this year, the University of Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit held its 9th Annual Naval Leadership Weekend on the Notre Dame campus. More than 100 Navy Midshipmen from universities all across the country gathered to listen to the four notable guest speakers share their views on leadership and ethics. Rear Admiral **Larry R. Marsh**, USN (Retired), distinguished Taft High School graduate ('58), was one of this year's guest speakers. This event actually ended up being a mini-Taft High School reunion since the University of Notre Dame NROTC Unit, Senior Class Advisor, **Dan Walsh**, LCDR, USN, is also a Taft High School graduate ('79).

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 him/her to join. Send us their name(s) and address(es) (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.

TAFT Alumni Bargains

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!**)

TAFT Alumni Order Form

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

+ 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 _____

Taft Alumni Association Demographics – June 2004

United States

AK	7	FL	519	LA	6	NC	61	OK	10	VA	59
AL	14	GA	76	MA	27	ND	1	OR	29	VT	2
AR	36	HI	7	MD	38	NE	15	PA	45	WA	81
AZ	267	IA	51	ME	7	NH	4	RI	4	WI	382
CA	503	ID	14	MI	134	NJ	34	SC	34	WV	4
CO	144	IL	11810	MN	104	NM	27	SD	6	WY	8
CT	26	IN	95	MO	89	NV	58	TN	46		
DC	1	KS	28	MS	6	NY	45	TX	180		
DE	1	KY	23	MT	14	OH	87	UT	8		

International

US Armed Svcs	7	Bermuda	1	Indonesia	1	New Zealand	1
Australia	1	Canada	18	Italy	1	Puerto Rico	3
British West Indies	1	England	4	Mexico	3	Switzerland	1

Total Alumni Association Members: 3,909

Total Graduates in Alumni Files: 15,316

Members by Decade

1940s	1515	1970s	3490	2000s	824
1950s	1945	1980s	2417	Teachers	130
1960s	3129	1990s	1865		

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM			
Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
Address (Home)		City	State Zip
Address (Business)		City	State Zip
Home Telephone No: ()		E-mail Address:	
Name of Spouse		Year Married:	
Number of Children:	Ages:	Number of Grandchildren:	
College(s) Attended, Degree(s) Earned, Year of Graduation _____			
Occupation:		Other Interests:	
Other News or Information: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$ _____ to defray newsletter cost. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$15. 00 for two-year membership. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$20. 00 for two-year Husband & Wife membership. Return to: Taft Alumni Association 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago IL 60631			

Summer 2004

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)
 Alumni Liaison: Frank Heyer (1948)
 Vice-president: Jeraldene Bloom (1962)
 2nd Vice President: Anne Lunde (1969)
 Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley DeWeese (1960)
 Directors: Cliff Raiman (1947)
 Tom Kuciak (1962)
 Joe Popp (1966)
 Paulette English (1967)
 Richard Lindberg (1971)
 Barbara Rodriguez (1970)
 Kevin Kreiger (1973)
 Judi Lenihan (1973)

Teacher Representative: Mike Hionis

Newsletter Staff:

Editor - Jerry Bloom - (920) 743-8449

E-mail - jbbloom@sbcglobal.net

Assistants: Kay / Tom Kuciak - (623) 544-0226

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.
CHICAGO IL 60631

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit NO. 215
Des Plaines, IL

