



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXV, No. 1

Winter 2009

St. Baldrick's Benefit - Round Two



Buoyed by the success of last year's fund-raising event, Taft students will again be asked to allow their own heads to be shaved (for \$\$), or make personal donations to the St. Baldrick's fund for childhood cancer research.

Last month a pep rally was held to help kick off the 2009 St. Baldrick's benefit event. Taft student **Amanda Defilippo** is the Taft coordinator in this CPS citywide effort. Her goal is to surpass the more than \$17,000 raised last year and again be top money raiser from all the participating Chicago schools.

The actual event, with mass head shaving of participating students, teachers and parents takes place on April 1st in Taft's school gym, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. If you wish to be part of this fun event, donations can be sent to the school, c/o St. Baldrick's fund.

The Mixed Chorus Under J.J. Stamm Lives On

Submitted by **David Barth**
(January '62)

Although all of you who subscribe to the Taft Alumni Association Newsletter are going to read this article...and hopefully will enjoy it...it is meant mainly for those who sang in the Mixed Chorus and Girls Chorus under the direction of **J. J. Stamm**. With that brief introduction, let me explain where this is going.

My name is **David Barth** (January '62). A few years back I contributed an article to the Alumni News about reconnecting with JJ down in Sarasota, Florida. Over dinner one evening, I told him about the choral organization in the Chicago area I founded and direct called SPIRIT OF LIFE, a 100 voice ecumenical Christian chorus. I casually mentioned to him that if he ever got back up to Chicago, I would love for him to hear one of our concerts. To make a long story short, three months later he was attending one of our Christmas concerts, and has done so each year for the past seven or eight years. And, we talk by phone about once every four to six weeks.

Several years ago he sent me a box of old...make that very old...audio tapes of mainly the Mixed Chorus, but also selections from the Girls Chorus. As best as he and I could figure out, they dated from the very late 50's (told you they

were old)... to the probably somewhere around 1970. Through a studio I use as part of my professional work, we were able to salvage and somewhat enhance twenty-one Mixed Chorus and four Girls Chorus selections.

In follow-up conversations with both JJ and **Jerry Bloom** from the TAA [specifically, the TAA Newsletter Editor], we want to offer the recordings on a two-CD set for all the "old" members of the two choruses. The following is almost a complete listing of the numbers:

(continued on page 13)

Grease Update

Taft continues one of its claims to fame as the national tour of "Grease" has hit the road. The production is the same as the Broadway show and features Taylor Hicks (of American Idol) as Teen Angel, Derek Schneider as Danny Zuko, Emily Padgett as Sandy and Allie Schulz from the TV show "You're The One That I Want" as Rizzo. Taylor Hicks does a mini concert at the end of the show, which really rocks the house

(continued on page 12)

TAFT CLASS REUNIONS

January 1959 - 50th Reunion

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 - 50th Reunion

Date: September 24-27, 2009

Place: Hilton Garden Inn - Des Plaines (River Road)

Reception; Dinner/Dance; Super-Dawg catered

lunch in Taft H.S. cafeteria and tour of school;

Farewell Brunch; (possible 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

Class 1969

Date: TBD

Place: TBD

Contact: Volunteers needed. If interested, advise Kay Kuciak - taftalum@cox.net

Class 1970

Date: August/September, 2010

Place: TBD

Contact: **Richard Winge** -

richardwinge@earthlink.net

Committee (so far): Judy Jacobsen, Mike

Constanzo, Gary Richert

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

1959 - Thomas A. Edison Sch. 50th Reunion

Date: June 13, 2009

Place: Edison Park Bowl, with tour of school on Friday, June 12th.

Contact: **Carolyn (Feare) Rominski** (1963)

carrominski@yahoo.com or

Margie (Stewart) Doud (1963) at

mcdoud@yahoo.com

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.



PTSA needs you!

Don't forget to save the labels for all Campbell's products - soups, sauces, juices, etc. Send to Taft Parent, Teacher, Student Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60631

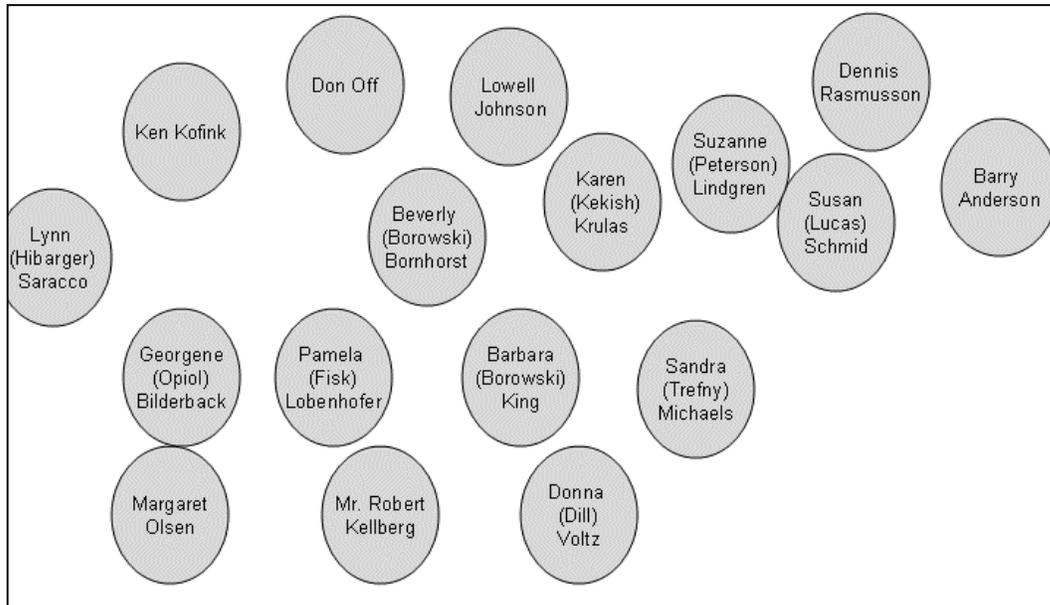
Letters to the Editor

Oriole Park June 1959 Elementary School Reunion August 2008.



Oriole Park classmates are surrounding Mr. Robert Kellberg, their former eighth grade teacher. They are: Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco, Ken Kofink, Don Off, Lowell Johnson, Georgene (Opiol) Bilderback, Pamela (Fisk) Lobenhofer, everly (Borowski) King, Karen (Kekish)

Krulas, Suzanne (Peterson) Lindgren, Susan (Lucas) Schmid, Dennis Rasmusson, Barry Anderson, Sandra (Trefny) Michaels, Margaret Olsen, Mr. Robert Kellberg and Donna (Dill) Voltz





Dear Frank [Heyer] -

Thought I would remind you of the success the Taft baseball team had in the late '40's while the football players got all the adulation at school.

First, we won the North Section championship two years running. (I believe there were three divisions - North, South and West.) We lost in the playoffs to Steinmetz one year and I think to Fenger the next.

We also made baseball training films for an educational film studio. I remember we had to wear our uniform jerseys inside out to conceal

Finally, aside from being entered in the Home Run Contest (photo enclosed), we were the only Chicago high school team fortunate enough to be allowed to have the experience of batting against the mechanical pitching machine which was new and innovative at the time.

Also enclosed is a picture of some of the loyal female followers. Of course some had boyfriends on the team. These photos are from the Chicago Tribune.

Since you do such a good job with the Taft Alumnae Association, I thought you would enjoy some of these memories and memorabilia.

Sincerely,

Fred J. Conville (Class of '47) Chicago, IL 60631

P.S. I must add that the aforementioned successes were due to the expertise of the best high school baseball coach in Chicago - Jim Smilgoff, [Chicago TRIBUNE Photo - undated]

Perhaps partially responsible for Taft's elevation in league standings is cheering department which follows team,

Going all out at game yesterday are (left to right) **Marian Paul, Lulu Hamachek, Viola Norberg, Doris Johnson, Dori Bockhaus, Joan Gurnand, Florence Zarowski, and Jane Gunderson.**



[Fred, Thanks for the memories and memorabilia. We will pleased to include them in our Taft Archives for future generations of alums.

J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]

January Class of 1957 Celebrates With A Luncheon At The Wildfire Restaurant, Schaumburg, Ill



Dear Kay,
It was great to talk with you the other day!
Enclosed is a picture taken at the Wildfire!

Standing from left to right:
**Marilyn Lane, Karen Taylor, Marilyn Kating,
Diane Klier, and Bruce Townsager**
Sitting from left to right:
**Sue Moshier, Leo Drummer, and Jeanette
Kelly**

2008 Taft Top Athletes

Taft's top athletes include (front row, from left) **Nicole Wiktor, Vivian Urquiza, Mary Glowacz, Andrea Roediger, Christina Christopher and Gwen Anderson.** In the back are (from left) **Roy Norman, Khattab Iwainat, Ryan Aitelhadj, Michael Kurotabi and Sidali Aitelhadj.**

(photo credited to Al Podgorski/Sun-Times)

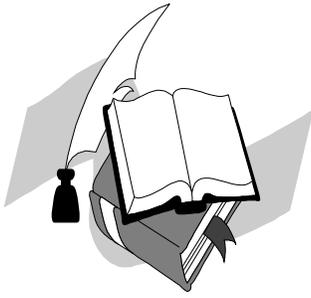
Thanks to **Glenn Skinner** (January 1964) for bringing to our attention a recent newspaper article, found in the Chicago Sun Times. On November 28, 2008, Sun Times reporter Adam L. Johns recounted some of the many past highlights in sports from Taft. He stated, "Taft has won many Public League titles in different sports. The Eagles won in baseball in 1949. With standout **Gordon Lund**, they won back-to-back baseball titles in 1957-58. They also won in 1964. Taft won more than 10 titles in boys golf. **Paulina Bigos** won a tennis championship. The Eagles also won a girls softball title in 2006 and a boys volleyball title in 2007."

He went on to elaborate, "Taft was a basketball force in the Red-North under **Frank Hood**, who had 480 wins in 25 years as coach. Taft won six league titles in a row from 1988-1994. The Eagles were 28-2 in the 1991-92 season. Top players include **Howard Moore, Kenny Pratt, Enoch Davis, Kevin Martin, Shawn Jackson, Colin Murray, Tom Streety, Brett Nishibayashi and Todd and Gregg Gierke.**" Taft's softball team also had success under Hood, winning city titles in 1986, 1988 and 1992 and advancing to the Elite Eight. 'We had a lot of great players those years,' said Hood, who mentioned **Lisa Bradberry, Tanya Lazaro, Connie Leander, Stacey Morrow, Dakota Duce, Tina Angelilli, Sue Selck, Jenny Soufal, Tanya Johnson, Juanita Silva and Jacki and Jill Meyer.**"

[continued on page 13]



CLASS NOTES



1940s

MARJORIE (SCHOENBECK) BAUSONE (1940) LIVES IN Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

RICHARD DE LA MATER (1940) lives in Rocklin, GA, has 2 children and is retired from Montgomery Ward.

MURIEL (DAVIES) KAMINSKI (1940) lives in Lindenhurst, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is retired. She also received the very first diploma given out at Taft and it is on display at Taft.

FRANCIS KLEBER (1940) graduated from US Naval Academy BS 1944, US Naval Postgraduate School MS 1958, Keller MBA 1982, lives in San Diego, CA, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired Naval Officer/Nuclear Engineer and the 1940 Class President.

FRANK ZEMAITIS (1940) MARRIED JANE (JEWELL) (JUNE 1943) they live in Porter, IN, have 2 children, Frank is retired and was the first President of the first Alumni Assoc. and is still active in this Alumni Assoc.

DONALD GIFFORD (JANUARY 1941) graduated from U of I BS 1949, lives in Ballwin, MO, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired from an advertising agency. He was Class President for 1941.

FLOYD GILBERT (JANUARY 1941) lives in Chicago and is retired.

LORRAINE (SCHROEDER) JOHNSON (JANUARY 1941) lives in Norridge, IL and in Marco Island, FL. She has 1 child and is retired.

RALPH LARSON (JANUARY 1941) lives in Chicago and is retired.

BARBARA (ELLIS) OLSON (JANUARY 1941) graduated from U of Americas BA 1963, Presbyterian Hospital RN 1946, lives in Dunedin, FL, has 3

children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired RN.

HARRIET (BOOS) ROGGENBUCK (JANUARY 1941) lives in San Bernadino, CA, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is a retired secretary.

MARIE (HAUCK) RUEHL (JANUARY 1941) MARRIED WILLIAM (JUNE 1941). They live in Elgin, IL have 2 children, 4 grandchildren. Marie is a housewife and Bill is a retired engineer.

MARGARET (BRYSON) WEBSTER (JANUARY 1941) lives in Vancouver, WA and has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

NANCY (GRAY) TROYER (JANUARY 1942) graduated from Chicago Art Institute BFA 1946, Nat'l College of Education MED 1961, Northwestern PhD 1978, lives in Walnut Creek, CA, has 2 children (twins), 5 grandchildren and is a retired art historian, has also lived in Italy and Japan.

MARION (GERCKEN) RETTKE (JUNE 1943) graduated from Wright AA 1945, lives in Woodstock, IL and Vero Beach, FL and is a retired sales manager.

JANE (WILDEMAN) GROVES (JUNE 1944) graduated from U of I BA 1948, lives in Sacramento, CA and is retired from Federal government.

JEAN (LOVE) FISHWICK (JUNE 1945) lives in Grover Beach, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

DOROTHY (WORKMAN) BROUDER (JANUARY 1946) lives in Minocqua, WI, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired.

TED DOBROWOLSKI (JANUARY 1946) lives in Willowbrook, IL, has 5 children, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren and is a retired tool & die maker.

CLYDE DIVEN (JANUARY 1947) lives in Hoffman Estate, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

BOB RAY (JUNE 1947) MARRIED IRENE (DU BOIS) (JUNE 1948), Irene graduated from Northeastern BS 1967, they live in Algoma, WI, have 5

children, 12 grandchildren. Irene is a retired teacher; Bob is a semi retired golf course supt.

DOROTHY (NESS) JOYCE (JANUARY 1948) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

MARILYN (FISCHER) PARKE (JUNE 1948) lives in Hope, ID, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a housewife.

HELEN (HAHN) CANTRELL (JUNE 1949) graduated from American Conservatory of Music BA 1953, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children and is a retired piano teacher.

ROBERT LILLA (JUNE 1949) lives in Northbrook, IL, is retired and recently elected to the IL Hockey Officials Assoc. Hall of Fame.

1950s

DENNIS SCHACHNER (JUNE 1950) graduated from De Paul BA, lives in Naples, FL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired communications engineer.

FRANKLIN HAMANN (JANUARY 1953) MARRIED ARLENE (POEHLER) (JUNE 1954), they live in Grayslake, IL, have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and are retired.

GRACE (BLAZEK) COOK (JUNE 1953) lives in Chicago, has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is retired.

BRUCE PEARSON (JUNE 1953) graduated from Wright AA 1952, lives in Chicago, has 5 children, 11 grandchildren and is semi retired.

CAROL (GOETZ) NELSON (JUNE 1953) lives in Cool, CA, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

BETTY (PETERSEN) PHILLIPPI (JUNE 1953) graduated from MI State BA/MA, U of MI MSW, lives in Tipton, MI, has 6 children, 16 grandchildren and is a clinical social worker.

DARLENE (MORRIS) STENSTROP (JUNE 1953) lives in South Barrington, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

BETTE (OLIVER) KASH (JANUARY 1954) LIVES IN Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 12 grandchildren and is retired.

JOHN KATING (JUNE 1954) graduated from U of I BA 1958, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

DONALD MELLEMA (JANUARY 1955) graduated from Beloit BA 1959, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired news reporter for WBBM. Don is also an honoree in the TAA Hall of Fame

JERRE (NETTLAND) STAATS (JUNE 1955) lives in Naperville, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

DORIS (MILLER) JOHNSON (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Elgin College 1982, LPN 1958, lives in Savanna, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is a retired dental assistant.

THOMAS PLATH (JANUARY 1956) MARRIED PAT (SCHUMACHER) (JUNE 1957), they live in Easton, PA, have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

LEON KATHAN (JUNE 1956) graduated from Triton AA 1973, FL State BS 1977, lives in Sebring, FL, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and is retired. Leon also organizes the annual alumni picnic in Florida.

CAROLE (WINTHER) MATHIS (JUNE 1956) lives in Veradale, WA, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a housewife.

GENE AHLQUIST (JUNE 1957) graduated from U of I BS & MS, lives in San Jose, CA, has 5 children, 11 grandchildren and is retired.

NANCY (THORSON) SCHEULER (JUNE 1957) graduated from IL Wesleyan BS 1961, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

MARILYN (PULLEY) LAPPIN (JANUARY 1958) graduated from U of I BS 1962, lives in Sturgeon Bay, WI and Ft Myers, FL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

BRANDA (BILLHARDT) SCHMAHL (JANUARY 1958) graduated from ELCA AA 1985, lives in San Jose, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired administrator.

CLASS NOTES

ALLEN BLUME (JUNE 1959) MARRIED SHIRLEY (MOLINARE) (JUNE 1956, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 3 children, 7 grandchildren. They are both retired and work 3 months of the year in the Grand Canyon.

BARBARA (KNUDSON) NEWLIN (JUNE 1959) graduated from IL State BS 1964, Geo Wash U MA 1994, lives in Richmond, VA, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired human resources director.

1960s

CHARLANN (SKOAR) SCHWAN (JANUARY 1960) lives in Ivanhoe, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

BOB SPECKMAN (JANUARY 1960) MARRIED JUDY (KOLPEK) (JANUARY 1960) he graduated from U of I 1965, they live in Deerfield, IL, have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and Bob is a facility development manager for Lake Co. Forest Preserve Dist.

KAREN (KLOSE) GOODSMITH (JUNE 1960) graduated from MI State BA 1964, lives in Neenah, WI, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is an artist.

JIM KRASS (JUNE 1960) MARRIED JUDY (WINTERS) (JUNE 1962), they live in Rockton, IL, have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and Judy is a retired teacher.

BONNIE (ENGEL) O LEARY (JUNE 1960) lives in Elgin, IL, has 4 sons, 7 grandchildren and is a retired aerobic instructor.

JOYCE (JOHANSEN) STACKHOUSE (JUNE 1960) lives in Woodstock, IL, has 3 children and is a controller.

HARRY DECKER (JUNE 1961) lives in Naples, FL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

PAUL LAUDICINA (JUNE 1961) graduated from Northeastern BA 1972, MA 1974, lives in Long Beach, CA, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a professor-radiologic tech, MRI and Allied Health.

MARJORY WEILER (JUN 1961) GRADUATED FROM Orange Coast & Saddleback

College GRI 1990, lives in Williams Bay, WI, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a real estate broker.

KAREN (OLSON) SWENSON (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northern BS 1985, Nat'l College of Education MA 1989, Elgin Community College AA 1966, lives in St Charles, IL, has 1 child and is a retired kindergarten teacher.

MAE BETH (FRAME) WILLIAMS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Wheaton College BA 1966, lives in Columbia, MD, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is a practice manager/counseling group.

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

JOHN ALLEY (JANUARY 1963) lives in Green Valley, AZ, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is the retired president of Crescent Cardboard Co.

LINDA (STOLL) KUDELKA (JANUARY 1963) lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a Jewel Bake Shop manager.

PATRICIA (NAUMES) SHERMAN (JUNE 1963) graduated from Wright AA 1965, lives in Glenview, IL and is retired.

JAMES ZACHER (JUNE 1963) lives in Elgin, IL and is a professional soldier, radioman first class serving in Gibraltar.

KAREN (ERWOOD) KUGELMAN (JUNE 1964) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 3 children and is retired.

MARY (PAYNE) SERRA (JUNE 1964) lives in Northlake, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is an office manager.

ANNE (KARR) SMITH (JUNE 1964) lives in Casselberry, FL, has 2 children and is in sales at Dillard's.

LUCILLE (PHILLIP) BEALL (JUNE 1965) graduated from U of IL BS Northeastern MS, Loyola PhD, lives in Dunwoody, GA and is an executive director, Tech College System of GA.

JACKIE (LAVIN) CORR (JUNE 1965) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has

2 children and is a retired United flight attendant.

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

MARTIN EMRATH (JANUARY 1966) graduated from U of I BS 1969, MBA 1972, lives in Brentwood, TN, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a senior accounts manager.

SUSAN (GRANDT) WERNER-RODEN (JUNE 1966) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired school secretary now in accounts receivable.

JANICE (FUSICK) GLURE (JUNE 1967) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is retired.

SUSAN (OENNING) HALIHAN (JUNE 1967) graduated from Harper AA 1981, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and is an emergency room RN at Rush North Shore Hospital.

KATHLEEN (HAGEN) HELDT (JUNE 1967) graduated from Northeastern BA 1971, lives in Des Plaines, IL and is an administrative assistant.

RICHARD KARNEBOGE (1969) graduated from Western IL BA 1973, Central MI MSA 1986, lives in Pekin, IL, has 2 children and is a retired program director, Tazewell County Health Department.

ANNE LUNDE (1969) graduated from Rockford BA 1973, lives in Chicago and is managing editor for 3 weekly community papers including Edison-Norwood Times Review and a Taft Hall of Famer.

1970s

LINDA (DRAKERT) COOPER (1970) graduated from Lutheran General RN 1973, Grand View College BSN 1998, Des Moines U MS 2002, lives in Marshalltown, IA, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is an RN in ICU.

CAROL DAVIES (1970) lives in Summit, IL, has 4 children and works in the Produce Department at Dominick's.

SUSAN (RUTTLEDGE) SORCI (1971) MARRIED JAMES (1970), she graduated from Harper

AA, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and is a hairdresser and kitchen/bath designer.

RUTH (SANDERSON) GISLASON (1972) lives in Livermore, CA, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is in management at Macys.

CAROLE (JACOBUCCI) SCARDINA (1972) lives in Berwyn, IL, has 5 boys and is an elementary teacher.

JUDY (TREDER) GOTZ (1973) graduated from Northern BA 1993, Loyola Med 1999, lives in Pleasant Prairie, WI, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is an administrator at Waukegan, HS.

DENISE (WOTOVICH) FORSTER (1977) graduated from Case Western Reserve BS 1981, MBA 1982, Geo Washington U MS 1998, lives in Cary, NC, has 3 children and is a business consultant.

MARY ELLEN BARTYZEL (1979) graduated from Mundelein BA 1986, lives in Chicago and is an artist.

PAM (MOGENSEN) GRABARCZYK (1979) graduated from Triton AA 1981, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children and is a patient services coordinator at Northwest Community Hosp.

CINDY LITEWSKI (1979) graduated from Triton AA 1986, lives in Streamwood, IL and is an RN.

ERIC VOGT (1979) graduated from Monmouth BA 1983, U of I MS 1988, lives in Palatine, IL and is a chemist, quality control manager.

1980s

BROCK PEARSON (1981) MARRIED DIANE (DUNKER) (1982), they live in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children and is owner of Chicagoland Truck Rental.

MARK NELSON (1984) graduated from Triton 1987, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is an engineer for the Chicago Police Department.

LINDA PEMPEK (1988) lives in Park Ridge, IL and is a capital services assoc. for Xerox Corp.

In Our Memories



John (Jack) Loeschen, class of June 1941 died July 10, 2008.

Walter Rogers, class of January 1946, passed away from cancer on November 9, 2008.

Robert Lendy, class of June 1946 died on August 21, 2008 as a result of his fight against cancer. His wife was **Fern (Schultz) Lendy**, from the class of January 1948.

Marilyn (Newpart) Leis, class of June 1948, passed away at home in Centerville, OH, on October 27 2008, after a lengthy illness.

Nancy (Meyer) Brown, class of January 1953, passed away February 2008.

Peder Heimdal, class of June 1953, passed away December 8, 2008 from a heart attack.

Roy Moeller, class of June 1957 died on September 25, 2008.

Bruce Wochinski, class of June 1957, died suddenly of a heart attack on December 27, 2008.

Len Metz, class of 1960 passed away.

Doug Thornton, class of 1960, died of prostate cancer in May 2008.

Carolyn (Piszcdek) Dabrowski, class of June 1961, passed away December 17, 2008 after a prolonged illness. She was the wife of **Ted Dabrowski**, class of June 1960.

Walter Gordon, class of January 1962, died July 27, 2008 of heart and diabetic complications. His wife was **Dorothy (Fricano) Gordon**, from class of June 1961.

Ronald Caldron, class of June 1963, died September 14, 2008 of lung cancer in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Lynn M. Lilla, class of January 1964 died in his hometown of Virginia Beach, Virginia on December 15, 2008 from a heart attack. He was the husband of Taft graduate **Carolyn (Coco) Lilla**, class of 1966.

50 years ago? Seems like yesterday...

Norwood Park School, Classes of January/June 1958

Seated on floor (L-R): **Jerry (Beesley) Bloom, Linda (Leshuk) Davidson, Anne (Flexman) Warner, Kathy (Schumacher) Spaeth, Diane (Gronek) Meltreger**

Seated on sofa (L-R): **Violet (Georgopolus) Bilissis, Lois (Knickerbocker) Boyer**

Standing in front (L-R): **Debby (Wernes) Mahler, Craig Sabey, Debbie (Peinert) Hogg, Carol (Hawkinson) Sisson, John Ellis**

Standing in rear (L-R): **Bob O'Neill, Sheila (Weber) Aszling, John Zei, Margit Wevang, Richard Sisson**

Chicago - September 12, 2008



What Taft Means to Me

From interview of **Jim Grabowski** (June 1962) by Adam L. Johns Sun Times Newspaper of November 28, 2008

This article excerpt is taken from the November 28, 2008, Sun Times reporter Adam L. Johns' interview with **Jim Grabowski**.

A star running back at Illinois, Grabowski was a first-round draft pick by the Packers in 1966 and ended his career with the Bears.

"Taft was just a great neighborhood school, and I had a wonderful experience there. It had great athletic teams and good academics.

"We played for the Public League football championship two years in a row in 1960 and 1961. The Public League title game was real big back then.

"When I look back, I realize how fortunate we were to have a great football coach in **Joe Kupcinet** (brother of the late Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet). He really prepared you for games, and we had a lot of success.

"My greatest memory is my junior year in 1960 when we played in the Prep Bowl in front 70,000 people at Soldier Field. We were on the wrong side of the scoreboard (a 27-8 loss to Mount Carmel), but it was a great experience.

"I was a 16-year-old kid playing in that big of a game and in front of that many people. Our best players on that team were seniors **Al MacFarlane** and **Gregg Schumacher** [both from class of January 1961].

"We played at Soldier Field a few weeks earlier in the Public League playoffs against CVS and Dick Butkus. And we beat them. But we weren't ready for that big of a crowd in the Prep Bowl. It was such a big deal. It was our Super Bowl. It is something I'll never forget.

"The teachers at Taft had a great influence on me. When I moved on and went to Illinois, I had no problems adjusting because I already had a good foundation. Taft really prepared you.

"I have a lot of good memories of my times at Taft. I still talk to a lot of my classmates and am close with many of them. I am good friends with Schumacher and a couple of the other guys.

"At Taft, I was fortunate enough to play basketball and football and compete on the track team. It was a special experience.



1940 Class Challenge - Last Call -

In our Fall 2008 issue we listed five classmates who responded to Muriel Davies Kaminski's challenge for a "show of hands" of alum from her class of 1940. We elected to extend the deadline for her challenge to this issue. Here are our final additional responses to include:

Kay (Katheryn Mitchell) Frost included her photo with a note about the latest in her life and some memories. See her letter in the "Letters to the Editor" section of this newsletter.

Arlene Edgren Schalk checked in - see her letter in "Letters to the Editor."

Walter Schalk - husband of 46 years to Arlene Edgren and both living in St. Louis area.

**Note: Newsletter deadline
for photographs, articles or
events
to be included in next issue:
March 31, 2009**



(Letters to the Editor - continued from page 5)

To TAAI

I lost contact with the alumni association when I moved. I would like to be on your mailing or email list. I hope that a reunion is planned next year. Here is more information:

Richard Jaskiewicz (1969)

Welcome back, Richard! I'm passing along your information to Kay Kuciak, but in the meantime, if your membership has lapsed, you'll find a membership form online here: http://www.taftalumni.org/member_files/member.asp Keep your eyes on the Reunions webpage and watch the newsletter for any information about a '69 reunion. Paulette (Zemaitis) English, TAA Web Editor]

Hi Jerry,

I just completed reading the latest Taft Alumni Newsletter. I especially appreciate the Memorial to **Harry Hildebrandt**, a dear friend and colleague for 35 years. I was a teacher at Taft from January 1973 until January 2004.

[While earning my degree] I roomed at the University of Michigan with **Ellen Isaacson** from the Class of January '62.

Carol Fink,

[Taught English and journalism - 1973-1994]

Hi Jerry and Kay,

I just finished looking through my latest newsletter and really enjoy reading the articles and especially seeing the pictures. I always get my Aerie out to see if I recognize anyone in the pictures.

I just cleaned out an old storage box and found two old, purple-mimeographed, yellowed pages (remember the smell of mimeograph paper? This was before copy machines.). It turned out to be the Taft High School Student Award Assembly on June 6, 1961. No wonder the pages were so yellowed; they were over 47 years old! Though some of it has faded slightly, most of it is still readable.

I wanted to know if anyone knew the words to the "Taft Loyalty Song"? What was the difference between the Shields and the Chevrons? What did you have to do to earn them? It's been so long ago, I can't seem to remember.

Thanks so very much for all you do for the Taft Alumni Newsletter.

Jo Ellen (Trefny) Pacheco (June 1963)

[Jo Ellen, I believe the current Taft students would have a very hard time remembering all the words to the "Taft Loyalty Song", as it is not currently being sung for each assembly or each sport event as we used to do. But, I have to tell you that it is sung each spring at the Florida Taft Reunions and we never skip a beat! That is a song we've cherished and enjoy singing while reminiscing old memories. See the TAA website for a copy of this song.

Taft Shields and Chevrons? I'm not sure, either, so need to hear from other alumni who have better memories than us. Let's hear from them... Go, Taft, Go! J. Bloom, TAA News Editor]

Jerry,

Although I have written and sent pictures on several occasions [in the past], always indicating that I was a June 1940 graduate, I see that I'm not included in the list of 1940 graduates. I'm sure I will be now.

Some of the names in the 2008 issue are familiar to me, and I often think of how exciting it would be to see one another after all these years.

I have lived in Glen Ellyn, Illinois for over 60 years, and just recently became a widow after 63 wonderful years of marriage to Jack Frost. I have three married children, six

grandchildren and five great grandchildren who help keep life exciting and busy - which is helpful at this time. I miss my husband very much, but manage to keep busy with volunteer work, family and friends.

During the year I was at Taft my closest girlfriends were **Elsa Hand**, **Peggy Mayer Goodman** and **Norma Pfeifer Walter**, all of whom are deceased. We did everything together and called ourselves the "Clover Debs". Happy memories never really wear out!

We all age and change - I'm enclosing a picture of me at 86! I enjoy the Taft Newsletter very much.

Kay (Kathryn Mitchell) Frost (June 1940)



Kay (Kathryn Mitchell) Frost, June 1940

To TAA,

Please enter: **Dean Hurthert** in the memorial section [of the TAA website]. He committed suicide in 1961 /62 when his parents divorced. He was a casual friend, but I still think about him every day for 45 years. We were in German 4 together, probably would have graduated in '63. Mr **Vernon Vanderah**, to his credit, held a silent remembrance for him during class. It was my first experience with real world tragedy. Thanks,

Jim Zacher (1963)

[Thank you for your comments. Mr. Vanderah was sensitive as well as sensible. I've listed Dean on our memorial page online. Paulette, TAA Web Editor]

Dear Jerry,

Checking in as a 1940 Taft High School graduate-**Arlene Edgren Schalk**. My husband of 46 years, **Walter Schalk**, was also a graduate in 1940. He graduated from Northwestern University with a double degree in Chemistry and Business, after serving in the Army ASTC. After a productive career at Monsanto, culminating at the headquarters in St. Louis and then a wonderful position in purchasing at

Georgia Pacific he passed on 1993. We have three children who all live in the St. Louis area and nine grandchildren.

Thank you for your dedication to the Alumni Newsletter. In reading **Jack Ellis'** remarks in the last issue I recall having our pictures on large buttons pinned on our lapels. As you were approached each person put on glasses, looked at the picture on the pin and then up at your face and remarked, "Oh! I remember you! Thanks again for keeping us in touch.

Arlene (Edgren) Schalk (June 1940)

Jerry,

I remember as a freshman in my second semester having to sing for JJ [**James Stamm**]. But he was short on tenors so I made it. Fooled him. A year later I switched to bass. I guess that's what growing up does to boys.

Hey, do you remember Gary Bloom? Not sure I spelled his last name correctly. Sang tenor... gorgeous voice... did a Christmas solo that **Darla Block** danced to. I've always wondered what happened to him. I graduated in January of '62 and I believe he was just ahead of me. Anyway, just wondering.

David Barth (January '62)

*[Dave, I checked my files and found a **Gary Blohm** who graduated Jan '60. Same guy? I remember when Darla danced, but don't remember Gary. I didn't join the Mixed Chorus until the fall of 1960. Maybe someone else remembers where he is now... jbb]*

To Jerry Bloom

The January class of 1946 came together for a 62nd class reunion on the weekend of Sept. 12-13th. It was a record Chicago rainfall, but the hardy won out. Twenty graduates, spouses and friends met in the Oakbrook for dinner and show at Drury Lane Theatre. On Saturday they visited Navy Pier, enjoyed a lake cruise and a Greek restaurant.

Classmates had traveled from Florida, Texas, Minnesota, Maryland, California and Chicago area. My roommate was **Rosemary (Brabec) Isberner**, classmate from Gavy School. All of us enjoyed visiting and sharing a Taft weekend.

Now, I'm looking forward to another reunion in St. Petersburg, Florida on March 15, 2009. This picnic at Fort DeSoto Park grows every year and will be the 6th reunion for all Taftites.

In the fall issue, I also found two names from the past. I hope they remember me and I'd love for them to get in contact. **Grace Mazar Utt** was class of June 1946 and I remember well. We lived in Hoffman Estates and our children went to Lakeview Grammar School. **Evelyn Evensen-Pinther**, was of [January] '45 was in a group of young people who spent summers at Long Lake, Illinois enjoying the sun, beach and friendship. Another Taft alumni there was **Jeanne Foxvog**.

I remember them both and hope I'm also remembered. I would love any contact with lost classmates, as I'm still in the Taft area.

Mariann Leversen Erlenbach, January 1946
mee2804@juno.com

To TAA,

How do I report the death of my father? He was a member of the Taft Alumni Association and received the newsletter. His name was Peder Heimdal (class of June 1953). He had a heart attack on December 4, 2008.

Although, he [could] not see or read the newsletter anymore due to the fact that he was going blind, he loved it when I read it to him. It brought back great memories for him.

Kris Heimdal

[Kris, I am so sorry for the loss of your father. It's good of you to let us know how much he enjoyed the TAA newsletters. We will remember him ... and I've already listed him on our memorials page online. Paulette (Zemaitis) English, TAA Web Editor]

Ted Voss recently showed **Ken Brown** of Tucson, Arizona his model railroad display at his home in Union, Illinois. **Pam (Hanson) Voss** served lunch to Ted, **Ray Black** and Ken (all of the class of 1951) at their beautiful country home.



To TAA: I was wondering if you could give me the appropriate contact information for the class of 1984 (25 year reunion) scheduled for this summer?

Philip Compton, '84

[Philip, I've not yet received information about the 25 year reunion for class of '84, but I'm passing your request on to others who may have heard something. Otherwise, keep your eyes on the reunions page online, and watch for any information published in the newsletter. Paulette (Zemaitis) English, TAA Web Editor]

To TAA,

Connecting to say thank you... Is there any way that contact may be made with teachers that were there 1987-1991: **Mr. Lions, Ms. Zajack, Mr. Gonzalez?**

Maritza Sotomayor - Velez (1991)

[Hello, Maritza. Unless a teacher as opted to join our email directory (which you can search on our website), we can't give out

any other information. Many of the teachers, however, subscribe to the TAA newsletter, so you might write an open letter to them and include your email address for them to respond. We have had many such letters in the past that recall favorite teachers with fondness. You can send the letter to Jerry Bloom, newsletter editor, at jerrybloom@fales.org. Thanks so much! Paulette (Zemaitis) English, TAA Web Editor]

Jerry,

Last night I attended the American Friends of the Czech Republic Gala. Many dignitaries were there, President and Mrs. Bush [41], Madelyn Albright, Senators and Ambassadors. The Director of the organization was from Chicago. He's a lawyer from Arlington Heights - **George T. Drost**. We began talking about Chicago and he is a 1965 Taft graduate. Great guy and we spent the rest of the evening reminiscing about how great the football team was back then.

John D. Ellis, Jr. (June 1962)
Consul General Republic of Malta.

To The Class of 1940:

Now hear this: you cannot claim **Nancy (Gray) Cardiff Troyer** as a classmate! (see page 10 of the Taft Alumni Newsletter, Fall 2008). Nancy belongs to the class of January 1942. Please release her - our valedictorian - and locate your **own valedictorian**.

Barbara (Alitis) Hecox,
(representing the class of January 1942)

[Ed. Note: Oops! This was a typo on our part, she is definitely listed in the January 1942 class. jbb]



Did You Know?

As reported in the Summer 2008 issue of your Taft Alumni Newsletter, the Chicago Public School headquarters has created an exciting website. It appears to get updated regularly, as they continue to develop the site. One of the benefits of joining, is that they provide a quarterly newsletter for Chicago grade school and high school graduates. Their first issue that came out last November was chocked full of great stories of notable alumni coming out of the Chicago public school system.

You can find it at www.cpsalumni.org. We encourage you to check it out and also add you name as a Taft High School graduate. Currently, there are only 81 Taft names registered. Compared to Steinmetz (209) or Lane (with 196), we show up a dismal sixth place by comparison. Can we improve this?



("Grease" Update - from page 1)

Jim Jacobs (June, 1960), co-author of "Grease," said the Chicago performances suffered a bit due to the terrible weather, but the people who were able to attend absolutely went wild. He feels Chicago audiences "get it" like no other city. Jim, Taylor and Allie did a number of radio and TV interviews, plus the Chicago Tribune ran two interviews with Jim, the hometown boy, while the show was running. A really exciting time!

The show will next be going on to Cincinnati, Baltimore, Omaha, and then Tucson at the end of February. You can check other tour cities and dates on line.

The high school may be called Rydell in the show, but we all know its real name - GO TAFT!

(Mixed Chorus - continued from page 1)

Mixed Chorus - Recorded at the Board of Education Building in 1965...

Go Tell It On the Mountain
O Magnum Mysterium
Christmas Was Meant for Children
'Twas the Night Before Christmas
The Cherry Tree Carol
Silent Night
Adoramus De Christe

Mixed Chorus - Recorded in the Taft auditorium...

He Never Said A Mumblin' Word
Peaceful River

Mixed Chorus - Recorded at the City Wide 1961 Choral Competition...

Roll Chariot, Roll

Girls Chorus - Recorded in the Taft auditorium...

Listen to the Lambs
Deo Gracias

Mixed Chorus - Recorded in the Taft auditorium...

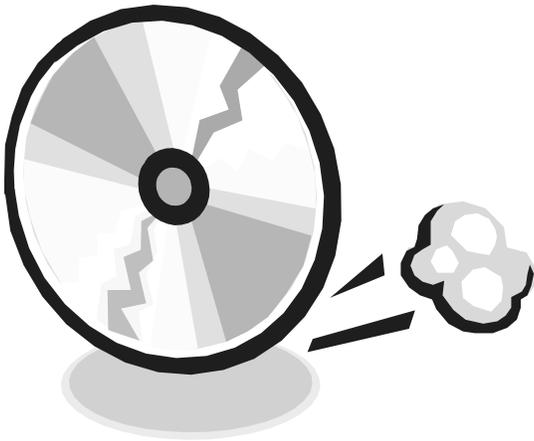
I Hear A Voice A Prayin'
Into the Hand of God
Were You There?
O Watcher's of the Stars
O Divine Redeemer
The Creation

Girls Chorus - Recorded in the Taft auditorium...

June Is Busting Out All Over
It's A Grand Night for Singing

Mixed Chorus - Recorded in the Taft auditorium...

Sound of Music Medley
Battle Hymn of the Republic
(Mystery Number)
All Creatures of Our God and King
We Praise Thee O God



Our apologies for the "Mystery Number." Neither JJ nor I could come up with the title. It's in Latin and although my mother always wanted me to be a minister, I'm Lutheran and to the best of my knowledge, only Catholic priests know any Latin.

Now, I have an additional offer to all of you former Mixed or Girl's Chorus members. If someone is sitting out there with a record or tape and would like to add it to the collection. Contact me ASAP !! As

long as you're willing to send it to me, I can easily add it. And, of course, I'd send your original back.

Deadline for orders: May 1, 2009. The two CD set will sell for \$12, which includes shipping costs. All you have to do is make a check payable to David Barth and send it to me at 1035 Hummingbird Way, Bartlett, IL 60103. Please allow four to six weeks for shipping as we want to collect as many orders as possible and then process the CDs all at one time. Cover art is being worked on as you read this. Hopefully, it will also bring back a memory or two as we are attempting to use some old pictures of the Chorus.

Two finals notes (no pun intended). First, this is not a profit making enterprise for anyone. Hopefully, you'll understand by the price. If there ends up being a couple of bucks left over, we'll donate the dollars to the TAA. It's simply meant as a way to bring back wonderful memories to those of us who sang in the Chorus.

Secondly, I told JJ the number of people who have been contacting me that would like to send him a note. He gave permission to give out his address. It's James Stamm at 2280 Stickney Point Rd. #435, Sarasota, FL 34231-4045. If any of you feel even remotely the same as me, send him a note and say thank you for all he did to instill in us not just the theory of singing music, but also the pride in singing to the very best of our ability. After all, he was...THE VERY BEST!

P. S. Although JJ is now 85, following our concert this last December, he critiqued everything he heard. And believe me, he heard it all!



Yeah, that's Eddie Mason. If you say hello, don't ask about his Kids
Cartoon submitted by **Frank Zemaitis** (June 1940)

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: Some years are hard to keep in supply. **All requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis.** As of January 6, 2009, we have the following yearbooks available for purchase:

1942 Jan (1), 1947 Jan (1), 1977 (1), 1978 (1), 1979 (1), 1980 (1), 1982 (4), 1983 (1), 1985 (25), 1986 (51), 1987 (82), 1990 (45), 1991 (22), 1992 (132), 1993 (3), 1994 (48), 1995 (186), 1996 (65), 1997 (49), 1998 (152), 1999 (147), 2000 (349), 2001 (122), 2003 (76), 2004 (77) and 2005 (76), 2006 (40), 2007 (40), 2008 (40).

Still needed to complete our archived set:

Yearbooks from 1956 and 1958. Your donation of either or 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>Winter 2009</i>

Alumni Association Officers

President:	Kay Kuciak (1963)
Vice-Pres./Treasurer:	Shirley DeWeese (1960)
2 nd Vice-President	Frank Heyer (1948)
Secretary:	Judy Jacobsen (1970)
Directors:	
Arlene Ware (1960)	Andrew Madsen (1969)
Tom Kuciak (1962)	Rich Lindberg (1971)
Joe Popp (1966)	Paul Madsen (1971)
Beth Charvat (1967)	Faro Vitale (1971)
Paulette English (1967)	Kevin Kreiger (1973)
Faculty Representative:	Mike Hionis
E-Mail Listing Co-ord.:	Paulette English (1967)
Webmaster	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	

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 \$20 for husband/wife graduates at the same address.

You'll receive not one, but 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

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.
CHICAGO IL 60631

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

