



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXV, No. 3

Summer 2009



## Taft Regional Varsity Baseball Champs

Congratulations to the Taft Eagles, 2009 baseball champions of the Chicago Public League Jackie Robinson North, who recently trumped Leyden Township High School 17-8 for the regional title.

Front row (L-R): **Jeremy Bracero, Michael Smola, Michael Kurotobi, Phil Quattrocchi, Nick Johnson, Nicholas Vidas, Michael Lemus.** Second row: **Miles Klein, Chris Rivera.** Back Row: **Coach Pildes, Tony Guidone, Michael Calabrese, Anthony Lemus, Nick Babicz, Michael Shewchuk, Michael Meersman, Ray Cekus, Tom Doyle, Coach Malarski and Walter Jarosz (behind Tony).**

(Photo submitted by Emily Bouzarelos, mother of Nicholas Vidas)

## TAA Scholarship Awards

Submitted by **Shirley DeWeese** (1960)  
TAA Vice President/Treasurer

Due to my work schedule, I've not been able to attend a Taft graduation for some years. This year, however, **Anne Lunde** (June, 1969) and I were able to attend together on June 4, as presenters of two \$750 Taft Alumni Association scholarships, a \$1,000 **Dr. John P. Graven** scholarship, and a \$1,000 **Robert "Bill" Hendricksen** scholarship.

It was just wonderful. This is a large class and I was so very proud of these students. Several other scholarships and a number of awards were presented, including **Anna Czekaj**, winner of our \$1,000 Graven scholarship, who also won a \$20,000 national finalist scholarship presented by Coke. Wow, that was impressive! Anna plans to get a

degree in psychology and kinesiology and eventually open her own physical therapy practice.

A number of speakers mentioned the many achievements this particular class has accomplished and it brought tears (Continued on page 5)

## Hall of Fame Inductions

As of press time, the date for the Induction Ceremony of the "Hall of Fame" class of 2009 has not been finalized. Your TAA Board of Directors voted on a change in policy regarding "Hall of Fame" eligibility requirements and an official statement will be announced as soon as all inductees have been contacted. We are feverishly working on this to determine the best time for the majority of honorees, hopefully early in the fall season.

# Taft Class Reunions



## January 1955

Date: August 22, 2009 - 9:30am - 'til ?  
Place: Grove #1 Des Plaines Forest Preserve  
(Bring your own picnic "everything")  
Contact: **Marilyn Goodell McGee** -  
megmageesemail@gmail.com

## January 1957 - Luncheon

Date: October 24, 2009  
Place: Cooper's Hawk Restaurant - So. Barrington  
Contact: RSVP by July 30 to **Leo Drummer**  
wilmaleo5@aol.com or call 847-515-1860

## January 1959

Date: September 18-20, 2009  
Place: The Abbey, Fontana, WI  
(Lake Geneva)  
Contacts: **Norm Gunther** -  
NHGunther@aol.com  
**Nancy Peterson-Smith** -  
NPSmith721@sbcglobal.net  
**Barb Peterson** - BPete1914@aol.com  
**Glen Templeman** -  
XmathMan@sbcglobal.net  
**Karen Whitney-Rogalla** - 847-639-0394 or  
Whit@MC.net

## June 1959

Date: September 24-27, 2009  
Place: Hilton Garden Inn - Des Plaines  
(River Road) - Reception; Dinner/Dance;  
Super-Dawg Catered lunch in Taft H.S. cafe-  
teria and tour of school; Farewell Brunch;  
(?? Tour of Chicago)  
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 1960

Date: October 8-10, 2010  
Place: Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL  
Contacts: **Shirley Kalivoda DeWeese**,  
jtadsad22@comcast.net, 847-885-8655

## Class 1969

Date: October 17, 2009  
Place: White Eagle Banquets - Niles  
Contact: **Anne Lunde** - 773-631-1104 or  
Tafths1969@gmail.com

## Class 1970

Date: September 25, 2010  
Place: TBD  
Contact: roots79339@mypacks.net  
Committee: 22 members! (**See pg. 3**)

## Class 1989

Date: August 29, 2009  
Place: Niko's Restaurant, 7600 S. Harlem,  
Bridgeview - 708-496-0300  
Contact: Varsity Reunion Services  
1-877-844-1014 cyndi@varsityreunions.com  
Committee **Angela Johnson Pierre-Jacques**,  
**Carolyn Williams, Corkey Wilburn**

## All Taft Classes - 7th Annual Reunion Picnic

Date: Sunday, March 7, 2010  
Place: Ft. DeSoto Park, St. Petersburg, FL  
Shelter number 14 - **Noon to 3 PM**  
**Cost: (NEW this year...) \$3/each**  
**Pot Luck (a food item to share) + BYOB**  
**(Note: photo shoot at 2:30 pm)**  
Contact: **Leon Kathan (June 1956)** (if needed)  
117 Monte Real Blvd. Sebring, FL 33876

## Elementary School Reunions

### All Classes - Wildwood School

Date: September 26, 2009  
Place: Wildwood School - tour followed by  
Casual dinner  
Contact: **Penni Eichin Issacson**  
847-945-5168 or penniisa@att.net

## TAA Board Meeting

The next TAA board meeting will be held at Taft on September 10, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Alumni are always welcome to attend.

## Letters to the Editor

Jerry,

Thanks for the [newsletter] deadline information. {Here is} the update for the class of 1970 40th reunion announcement. We have been making great progress with your and the TAA help (I have been receiving many e-mails from TAA Newsletter readers) and our committee now has 22 members. I omitted the "married" names of the women on the committee to save space for the "typesetter" and printer. (A few of the committee members asked me why their names did not make the last edition and I told them the printing deadline was before they officially joined the committee, so please make sure all the names are printed in the newsletter - many thanks). Also, please note the new generic e-mail address we are now using in the announcement.

We currently have 193 classmates planning to attend our 40th reunion. [Our] committee members are: **Linda Rogers, Debbie Ewanic, Jackie Martin, Mike Costanzo, Rich Bolinder, Judy Jacobsen, Sue Peterson, Stach Jaworski, Linda Drakert, Lynn Halicki, Jeff Wunderlich, Sue Larson, Sue Baran, Monica Sapa, Mike Albano, Tom Wykle, Janice Kay, Tom Hamilton, Paul Zillman, Terese Hoffman, Gary Richert and Rick Winge** with Special Faculty Committee member: Mr. J.J. Stamm. And thanks again for your help.

**Rick Winge** (1970)

*[Editor's note: Due to space constraints, we could not print all the committee names on the "Reunion" page 2, so apologies for not being able to comply with your special request. We hope you understand and have posted here for all to see. You appear to have done a great job in organizing such an enthusiastic group! Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

To TAA,

What a pleasant surprise to open the latest edition of the Alumni Newsletter and see the picture of Taft's 1949 city championship baseball team. What a handsome bunch! Thanks, **Ron Bentsen**. Many of these same players won the Chicago Park District, Joe DiMaggio League championship in 1945. **Jim Smilgoff** was the opposing coach. I think he came to Taft from Harrison when he saw what a fine bunch of players he would have at Taft.

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I always enjoy reading about what's happening with present and former Taftites, and also my former Taft and Norwood Park Elementary classmates.

**Marv Weber** (June '49)

To TAA:

**Jim Hoppe** ('54) and also **Bill McCarthy** ('52) sent me the copy of the Spring 2009 Taft Alumni Newsletter containing a photo of the 1949 Championship Baseball Team...**Ron Bentsen** ('51) was quoted as saying, "It would be good to hear from any members of that squad."...well, if you look closely at the photo, I am the little left-hander sitting at the far left in the front row. After graduating from Taft ('52), I went to the University of Wyoming on a baseball scholarship as did Jim Hoppe two years later...I had read too many Zane Grey western novels as a kid, and was already enamored with the West even before arriving in Laramie. Wyoming didn't disappoint me since I have lived most of my life here, and after 19 years of absence (Nevada two years, Illinois 11 years, and North Dakota six years), my wife and I are now retired in Laramie. I have wonderful memories of our Taft Baseball Team, and the greatest of coaches, **Jim Smilgoff**. If you can indulge me, let me relate an instance that still brings a smile; it involves **Dick Salat** (standing, 6th from the left in the photo):

We were having an intra-squad game, I was pitching and Dick was playing first base. I had a man on first, and the catcher called for me to pitch a curve ball to the batter. When I took my stretch, I thought the runner on first was taking a fairly big lead, so, being a lefthander and facing first base, I thought I'd try to pick him off. And when I did, I failed to change the position of my fingers on the ball, and when I fired it off to Dick, I terribly startled him when he found himself trying to catch a good, sharp breaking, left-handed curve ball. Well, Dick caught the ball, but the runner got back to first in plenty of time. In the meantime, Coach Smilgoff was laughing about as hard as I ever saw him laugh. And, frankly, the rest of the team was laughing at my expense too.

Anyway, I convey the best of wishes to any Taft Eagles who might still remember me.

**Herb Manig** (June '52)

Dear TAA,

Would you be so kind to help me finding an old friend of mine? She's named **Catherine Cornacker** and she was my correspondent. I didn't get any news about her since 1999. I live in Dakar/Senegal.

Regards, Doudou Sarr  
sarr.doudou@gmail.com

*[Hello, Doudou, It sounds like you and Catherine were "pen pals", friends who corresponded by mail to learn more about the cultures and people around the world. I wish we could help you find*

*Catherine, but the Taft Alumni Association does not have a complete list of names and addresses of all Taft graduates. We only have those who decide to join our organization and become members. We do, however, have a newsletter in which we can print your request for help. If anyone knows Catherine, they may be able to alert her that you are looking for her and give her your email address. That is the best we can offer, but we hope you and Catherine can correspond once again. Paulette English TAA Web Editor]*

Dear President Kay,

It would be nice if Taft Alumni News could start a color page, because Taft began at about the same time as color photography, and there must be lots of dramatic snapshots in alumni scrapbooks. And color printing must be getting cheaper as nowadays all our mail is in four colors. Anyhow, thanks for considering my submissions, and keep up the always fascinating TAN.



Freshman Swim Class, 1948 is my impression of Boys Swim, 1964. It is a memory of green chlorine water, echoing tile walls, underwater optical effects, and--would you believe it?--nude swim classes for guys. I wrote up this scene for TAN, Summer 2008, as "Naked High School." The painting is acrylic on canvas, 36 inches high by 24 inches wide. The style is 21st century. It would make a nice class gift.

The circumstances of the painting may be of interest. It is based upon recent years of art studies at Wau-bonsee Community College. I did not want to deal with models for this subject, and so researched my father's photography of Mississippi River scenes of a hundred year ago. That's the way they swam then,

just like in Mark Twain, and like in Taft, sixty years ago.

**John Heinz** (Jan '52)

Dear Kay,

Thank you for all you do. I don't get back to Chicago area often, but I do have great memories. Taft was a great school to attend. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion was fun. I thank those who had anything to do with it. As a retired Physical Education teacher, I remember well, **Mrs. Walker**. Once a teacher, always a teacher.

**Mary Mulhern Behr** (June '49)

Jerry,

A while back you requested information regarding any possible relationship of my wife, **Mildred (Tess) Schalk** (Jan '43) to the Mildred Tess who was principal of [Norwood Park] Public School, in Norwood Park in the early '50's. Your request came through Allen Cherry, son of the late **Norma (Tess) Cherry**, (Jan '42) who passed away in February, 2009.

In response here's the story: In 1840, John Tess purchased some acreage in Chicago, to the tune of 40 plus acres. This property was on Kostner and Touhy on the northwest side of Chicago. John Tess was the fraternal grandfather of Norma (Tess) Cherry and Mildred (Tess) Schalk. There were other Tess's in the area. In fact the area became known as Tessville, Illinois. Later, Tessville was changed to Lincolnwood and ultimately included in Chicago. The Mildred Tess you refer to is from one of the relations of John Tess who was part of the group of farmers in the area. Mildred (Tess) Schalk knew of the other Mildred Tess. That part of the Tess lineage remained in the area of Skokie, IL to the best of her knowledge. I hope this is of some help to your request.

**Howie Schalk** (June '43)

Dear Jerry,

The letters to the Editor in the spring issue of the News Letter caught my attention, specifically the one on page 7 from **Holly Nielsen Rogers** and also the one on page 8 from **Bill Fassnacht**. I knew **Howie and Wally Schalk** as a result of a very close friend who also lived on Odell (same block). His name was **John (Jack) Walter**. He graduated from Taft in the spring of 1943. We were both in the Navy and on the same Pacific Islands at the same time but didn't know it until we both came home after WWII. For TAA records Jack passed away on April 9th, 2009. As for the letter from Bill Fassnacht, I knew **Fred Fassnacht**, he lived just up the street from me in Edison Park. It is very interesting reading the News Letters and seeing these names that bring back such nostalgic memories. *(continued on page 7)*

## Taft's Avon Walkers

Submitted by Joan DeFilippo, LSC Rep. It was not a sun shining day on June 6, 2009 when a great group of Taft students arrived at Billy Caldwell Woods to cheer on the Avon Walkers. The Avon walkers participate in a two-day, 39-mile walk to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research. We had about 30 students come out and cheer along the walkers. While the turnout was lower than last year, the enthusiasm was not!

This coming August, the Taft students will come out to set up tents for The Breast Cancer 3-Day walkers in which three staff members will participate: **Mr. McDade, Ms. Faulkner and Ms. Nicholas** and two LSC members, Joan DeFilippo and Liz Meersman. The students are "tent angels" and come to the camp where walkers and crew members will sleep for two nights and the angels set up tents, carry luggage for walkers and encourage and cheer on the walkers after their long 18-23 mile journey on day one. We are hoping to have at least 30 students come out and help set up. **Mrs. McManamon** is the teacher who organizes this group of students.

For all events, students receive service learning hours. All students are required to accumulate 40 service hours in order to graduate. If they participate in each of these events, they are well on their way to completion!

## Mikva Challenge

Submitted by **Alma Martinez**  
Taft Social Studies Teacher  
& LSC Teacher Rep

**Shouston Shaughnessy**, class of 2010, was chosen from Taft to participate in the Mikva Challenge Summer Government & Leadership Internship Program.

This year 70 students from all over the city will be working at all levels of local government- federal, state, county, and city. Shouston will be working with Illinois State Senator (20th District) and assistant majority leader Iris Y. Martinez. She will work at the senator's office four days a week for a total of 20 hours. Five hours one day a week will be spent in leadership workshops reflecting on internship experiences and working with other interns on social issues. The program runs from June 29th through August 7th. Based on the past experience of current alumni, **Stephanny Buitron** (2008), who worked with Alderman Joe Moore two summers ago and loved the experience; we expect the same for Shouston. To learn more about Mikva Challenge you can visit <http://www.mikvachallenge.org/>

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## Taft Yearbook Evolution

Submitted by **Frank Heyer** (June '48)  
From 1939 when Taft opened, up to and including 1955, the Taft Yearbook consisted of one year's worth of the school newspaper, the Taft Tribune. If you were a January 1941 graduate, the yearbook was a collection of Taft "Tribes" from the previous June 1940 class along with copies from September 1940 to January 1941. Likewise, if you were a June 1942 grad the copies ran from September 1941 to June 1942. Back then the "Trib" was about the same size as our present day Taft Alumni Newsletter.

From 1955 to 1958 the Yearbooks were in a transitional mode, not like the original Taft "Trib" collection, but also not like the present day Yearbook. The current style Yearbook started in 1959.

I don't know if the same conditions still apply, but originally if you chose Journalism as one of your electives during your Junior or Senior year, chances are that you became a member of the "Trib" staff as an editor, reporter or photographer under the watchful eyes of **Miss Hattie Marquardt**, Editorial Advisor. Later, that responsibility was taken over by **Mr. Julio Tiritilli**.

## Names in the News

**Victoria Kingman** is a seventh grader in the Taft Academic Center. She qualified for the National History Fair at the University of Maryland, which took place this June. Victoria created a documentary that examined the life and legacy of Leonard Chess, the founder of Chess Records, which was located on State Street. In her documentary, Victoria analyzed Leonard Chess' role in recording blues artists and the impact of these records on the development of rock and roll. She spent months researching Chess and spent many hours creating the documentary. In order to qualify for nationals, Victoria had to first compete at the state level in Springfield. She had one of the top documentaries in the junior division in Illinois. We are very proud of her. Thanks to Taft teacher **Rachael Nicholas** for bringing this bright young lady to our attention.

*(Scholarship Awards - Continued from page 1)*  
to my eyes. I was just beaming. This is truly what the Taft Alumni Association is all about.

The TAA \$1000.00 Hendricksen award was presented to **Danylo Hirnyj**, who had a Class rank # 9 out of 481. He envisions getting involved in stem cell or energy research.

Taft Alumni Association then awarded two \$750 scholarships. The first to the class Valdictorian, **Elizabeth Loper**, who says she wants to become a physical therapist. The other award went to **Ange-lika Wardach**. She wants to work for the Federal Reserve and perhaps start an organization to help children with heart disease.

Several parents approached us after the ceremony to tell us what a good job we had done and thanked us. One scholarship family asked to take a picture of us with their student. Anne and I went out to eat afterward and a father recognized us in the restaurant and came over and said, "Hey Taft alumni, good job".

It was a fantastic evening. Thank you, Taft alumni, for supporting TAA and the students of Taft. GO TAFT - you have our loyalty!

## Welcome 2009 Graduates!

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2009. You are now part of a special group of men and women known as alumni of Taft High School.

We hope you keep in contact with us as a means of continuing friendships begun at Taft and keeping up with what is going on. As things change, be sure to 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.

## Getting Wired!

Just updating you all on what's happening in the cyber world...

Since the last newsletter, we have a good number of people sign up for the electronic newsletter, all of whom have requested to stop receiving the paper newsletter. Our Web Editor Paulette English (1967) is currently developing a newsletter directory on the TAA website that will list all the past newsletters that we have available in PDF format.

It is a group effort. Kevin Krieger (1973), our Webmaster has created the database and we'll work with the active member mailing list to insure these folks from the electronic mailing list don't go to the printer. They will, instead, receive an email with a password allowing them full access to all newsletters until the next issue is ready.

For whatever reason, the last issue of the newsletter created a lot of interest. Besides the e-newsletter sign up, we had a large number of people registering for the email directory.

If you haven't already thought of it, please consider helping reduce the publishing costs of this newsletter and feel good about reducing excessive consumption of trees, water, electricity, etc. that would be needed if you continued to receive your newsletter via the regular mail.

Contact us at Website: <http://www.taftalumni.org> and do it today! You'll be happy you did. We will, too!

Paulette's also convinced a few people that they had it within themselves to get a reunion started, and not to wait for someone else, so she's going to post the article we ran in the newsletter a while back giving tips on getting a reunion going. Those of you with reunions coming up, let us know if you're using a professional reunion planner and how they work out.

## Check Your Attic/Basement...

This is being reprinted as a reminder for all you memorabilia packrats. **Bob Friedlander** (Jan '67) is willing to do a history of Taft sports on DVD. Only problem, he doesn't have a lot of footage. He has some late 50s football film and some baseball footage when he played in 1967 but that is it.

So, any chance you could check your attic or your parent's attic for home movies that dad took so we could put together a history on DVD of Taft sports?

Bob is willing to do all the work and we can sell the DVD's for cost, if we ever get that far. First, you need to contact him at [bfriedlander@aegworldwide.com](mailto:bfriedlander@aegworldwide.com) and let him know what you have. We'll go from there.

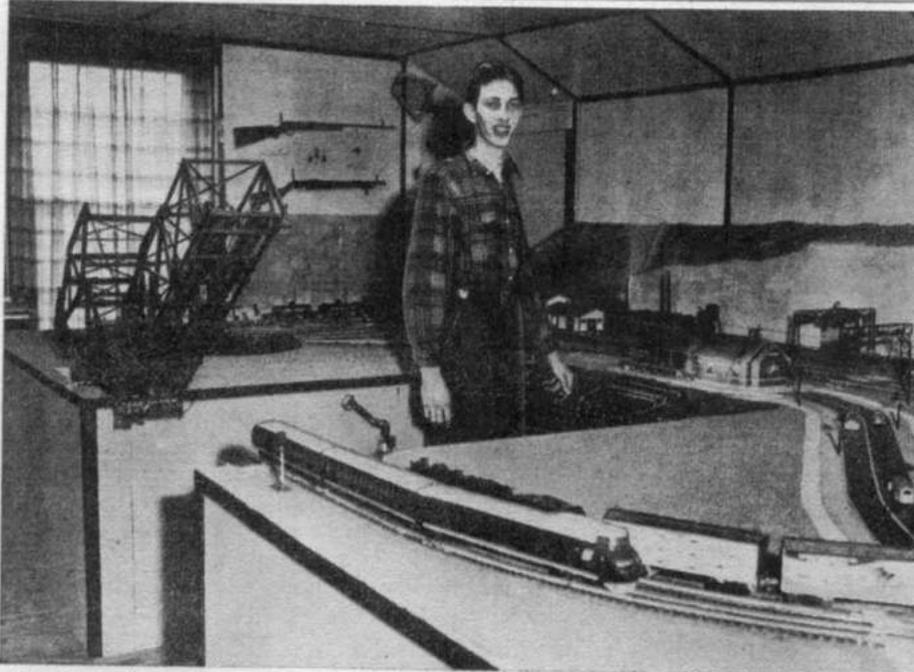
Sports has been his life. He was formerly a sports-writer for Thillens Stadium during the summer and the Chicago Blackhawks in the winter and was also a scout for the San Jose Sharks. He currently is a scout for the LA Kings with his base of operation in Michigan.

(Letters to the Editor - Continued from page 4)  
 To keep those memories somewhat alive I keep in touch with my classmates that I know are still here with us: **Jeanette Malon, George Glaser, John Kradin**, all of the class of January 1944.  
 For your interest I am enclosing a couple of items:

Many of my teachers at Taft and the Principal at the time, **Mr. L. A. Hoffer**, came over to visit my home in Edison Park, to see the projects I was involved in. The clipping is from the Chicago Tribune of May 16, 1943.

Hank Nerwin (Jan '44)

### Henry's Only 17, but Train and Electric Gadgets Testify to His Genius



Henry Nerwin, 6900 Osceola avenue, is "yard boss" of a setup any railroad man would be proud of. His tracks and automatically operated trains fill the attic of the Nerwin home. An intricate system of pushbuttons and switches on the control board in the center enables Henry, who is 17, to start, stop, or back up the trains, to uncouple

cars, and switch trains from one track to another. The chart in the center of the board shows, by means of tiny lights, just where each train is at any moment. Almost all the equipment Henry made himself.

(Story on page 4.)

TRIBUNE Photos by Julius Guttler.



A two way public address system is one of the ultra-modern conveniences electrically minded Henry Nerwin has fixed up for his home. Here his mother, Mrs. H. N. Nerwin, speaks into the receiver on the kitchen wall, talking to Henry in the attic.



Most electrical engineers draw intricate plans, then construct. But not Henry. After finishing his railroad, with its maze of wires beneath the control panel, he sat down at his drafting board to map out just how the whole thing works.



The only connection this neon tube has with electricity is thru Henry's body, but it's glowing just as brightly as if it were plugged into a sign in a hamburger shop. Henry enjoys putting on electrical shows like this for the friends who troop to the attic to see his train, and can make sparks play tricks with his high frequency Tesla coil.



No sneak thief could get up to make a surprise raid on Henry in his attic hideaway. For there is an electric eye rigged up across the approach to the attic stairway, and a "burglar alarm" lets go with a bang whenever some one crosses the invisible beam. Here Henry make a minor adjustment on his pet device.

# Class Notes



## 1940s

LOUISE (SOPER) MC CULLOUGH (JUNE 1941) graduated from Wright AA 1943, lives in Potomac Falls, VA, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a homemaker.

JAMES CONCANNON (JUNE 1943) graduated from Knox College BA 1949, lives in Las Vegas, NV, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is retired.

BARBARA DAVIES (JUNE 1943) lives in Delavan, WI, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

ERNA BONE (JANUARY 1944) graduated from U of WI BS 1951, lives in Fox River Grove, IL and is a retired teacher.

BOB BRAZEAU (JANUARY 1944) lives in Murietta, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is in Aerospace.

RUTH (REISMAN) ELLMORE (JANUARY 1944) graduated from Lake Forest College BA 1948, lives in Calexico, CA, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

HENRY NERWIN (JANUARY 1944) graduated from IIT BSEE 1951, U of Chicago 1967, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired electrical engineer.

VIVIAN (WINKATES) BORMAN (JUNE 1945), graduated from Mundelein College BS 1949, lives in Framingham, MA, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

DEAN BURTON (JUNE 1945) graduated from U of I BS 1950, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is retired from marketing.

EDITH (MAUCH) SWANEK (JANUARY 1945) lives in Anaheim, CA, has 2 children and is retired.

DORIS (GILSON) GUNDERSEN (JANUARY

1946) lives in Palatine, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

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

BETTY (GREULICH) RUBOYANES (JANUARY 1947) MARRIED PETER (JANUARY 1948) lives in San Jose, CA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired executive secretary.

SHIRLEY (MACK) MC CORMICK (JUNE 1947) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

CARYL (HUCK) NIXON (JUNE 1947) graduated from Troy State Teachers College BS 1951, lives in Livingston, AL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired teacher/florist.

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

BILL FASSNACHT (JANUARY 1948) graduated from U of I BS 1952, lives in Hilton Head, SC, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired. He was also president of the January 1948 class.

WILLIAM PEESEL (JANUARY 1948) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired from the State of IL.

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

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

MARIANNE (GOJKOVICH) STOERY (JUNE 1948) graduated from Stephens College AA 1951, lives in Northbrook, IL and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

ROSEMARY (MARTIN) WEBER (JUNE 1948) graduated from IL College BA 1953, Northern 1955, lives in Kingwood, TX, has 2 children, 1 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

MARILYN (SCHMIDT) TRUCKENBROD (JUNE 1949) graduated from Northern BS 1963, lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 5 children, 17 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

## 1950s

GORDON SCHIEFELBEIN (JANUARY 1950) MARRIED BARBARA (GLIOT) (JANUARY 1954), he graduated from US Merchant Marine Academy and many USAF schools. Barbara graduated from Beloit BS 1958, they live in Lake St Louis, MO, have 5 children, 8 grandchildren and both are retired.

HERBERT WERNER (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Northwestern BS 1953, U of CA PhD 1964, lives in St Louis, MO, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired professor.

BETTY (WILSON) SCHNITZLER (JUNE 1950) lives in Waukesha, WI and has 3 children and 4 grandsons.

NANCY (BOULTING) STONEBURNER (JUNE 1950) graduated from IL State BS 1954, lives in Galena, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired teacher and owner of Wild Turkey Bed & Breakfast.

ROGER NELSON (JANUARY 1952) MARRIED SUSAN (DOKKA) (JANUARY 1956), he graduated US Merchant Marine Academy BS 1956, Northwestern MBA 1961, he lives in Oakley, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired from the US Navy.

JOYCE (CHRISTENSEN) JOHNSON (JUNE 1952) lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired receptionist.

VALERIE (ZETEK) BLAUE (JANUARY 1953) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children 5 grandchildren and is a retired pet supply owner.

WILLIAM BRUHN (JANUARY 1953) lives in Cape Coral, FL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired tool and die maker.

PAUL GERHARDT (JANUARY 1954) MARRIED

BARBARA (PETERSON) (JUNE 1956), he graduated from U of CO BA 1958, they live in Osprey, FL, have 2 children, 2 grandchildren are retired.

MARILYNN (FORTY) BOLMQUIST (JUNE 1954), lives in Goodyear, AZ, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

CHARLES GOONREY (JUNE 1954) graduated from Northeastern BA 1958, Law 1961, lives in Camp Hill, PA, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired attorney.

GARY MACHON (JUNE 1954) MARRIED DONNA (MATHESON) (JANUARY 1957), he graduated from U of I BS 1960, they live in Medford, WI, have 4 boys, 7 grandchildren and Gary is retired from American Airlines. They also own a small beef cattle farm.

RAYMOND FATH (JUNE 1955) lives in Palatine, IL, has 9 children, 16 grandchildren and is a retired carpenter.

RAYMOND SCHIEFELBEIN (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Ripon BA 1960, Concordia Theological BA DIV 1972, U of WI MSE 1981, Concordia Seminary DMIN 1992, lives in Independence, MO, has 1 child and is a Pastor.

BARBARA (RUHNKE) DRUMMER (JUNE 1956) lives in Kemah, TX, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired receptionist at U of Houston.

JOYCE (NEWQUIST) KOCHALKA (JUNE 1956) graduated from IL State BS 1960, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired teacher, now a travel agent.

MARYLEE (BYERS) SCHMIT (JANUARY 1957) lives in Somerset, NJ, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

RICHARD TRAUCCOTT (JANUARY 1957), graduated from Lake Forest BA 1962, Roosevelt MA 1964, lives in Hendersonville, NC., has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired from 3M.

NANCY (GERACI) TRUTWIN (JUNE 1957) graduated from

Wright AA 1959, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired from banking.

GERALDINE (ZOLTEK) SANDY (JANUARY 1958) lives in Sycamore, IL, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired trust assistant.

FRED KAISER (JUNE 1958) graduated from Knox BS 1963, Columbia BSEE 1963, U of So CA MSEE 1967, lives in Orange, CA, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is an electrical engineer.

RICHARD LUTZ (JUNE 1958) graduated from Northwestern BS 1963, lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children, 3 stepchildren, 1 grandchild and is in sales.

MARGARET (RIES)SCHAFFNER (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Northwestern BA, lives in Union Pier, MI, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired, winters in Tucson, AZ.

PAUL WALKER (JUNE 1959) graduated from Northwestern DDA 1966, Indiana MS 1972, lives in Shoreview, MN, has 2 children and is a pediatric dentist.

## 1960s

KEN ANDERSEN (JANUARY 1960) MARRIED SANDIE (MAU) (JANUARY 1960), they live in Palatine, IL, have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and both are retired.

KENNETH FUSICK (JUNE 1960) MARRIED CAROL (SELBIG) (JUNE 1960), he graduated from Elmhurst BS 1984, lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchildren and is retired.

JOHN KNUTSON (JUNE 1960) graduated from Augustana BS 1964, WA State MS 1967, PhD 1969, lives in Iowa City, IA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a professor at U of IA.

JOYCE BAXTER (JANUARY 1961) lives in New Port Richey, FL and is a retired officer manager.

JUDITH (ANDERSON) MACK (JANUARY 1961) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired accounts clerk.

LINDA (JACOBSON) BUCKARDT (JUNE 1961) graduated from Luther College BA 1965, St Marys MA 1999,

lives in Henderson, NV, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired ESL teacher.

THOMAS DRYNAN (JANUARY 1962) lives in Belvidere, IL and Chandler, AZ, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired Chicago firefighter.

LOUIS VASSOS (JANUARY 1962), graduated from Northwestern BSEE 1967, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children and is a retired engineer.

LOWELL JOHNSON (JUNE 1962) graduated from Augustana BA 1966, U of IA MA 1968, lives in Hendersonville, NC, has 2 children and is retired from teaching now a pharmacist tech. Part time.

BILL GREEN (JANUARY 1963) graduated from U of I BA, Loyola JD, lives in Roselle, IL, has 2 children and is an architect.

EDMUND FELDY (JUNE 1963), graduated from IIT BSME 1968, MME 1970, U of Chicago MBA 1975, lives in Evanston, IL, has 2 children and is a mechanical engineer.

JUANITA (WILLIAMS) EARNHEART (JUNE 1964) graduated from Northeastern BA 1968, lives in Baytown, TX, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a postal clerk.

ELIZABETH (WAHRBRIN) MASLEY (JUNE 1964) graduated from Mundelein BS 1968, lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

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

SUSAN (FOSS) WULFF (JUNE 1964) MARRIED JOHN (JANUARY 1964), she graduated from MI State BA 1968, they live in Mt Prospect, IL, Susan is a teacher of children with visual impairments.

LEE MARSH (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Purdue BS 1969, Northwestern MBA 1972, lives in Palatine, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a taxation specialist.

RITA (GOLTERMAN) BARTH (JUNE 1965) lives in Park Ridge, IL and is a retired rate analyst.

DEAN GRITSONIS (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Northern BS, lives in Carol Stream, IL, has

3 children and is a retail manager for Burlington Coat Factory.

FRED WORDELL (JUNE 1967) graduated from WIU BS 1971, US Navy Officer Candidate School 1972, lives in Menomonee Falls, WI, has 1 child and is self employed.

MARY (GORSKI) CASPER (1968) lives in Huntley, IL and is retired.

RITA (EGGERS) LEICESTER (JUNE 1968) graduated from Utah State BS 1974, lives in Riverton, WY, has 1 child, 5 grandchildren and is a retired teacher, works summers in a National Park.

SUSAN (GALOVITCH) JANUS (1968) graduated from U of I BS/CPA, De Paul MBA, lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a CPA.

## 1970s

LYNN (HALICKI) ARNOLD (1970) lives in Cary, IL, has 1 child and is a bookkeeper.

CHRISTINE (STRADEL) EATON (1970) lives in Reno, NV and has 1 child.

LINDA (ROGERS) LEWANDOWSKI (1970) graduated from Wright AA 1976, Elmhurst College BA 1986, lives in Winfield, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an adult ESL teacher.

CONSTANCE (SOWA) NEWTON (1970) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 1 child and is an importer for premium needs.

EMMETT O NEILL (1970) graduated from Wright 1973, Northeastern BA 1976, Joliet Community 1980, lives in Portage, WI, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is the assistant chief of police in Portage.

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

HELEN SCHEIDT (1970) lives in Cape Coral, FL and is a medical assistant in Dermatology.

JEFFREY WUNDERLICH (1970) graduated from De Paul BS 1974, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a CPA.

NANCY (DOBBERTIN) BLANCO (1971) lives in Winnetka, IL and is a business analyst.

DARLENE (WISE) HORODYSKY (1971) graduated from Northeastern BA 1975, lives in Anaheim Hill, CA, has 2 children and is a docent at the Nixon Presidential Library.

BARBARA (MOE) LE MASTER (1971) graduated from Western BS 1975, lives in Naperville, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a custom picture framer.

ROBERT FRIEL (1972) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 3 children and is an electrical contractor.

PAM (BOREK) MC DONALD (1973) graduated from U of I BS 1977, U of St Thomas MA 1988, lives in Lakeville, MN, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is a gifted specialist teacher.

MARY (REYNEN) BART (1974) lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a housewife.

JERRY HERREWEYERS (1974) graduated from U of I BS, San Diego State MS 1982, lives in San Diego, CA, has 1 child and is a product manager-program realization.

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

JANICE (CUELI) YOUNG (1975) LIVES IN Green Bay, WI and is retired from Baylake Bank.

CATHY (PADDACK) (1977) MARRIED DAVID (1977), they live in Schaumburg, IL and have 2 children.

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

GREGG LAMEKA (1979) lives in Cary, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is an auction manager.

## 1980s

RICK MALCZYNSKI (1982) graduated from U S Naval Academy BS 1986, lives in Torrington, CT, has 3 children and is a pilot for American Airlines.

RAY NELSON (1980) Graduated from De Paul BS 1984, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is an actuary.

ESTHER (VARGAS) MURO (1986) lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a Century 21 realtor.

Jerry-

Here's a photo taken in April (09) in front of P F Chang's in Asheville, NC. This is the second year in a row that we have gotten together. The Campanella's, Traugott's and Budde's (Meccia) live there.

The attendees from left to right: **Ben Campanella** (June '56), **Karen (Plath) Zavell** (Jan '58), **Adrienne**



**(Thompson) Teuscher** (Jan '58), **Kathy (Meccia) Budde** (Jan '58), **Dick Teuscher** (June '56), **Dick Traugott** (Feb '57).

If there is any one else in this area, have them contact us as we'll be getting together again in the next year.

**Dick Teuscher** (June '56)dicknade@comcast.net

Dear Jerry,

It's always a pleasure to hear of former Taftites in the Taft Alumni Newsletter. The most recent newsletter Vol. XXV, No. 2 - Spring 2009 included articles by **Bill Fassnacht** (Jan. '48) as well as from **Holly (Nielson) Rogers** (Jan. '61) regarding the Schalk family of Edison Park. I'm **Howie Schalk**, (June '43) and my wife is **Mildred (Babe) Tess Schalk** (Jan.'43). I was surprised and pleased to hear from Holly (Nielsen) Rogers and the 60 year history of our former neighbors. Bill Fassnacht's comments of my late brother Wally (June '41) and his wife Arlene (Edgren) Schalk (June '41) were heartwarming. The neighborly things people write are indicative of how great the Edison Park suburb was in the 20's, 30's and 40's that we lived in. It is reflective of the reasons so many of Chicago Northwest siders married from the neighborhood.

Babe and I have lived in Sun City West, AZ. for the past 23 years. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary February 12th (And they said it wouldn't last.). Daughters Nancy Klassen, Ladue, Missouri, Carolann Binney, Lake Forest, Illinois and Bill Schalk, St. Joseph, Michigan hosted us and local friends at a festive banquet. Babe graduated from Lake Forest College on 1/28/49. We were married on Saturday, 2/12/49. We drove back to Peoria, Illinois on Sunday 2/13/49 in an ice storm. I had

classes on Monday 2/14/49 at Bradley University where I was a student; I graduated in June 1949.

Our 23 years here have been filled with travel, having visited over 60 countries. There are many local activities to fill in the interim times between trips and family visitors. Not included in traveling, is our annual sojourn back home - Park Ridge. We have eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Former Taftites in the neighborhood (Sun City AZ) include **Arline and Felix Matarrese** (June '43), **Kay and Tom Kuciak** ('63) and former Taft Teacher **Rose Bressler**.

**Babe and Howie Schalk**

*[Editor's note: Due to space constraints, this note actually came to us first and the letter from Howie answering my questions about Mildred Tess is shown on page 4 of this issue. Thanks for the memories! Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

Jerry:

The picture of the 1949 baseball team that was submitted by **Ron Bentson** (1951) brought back some great memories. The fantastic sidearm pitcher that we had that year was the heart of that great team. His name was **George "Sooy" Maier**. Nobody could hit his pitches. He had fantastic stuff on the ball. I believe that he had a perfect game that year, 27 batters, 27 outs.

I attended the city championship at Wrigley field that year. I believe that they played against Mount Carmel. Taft won handily but there was something that happened in the ninth inning that was extraordinary and something I'll never forget. I doubt that it's happened before or since. In Taft's half of the 9th, everyone except the pitcher and the catcher sat down. That's right. They sat down on the grass and let George "Sooney" Maier and the catcher finish the game with 3 strike outs.

I was sad to hear that Sooney had passed away. I always thought that he would be a sensation in the major leagues. I watched for his name on baseball rosters but never saw it. Either sidearm pitchers don't do well in the majors or he simply had other plans for his life. If anyone knows more about his life, I'd love to hear of it.

**Dick Wharton** (Jan '50)

Jerry:

The Florida picnic photograph in the latest newsletter shows a **Rich Vevang** (Jan '51). Did you meet and talk to him? Do you have an address, phone number or e-mail address for him? Did you notice the similarity between his last name and my own?

The thing is this: He is either a relative of mine or a descendant of someone who worked on the family farm in Norway and whose relatives took the name of the farm when they immigrated. In either case, he is Norwegian and somehow shares my origins.

When I was living in Danville, IL ('62-64) and working at the television station there, a guy stopped by the station, saying he was an engineer and asked if he could have a tour of the facilities. He said his name was Richard Vevang and was on his way to Chicago where had family (I think he said Park Ridge). Coincidentally, Mom was planning to take the train into Chicago the next day. Long story - short. I brought this COMPLETE STRANGER home for dinner; he stayed overnight and drove Mom into Chicago the following morning. All because of our last names. He could have been an AX-MURDERER, but it turns our Mom was delivered safely to her destination, and I always regretted that I didn't stay in contact with him.

My family research and trips to Norway have uncovered Vevang cousins living in Palatine and Barrington, and I think I should not miss a second chance to

identify what might be another family link. If you did meet him at the picnic and have a contact for him, would you mind forwarding this e-mail to him. He may not be the same person, but this is too much of a coincidence to let it past unrecognized by me. Even if it is not the same person, the last name indicates a connection of some kind, and I'd like to explore it further. Thank you!

**Margit Wevang** (June '62)

*[Margit: I personally do not recall seeing or meeting him. He was the last person signing in- meaning he arrived late. I assume he is in the photo somewhere, but not sure. Hopefully, he will see your letter, and respond to us so I can connect him to you. Good Luck. Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

Paulette;

I thought you'd enjoy hearing the inspiring words and music of one of our own, a 1971 Taft High School alumni, **Wayne Faust**.

Please share it with others and if you like post it on the Taft alumni website for all to see.

**Faro Vitale** (1971)

*[Editor's Note: He has his own website [www.waynefaust.com](http://www.waynefaust.com). I thought this might be something to share with you. Be sure to watch the video--it is a lovely tribute and very tastefully done. Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

To TAA:

[I'm writing to inform you of the passing of my husband] **Ron Petersen**, class of June 1951. He was an Air Force veteran and worked for the Federal Aviation Administration for 30 years as an air traffic controller and in the regional office. He also was very active in the NW Suburban Boy Scouts along with the Lord Baden-Powell University, was a Mason for over 50 years, and was a 32nd degree Medinah Shriner. We would have been married for 50 years in June, 2009. Ron has a sister, **Marlys Petersen Lindquist** (June '51) and brother-in-law, **Edward Linquist** (June '50), who live near Dallas, TX.

**Anita Nehring Petersen** (June '52)

[anitapeterseg@att.net](mailto:anitapeterseg@att.net)

P.S. I so enjoy reading each newsletter that comes in the mail (thank you all for your efforts) and always look for articles written by my classmates from June, 1952 - come on everyone, let's hear from you! I did recognize a few of the baseball players from Taft 1959 Championship Baseball Team picture like **Don Swanson, John Osko and Tom Smusyn**. What a great team to root for during our sophomore year.

## St. Baldrick's - Shaving for Pediatric Cancer Research

Submitted by Joan DeFilippo, LSC Rep.

For the second year Taft students have participated in the St. Baldrick's head shaving event to conquer pediatric cancer. The money goes toward pediatric cancer research and grants. This year, although we only had 70 participants, we raised \$14,000! We had three top fundraisers from Taft: **Tim DeFilippo** raised \$1300, **Michael Shewchuk** raised \$1160 and **Michael Meersman** raised \$1100. Norwood Park School student, Christian Ortega brought in over \$1000 as well! He is a three-time shaver. Tim DeFilippo participated in his sixth event this year. We had many repeat shavers; among them were **Michael Shewchuk, Nick Johnson, Michael Meersman, Ereik Campus, Phil Quatrocchi, and Andrew Kloman.**



The event was organized by two International Baccalaureate students for their required 150 CAS hours (Community, Service, Action). The students, **Amanda DeFilippo** and **Michael Meersman** solicited raffle prizes, contacted local grammar schools to encourage students to come in and participate along with us. They organized a group of volunteer barbers to come in and help as well. There were ten barbers and eight volunteers in attendance. As part of the "Fox News High School Challenge", Amanda and Michael were contacted by the media and along with Fox News (WFLD-TV) arranged a pep rally at Taft on December 18, 2008. Tim DeFilippo also organized a team from Leyden High School as Taft and Leyden are a combined high school hockey team on which Tim is the goalie. He rallied his team to step up and participate with the Taft Bald Eagles. Overall, it was a good turnout, but would love to see more students step up next year and not just shave, but to raise money.

Meersman Electric donated three prizes this year to encourage fundraising: An iPod presented to Michael Shewchuk for being the top fundraiser, and two iPods for participants who raised over \$1000 as well. Dino's Pizza, Zia's Trattoria, and Dr. Paul DiFranco all donated gift certificates or cash that was used for more raffle prizes (Starbucks and iTunes cards) that were awarded to participants. We are looking forward to a great event in 2010!  
[Photo submitted by Joan DeFilippo]

## 1969 Reunion Details

The June 1969 graduating class of Chicago's William Howard Taft High School will hold its 40<sup>th</sup> class reunion on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 at White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Ill. Reservations are now being accepted for this fun event.

Classmates paying by Aug. 31 will be charged only \$40 (What a bargain! "40 Years for 40 Bucks"); \$45 after September 1st as space permits. Buffet dinner with cash bar; casual attire, jeans are welcome.

We are still looking for some missing classmates from our class of about 600. Please contact the committee at [tafths1969@gmail.com](mailto:tafths1969@gmail.com) or call 773-631-1104 or 847-577-7550.

1969 Committee members include: **Kathy Bickler Lesniak, Anne Lunde, Andrew Madsen, Larry Magill, Jenny Mateling Thomas, Peggy Roberts, Ro Sciortino Ostergaard, Valerie Stewart Sosnowski, Laurel Thoren Kaage and Tom Wolek.**

## In Our Memories

**Anthony Kosinski** died December 12, 2008. He was a math teacher at Taft for 35 years from the late 1960's until the early 1990's. His son Stephen Kosinski graduated from Taft in the 1980's.

**Dorit Viola (Anderson) Beery**, class of January 1942 is deceased. Death date unknown.

**Ruth Daly**, class of June 1943 died of old age in November, 2008. She was the sister of Richard F. Daly (Jan. '46).

**John (Jack) Andrew Walter**, class of June 1943 died April 9, 2009.

**Phillip Scott Nelson**, class of June 1944 passed away March 24, 2009.

**Donald Harris Dahl**, class of June 1946 was deceased in 2008.

**William Frank Werner**, class of June 1947 died on November 22, 1972.

**Robert Gilfoy**, class of June 1948 died suddenly on April 9, 2009 of massive heart attack.

**Kelton Guild Packard**, class of January 1948 passed away on May 4, 2009.

**Edward Alan Smith**, class of June 1948 died on February 19, 2008 after an extended hospital stay.

**Donald Bennett James, Jr.** class of June 1949 is deceased. Date unknown.

**Donald Kurth**, DDS, from class of January 1950 has passed away on May 2, 2009 from pneumonia following three strokes, paralysis and loss of speech. He trained as a Naval fighter pilot during the Korean War and became a dentist in Chicago afterwards.

**Richard W. Lizak**, class of June 1950 died suddenly on May 12, 2009. He was a Korean War Veteran and a long time resident of DesPlaines, IL. Rich was preceded in death by his twin brother Norman in 2004.

**Donald Urbahn**, class of June 1950 died October 13, 2008 of Pulmonary Fibrosis.

**Ronald E. Petersen**, class of June 1951 passed away on February 24, 2009 from complications of pneumonia and diabetes.

**Thomas Miles Mueller**, class of January 1953 died on May 21, 2009 from Pulmonary Fibrous disease.

**Emily (Appleby) Hurst**, class of 1956, passed away in 1986 from Cancer. At age 21, she moved to California and was a Montessori Directress in Marin County, CA after receiving training in London.

**Terry Dreisewerd**, class of January 1961 passed away December 29, 2008.

**Carol Jean Collins**, class of June 1962 is deceased. Date unknown.

**William Hanske**, class of 1970 died May 15, 2006. This corrects the spelling of his name from last issue.

**John Simmons**, class of 1973 died in 1983.

**Cynthia Jean Panzer**, class of 1973 died April 29, 2009. She was the sister of the **Gail Panzer Falk** and the late **Mark Panzer**, also Taft alumnus.

## Lost Ring Saga

Thanks to the tenacity of one of Milwaukee's finest (Officer Tina Kurth) and a persistent relative, **William M. Schatz** (1981) was able to finally locate and retrieve a long lost Taft class ring. It finally arrived in his hands on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Cora L. Schatz**, his sister-in-law wrote to us, saying "Thanks to everyone! I found it in the 2nd district and Billy will be getting it back soon. It was close to the time that they were going to dispose of the item. It's not [an item] that they were going to keep for long."

We're still not sure how the ring wound up in the hands of Milwaukee Police 2<sup>nd</sup> District Property Department. But, we wish to extend a special thanks to all who helped in this ordeal. We appreciate all the above-and-beyond efforts of **Paulette English** (1967), his sister-in-law Cora, **Daniel Podkowa** (1986?), **Judi Lenihan** (1973), **Frank Heyer** (1948) and **Shirley DeWeese** (1960).

## 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](mailto:taftalum@cox.net).

The suggested donation for this service is \$5 per name.

## 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)	<b>Year:</b>	\$30.00	\$
<b>Shipping and Handling:</b> Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$6.00				\$
Total			Remitted	\$
Name (please print):				
			Grad Month/Year:	
Address:				
City/State/ZIP:			Phone: (     )	
<p><b>Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to:</b>  <b>Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631</b>  <b>Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</b></p>				



**Yearbooks:** Some years are hard to keep in supply.

All requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis. As of July 7, 2009, we have the following yearbooks available for purchase: 1942 Jan (1), 1954 Jan (1), 1982 (2), 1985 (25), 1986 (51), 1987 (80), 1990 (48), 1991 (22), 1992 (132), 1993 (4), 1994 (48), 1995 (185), 1996 (65), 1997 (49), 1998 (152), 1999 (147), 2000 (349), 2001 (122), 2003 (76), 2004 (77), 2005 (56), 2006 (40), 2007 (40), 2008 (40).

**Still needed to complete our archived set:** Rechecking our inventory, we find we are still missing 1956 (both January and June), 1957 (June) and 1958 (June). Donation of 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. <b>Return to: Taft Alumni Association</b> <b>6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.</b> <b>Chicago IL 60631</b>					

*Summer 2009*

**Alumni Association Officers**

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)  
 Vice-Pres./Treasurer: Shirley DeWeese (1960)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Frank Heyer (1948)  
 Secretary: Judy Jacobsen (1970)

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 Tom Kuciak (1962)     Rich Lindberg (1971)  
 Joe Popp (1966)     Paul Madsen (1971)  
 Beth Charvat (1967)     Faro Vitale (1971)  
 Paulette English (1967)     Kevin Krieger (1973)

Faculty Representative: Mike Hionis  
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 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

**Expired?!!**

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

You'll receive **TWO** full years of newsletters filled 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>**

Alumni E-mail Directory: eagleemail@taftalumni.org

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