



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXIV, No. 3

Summer 2008

Taft Team Headed To Disneyworld!

Taft's Know Your Heritage Team Defeats St. Ignatius To Win City Championship

Friday, June 13th will be a lucky day for the Taft Know Your Heritage Team members; they will be boarding a flight on that day for Orlando, Florida to enjoy the vacation they won to Walt DisneyWorld. Actually they worked hard to win the City Championship of the Know Your Heritage Competition held annually by Central City Productions in Chicago.

Know Your Heritage is a competition designed to promote understanding and appreciation of different cultures by having students compete in a game-show style format. Taft's team of Captain **Xuyu Xiang**, **Lilly Atamanah**, **Juliette Pirpiris**, **Elizabeth Scray** and **Angelika Wardach** won the championship on a show that aired May 25th on WCIU, Channel 26.

"After St. Ignatius blew out Northside College Prep in the semi finals everyone thought they were going to DisneyWorld" remarked Dr. Arthur Tarvardian, principal of Taft High School. "But, this should show everyone that you should not underestimate our Taft students. Our student body, just like this team, reflects a wide array of Chicago's rich cultures which is why we were able to do so well."

"We also had tremendous support from our coaches Ms. Reed and Ms. Ko, along with all of the teachers in Taft's Social Studies Department" added Juliette Pirpiris a sophomore who was on the team for her second year. "It also helped that most of us were on the team last year too when we made it to the televised rounds. I know that this year I was a little less nervous about all of the aspects related to being on television than I was last year".



Taft has participated in Know Your Heritage since 2003. Coaches **Andrea Reed** and **Lucy Ko** created a team to honor the memory of late Taft Principal **Thomas A. Brown**. Ms. Reed is very happy that "after five years of relative success, (victories through the quarter final matches), we were able to achieve the elusive goal of Grand Champions this season. However we could not have done it without the unwavering support of the administration, faculty members, parents, and friends. Ms. Ko chimed in, "because this year the team faced the daunting task of analyzing and memorizing hundreds of pages of Chicago history – more than required in the past."

The key to the team's success in Ms. Reed's opinion is "that they remained determined and confident, while embracing the philosophy "TEAM FIRST." Taft faced some pretty stiff competition on their road to DisneyWorld and a few times the

score was very close, making it very exciting. The best part of the experience is that all only one of the team members is a senior so Taft should have a formidable team again next year. In addition to the all expense paid trip to DisneyWorld all of the team members also receive scholarship money.

Immediately following the team's win **Arne Duncan**, CEO of the Chicago Public Schools congratulated the Taft Team on the Homepage of the CPS website and indicated that "These students represent the best CPS has to offer" and wished them continued success. All of us at Taft are very proud of them and echo that sentiment. (Submitted by PTSA President Cleopatra Pirpiris)

Welcome, Graduates of the Class of 2008



Congratulations to the graduating class of 2008. You are now part of a special group of men and women known as alumni of Taft High School.

Our purpose in the Taft Alumni Association is to provide a means for alumni to continue or renew friendships begun at Taft, to provide service to the school and, most importantly, to preserve its history. We publish a newsletter up to four times per year to let you know what other alumni are doing and to keep you informed of activities affecting the Taft community.

As you continue your education, embark on a career or get married and start a family, remember us. Drop a line to let us know your new name and/or address and what you've been doing since graduation. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion five or ten years from now.

An application form to join the Association is on the last page of this newsletter. The membership fee is only \$15, which covers two years worth of membership. Considering the rising costs of printing and postage for these newsletters, that's a pretty nice bargain! We wish the best of luck to you. Hold your heads high and be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

TAA Scholarship Awards

During the commencement ceremonies, your Taft Alumni Association was there to present four separate scholarships. **Frank Heyer**, our 2nd Vice President was on hand to see the smiles and hear the cheers.

The \$1,000 Robert "Bill" Hendricksen scholarship was again available, due to the continuing generosity of his widow, **Darlene (Bruemmer) Hendricksen** (June 1962) who personally selected her deserving senior from among a respectable field of Taft seniors who applied for TAA scholarships this year. **Stephanie Day** received this year's honor. She ranked eighth in her class of 384 graduates with a GPA of 4.549. Her goal is to become either a family doctor or an obstetrician, and will attend the University of Illinois this fall.

Another \$1,000 scholarship was presented in memory of the late **Dr. John P. Graven**, who served Taft as its principal from 1968-1978. This year's recipient was **Xuyu Xiang**. He applied to and was accepted by three colleges at the time of his scholarship application, but had not as yet decided where to attend. Xuyu wants to become an Engineering Manager with NASA. As his GPA of 4.7477 placed him sixth in his class, he should have no problem succeeding with his dreams. His interests are soccer, basketball, ping pong and badminton and was part of the team "Know Your Heritage" that won a trip to Disney World. See page 1 of this issue.

Then, \$750 scholarships were awarded to two deserving seniors, **Amanda Nieves** and **Adrianna Jelesnianska**. Amanda has applied to and been accepted at five different colleges, but was undecided as to which one she will attend at the time of her scholarship application to TAA. She indicates a goal of a career in Public Relations. Amanda has volunteered in various community services and enjoys reading books, baking and listening to music. She has a class ranking of #19 in her class.

Adrianna Jelesnianska ranked third in her class of 384 seniors (GPA of 4.94). She wants to enter the world of business, with a focus on international business - most likely in the financial area. She plans to attend the University of Illinois and major in Business in the fall. Travel is one of her strong interests and has already been to Dominican Republic, Huatulco, Cozumel and European countries, such as Poland and Slovakia.

New CPS Website

Submitted by **Frank Heyer** (class of 1948)

When you have a chance, visit www.cpsalumni.org. This is a new site created by the CPS system to enable all alumni of the CHICAGO Public School System to post notes, hopefully find classmates, get data on reunions, etc. It's a brand new site, so there is not too much data posted thus far. But, it should prove interesting in the future.

The release from CPS states they want to "connect an estimated three million people, who have attended or worked in Chicago Public Schools, with separate home pages for every school in CPS history. CPS is the first large urban public school district to organize its alumni in this way.

"The goal of CPSalumni.org is to build relationships with alumni and their former schools and classmates, engage alumni in supporting their schools, share information about alumni groups and activities, encourage the sharing of stories and photos about school experiences, and archive public education in Chicago.

"The site also will enable CPS to continue to build its list of famous CPS alumni, which includes people such as Amelia Earhart, Nat King Cole and Harrison Ford."

Is your E-mail address up to date?

This notice is being repeated as a reminder. Since it's inception nine years ago, the Taft Alumni E-mail Directory has become a very popular feature of the TAA website. Over 1,500 alumni from the Classes of 1940 through 2007 have registered. The directory, however, can connect classmates only if the information is accurate.

Please take a moment and check your entry at www.taftalumni.org (click on Searchable e-mail Directory) to verify that we have listed your name, your year of graduation, and your e-mail address and/or website accurately. Write to eagleemail@taftalumni.org if you wish to add your name or make any changes.

For your protection, we do not post your address as a hyperlink. Your bio and street address information should be addressed directly to TAA President Kay Kuciak at taftalum@cox.net.

Taft Class Reunions



January 1946

Date: September 12-13, 2008
Place: Hilton Garden Inn - Oakbrook Terrace
Contact: **Barbara Loeschen** - 941-924-0736
or sarasotabarb@verizon.net

January/June 1948 - 60th Reunion

Date: September 26-27, 2008
Place: Holiday Inn - Skokie
Contact: **Frank Heyer** - 773-631-4701 or
frankheyer@msn.com

January 1953 - 55th Reunion

Dates: July 25, 26, 27, 2008
Place: Friday: Pickwick Restaurant - Park Ridge 5 PM
Saturday: Wayside Inn - Glenview 5 PM
Sunday: Elly's Pancake House 11 AM
Contact: **Valerie Zetek Blaue** - 847-824-5577
val5455@sbcglobal.net or
Lois Plechaty Rolf - 847-967-6993

January 1955

Date: August 2, 2008
Place: Lake Avenue Woods, Des Plaines - 10:30am
Contact: **Meg (Goodell) Magee** - 410-465-0256

January/June 1958 - 50th Reunion

Date: October 3-5, 2008 (Dinner/Dance - Oct 4)
Place: Doubletree Hotel - Arlington Heights, IL
Contact: Sentimental Journey
847-657-3639 or funreunion@aol.com

January 1959 - 50th Reunion

Date: September 18-20, 2009
Place: TBD - Expect a letter soon with all the details.
Contacts:

Nancy Peterson - NPSmith721@sbcglobal.net
Norm Gunther - NHGunther@aol.com
Barb Peterson - BPete1914@aol.com
Glenn Templeman - XMathMan@SBCGlobal.net
Karen Whitney - Whit@MC.net
Dona Olson - DonaMcLaughlin@SBCGlobal.net
Wayne Schimpff - WSchimpff@aol.com

June 1959 - 50th Reunion

Date: September 24-27, 2009
Place: TBD - Welcome Reception, Picnic @ Norwood Park, Dinner/Dance, Tour of Taft, Tour of Chicago Loop, Possible Football Game, Farewell Brunch
Contacts: www.taftreunion1959.com
Larry Marsh - fairseas2u@cox.net
Pat (Santell) Lutz - patlutz@comcast.net
Kent Meyer - carolekent@accelplus.net
Sue (Willers) Bruce - mrmrsjbruce@verizon.net

January/June 1962

Date: September 13, 2008
Place: Gibson's Restaurant - Rosemont, IL
Contact: **David Robert**, chairperson
Taft62reunion@sbcglobal.net or
847-253-8876

January/June 1966 (celebrating 60th birthdays)

Date: August 16, 2008
Place: TBA (northwest Chicago area)

Contact: **Linda (Kelly) Sak** -

Lulusak@aol.com

847-705-9808 (let it ring 6 times)

Class of 1977

Date: August 16, 2008
Place: Bunker Hill Forest Preserve
Contact: **Karl Vanderah** - 773-469-7846
email: bongwater1977@hotmail.com

Class of 1978

Date: August 16, 2008
Place: Colletti's Restaurant - 6:00 pm
Contact: tafths.30threunion@yahoo.com

All Taft Classes - 6th Annual Reunion Picnic

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2009
Place: Ft. DeSoto Park, St. Petersburg, FL
Shelter number 14 - **Noon to 3 PM**
Pot Luck - BYOB (Note: photo shoot at 2:30 pm)
(park phone number - (727) 582-2267)
Contact: **Leon Kathan** (if needed)
117 Monte Real Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33876-8056
(863) 655-4559 - leonkathan@yahoo.com

Elementary School Reunions

1958 - Oriole Park School 50th Reunion

Date: August 15-16, 2008
Places: Friday - Oriole Park Grade School tour - 1pm
Friday - Portillo's (Dempster St., Niles) - 5 pm
Saturday - Coletti's (Elston/Central - Chicago) 6 pm
(Reservations and prepayment required)
Contact: **Lynn (Hybarger) Saracco** (June 62)
678-344-3595 or saracco65@msn.com **ASAP**

1958 - Norwood Park School 50th Reunion

Date: September 12-14, 2008
Place: Norwood Park Grade School, etc.
Contact: **Jerry Beesley Bloom** (June 62)
(920) 559-7440 or jerrybloom@fales.org

1959 - Thomas A. Edison School 50th Reunion

Date: Summer of 2009
Place: TBA
Contact: **Carolyn (Feare) Rominski** (1963)
carrrominski@yahoo.com or
Margie (Stewart) Doud (1963) at
mcdoud@yahoo.co

Musical Revival

"Grease" was nominated at the recent 2008 Tony Award ceremonies in the Best Revival of a Musical category on June 15th, 2008. Although Taft's own **Jim Jacobs'** (June, 1960) musical originated in 1971, this year's version featured the two lead performers from the TV reality show, "You're The One I Want", which aired in January 2007. The "Danny Zucko" character is being played by Max Crumm and "Sandy" is played by Laura Osnes. Their production opened this past August. Jim co-wrote the play with Warren Casey in Chicago as a teen love story based on several characters he developed from former Taft classmates, and it has played to enthusiastic audiences around the world.

Although we are disappointed to learn the revival version of "Grease" did not receive any Tony Awards this year, their dance



ASHLEY SPENCER

performance on the TV was fun to watch. Jim Jacobs was pleased to state that the musical continues to play on Broadway to "standing room only" audiences and receive numerous standing ovations during the curtain calls. Watch for this show to come to Chicago next year! Jim also "hinted" that Ashley Spencer may play the lead then - remember her from the TV show competition? The beautiful blond???



Group Photo: Sara Krulwich/The New York Times from June 16, 2008. Photo of Ashley Spencer courtesy of Sara Schatz of Binder Casting.

NOTE: Newsletter deadline for photographs, articles or events to be included in next issue: September 30, 2008

Project Aerie

Paulette (Zemaitis) English, Web Editor

It has long been the wish of TAA to have a complete list of all Taft graduates from all classes beginning with the first graduating class of 1940. Through the sharing of information with reunion committees over the years, we have an impressive database, but it is not complete.

This summer, we are launching "Project Aerie", an effort to garner all of the names of Taft's graduates into a comprehensive database. While we do receive lists of current graduating classes, the school is unable to provide us with lists from the earlier classes.

Why do we want this database? First, it would provide a solid launch pad for reunion committees. Kay Kuciak, TAA president, makes available a list of names and addresses from the TAA membership rolls, but a number of graduate names may be missing if they've never had TAA contact. A complete database would also provide a reference for TAA related business, such as verification of graduation years when alumni names appear in the news or in letters and emails to Jerry Bloom, editor of our newsletter. We will not remove from the database those "friends of Taft" who are not alumni but wish to be associated with a particular graduating class.

So, to wax poetic, we are calling all Eagles home to roost. Beginning with the TAA membership list, we will tackle each decade in turn, relying on listings in the yearbooks to fill in the missing names. It is possible that we may request photocopies of names from yearbooks that are in the hands of our members that are not available to us, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

Scholarship Thank You

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. It was a wonderful surprise and great honor to receive such an award on graduation. I really appreciate this scholarship, especially with our current financial situation. I am happy to say that my father is back to work, but the job loss has put a financial strain on our family. Your decision to choose me as the scholarship recipient is an honor and most appreciated by myself and my family. I can assure you that I will continue to be as great a student and person in the future as I was at Taft. My four years at Taft have left a strong and positive impact on me that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I am so proud to call myself a Taft graduate, as I know you all are, and I hope to be an active member of the Taft Alumni Association. Receiving this award has really left an impact on me. I hope that one day down the road I will be able to have that same impact and instill joy and hope in another Taft graduate the way the TAA has done for me. You will never understand how much this scholarship means to me. It represents so much more than free money. It's a chance to succeed.

Once again, I thank you very much for the award.

Sincerely
Amanda Nieves, Class of 2008

Coming to an Inbox Near You!

Paulette (Zemaitis) English, Web Editor

Recently, a number of you have made inquiries about receiving an electronic version of the TAA newsletter. We recognize that many, especially the newest graduates, have come to expect this service as a routine matter. Before the year is out, we hope to have an electronic newsletter available to you, but as they say, the devil is in the details.

The proposed electronic newsletter, which will be in the universal PDF format, will be an option for members with valid email addresses. The newsletter will most likely reside on the TAA website where it can be opened and read. It will be password-protected and TAA members in good standing will be emailed a password enabling them to open each newsletter and, if they wish, to print it.

Three terrific reasons to receive an electronic newsletter:

1. More of your membership dues can go toward good works, like TAA scholarships, rather than toward ground mailing costs.
2. We'd reduce paper use, save trees, slow global warming, save the world!
3. Instant gratification—no waiting for the letter carrier or trudging out to the mailbox in inclement weather only to find the newsletter chewed by postal equipment.

Okay, I exaggerate—but you get the idea. Naturally, TAA members who prefer their newsletter on paper will continue to receive one by postal service. We'll keep you informed as the project progresses and provide clear instructions for receiving the new electronic newsletter. If you wish to provide feedback—always welcomed—please use the "Contact Us" form online at www.taftalumni.org.

"Grease" is Still the One

By James C. Roberts

For millions of "Greasers" -- fans of the musical "Grease" -- worldwide, these are great times. Last year "Grease" (Probably the most popular musical in American history) returned to Broadway following a national television competition titled "You're The One That I Want" to select the lead characters, and touring companies are hitting other cities in the U.S. and abroad. This year makes the 30th anniversary of the equally successful movie version and a host of commemorative activities are in the works.

Among the venues is Chicago's Taft High School, the alma mater of Jim Jacobs, co-author of "Grease" and the school which inspired the musical. Shirley Deweese, a member of the "Grease class" of 1960, is the vice president of Taft's alumni association and chairman of the annual class reunion. (In the musical, the story takes place in 1959, so that the production could make better use of 50s music.)

Mrs. Deweese says that special plans are in the works, including a hoped for appearance by Jacobs. Ten years ago, she says, Frankie Avalon, who starred in the film, made an appearance, as did Guinness Book of World Records representatives who verified the world's largest performance of the "Hand Jive", a dance featured in the movie.

Mrs. Deweese says that approximately 330 of the members of the class of 1960 are still living and that they are proud of their "Grease" roots at Taft. That includes Jacobs, she says, who during his years at Taft played guitar and sang in a band named DDT and the Dynamiters.

"Grease" has made Jacobs a very wealthy man,

flush from a never-ending stream of royalties from endless performances of the musical, plus CDs and DVDs. Nonetheless, wealth and the attendant fame have not affected him, Mrs Deweese says.



"I talk to him all the time," she notes, "and he always wants to be updated on what our classmates are doing. And when he comes to town (Jacobs lives mostly in Los Angeles, but maintains a condo in Chicago) he always looks some of us up and takes us out to dinner, or introduces us to celebrities he may be with."

Reached by phone at his home in Los Angeles, Jacobs comes across as affable, relaxed, extremely funny and happy to ride the endless wave of his doowop masterpiece.

"It's just phenomenal, the number of Greasers that are out there," he says. "And it's a world-wide phenomenon. 'Grease' is even more popular in Australia and the U.K. than it is here in the States."

"Grease" fans are "hopelessly devoted" to "Grease" because of the seductive aura of 50s nostalgia that suffuses the work and because of its superb music. Alone among musicals of the last 30 years, "Grease" does not depend on razzle-dazzle and spectacular sets, highlighted by one or two signature numbers.

Instead the plot is propelled forward by one memorable song after another – the title song, "Grease," "You're the One That I want", "Summer Nights" "Greased Lightning" and "We Go Together" being just a few.

The somewhat rocky love story between greaser gang leader Danny Zuko, played in the movie by John Travolta, and goody-two shoes blonde beauty Sandy Olsson, played by Olivia Newton-John, also connects emotionally in a powerful way.

"Grease" was born in 1971 as a collaboration between Jacobs, then a copy editor at Advertising Age magazine, and Warren Casey, a salesman for a Chicago department store, both of them part-time actors.

As Mrs. Deweese relates the story, Jacobs and Casey were attending a theater cast party when Jacobs decided to play some of his 1950s 45 records. "Jacobs proposed to Casey that they write a 50s musical," says Mrs. Deweese, "and after a few beers they had both agreed."

Later the play ("Grease" began as a play with music) debuted at a small, out-of-the way theater named the Kingston Mines. "The theater was so bare bones," Mrs. Deweese says, "that they didn't even have chairs. They passed out sheets of newspaper for you to put on the floor to sit on,"

Neither co-author expected much from their little production, but as luck would have it, two New York producers, Ken Waissman and Maxine Fox were in attendance and liked what they saw and heard. They told Jacobs and Casey that they wanted to produce "Grease" on Broadway.

But first, they said, the two had to agree to move to New York and completely rewrite the production as a full-scale musical. The two agreed, the reworked "Grease" opened at the Eden Theater in lower Manhattan and the rest, as they say, is history.

In the original play, Jacobs says, local Chicago place names were used, such as Canale's Pizza Parlor, the "Super Dog" hot dog dive and Lake Michigan beaches. For instance, the song "Summer Night", Jacobs notes, was originally titled "Foster Beach." Jacobs changed the name of Taft High School, to Rydell High, in honor of 50s crooner Bobby Rydell.

In the movie most of the Chicago names were changed and the locale was shifted from Chicago to southern California. "The characters were essentially composites," Mrs. Deweese says, "although I can recognize individual classmates in most of the characters – except Sandy." Sandy was re-cast as an Australian in the movie to fit Australian actress Olivia Newton-John.

"We didn't have any students from anywhere else," Mrs. Deweese says. "We were all from Chicago." The pajama party that is in act 1 of "Grease" is true to life. "We had pajama parties all the time," she says.

Jacobs adds that there really was a girls gang named the Pink Ladies. The gang was started in the early 50s, Jacobs says, adding "I reported to Taft High School as a peach-fuzzed freshman in 1956 and these broads with bawshkas, cigarettes hanging out of their mouths and huge (breasts) scared the hell out of me." They still provoke awe.

"Last year was the 50th anniversary year for the class of '57," Jacobs notes. "and someone sent me pictures of the class reunion. There were these old ladies who looked like Julia Child all wearing Pink Ladies tee shirts. It was pretty amazing."

The boys gang, called the T-Birds in the movie, was originally the Burger Palace Boys, in the musical, Jacobs says. "They were a darned good looking bunch of guys," Mrs. Deweese says. "although a little rougher than they were portrayed in the movie." She adds, "They didn't get arrested or anything, but they did have their rumbles". The T-Birds continue to rumble today all over the world.

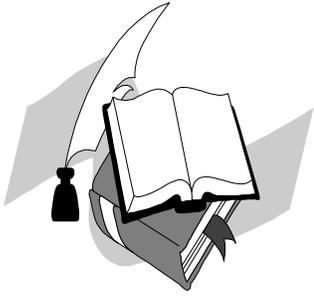
"You're the one that I want" has gone on the road, Jacobs says, and international castings have been completed in Norway, Germany and Israel, with more countries to come. "They wanted me to be one of the judges in these, Jacobs says, but enough is enough." He was one of the judges in the American TV version, however, along with Olivia Newton-John and Lord Andrew Lloyd-Weber. Lloyd Weber begged to be on the show, Jacobs says, adding incredulously, "Even with all his amazing successes he will go to his grave perturbed that he didn't write 'Grease'." Jacobs adds, "On one show a kid had finished singing and I said to him, 'You've just performed for Lord Legit. I'm just the Duke of Doo-wop.'"

Jacobs says that unauthorized performances (in which no royalties are paid) are an ongoing problem, prompting the creation of what he called the "Grease police" to address the problem. "There are so many rip-offs of "Grease" going on that it's impossible to monitor them," he says, adding, "what usually happens is that some girl down in Alabama, or some place gets disgruntled because she's been passed over for the part of Sandy and she calls our licensee, the Samuel French Company and says: "do you realize that the high school in Burnt Corn, Alabama is staging an unauthorized production of "Grease" and they're selling "Grease" tee shirts and all kinds of stuff?"

Jacobs says that he's been urged to write a book about the "Grease" story, but has declined because he feels the story is not over. "Warren Casey and I used to ask each other, when will it end?" he says. "We decided that it would end when something came along to replace nostalgia. "For a while we thought it might be Disco," Jacobs says, but then Disco's biggest star, John Travolta, decided to star in the movie version of "Grease." "Finally," Jacobs says, "We just decided it will never end."

[Article submitted by Shirley Deweese as published in the Washington Times on April 9, 2008.]

CLASS NOTES



1940s

VIVIAN (MORRIS) HORN (JANUARY 1941) lives in Ingle-side, IL, has twin daughters, 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchild- ren and is a retired mail carrier.

IRENE (WELLS) KING (JANUARY 1941) lives in Madis- son, WI, has 8 children, 10 grand- children, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

MARIE (ROMANO) ROMANO (JUNE 1942) lives in Alhambra, CA, has 3 children, 3 grandchild- ren and is retired.

DOROTHY (SCHREIBER) BASKO (JANUARY 1944) graduated from Chicago Real Es- tate 1978, City Wide College 1984, lives in Huntley, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired from food service.

TOM CRAFT (JANUARY 1945) graduated from Purdue BSME 1950, lives in Napa, CA, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired engineer.

HAROLD ALVIN (JUNE 1945) MARRIED NANCY (ANDERSON) (JANUARY 1949), he graduated from U of I BA 1950, they live in Grayslake, IL and they have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and are retired.

JOANNE (ALITIS) BAHNSEN (JUNE 1946) lives in Rio Rancho, NM, has 5 children, 9 grandchild- ren, and 11 great grandchildren and is retired.

PAT (DONKEL) HOOVER (JUNE 1946) graduated from U of I BS 1978, lives in Huntley, IL and has 5 children and 14 grand- children.

RICHARD SCOTT (JUNE 1946) lives in Cranford, NJ, has 2 chil- dren, 5 grandchildren and is a re- tired marketing consultant.

CAROL (LEWIS) CHRISTENSEN (JANUARY 1947) lives in Prairie View, IL, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren and is a retired seamstress.

DON NELSON (JANUARY 1947), lives in Wayzata, MN, has 2 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired consultant.

MARGARET (PFENDER) WINTERSDORF (JANUARY 1947) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 7 children, 15 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is retired.

MARILYN (HAYOR) CICHOWSKI (JUNE 1947) lives in Beverly Hills, FL, has 3 chil- dren, 2 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild and is a retired gov- ernment contract rep.

MARY MAIER (JUNE 1947) graduated from U of MI 1951, lives in Silverdale, WA, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired from steel sales.

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

MARY JANE (CHMIELOWSKI) SCHAEFERLE (JUNE 1947) graduated from Cornell BA, U of IA MD, lives in Garwin, IA and North Port, FL, has 5 children, 12 grandchildren and is retired from private practice.

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

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

WILLIAM HOPKINS (JUNE 1948) lives in Elgin, IL, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren and is a wholesale tire broker.

DOROTHY WEIDMAN (JANUARY 1948) graduated from U of AZ BA 1952, lives in Chi- cago and is a part time legal secre- tary.

BETTY (KOWALKE) AHRENS (JUNE 1948) lives in Beecher, IL. Has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a headstart teacher assistant.

STEPHEN NITSCHNEIDER (JUNE 1948), lives in Highlands Ranch, CO, has 6 children and is retired from IL Bell.

MYRLE (TRIEGER) SUMMERFORD (JUNE 1948) graduated from Knox BA 1952, Central WA Med 1979, lives in Bellevue, WA, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

HARRY BOBENG (JANUARY 1949) graduated from Wright AA 1951, U of I BS 1953, lives in Suwanee, GA, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired ac- countant.

JANICE (JEFFERY) BURDEN (JANUARY 1949) lives in Mesa, AZ, has 5 children, 7 grandchild- ren, and 1 great granddaughter and is retired.

JOHN WILL (JANUARY 1949) graduated from North Central Col- lege BS 1953, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, has 2 children, 2 grand- children and is a retired V.P. from Gibson-Homans Co.

DORIS (HARRINGTON) SAMPSON (JUNE 1949) lives in Clearwater Beach, FL, has 2 chil- dren and is in real estate.

1950s

RONALD EWALD (JANUARY 1950) MARRIED DORIS (COLEMAN) (JANUARY 1950), they live in Huntley, IL, have 4 children, 15 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and are retired.

RAYMOND FREDRICH (JUNE 1950) lives in Arlington Hts, IL and Palm Harbor, FL, has 4 chil- dren, 8 grandchildren and is a real estate broker/marketing engineer.

LOUIS TULGA (JANUARY 1951) graduated from Wheaton BA 1957, MA 1961, OH State PhD 1967, lives in Albuquerque, NM, has 3 children, 4 grandchild- ren and is a real estate educator.

CHARLES KEATON (JUNE 1951) graduated from U of I BS 1955, lives in Indianapolis, IN, has 3 children and is a retired actuary.

ROBERT FORMAN (JUNE 1952) lives in Northbrook, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a semi retired insurance agent.

SHIRLEY (BURHOP) IVERSON (JUNE 1952) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children and is a house- wife.

JOANNE (ADAMS) STOUT (JUNE 1952) graduated from De Pauw BA 1956, lives in San Diego, CA and is a retired proba- tion officer.

JEANNETTE (HUNTMAN) SUTFIN (JANUARY 1953) graduated from Northern BS 1957, Mc Cormick Theol. Sem. M.Div 1979, lives in Wheaton, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired Presbyterian minister.

EUGENE SWANSON (JANUARY 1953) MARRIED SHARON (CHIZEK) (JUNE 1960, he graduated from U of I BS 1957, U of Chicago MBA 1972, lives in Naperville, IL, has 3 chil- dren, 4 grandchildren and is a re- tired controller.

ROBERTA (LOCKERBEE) FIALI (JUNE 1953) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 1 child, 2 grand- children and is semi-retired, also owns a home in Maui HI.

WILLIAM SMYTHE (JANUARY 1954) lives in Fridley, MN, has 1 child, 2 grand- children and is retired and winters in Rio Grande Valley, TX.

PATRICIA AMLIN (JUNE 1954) graduated from MN School of Art BFA, San Francisco State MFA, Munich Academy of Art, Ful- bright, lives in Gunnison, CO and is chairman of the Cinema Dept. at SFSU.

MARLENE (FENSKE) DOUGLAS (JUNE 1954) gradu- ated from U of I BS 1957, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

JEANNE (ERICKSON) PETERSON (JUNE 1954) lives in Glenview, IL, has 1 child and is an administrative assistant.

ROBERT ROEHL (JUNE 1954) lives in Homassa, FL, has 2 girls, 2 granddaughters and is re- tired from General Motors.

ERV JANIS (JUNE 1955) lives in Chicago has 3 children, 3 grand- children and is a plumbing con- tractor.

GARY SAMS (JUNE 1955) MARRIED SANDRA (HUBENTHAL) (JANUARY 1957), Gary graduated from Northwestern BS 1959, Sandy graduated BS 1961, they live in Surprise, AZ, have 1 child and are retired.

MARY (PASTUSZKA) SIKORSKI (JUNE 1955) lives in Mundelein, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

JOAN (DENNEY) SANDECKI (JANUARY 1956) lives in La Verne, CA, has 5 stepchildren, 5 grandchildren and is retired from Pacific Bell.

BOB CARROLL (JUNE 1956) lives in Valley Center, CA, has 3 children and is retired.

LAURIE (HUEBNER) GLEESON (JUNE 1956) graduated from Marquette BS 1960, lives in San Diego, CA, has 5 children, 14 grandchildren and is a retired kindergarten teacher.

KATHERINE (HANSEN) GUTIERREZ (JUNE 1956) lives in Williston, SC, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired photographer.

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

SUSAN (MOSHIER) MATHEWS (JANUARY 1957) graduated from U of I BA, MA 1961, lives in La Grange Park, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is an English teacher.

ALLEN HOOKS (JUNE 1957) graduated from Western IL BA 1963, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a warehouse manager.

JOAN (OSMOLAK) MURRAY (JUNE 1957) lives in Romeoville, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

JAMES DAVY (JANUARY 1958) MARRIED LINDA (DEJONGE) (January 1960), HE GRADUATED FROM Coe College BA 1962, they live in Frankfort, IN, have 3 children, 6 grandchild and are retired.

EMERY GERHARDT (JANUARY 1958) graduated from San Diego State BA 1966, lives in San Diego, CA, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired bakery executive.

KAREN (DRINAN) JOHNSON (JANUARY 1958) graduated from Triton AAS 1977, Harper AA 1984, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 6 children, 14 grandchildren and is a retired x-ray technologist.

SUSAN (DICKINSON) SEUFER (JANUARY 1958) graduated from U of CO MS 1966, lives in Canon City, CO, has 4 sons, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT WOLTER (JANUARY 1958) graduated from MI State BA 1962, lives in Ellenton, FL, has 5 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired food service manager.

PHILIP GANSZ (JUNE 1958) MARRIED HOLLY (ANDERSON) (JUNE 1964), Holly graduated from Carthage BS 1967, St Xaviers MS 1999, they

live in Park Ridge, IL, have 2 children, Philip is in sales, Holly is a PE specialist.

BETTE (WOOD) GOULD (JUNE 1958) graduated from Lakeland College BS 1989, MBA 1998, lives in Mountain Home, AR, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired CPA.

LOUIS HOLIAN (JUNE 1958) graduated from De Paul BS 1965, lives in Palatine, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is President of Prospect Products, Inc.

RON KOSEMCZAK (JUNE 1958) graduated from Coe College BA 1962, Northern MA 1967, lives in Cary, IL, has 2 children and is a retired PE teacher.

PAUL STOLTMAN (JUNE 1958) lives in Sturgeon Bay, WI, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and owns "The Neighborhood Pub & Grill" in Sturgeon Bay.

BRUCE ENGLAND (JANUARY 1959), lives in Merrimac, WI, has 6 children, 4 grandchildren and is an insurance salesman.

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

CHUCK LUNABURG (JUNE 1959) lives in Camdenton, MO, has 9 children, 24 grandchildren and is a retired mailman.

1960s

KEN STEINER (JANUARY 1960) graduated from Northwestern BSEE 1965, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is an electrical engineer.

RICHARD SWANSON (JANUARY 1960) graduated from IIT BS 1964, Northeastern MA 1968, Ohio State PhD 1972, and lives in Liverpool, NY, has 1 child and is retired from teaching.

JIM JACOBS (JUNE 1960) lives in Carlsbad, CA, has 1 child and is co-author of "Grease".

JANICE (ROSS) JOHNSON (JUNE 1960) graduated from Cornell BA 1964, lives in Tamarac, FL, has 4 children, 1 grandchild and is a children's librarian.

JUDITH (KOEHLER) KOZER (JUNE 1960) lives in Surprise, AZ, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

JOYCE (VAN PUymbROUCK) TUTTLE (JUNE 1961), lives in Crandon, WI, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a computer programmer, spends winters in Arcadia, FL.

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

VIOLET (GEORGOPULOS) BILISSIS (JUNE 1962) graduated from U of I BA 1966, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is a retired advertising manager.

PAULA (SIMONIDES) WEGLARZ (JUNE 1962) graduated from IL State BA 1966, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is an associate writer.

BRUCE WILLIAMS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Bradley BS 1967, lives in Ft. Collins, CO, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

PHYLLIS (FURTH) MINNER (JANUARY 1963) graduated from Carthage BA 1967, lives in Danville, PA, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

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

DARLENE (LOREK) FUNDANISH (JUNE 1963) graduated from U of I BA 1968, lives in North Lauderdale, FL and is a retired pharmaceutical rep.

DONALD MAU (JUNE 1963) graduated from Yankton College BA 1969, lives in Hot Springs, AR, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is a professional chef.

CAROLYN (FEARE) ROMINSKI (JUNE 1963), GRADUATED FROM St Olaf BA 1967, St Xavier MA 1996, lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandsons and is a junior high teacher.

CATHY (SCHNEIDER) VOLSTORF (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northern BA 1967, MA 1973, lives in Naples, FL, has 2 children and is a retired art history teacher.

CARL ZVER (JUNE 1963) lives in Park Ridge, IL and is an accountant.

PATRICIA (HOFFMAN) DUDA (JUNE 1964) lives in Bluffton, SC, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

CHARLES GIBBONS (JUNE 1964) graduated from Valparaiso BS 1970, lives in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, has 3 children, 4 grand-

children and is a consulting engineer.

CHARLES MUGNOLO (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Northern BS 1969, lives in Cape Coral, FL and is retired from Ford Motors.

LAURA (VALTERS) SCHULTZ (JANUARY 1965) lives in Montague, MI, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired school secretary.

CHERRI-LYNN (BULAND) MALIK (JANUARY 1966) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a receptionist at Weber Grills.

LINDA (KELLY) SAK (JUNE 1966) graduated from Northeastern BA 1993, MA 1995, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 girls, 3 grandchildren and is a special ed teacher in Elgin.

BRUCE ALES (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northeastern BA, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is an account sales manager.

SHARON (VAN LANEN) LOHSE (JUNE 1967) graduated from Loretto College BS 1971, Loyola MS 1981, U of PA MS 2002, lives in Belle Mead, NJ, has 3 children and is a retired nurse now owns "Digital Surveillance Integrator".

NORM PFLOMM (JUNE 1967) graduated from Wright AA 1969, Lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a director of marketing.

ROBERT POTERACKI (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northern BS 1971, MBA 1993, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is a sales manager.

ALEXIS BERNARD (1968) graduated from U of MA BA 1981, lives in Chicago and is a corporate training consultant.

MARGARET (KREFT) CANNELLA (1986), graduated from Northern BS 1972, Ms 1975, lives in Alto, NM, has 3 girls and is a retired teacher.

LIZBETH CONGIUSTI (1968) lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 2 sons and is a personal wine consultant.

BARBARA (GRON) GROSSE (1968) graduated from Wellesbey BS 1973, lives in Northbrook, IL, has 1 child and is a philanthropist.

DANIEL POPP (1968) graduated from U of I BS 1972, Roosevelt MBA 1985, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a CFO for Easter Seals.

RENATE (MARQUIS) STARK (1968) graduated from Northeastern BA 1972, De Paul MBA 1982, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is in direct marketing.

LAWRENCE ADAMS (1969) graduated from Valparaiso BS 1973; U of I M 1978, lives in Pendleton, OR, has 2 children and is a pathologist.

PAT (WARD) BEERS (JUNE 1969) lives in Reno, NV, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a Washoe County deputy sheriff.

1970s

EDWARD KNIGHT (1970) MARRIED MICHELLE (BONNIVIER) (1970) they live in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and are retired.

CARLENE (WEGELT) SHULTZ (1970) graduated from IL State BS 1973, MS 1976, Forest Inst. PsyD 1990, lives in Salem, OR, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a clinical psychologist.

IDA (BORRELLI) ABEL (1971) lives in Cambria, WI and has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

PATTI (HANISCH) HARTNACK (1971) graduated from Western BS 1976, AZ State Med 1991, and lives in Scottsdale, AZ and is a special ed preschool teacher.

JEAN JASTER (1971) graduated from North Park BSN 1975, lives in Palatine, IL and is an RN.

MICHAEL TESSENDORF (1971) MARRIED LINDA (ERNST) (1971), THEY LIVE IN Loudon, TN, have 1 child and are retired.

CAROL (NAATZ) WODKA (1971) graduated from Eastern BS 1975, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is a preschool teacher.

LINDA (ALEX) CONNORS (1972) lives in Henderson, NV, has 1 child and is a bartender at Grandlux Café at the Venentin Hotel.

MICHELLE (KETCHNER) DANIELSON (1972) graduated from Truman College AA 1979, Elmhurst BS 1991, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is a nurse.

JULIE (MUELLER) MARTIN (1972) lives in Schaumburg, IL,

has 2 children and is an office manager.

SHEILA (GRANIERO) SIARKIEWICZ (1973) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is an operations/training supervisor.

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

RITA (PORUKS) WEBBER (1974) graduated from Nat'l U of San Diego BS 1986, LA Misson College LPN 2003, lives in Bakersfield, CA, has 1 child and is an LPN.

BARBARA ADAMS (1976) lives in Park Ridge, IL and is an attorney.

MINDY (MIREK) BORTNESS (1977) graduated from U of I BS 1981, lives in San Diego, CA, has 3 children and is a business and sales coach.

MICHAEL GUERCIO (1978) graduated from U of I BS 1985, De Paul 2003, lives in Glenview, IL, has 1 child and is a railroad engineer.

TINA (FOSTER) HAURI (1978) graduated from Northwestern BS 2005, lives in Libertyville, IL, has 3 stepsons, 1 grandson and is a director, information security.

GEORGE MILLER (1978) graduated from Northeastern BA 1984, lives in Sarasota, FL, has 2 children and is self-employed.

KAREN (BIELAWSKI) MEYERS (1979) lives in Huntley, IL and is a financial planner.

1980s

JEFFREY SCHMID (1980) lives in Danville, IN and is a bar manager at Legends Pub & Grill.

KEN KAPELA (1982) lives in Bensenville, IL, has 2 children and is in sales.

LINDA (CULLITON) MORGENROTH (1983) graduated from Northwestern BA, lives in Simi Valley, CA, has 2 children and is a real estate appraiser.

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

Alums In The News



Judy (Herud) Nelson

Congratulations to **Irvin L. Kaage, Jr.** (January 1946) who was inducted into Chicago's Senior Hall of Fame last month. He has been a living icon in Edison Park at the corner of Oliphant and Northwest Highway. "Kaage's Korner" newsstand is now part of a dying breed, but Irv manages to work at that family business for over 65 consecutive years.

Our own **Anne Lunde** (1969) returns to her position as managing editor for the Edison-Norwood Times Review. After two years on other Pioneer Press assignments, she is glad to be back to her original paper, where she has worked in various capacities for over 30 years.

Norwood Crossing volunteer and Deerfield resident **Judy (Herud) Nelson** (January 1956) was presented on May 3rd with the Dr. Lars Andrew Dolan Award at the 2008 Benefit Gala, sponsored by Norwood Life Care Foundation. The award recognizes individuals for their outstanding service and dedication to Norwood Crossing (formerly Norwood Park Home), a long-term care community on Chicago's far northwest side.

It was also an extra special honor, as Dr. Dolan had been the attending doctor for her birthing many years ago. For more than 30 years, Judy organized the crafts show for Deerfield Family Days 4th of July celebration, served for many years as chairperson of the FBI Alumni in Chicago and, in 2006, chaired the 50th anniversary of her Taft High School graduating class.

John Heinz (class of 1952) is well represented in a new anthology of Great Lakes lore: *From Lumber Hookers to the Hooligan Fleet; A Treasury of Chicago Maritime History*. Lake Claremont Press, 2008, list \$20.00

John wrote three articles of the selected 33. "A Steamboat Named Chicago" is about a wooden steamer that was *not* a tragedy. The S.S. Chicago ran for 44 years during the settlement of the city--while other craft like Rouse Simmons, Lady Elgin and Eastland took an uncalculated toll of, mostly, immigrant lives. "Fireboats in Action" is about the victory over a 1908 lumber district blaze that threatened to become another Chicago Fire. This forgotten inferno was put down through the aid of white collar volunteers who helped stop it before it could torch the Loop businesses. One fireboat was sunk, but nobody was killed. "The Grebe Shipyard of Chicago" is about our hidden naval base that was known mostly to people who glimpsed it from River-view sky rides. John was a carpenter there in its closing years and interviewed many Grebe World War II employees and naval veterans who served on Grebe-built ships. Yacht designer Henry Grebe launched 23 small minesweepers that went out from the Chicago River to all theaters of war. These expendable wooden ships did their work *before* invasions. Notes John, "I like sea stories that are not disasters. I like to read about people who did the right thing in the crunch."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Jerry,

Sorry for the delay, but glad someone sent in the first group picture of Taft reunion - St. Pete, FL March 16, 2008. It took some time to get film finished. Leon was not on your picture. This is the second group of afternoon. Leon is in the back row. Good crowd and hope to be there in 2009.

Enjoyed newsletter as always. Plan to send "Grease" article to Jim Jacob's sister in Arkansas. She may [not] get newsletter.

Mariann E Erlenbach (January 1946)



[Editor's Note: We all have our mouths open in the upper group photo because we were singing the Taft "Fight Song" and we remembered ALL the words! Thanks to all the folks who were kind enough to send their photos of this reunion to me: Judy LaMarche (January 1965), Marianne Erlenbach (January 1946), Margery (McLean) Kullman June 61, Ken Gaughan (1971), Marjorie (Klarquist) Nehlsen (June 1956). J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]

Dear Taftites:

Spring '08 issue just arrived. Contributors ('40 vintage) **Zemaitis** and (nee) **Mitchell** stood out. Did I remember these fellow graduates??

Having not attended any local grade schools (from Phila.PA.) I was, of course, unfamiliar with all students at Taft; but, in time, did make friends with many at all class levels and, as a matter of fact, married ('44) a beautiful little girl from June '42 (**Mary Jane Bollman**, deceased '74).

Do not recall, unfortunately, Kathryn; would certainly have remembered such an attractive young lady (bet she still turns heads in her 80's). Note:

searching yearbook for Kathryn, discovered her next to my very good friend (from Iowa) also a Taft neophyte - **Muriel Davies** with whom I still correspond.

I have been wrestling gators here in Florida since '80 and sure feel like a full-fledged "cracker". Thanks to all for publishing the Newsletter-a seasonal joy for this old man.

George Fillebrown (June 1940)

Hello Jerry,

My name is Ruth and I am the daughter of a graduate of the Class of 1958.

[His] 50th class reunion is coming up this October. Unfortunately, we have no other information concerning this upcoming event. Would it be possible to get a copy of The [TAA] Newsletter for the winter of 2008? Also, what is the correct procedure for subscribing? My dad would like to keep track of his remaining classmates. His name is **William H. Taylor**; Savoy, IL.

Ruth Kugler
[Editor's Note: Ruth, Thank you for being your father's advocate. I've sent a copy of the Winter 2008 issue to you so you can print out the info for him. Also, on the inside of the back page, there is an application for membership, so he will be able to join the Taft Alumni Association and subsequently receive future issues of the quarterly newsletter. [Also, by this notice] our president and our vice-president will be aware of William Taylor and will be sure to add his name to the roster as soon as his check and application arrive. Regards, Jerry Bloom, TAA newsletter editor]

Dear Kay,

After spending eleven years with the same kids at Farnsworth and Taft, my folks decided to move to California. That was the most devastating time of my life.

It was September and I thought there should be someone at Taft. Well, I decided to call the school and sure enough YOU were there. I was so happy because it was the year that Taft was 50 years old. I really enjoy reading the Newsletters. Please keep it coming. Thank you so much. I love reading about old times, etc. Thank you again.

Marie (Romano) Romano (June 1942)

Jerry,

Please add this info for the Reunions.

Oriole Park 50th - Friday, August 15, 2008, tour of Oriole Park School with Principal Estrada. Then, Friday, August 15, 2008, Portillo's, Dempster Rd., Niles, across from Lutheran General Hospital (just in case), 5 p.m. Be there promptly, as they won't reserve the room; casual supper, hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian beef & sausage, etc. A great menu. **Open to any Oriole Parkers or Taftites.**

Saturday, August 16, 2008, Colletti's 'El Centro', Elston & Central, across from where Di Leo's used to be. 6 p.m., a complete pizza buffet, with drinks, open bar, appetizers and desserts. \$50.00 per person, in advance, and we have a private room reserved. **Any Oriole Parkers.** Checks to be sent to **Karen Kekish & Donna Dill Voltz**, in Buffalo Grove, IL.

Sunday, August 17, 2008, Holiday Inn, Cumberland Rd., just south of Higgins Rd., at Bryn Mawr, breakfast buffet, \$12.95, when we get up!!!!

So sorry I didn't get this in the Spring Taft Alumni Newsletter. Contact **Lynn Hibarger Saracco** with questions or if you need hotel/motel information, etc. Saracco65@msn.com, 678 344 3595.

Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco (June 1962)

Dear Jerry,

You and your staff do a wonderful job at producing the Taft Newsletter, and I hope you get many "thanks to you" for all your time and effort.

I was delighted to receive the winter edition because it brought to mind my dues were coming due. I am enclosing a check to cover my next two years subscription and what is left over please add to your "kitty" to help defray costs.

My only complaint is for the classes of 40, 41, 42.. They never seem to send news in....could it be their age??? Lets hope a few of them will send in a bit of info for your next addition. Many thanks to you all.

Janis (Fischer) Forster (June 1941)

Hi Jerry,

I'm a Taft alum and thought you might want to include this (official press release distributed by Norwood)...[Editor's note: See comments included in our "Alum In The News" section in this issue.] I am so very proud of the award and so many Taft Alums or their parents pass through Norwood and I have met them.

Currently and for many years, **Kay Kuciak's** mom, Janet Carlson is there. One of the first graduates from Taft, **Arnold Lund** is there. **Anne Lunde's** mother was there. The parents of many others have been there also, so I think there would be some interest. I am there every Thursday to do the ladies' hair.

The Gala was a lovely affair... My two children and their spouses were there for me and I truly have arrived when I think I truly impressed them. This has turned out to be a great 70th year for me.

I truly enjoy receiving my newsletter, the latest arrived yesterday. Thank you for your efforts.

Judy (Herud) Nelson (January 1956)

Hi Jerry & Kay,

First of all, thanks so much for your dedication to the Alumni Newsletter! I look forward to receiving it!



We wanted to share a picture with you of us two "girls" from the class of June 1963. **Sandy (Brunke) Whalen** found my email address on the website and dropped me a line quite a few years ago. She is living

in Chicagoland area and I am living on the Mississippi River. We began emailing back and forth, chit chatting about all kinds of things.

One day she wrote that she would be going to Savannah, Illinois to meet with a crafting group of women that she meets with several times a year. I was amazed to know that she had been only 8 miles away from my house while visiting here in the past!

So we hooked up together last month and had a good long visit. We enjoyed several hours of looking through the old Taft yearbooks and lots of pictures. Sandy and I also graduated from Edison Park School together. She is still the warm, wonderful girl I remember from school. This is definitely not our last visit together.

She's in the blue [on the left]. I'm in the yellow [on right]. We're still those cute chicks from the 1960's! Ho Ho! Again, thanks for all you folks do to keep us in touch with each other! You are a blessing!

Diana (Rhodes) West (June, 1963)

P.S. Drive carefully Sandy! Ho Ho again!

To TAA-

I noticed in the last alumni newsletter that **Bernie Dabbert** passed away in March. My brother, Fred, and Bernie graduated in Jan. '42 and went to Ebinger grade school in Edison Park before that. They were both enthusiastic table tennis players and played with others from Edison Park like **Barry Bast, Bruce McDowell** and others I can't remember. Bernie became a carpet and tile layer and later had his own business. He laid a tile floor for me at my first house in Glenview. He was active in keeping track of the guys from Ebinger and was a real help to **Babe Cros-ton** who had troubles later in life. Bernie was a prince of a guy and will be missed.

Bill Fasnacht (January 1948)

Dear Jerry,

I am a 1940 graduate of Taft and it occurred to me that my class - those who are Alumni members - would like to know how many of us are left and where they are now located.

Could you ask for a "show of hands" in the next issue and see how many respond?

Muriel Davies Kaminski (1940)

*[Editor's Note: Muriel, That is an interesting challenge. I am willing to help you by collecting any and all 1940 classmates that write, call or email me with their names and town locations I'll print a list next issue. OK? **Deadline is Sept. 30, 2008.** J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor - 1237 N. 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235; 920-743-8449 or jerrybloom@fales.org*



Hi,

In March of 2008 seven of the ladies of the class of 1955 went on a Cruise to celebrate our birthdays. am attaching a picture. Front Row left to right: **Marlene "Trix" Pawlowski Sullivan, Mary Pastoszka Situtski, Rosalie Davies-Evans Zweifel.** Back row left to right: **Marlene Cerny Williamson, Karen Lynn, Lois Weldon Dowd, Diane Krehl Roessler.** We had a wonderful time renewing old great memories.

Memo to: Taft Alumni Association
RE: Surprise Meeting

While on spring break to Ft. Walton Beach, Florida this year I was walking the beach and saw a man with a Cubs hat and Michigan shirt. Having an interest in both I asked him where he lived and he told me the Chicago area. To get more specific I asked him where he went to high school. When he told me Taft I couldn't believe it. Then he introduced me to his wife who is also a Taft alum.

Needless to say we spent the next two days talk-

ing about our days at Taft even though they were 26 years apart. You never know where and when you will run into a Taft graduate. Andy and Jodi live in a north suburb and I live in a far south suburb.



From left to right in the photo are **Andy Compton** (1986), **Jodi Hussar Compton** (1985) and myself, **Dan Isacksen** (January 1959).

Hi Kay,

Nick and Connie LoPresti from Wauconda IL (Nick was a classmate of Warren's - January 1961) visited Schimpff's Confectionery in Jeffersonville IN on way to and fro Florida. ...Yes, everyone ate their pound of candy.



Jill (Wagner) Schimpff (June 1963)
Warren Schimpff (January 1961)

Naked High School

by John Heinz,'52



"Here we are, cheek to cheek," observed the class wit Don. We were the freshman body of 1948. It was just an average group of American youth in an indoor pool in staid old Norwood Park, but there were better bodies there than any that Michelangelo ever saw. Modern guys find this difficult to believe but, in 1948, Taft boys swim classes were naked.

The first day of swim class we were worried about embarrassing ourselves, but no such problems arose—although the class juvenile delinquent tried to hide himself behind his hands.

Nude bathing is a Midwestern tradition. My father and his generation did the same in the Mississippi River, ala Mark Twain, diving off of timber rafts. "We didn't call it skinny dipping; we called it swimming. Girls did not swim."

I seem to recall that the Y.M.C.A. pools at that time also had a similar Adamite tradition. Mandatory bareness in swim class saved us valuable locker time in those 40-minute periods. And

it felt good, very pagan, very blue lagoon. For as long as you could hold your breath you could escape the dust of academe. And as boisterous as we were I never recall anybody who was made fun of because of his scholarly somotype—that would have been me!

Our instructor dressed in an unflattering combination of tee shirt and whistle—with tight little trunks secured with a belt. The whistle was used in a game called "diving for your towel." If you did not exit the pool promptly at his last whistle call you had to run off of the diving board—feeling very naked—and leap like an amphibian while he pitched you a rolled up towel. Picture it if you can! If you were a klutz you had to dry off with a wet towel.

I cannot forget that our health class showed a movie about New York guys swimming in the East River. Their diving style was similar to our towel leaps! Health class sounds like it was designed for sex education, but I never heard the word sex in a class in four years—except about frogs. I don't know when that our male bonding ritual began but I guess that it continued until about 1979. It would be interesting to know what prompted this sea change. Maybe some Taft alumni of the late 70's can recall for us the brouhaha on the subject. Were there demonstrations? Were there suit-ins? For a lot of us, the age of innocence ended with the excavation of a certain Norwood Park township house in December of 1978. (more plus illus.)

Girls missed all of this age of innocence. Rumor had it that they showered in some sort of Victorian bathing machine, which was dramatized in a schematic diagram, illustrated by, probably, a woman, artist in the Taft Tribune for December 13th, 1951 (above). No way you could snap towels on your friends in a contraption like that! But on the other hand girlfriends might push each other into the shower fully dressed.

Swim classes were probably the most valuable thing in my athletic years. It was surprising how easy the final forty minute swim was. I guess that this survival instruction started in the wake of the steamship Eastland disaster, when it rolled over at [the] Clark Street bridge and killed—mostly drowned-over eight hundred well-dressed people. I had to swim for my life!

In Our Memories

Richard Charles Wessell, class of 1940, died June 27 2003. He owned the DesPlaines Journal and 16 other papers covering most North and Northwest Suburbs.

John T. Soderholm, class of 1944 (?), age 81, died March 28, 2008. Music, by way of singing, was his great delight in life.

Virginia Rose (McCormick) Alcock, class year 1945 (?), age 80, died May 12, 2008 near her home in Salisbury North Carolina.

Charles Avichouser, class of June 1947, passed away on May 2, 2008. He also taught music at Taft in 1958-59.

James Johnston, class of June 1948 died May 18, 2008 from kidney failure due to diabetes.

Elaine Phillips Sinclair, class of January 1951, died September 26, 2007 from cardio respiratory failure and intracranial bleed.

Jerry Permoda, class of January 1953, died October 2007.

Nancy (Meyer) Brown, class of January 1953, died in February 2008.

David Swanson, class of June 1957, died April 12, 2008 from cancer. He lived in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Ruth (Bernahl) Gunderson, class of January 1960, died August 2007.

David Josephson, class of 1969, died June 4, 2008 from leukemia.



Lost Classmates

Are you looking for old classmates you've lost touch with? 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.

Send your request and/or response to Taft Alumni Association c/o Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago IL 60631 or email us at taftalum@cox.net. The suggested donation for this service is \$5 per name.

TAA Board Meeting

September 18, 2008 at 7 pm is the date and time for our next board meeting at Taft High School. All interested alumni and friends of Taft are welcome and encouraged to attend. It will be the first meeting of the new school year.

TAA Merchandise Order Form

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Medium Only	\$25.00	\$
	Baseball Cap—blue embroidered “Taft Alumni” with full-color eagle	One Size Fits All	\$15.00	\$
	Car Sticker—clear printed in blue/gray “You Can’t Hide That Eagle Pride”	----	\$ 3.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Medium	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	X-Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	Medium	\$39.95	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	Large	\$39.95	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	X-Large	\$39.95	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	XX-Large	\$39.95	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	XXX-Large	\$39.95	\$
	Taft Yearbook (be sure to state year)	Year:	\$30.00	\$
Shipping and Handling: Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$6.00				\$
Total			Remitted	\$
Name (please print):		Grad Month/Year:		
Address:				
City/State/ZIP:		Phone: ()		
<p>Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to:</p> <p>Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631</p> <p>Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</p>				

Yearbooks: These yearbooks are hard to keep in supply. Requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Thanks to all who have tried to replace your lost or destroyed books. Currently, as of March 23rd, we have the following yearbooks available:

1942 Jan (1), 1947 Jan (1), 1982 (5), 1983 (1), 1985 (25), 1986 (53), 1987 (83), 1990 (48), 1991 (23), 1992 (132), 1993 (4), 1994 (48), 1995 (186), 1996 (65), 1997 (49), 1998 (152), 1999 (147), 2000 (349), 2001 (122), 2003 (16), 2004 (17) and 2005 (16).

Still needed to complete our archived set: Yearbooks from January/June 1956, January/June 1957 and June 1958. Your donation of these yearbooks gratefully accepted!



TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM			
Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
Address (Home)		City	State Zip
Address (Business)		City	State Zip
Home Telephone No: ()		Email:	
Name of Spouse		Year Married:	
Number of Children:	Current 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			
			<i>Summer 2008</i>

Alumni Association Officers

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)
 Vice-Pres./Treasurer: Shirley DeWeese (1960)
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 Arlene Ware (1960) Rich Lindberg (1971)
 Tom Kuciak (1962) Paul Madsen (1971)
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 Beth Charvat (1967) Kevin Kreiger (1973)
 Paulette English (1967) Judi Lenihan (1973)
 Andrew Madsen (1969)

Faculty Representative: Mike Hionis
 Website Coordinator: Kevin Krieger (1973)
 Web Editor: Paulette English (1967)
 Historian: Anne Lunde (1969)
 Newsletter Staff:
 Editor - Jeraldene Bloom (1962) - (920) 743-8449
 E-mail - jerrybloom@fales.org
 Assistants: Kay & Tom Kuciak - (623) 544-0226

Please Renew Now !!

Check your address label for the year of graduation on the lower right corner. Is it correct? Also check the expiration date of your current membership with the Taft Alumni Association. If the date is close, sit down NOW and write out a check for \$15, or \$20 for husband and wife graduates at the same address.

Not one, but TWO full years of newsletters are yours with opportunities to learn about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs. Be sure to use the application above 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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