



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXVII, No. 3

Summer 2011

The 2011 Scholarship Winners

The Taft Alumni Association presented three scholarships at Taft's June 9th graduation, held at Wright College's gymnasium.

A \$1,000 scholarship, donated in memory of **Tom Meyer**, a member of the Class of 1960, was presented to **Anna Maj**. She is planning a career teaching high school mathematics. Anna has served in student government, as secretary for the National Honor Society, played on the Girls' Varsity Tennis Team, and has mentored younger students. She also has volunteered with a number of charity initiatives.

Meghan Glowacz won a \$1,000 scholarship, funded with contributions from members from the Class of 1960. She is planning a career as an environmental investigator. She also was honored by the Taft Local School Council, where she has served as the student representative for the past year.

Meghan served on the Principal's Student Advisory Council, in student government, was a copy editor for the yearbook and news editor (continued on page 9)

THIS Could Be Your Last Issue Of The TAA Newsletter

The Taft Alumni Association started this newsletter to update our graduates and friends about news at Taft High School in Chicago. Our dues-paying members receive four copies a year – Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter – and can keep up with news from classmates and others they know.

As a courtesy, the summer issue is mailed to all our new graduates, and has also been sent to all alumni for whom we have a current mailing address. Right now, with graduates from over 70 years included, that expanded list includes over 14,000 alumni, retired teachers, etc. Is it an obligation or a luxury?

We've tried to keep our dues reasonably priced – it only costs \$15 for a two-year membership for individuals, and alumni couples get a special rate. (That's a better bargain than most magazines, and infinitely more interesting). We're finding that less of our membership is renewing in these tough economic times, and we're also faced with increasing costs that will affect printing and postage. That's a concern for the TAA board because it reduces the resources we can offer.

At one recent alumni gathering, we learned that many graduates have been taking their annual summer newsletter for granted, figuring (continued on page 4)

"Grease" Show Success

Submitted by **Shirley DeWeese**
(June '60, TAA Treasurer)

Over 300 Taftites attended the Taft Alumni Association fund raiser to see the "The Original Grease" at the American Theater in Chicago. On May 21, there was a matinee, followed by a delicious buffet at Mrs. Murphy's Irish Bistro, which was attended by the alumni going to the evening show as well. There was also a matinee on May 22. The play was truly a joy, everyone loved it. They even copied my green gym suit and used it in a scene. That drew a huge reaction from the gals!



Jim Jacobs (June, '60) co-author of "Grease" greeted and signed autographs for as many people as he could and a wonderful time was had by all, including Jim and myself. The warm fuzzies, both in the theater and the restaurant, were incredible. So many smiles on everyone's faces. It was a huge success and something we'll all remember for a very long time. (Photo submitted by Anne Lunde.)

**Congratulations
Taft High School Graduates
Class of 2011**

Taft Class Reunions

June 1959 Class

Date: October 1, 2011 - 6 PM
Place: Hilton Garden Inn - Des Plaines
Contact: **Larry Marsh** - fairseas2u@gmail.com
540/869-2644 or **Pat Lutz** - patlutz@comcast.net
847/259-0120.

January 1961 Class

Date: September 10, 2011
Place: Wellington Banquet Hall - Arlington Heights
Contact: **Ed Gersch & Holly Nielsen Rogers**
edgJan61@krzyz.com – 360-598-1860

June 1961 Class

Date: October, 2012 (tentative)
Place: TBD
Contact: **John Prochaska & Art Kay**
TaftJun61Alums@aol.com

Class 1971

Date: September 17, 2011
Place: Four Points Sheraton - Schiller Park
Contact: **Jim Lucchesi** –
lucchesifamily@sbcglobal.net
or **Mary Jane (Mortensen) Wojkiewicz**
nutstou2@aol.com or 773-775-9853

Class 1981

Date: Saturday, October 29, 2011 - 7 PM
Place: Hilton - Northbrook
Contact: **Toni Hartsell** - tonihartsell@yahoo.com
See www.greatreunions.com for details.

Class 1987

Date: July 21, 2012
Place: Blues Bar, Mt. Prospect - www.blues-bar.com
Contact: **Joe Bartel, Jr.** - josef425@comcast.net
www.classreport.org/usa/il/chicago/th/1987

Class 1991

Date: October 1, 2011 - 6 PM
Place: Tommy's - 6954 W. Higgins - Chicago
Contact: **Androniki Velisaris Ganczewski**
timnikganz@yahoo.com or 773-320-3015

Class 2002

Date: June, 2012 (tentative)
Place: Looking for committee members!!
Contact: **Jessica Washington** at
Jessicawash2008@yahoo.com

**Check out TAA online (www.taftalumi.org)
and TAA on Facebook (Taft Alumni Association)
for updates and details not shown here.**

More Reunions!

9th All-Class Picnic - SouthEAST

Date: **SATURDAY**, March 10, 2012
Place: Ft. DeSoto Park - St. Petersburg, FL
Shelter number 14 - **Noon to 3 PM**
Donation: \$3/person
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
leonkathan@yahoo.com



2nd All-Class Picnic - SouthWEST

Date: Spring, 2012
Place: Arizona (locale to be determined)
Contact: **Paul Frizane** (June '67)
aztaftalumi@yahoo.com

Garvy - Class of 1961

Date: Sunday, September 25, 2011 (cookout)
Place: Judi Stephens' yard - Barrington
Contact: **Judi (Luga) Stephens** at 847/296-6421
or Judi1948@sbcglobal.net

Getting Wired/Going Green!

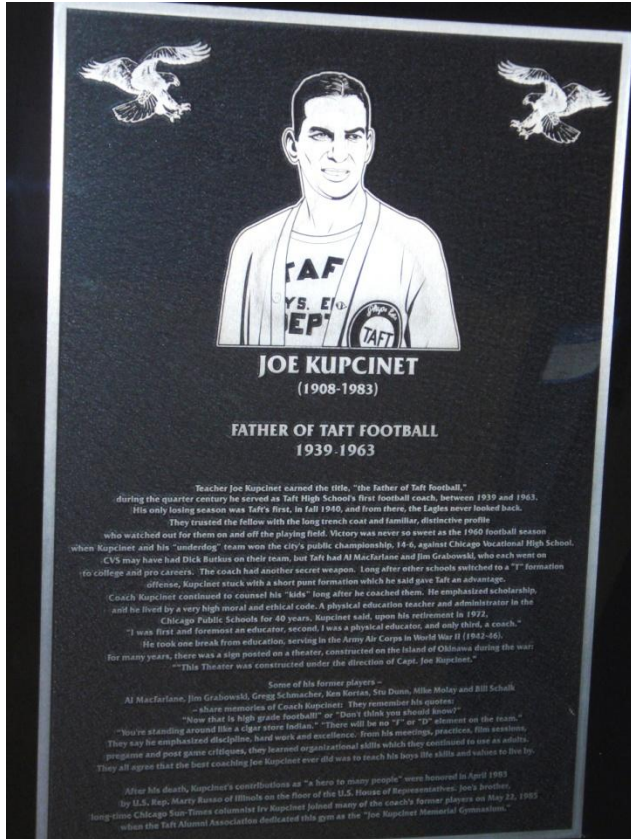
If you haven't already thought of it, please consider helping reduce the publishing costs of this newsletter and feel good about reducing excessive consumption of trees, water, electricity, etc. that would be needed if you continued to receive your newsletter via the regular mail.

Get your TAA newsletter issues online. If you've already signed up, we thank you! Email us at eagleemail@taftalumni.org and do it today! You'll be happy you did. We will, too!

Dedicating the Kupcinet Plaque

Submitted by **Anne Lunde** (1969)

On June 11, they gathered in the lobby outside the main Taft High School gymnasium. Some were graduates from the 1940s classes, another group from the 1950s, and a few from the 1960s. Their hair might have been a bit grayer than when they attended Taft, but their Eagle spirits burned bright.



Unveiling the plaque

When the Taft Alumni Association first dedicated the main gym in memory of Coach **Joe Kupcinet**, in 1985, the majority of the audience were players from Kupcinet's later years at Taft, the city championship football team, many of them the players who went on to play in the pros.

This time, it was the earlier players who knew the Coach when Taft High School first opened in fall 1939. Kupcinet was one of the Taft "founders" memorialized in the Taft Founders March (the Taft Loyalty Song), the original faculty members. Aside from serving in World War II, he was on the Taft faculty until 1963. He retired in 1972 and died in 1983. The June ceremony was to unveil a new plaque to honor Kupcinet, which will hang in the gym lobby near the trophy cases. The project was initiated by Taft's current principal, **Dr. Art Tarvardian**, who also had a plaque created to explain the contributions of William Howard Taft, for whom Taft High School is

named. The new Kupcinet plaque was unveiled by the former players who attended.

Taft Alumni First Vice President **Anne Lunde** shared information from the Kupcinet family, who have been based in California for a number of years. After Joe retired from the Chicago Public Schools, he and his wife Peggy moved there to be close to their daughter Pat, her husband Ron Saranow, and their family. Two of the Saranows' three children played basketball for another Taft High School, in Woodland Hills, CA. At last report, Peggy Kupcinet was 101 and living in a retirement home.

For **Charles "Bud" Trick** (June 1941), who came in from Florida for the event, it was a chance to clarify that he really was on the first football team... very briefly. Bud was also trying to earn money for college, so he was playing in a band, The Top Hatters, in addition to working Saturdays at Jewel Tea (25 cents an hour!). Eventually Kupcinet gave him an ultimatum – pick either music or football. He needed the money more. So, while he played ball the first part of the season, he was off the team before the Taft Tribune published the names and pictures.

When it came time to apply for college, Kupcinet wrote him a recommendation for college football. Bud's freshman Knox College football jersey, carefully preserved, was displayed for the group. The freshmen that year often beat the varsity team but there was no varsity ball for him, because it was 1941, and America entered the war by the end of the year.

Retired State Rep. **Ralph Capparelli** (January 1942) remembers the blustery winter day when he bought a new lock for his locker and, having no pocket to preserve the new combination, he put the slip of paper in his shoe and went to the gym. After a (continued, page 5)

A Very Special Person Needed

Frank Heyer, a 1948 graduate, has been a member of the Taft Alumni Association board since 1999, and performs some of the most vital functions we have. Because he lives in the Taft area, he picks up the TAA mail at school on a weekly basis; processes the membership deposits at the bank in Norwood Park; records the membership renewals, and also manages the alumni store. It's a big and very important job to fill.

Frank would like to step back from some duties with TAA in the near future and we're looking for someone living in the Taft area to take his place. We have board meetings approximately four times a year at school.

If you love Taft as much as we do and are interested or have further questions, please call:
 Kay Kuciak, President - 623-544-0226
 Anne Lunde, 1st V.P. - 773-631-1104
 Frank Heyer - 773-631-4701

Last Newsletter (continued from page 1)
 that by becoming a Taft graduate they became members for free simply by getting their Taft diploma. They somehow were missing the regular appeal for dues payments. They were pleased that the Taft Alumni Association did so much, including linking other grads to come to their event, but didn't realize that this becomes possible only through strength in paid membership supporting the efforts of the volunteers who do the work.

None of us on the board are paid. Some of us invest many, many volunteer hours each year to keep the TAA running smoothly and serving all of you. Membership dues received are invested back to serve the alumni and the school.

With a strong membership base, we can tackle bigger projects – supporting programs for current Taft students, planning a 75th anniversary and other multi-class events, as well as funding scholarships for graduating seniors. The annual mailing also helps us maintain a more accurate address list, which helps classes as they start to plan their reunions. When we can also spread the costs of producing and mailing the newsletters across many memberships, we keep them affordable for everyone.

If you aren't a paid member yet – if you're just receiving this newsletter for the first time this year – please consider paying your dues and helping to keep our organization strong. Otherwise, if it becomes too expensive to mail to the master mailing list, we may be forced, reluctantly, to skip the summer mailings to non-members in future years.

Please remember to become a member or to renew your dues. Together we really can make a difference! We look forward to hearing from you.

Letters to the Editor

To The Outstanding Taft Alumni Newsletter Team:

Please add the following information to the *Reunions* page in the summer edition of the Alumni Newsletter. The Class of June 1959 will be having its 52nd reunion on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Des Plaines Hilton Garden Inn on River Rd.

Please note that this is our fifth consecutive class reunion and third straight reunion to be held at the Des Plaines Hilton Garden (we held our first pre 50th reunion in 2007 at the Forge Club in Vernon Hills).

The reunion committee invites all '59 classmates as well as schoolmates from other years to join hearty Taftites who continue to gather annually and enjoy reconnecting with high school friends.

For information or conversation please reach 1959 class president, **Larry Marsh** at his new contact info at fairseas2u@gmail.com 540/869-2644 or **Pat Lutz** at patlutz@comcast.net 847/259-0120.

Thanks for your attention to this request.

Pat (Santell) Lutz (June 1959)

To TAA,

I wish you could take online payments, via a website or via PayPal.

Chris Bush (1984)

[Chris, yes, that would be convenient, and it's certainly something we need to consider in the future. For now, we need a way to collect our members' data at the same time we collect the dues. Thank you for your feedback. It tells us what our member's wishes are. Paulette English, TAA Web Editor]

Attention Taft Alumni Association,

Thank you, Thank you, THANKS for the nice mention in the Spring Taft Alumni newsletter! It was greatly appreciated! I have more news for you!

For many, many, many years I've tried to get the local (Chicago) news media to cover the outreach programs of engineers to children, students (i.e. www.futurecitychicago.org). Once in a great while the local media will report on these activities (*ONCE in a great while*).

It seems these efforts caught the attention on Water Reclamation District Commissioner Frank Avila who recently presented me with an award for my efforts, "In recognition of exceptional Leadership in educating our children in K-12 in Engineering". The award was presented by Commissioner Avila during taping of a television program (CAN-TV) with me on June 3rd. The video can now be viewed at:
<http://blip.tv/avila-media-nfp/robert-b-johnson-educating-children-about-engineering-5271390>.

Make sure you watch it to near the very end!



Taft Marching Band playing in the Norwood Park Memorial Day parade. Note: Mr. Newman, Taft music teacher and band leader in blue shirt.

(Photo submitted by Anne Lunde)

To TAA,

Coach Kupcinet also coached the swimming team while I was a member 1955-8. I do not know his full term as swimming coach. This fact was omitted in your [Spring 2011] article.

I enjoy the Newsletter.

Martin Paluga (June 1958)

(Letters to the Editor continued on page 6)

(Kupcinet Plaque - Continued from page 3)
busy workout in shorts and sneakers, he found the sodden fragment with a no-longer legible locker combination. He has no way to get his coat or street clothes or to get to the bus to go home. The Coach pulled out his own winter coat, which wrapped around Ralph twice, and drove him home himself. Grateful parents insisted he stay for dinner.

When Ralph needed a summer job, he was hired to work at Camp Interlaken, Kupcinet's summer camp for boys in Wisconsin. Later, taking teacher's training at college, Ralph ended up back at Taft, teaching P.E. under Kupcinet's supervision. The 16 hours of "S" (for superior in the older grading system) got Ralph through college with a B average. "He was a good teacher, a great coach, but most of all, a good friend," Ralph remembers.

John Pitt (January 1950) recalled the tryouts on the grass field next to the school – 100 or more young men were being viewed by Kupcinet, accompanied by an assistant with a clipboard who wrote down likely prospects' names on his list. Kupcinet came up and said, "Let me see your hands!" John remembers. "How big is your father?" he was asked next. "Get his information," the assistant was told, and Pitt was on the team.

Kupcinet advised John to "be a bit more particular" about the people he hung out with – advice he took to heart because it came from the Coach. Pitt estimates there were at least five or six students in his era whose high school careers were saved because the coach put in extra effort to keep them on the team and in school.

Douglas Gifford (June 1953) was on Kupcinet's Taft swimming team, which won major state titles during his years. He was another Camp Interlaken staff recruit, working in the kitchen.

Dr. Stuart Dunn (June 1960) said the coach emphasized self discipline and hard work, in class or on the field. Sometimes it seemed harsh treatment – who could forget the attendance line in gym where the coach announced: "Exaggerated position, shoulders back, chest out, stomach in --- Look good, men!" It was the first time many of these teens had been called "men" by anyone.

John Will (January 1949), sending a letter to the gathering, remembered preparing for a game against Schurz. Kupcinet insisted they prepare in silence, but the Schurz team was loudly singing their fight song in the other locker room. Kupcinet assured his team, "Gentlemen we will sing after the game." "We won the North Section Championship that Fall in 1948 and had a lot of vocal practice along the way!" Will added.

Current Coach **Nick Nishibayashi**, father of three Taft grads, two of whom will be on Taft's P.E. faculty in the coming year, spoke of the things he learned from his own coaching mentors, including retired Taft coach **Frank Hood**.

"That's what we coach: progress. If the kids are failing, we stress academics. From there everything falls into place. It wasn't basketball. It was the life lessons."

They were learning life lessons, from Kupcinet too, Stuart Dunn said. Even working at the Interlaken kitchen you learned never to cut corners, and to do things the right way the first time. What were other lessons they learned from the Coach?

"Have fun," Bud Trick says. "If you're not having fun don't do it... Courage, determination, devotion, persistence, enthusiasm, unselfishness... Stick to it. Never give up. Have fun."

[See photo of dedication on page 9]

Hall Of Fame

The Taft Alumni Association has inducted alumni into the Taft Hall of Fame since it was created in 1989. In the past this has been on a five-year cycle, but after 2009, the Alumni Association decided to do inductions every three years.

Nominees should be Taft graduates, living or deceased, who exemplify the best of Taft, people we can be proud of holding high as our colleagues and peers. They bring honor to the name of Taft High School through their accomplishments in their careers, personal achievements, service to others, leadership and courage.

There are a few changes to the rules. Nominations may be submitted by any and all alumni, by family members or by Taft High School faculty – but people cannot nominate themselves. Candidates can be from any class if they meet the criteria. We will not induct as many individuals in a particular Hall of Fame group, but we will do it more often.

In 2009, deceased alums were allowed to be included for the first time. We recognize that we missed some of the impressive grads from our earlier classes. That is bound to happen with more than 70 years' worth of Taft graduates – we started the process only 22 years ago.

At this time, students who attend the Taft Academic Center in seventh and eighth grade but do not continue at Taft High School, are not eligible to be included.

In cases where a couple is nominated, or when a nominee spent at least three years at Taft but did not complete a degree, the candidates will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We have a nomination form available to download on the Taft Alumni Association web site, and we encourage you, if you have someone you believe should be considered, to fill out the form. All materials must be mailed to Taft, including copies of corroborative information. It is important to have the same information for each candidate.

(continued on page 9)

(Letters to the Editor - continued from page 4)

TIME 27:10. There's a discussion of TAFT!

The video [was] aired on CAN-TV (CHICAGO) on COMCAST CABLE - Chicago Station #21. Unfortunately this program [did] not air on suburban cable outlets unless those local cable companies [requested] the video.

Bob Johnson (January '65)

Dear Paulette:

In the current issue (which I enjoyed very much), you indicated that Joe Kupcinet coached football and basketball. However, you did not indicate that he was the coach of the Taft Swim Team. I was a member of that team and in December 1949 was the Chicago champion in the 100 yard backstroke (a long time ago). I do not believe that Joe coached basketball, there was a different guy (whose name I cannot remember- a senior moment). Does any one have a spare copy of the Yearbook as mine disappeared when I moved from CA to MD in 1973??

Walter H. Wolf (January, 1950)

[Hello Walter, Paulette sent me a cc of your note re Joe Kupcinet. I was a June 1948 grad and was on the swim team in my Jr. year...the man we had as coach was Harry S. Miller; he also taught the Health class portion of Phys Ed. The basketball coach while I was there was Jack Rapier. - I am the 2nd V.P. of the Alumni Assoc. and am the custodian of all sales items including year books. Sorry, but we don't have an extra 1949 book that we can sell. As I'm sure you can understand, the older books are almost impossible to find. The only way we MIGHT get one we can sell is if someone donates it and that seldom happens. Frank Heyer]

To TAA,

When I left the baseball team because of conflict in practice time, Kup was my coach on the swim team. Shortly after, Psik came on board at Taft and took over as coach and Joe devoted full time to football. My fondest memory of Kup is the speech he made to the swim team. In essence, he told us not to be afraid of losing but do be afraid of him if you didn't try. Brand new team and we won more than we lost.

Apparently there was a swim coach vacancy in '49 and Joe had the experience. After all, he once coached at Lane and they were always a swim powerhouse.

Frank Zemaitis (June 1940)

To TAA,

Well, we had a wonderful luncheon for Taft Graduates from the 40's 50's and even 60's. We held it at Moretti's Restaurant in Mt. Prospect, IL and we had someone from California and another from Colorado make a special trip to attend. We advertised in the Taft Newsletter and word of mouth.

I am sending this to all Taftites and want to tell you we missed you and would love to see you next year in June, God willing.

Judi (Moers) Hardman (June 1953)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am helping some of my other classmates with the 10 year (class of 2001) reunion on Saturday July 16th 2011. I was wondering if there were a way to obtain a copy of 1998-2001 yearbooks to put out on a table and possibly a cap and gown to display on a mannequin; all will be returned after the event (the following Monday). Thank you for your time.

Lale Soygenc (2001)

[Lale, I'm sorry but we do not have any of the cap and gowns and if we do have an inventory of those yearbooks we do not lend them out. We did in the past and they either didn't come back or if they did were damaged. They cannot be replaced so they remain in our possession. There are some extra copies of the books we sell to help fund our scholarship fund, if you are interested please contact Frank Heyer at 773-631-4701 and mention that we exchanged emails. Kay Kuciak, Pres. TAA]

[Hi, Lale, To follow up on Kay's response, we do have a lot of 2001 yearbooks in stock available for sale at \$30 each - see page 14 of this issue. From my experience, alumni often regret not having purchased a yearbook, especially from their senior year. Also, we have a number of other alumni logo items for sale - t-shirts, jackets, caps, etc. Go to <http://www.taftalumni.org/taastore/files/OrderForm.htm> to find an order form, and to print some out for the reunion.

We also suggest that you have TAA membership forms on hand: <http://www.taftalumni.org/member/files/member.asp>. We are especially interested in having younger alumni become involved in our organization. Your reunion at the 10 Year mark, is a crucial one--it "primes the pump" so to speak. When you turn your updated address list in to us after the reunion, we become the gatekeepers for future reunions. You can send the data to eagleemail@taftalumni.org.

*We hope you have a very successful event and **please, please** take photos and give us some information on how it all went so that we can share it with our TAA members in the quarterly newsletter and on the TAA Facebook page. All the best, Paulette English, TAA Web Editor (Class of '67)]*

Hello Jerry,

Since you have been very helpful each time I contact you, I wonder if you can help me to the right source now. So here goes.... Our January 1961 class is having our 50th reunion on 9/10/11 at the Wellington. For the past 4 years I have been playing in a concert band, for the first time since being in Taft Band and Orchestra for 4 years. My hope is to find someone at Taft who can provide sheet music for the various Taft songs. Can you direct me to a source?

Thank you for your help. **Holly Rogers** (Jan '61)

[Editor's Note: Holly, Check out the [taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org) site. It has the 2 Taft Loyalty Songs, 1 written by Mr. Rapier and the other by JJ Stamm. Are these the ones you mean? Both music and lyrics are there, including sound recordings. J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Ed.]

To TAA:

Both my husband (**Mike Tessendorf** - class of 70) and I (class of 71) enjoy the newsletter and always look forward to its release. I also have an interesting story to share; well, at least I think it's an interesting story.

Mike and I retired to Tennessee in 2004 and live in a lovely area in the eastern part of the state near the Smoky Mountains. Being new to the area we were hoping to meet some people and make new friends and so neighbors of ours introduced us

to Mike and Sharon Rainey also from the Chicago-land area. After not too much discussion about where the best pizza (Malnottis, naturally) and Italian Beef sandwiches (Luke's in Palatine) the conversation then turned to where we had gone to school. To our delight we learned that **Sharon "Oley" (Olson) Rainey** had also gone to and graduated from Taft (class of 63). Small world? You bet! Well, that friendship has grown over the years and it is great knowing that you can make new friends at any age. It's good to know that friendships can survive over the years even with miles of distance between and that friendships and relationships really have no time restrictions.

I sure hope you have enjoyed this story as much as I have telling it.

Note to "Oley's" friends (and you know who you are) I understand there were some pretty good parties over on Hurlbut back in the day. You should have seen Sharon smiling and heard her laughter when she was telling me about those high school memories and I hope they do the same for you!

Linda (Ernst) Tessendorf (1971)

To TAA:

Thank you for all the wonderful memories these publications bring to me. I have been in Virginia For 31 years, but travel home to Chicago often to visit family. Each time I receive a Taft Newsletter, it is like receiving a little piece of home. THANKS FOR ALL THE MEMORIES - YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST!!!

Carol (Coco) Lilla (1966)

To TAA:

I was recently shocked to realize that 2012 would be the 40th reunion of the Class of 1972. I checked your alumni website--do you know of any plans to hold a 40th reunion? Thanks so much!

Anne Holmes Urban (1972)

[Anne, no one has yet stepped forward with plans, but there's a lot of chatter out there among your fellow classmates. I suggest you start the ball rolling yourself. TAA will help with an address list and some tips on getting started. Paulette English, TAA Web Editor]

Hi Kay:

I just got my Spring issue yesterday. I loved reading it and catching up on all that is going on.

I thought I would share something fun with you - my being at Norwood Crossing all this time. I noticed a familiar name on the door of a resident - "BORUCKI" and I asked her if she had a son named Jerry. Sure enough, she did. We dated while at Taft and I recall going to a prom with him.

Just a few weeks ago, I was there for an affair in the evening [when] he came in to see his mom and I recognized him right away. Such a small world when you still live in the area where you grew up.

I see many of the relations of my Taft friends come through Norwood. One was a resident for

therapy for awhile - **Carol (Hedlund) Dahl**, and her 90+ year old mother still lives in her own home two blocks west on Avondale.

Being in the area ... If I could be of help to the Alumni, I would be happy to try.

Judy (Herud) Nelson (January 1956)

Paulette,

Received the following newsletter via e-mail and it works great, except, [my wife] Alice probably will not read it and once it is deleted it is gone. My preference, if I have a choice, is to receive the newsletter the old fashioned way, by snail mail.

Thanks, **Bob Bebee** (June 1954)

[Bob, you and Alice can have it both ways if you like. The e-newsletter can be read online at any time on the TAA website. In fact, because the size of the e-newsletter has become so large with color photos and such, some folks cannot receive it via email. From now on we will simply announce that the next newsletter is available and provide the current username and password giving you access to all the newsletters. Please let me know your preferences and we will accommodate them. Please let me know if you experience any problems. We will send you a gentle reminder when you need to renew your membership so that you don't miss a single issue of the TAA newsletter. Although you and Alice are listed in our database as active members, we can list only one of you on the mailing label. Paulette English, TAA Web Editor]

Hi, Taft Alumni organization:

I am an alumni of both Norwood Park Elementary School and Taft High School.

I am soon to marry a girlfriend **[Mary Paton]** who I met at Norwood Elementary in 1960 and who graduated with me from Taft HS in 1972.

Our kindergarten teacher was a Miss Schutt (sp??) and it has come across our mind that she might still be alive today. If that is true, it might be a great pleasure to her to attend (or at least know about) our wedding - slated for July 9, 2011 at the Norwood Historical Society museum on Newark Avenue. Do you have any information on Miss Schutt's life and whereabouts? Any information you could provide would be appreciated...

Paul A. Wosniak (1972)

[Paul, I'm afraid we don't have information on grade school teachers, but you might try looking at the CPS Alumni website. You might also simply Google her by putting her name in quotes. I noticed that you are not an active member of TAA so I'm attaching a membership form for you. As you show an interest to reconnect with classmates, we are the ideal forum. We hope to hear from you and Mary. Paulette English, TAA Web Editor]

To TAA,

[Newsletter] looks great, especially with the color pics... ya done good, and [you] can take me off the hard copy mailing list.

John Placko (June 1965)

[John, we're glad you like the e-newsletter and we'll happily stop your mailed copy. Most of the credit goes to Jerry Bloom, our editor, who patiently pieces each issue together. We hope to see you at next year's Arizona All-Class Reunion. Paulette English Web Editor]

(Letters to the Editor - continued on page 9)

Water Fountains, Taft and the Cubs

Submitted by Frank Zemaitis
(June 1940)

Reminiscing becomes easier as the years roll by. As a super octogenarian it's a favorite past time. A couple of memories drifted by the other day that I'd like to share with some of the younger members of TAA.



The Summer of 1939 was hot and dry as usual. On the way to my paper route, which was South of Bryn-Mawr and west of Nagle, I often stopped at

the Northwest corner of Norwood Park at one of those old concrete water fountains with constantly bubbling water. The water was cold, clear and refreshing. I shared the fountain with Jack who had the paper route next to mine. As usual, there would be a

water fight. Thumbs on the bubbling water pipe sent streams everywhere. The loser was the one who was the wettest. (Jack was a lifetime best buddy. I've long since forgiven him for attending Lane. Small, thin, big glasses and a slight nerdy look, Jack was destined to shed some blood in France while earning 2 Purple Hearts, 2 Bronze Stars and a Silver Star.)

Wet and laughing, we rode on to our routes. My way took me along Natoma and past the almost completed structure of Taft High. Had to stop and pause and listen to an inning or two of the Cubs game at the watchman's shack. Pat Flanagan announcing, the Cubs were usually winning. Yes, Virginia, there was a time when the Cubs really were a constant power in the National League. But keep the faith, fans and know this. Other than the San Francisco Giants, the Cubs have won more games over the years than any other team in either league and they are not very far behind the leader, the Giants.

I often think of this early connection to Taft and I am proud of all the others connections that came over the years.

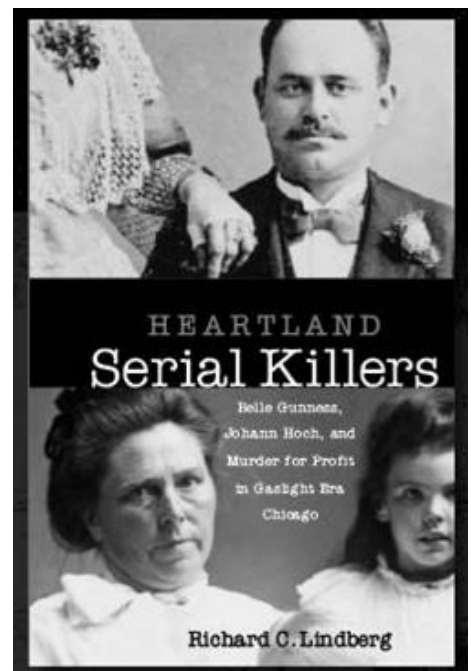
Alumni in the News

Rich Lindberg (1971) has two more books published, coming out this fall. In September, the University of Minnesota Press will publish his memoir of growing up - a multi-generational saga of his Swedish immigrant family spanning three generations titled "Whiskey Breakfast: My Swedish Family My American Life." This has been a project of Rich's for over 20-years and it will be his 16th published book since his first one in 1978.

This book is many things: the Swedish settlement of the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago, as seen through the lens of his father's memory and that of his grandparents. It is also a powerful reflection of growing up in a broken home in Norwood Park, a family torn asunder by alcoholism and divorce and his struggle to conform within his peer group and the rigid social boundaries of the rather insulated Far Northwest Side community in the 1950s and 1960s. Later chapters cover the painful years at Onahan School and better times experienced at Taft - graduating in 1971, and deeply influenced to become a writer and author by **Mrs. Alice Jerusal**, his junior year English teacher at Taft. She was the first teacher in all those years of grammar school and high school to suggest to Rich that he had some talent for creative writing. Rich said, "I owe much to her for that reason."

Rich continued, "My grandparents settled in "bungalow" Norwood Park in 1927, and my wife Denise and I live in the house my grandfather purchased way back in 1927." He is planning to hold a book party in October at the Swedish-American Museum on Clark Street, and, of course, all Taft alumnus and friends are welcome to attend.

The other new book this year is another one of Rich's true crime stories, entitled - "Heartland Serial Killers: Belle Gunness, Johann Hoch and Murder for Profit in Gaslight Era America." That book has just come out in hardcover with Northern Illinois University Press.



A fitting end to the ABC News (national) this past Memorial Day (May 30, 2011) was George Stephanopoulos introducing a piece on **Tom Day**, our Taft Hall of Fame member and class of June 1958.

It featured Tom's Bugles Across America program, which has 7,000+ volunteers bugling for the vets' funerals. It is an ongoing project since 2000 and a passion for Tom and the many buglers who volunteer with him around the country.

For more information on this program, see <http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/Home.aspx>.

(Scholarship Winners - continued from page 1)
for the Taft student newspaper, and at different times, treasurer and president of the National Honor Society. She played softball, was captain of the bowling team, ran cross country for three years and added varsity golf her senior year. Art Club, Ecology Club and Operation Teen Safe Driving were among her other extracurricular activities.

Suzana Tesla, ranking second in the class, received the \$1,000 **John Graven** Scholarship, contributed in memory of this former Taft principal by his wife, Anastasia Graven. Suzana is aiming for a doctorate in medicine. She is a product of Taft's International Baccalaureate program.

She played Girls Volleyball for four years, and served as manager for the Boys Volleyball Team. Activities have ranged from student government and National Honor Society to Operation Teen Safe Driving and the Filipino Club. She is also an active volunteer, from the Chicago Marathon to Breast Cancer fundraisers, volunteers at a doctor's office, dances with a Serbian folk group, volunteers at her own church and at a senior citizens' care facility.

The scholarship committee was very impressed by the choice of candidates this year, representing a wide range of talents and activities. We are very proud that Taft is producing such a high caliber of graduates.

(Hall of Fame - continued from page 3)

We welcome any donations to the scholarship program, from individual donors, reunion classes or in memory of classmates, because it expands the opportunity to recognize our new Taft

Alumni and give them a boost as they head for college.

Work with the person you want to nominate to be sure you have their permission and can collect correct and complete information. We must be able to contact the nominee (or the family of the deceased alum) for them to be considered. Start early.

We will be extending the nomination process into spring 2012. If you have questions and do not have access to the Internet, please send a written request to the Taft Alumni Association Hall of Fame Committee, in care of Taft High School and we will mail you the information.

If you're visiting Taft and looking for the current members of the Hall of Fame, the photographs have been moved from the hallway wall and are now installed in a tall, black kiosk tower in the John Graven Learning Resource Center. A computerized touch-screen will access the slides for each member. Ask the library staff for assistance.

(Letters to the Editor - continued from page 7)

Dear Jerry,

Sad to report the passing of my high school sweetheart Jane (June 1941). We had **Mr. Fulmer** for Biology and **Mr. Purcell** for Chemistry. I don't know if students still are assigned as "Hall Guards" but while at Taft we shared hall guard duties adjacent to the principal's office (**Mr. Hoefler**). We often talked of those wonderful days at Taft, so long ago.

You do such an outstanding job as Editor of the newsletter. Best always.

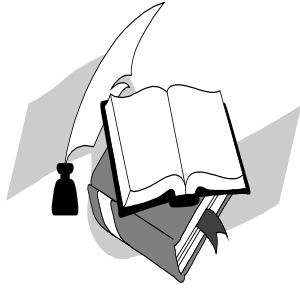
(**Herbert Mellor**, June 1941)

(Letters to the Editor - continued on page 13)



Unveiling the Kupcinet Plaque on June 11, 2011 - Left to right are: Jack O'Connell, Dennis Schachner, Charles "Bud" Trick, John Pitt, Mike Glienna, Stuart Dunn, Mickey Geyer, the plaque, Douglas Gifford behind Ralph Capparelli, Bruce Pearson, Bob Krukowski and Bob Larson. [Photo submitted by Anne Lunde.]

Class Notes



1940s

RITA (WINKATES) CAPPELLER (June 1941) graduated from Wright, AA '43, Mundelein, BS '47, lives in Lake Bluff IL, has 4 children and is a retired food service supervisor.

DAVE WHITTIER (January 1943), lives in Spring Hill FL; has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired from Diamond International.

NINA (BURNS) BEALL (June 1943) lives in New Port Richey FL; has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired graphic artist.

MARJORIE (CROCKETT) DRIT-LEIN (June 1943) lives in Naples FL; has 3 children, 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and is retired.

CHARLOTTE (ZIMMER) KENZEL (June 1943) lives in Park Ridge IL; has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and retired.

PHYLLIS (LANGE) WILSON (June 1943) graduated from La Salle Extension '45, lives in Nine Mile Falls VA; has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

CLAIRE (CHULAY) AGGER (January 1944) graduated from U of I, BS '47, MS '49, lives in Northfield IL; has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is a retired biology teacher.

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

RUDOLPH KUPER (January 1945) graduated from Northwestern, BS '51, lives in Des Plaines IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired systems programmer.

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

MARY JANE (PADDI) STRUBERG (June 1946) graduated from beauty school '48, lives in Rancho Palos Verdes CA, has 2 children, 5 grandchild-

dren, 5 great grandchildren and is a manicurist.

ROGER CORINTH (January 1947) graduated from U of I, BS '58, MS '63, lives in Gwinn MI; has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired civil engineer.

WALTER STECHER (June 1947) graduated from De Pauw '51, lives in Tarpon Springs FL, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired general advertising manager.

DONALD SCHROEDER (June 1948) married **JOAN (KENT)** (June 1950), he graduated from IL State, BS '52, MS '55, lives in Bella Vista AR; has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired teacher.

WARREN WELLENS (June 1948) graduated from Northwestern, DDS '54, lives in Mead WA; has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, is a retired dentist and now owner of Wellens Luscious Fruit and Antiques near Spokane.

NARDELLE NORDGRAN (January 1949) lives in Chicago and is retired.

MARVIN WEBER (June 1949) graduated from MI State, BS '58, MA '68, lives in Spruce MI & Panama City FL; has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

1950s

ELMER GUSTAFSON (January 1950) lives in Arlington Hts IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired telephone traffic engineer.

JOYCE (BETTING) PILCHER (January 1950) lives in Tamarac FL; has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired banking supervisor.

MARY ANN (BUDDENBAUM) TITTLE (January 1950) graduated from Northwestern, BS '54, lives in Dune Acres IN; has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired PE teacher.

DALE KENDRICK (June 1950) graduated from Northern IL U, lives in Libertyville IL; has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is the owner of Barnaby's Restaurant in Des Plaines.

HELEN (JACOBSON) VANDERSPOOL (June 1950) lives in Wheeling IL, has 1 child and is a part time commission accounts rep.

ALICE (ARMSTRONG) ENGELKING (June 1951) graduated from IL Masonic Hosp. '56, lives in Fair Oaks Ranch TX; has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired RN.

BOB EISCHEN (June 1952) married **PAT (LINK)** (June 1954); he graduated

from U of Denver, BSBA '57, Pat graduated from U of I, BS '59; they live in Skokie IL, have 3 boys, 5 grandchildren and both are retired.

CAROL (UHL) CONNOLLY (June 1953) graduated from U of MN, BA '58, lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

DOUGLAS GIFFORD (June 1953) graduated from IA State, BS '58, lives in Carol Stream IL; has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and is a retired manufacturing representative.

W. KEITH WEINWURM (January 1954) graduated from St Olaf, BA '62, lives in Troutville VA, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and volunteers at Boteourt County Clerk of Courts.

CAROL (BAUMGARTNER) RUEHL (June 1954) lives in Metamora MI; has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

ANITA (ZABEL) GRIZAFFI (January 1955) lives in River Forest IL, has 4 children, 13 grandchildren and retired.

JOHN KONECNIK (June 1955) married **ARLENE (GUNTHER)** (June 1955). They live in Lake Toxaway NC, have 2 children, 1 grandchild; both are retired from owning their own business.

SUE (UNGER) OBERHEIDE (June 1955) graduated from Northwestern 1958, lives in Park Ridge IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

JERRE (NETTLAND) STAATS (June 1955) lives in Naperville IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired from Lucent Technologies.

RON MOERS (January 1956) lives in Chicago and is a retired accountant.

SUZANNA (KEILER) LECHOWICZ (June 1956) lives in Glenview IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a homemaker.

ROBERT RIES (June 1956) married **SANDRA (BULATEK)** (June 1960), they live in Niles IL; have 2 children, 2 grandchildren. Robert is a retired lithographer; Sandra is a retired IT administrator.

PATRICIA (STOETMAN) THROP (June 1956) lives in Arlington Heights IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

LOIS (NIELSEN) WASCHOW (June 1956) lives in Chicago, has 3 children (all Taft grads) 5 grandchildren (1 at Taft graduating in 2012) 2 great grandchildren and is a medical volunteer at Resurrection Hospital.

DEON WIECHMANN (June 1956) lives in Blaine WA, has 2 children, 4

grandchildren and is a retired VP from Safeco Insurance.

GLORIA CALLACI (June 1957) graduated from Mundelein, BA '61, lives in Evanston IL; has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired media producer, 2-time Emmy winner.

KATHLYN (MECCIA) BUDDE (January 1958) graduated from Carroll College, BA, lives in Black Mountain NC, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

JOHN CROLL (June 1958) married **NANCY (NOVAK)** (June 1960); John graduated from U of I, BS '63; they live in Bothell WA, have 1 child, 3 grandchildren; both are retired, John from software sales.

LOUIS HOLIAN (June 1958) graduated from De Paul, BS '65, lives in Palatine IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is president of Prospect Prod., Inc.

DOROTHY ENGELS (June 1959) graduated from Drake, BFA '63, lives in Chicago and is a retired UAL flight attendant.

Giving Back - How Can I Still Be Connected to Taft?

We are looking for a few proud Alumni to join the ranks of dedicated people who still deeply care about Taft. And, want to do something for it.

If you live in the Chicagoland area and are willing to invest some time through the year, we are looking for people to work with the Taft Alumni Association Board, on committees or special projects to benefit Taft and its students. We're looking for folks with fresh ideas, or who are able to follow through on assignments or tasks related to running the organization.

Please contact us for information on ways you can support your school. Call President Kay Kuciak at (623) 544-0226 or Vice President Anne Lunde (773) 631-1104, or email to taftalum@cox.net about your interest.

1960s

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

CAROL (KAROWSKY) ENSLOW (June 1960) graduated from Millikin, BS '65, lives in Littleton CO; has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

RAYMOND FAIRBANK (June 1960) graduated from Golden State U, BA '76, lives in Des Moines WA, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is an insurance broker.

JANICE (ROSS) JOHNSON (June 1960) graduated from Cornell, BA '64, lives in Tamarac FL; has 4 children, 1 grandchild and is a children's librarian.

WILLIAM LAPIETRA (June 1960) married **BETTY JEAN (HERZ)** (June 1960); he graduated from U of I, BS '64, MS '65; they live in Lake Forest IL, have 2 children and Bill is president of Med. Vet. International.

JOYCE (JOHANNSEN) STACKHOUSE (June 1960) lives in Woodstock IL, has 3 children & is a controller.

ALEX WENDORF (June 1960) lives in Tucson AZ and has 3 children.

HELENE (BAKULA) ERVIN (January 1961) lives in Pahump NV, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired from Walgreens.

SUSAN (STOLTMAN) KING (January 1961) graduated from Wright, AA, lives in Danville CA; has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is retired.

ARTHUR KAY (June 1961) graduated from Elmhurst College, lives in Schaumburg IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired tool engineer.

KEN KORTAS (June 1961) graduated from U of Louisville, BS '64, lives in Simpsonville KY, has 1 child and is a retired currency exchange owner.

MARGERY (McLEAN) KULLMAN (June 1961) lives in Plymouth MN, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and retired.

JUDITH (KRISPIN) METZ (June 1961) lives in Northbrook IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

ARLENE (NORMAN) ROY (June 1961) lives in Hoffman Estates IL, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired administrative assistant.

JANICE (PROVAX) GWAZDACZ (January 1962) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired crossing guard.

JAMES BACH (June 1962) lives in Chicago, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired Chicago police officer now in real estate sales.

ARLENE (RATULOWSKI) HARP (June 1962) lives in Green Bay WI, has 2 children and is retired from office work.

DARLENE (BRUEMMER) HENDRICKSEN (June 1962) graduated from Northern IL U, BA '66, lives in Hawthorn Woods IL, has 2 children, 3 grandsons and is owner of RW Hendrickson Company.

JOHN LORENZ (June 1962) graduated from Knox, BS '66, U of I, MS '74, MD '84, lives in Evansville IN, has 1 child and is a physician/psychiatrist.

DENNIS RASMUSSEN (June 1962) graduated from IL State, BS '69, College of St Thomas, MA '71, lives in Woodbury MN, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren; is a retired teacher and now drive a hearse part time.

SUSAN SCHMID (June 1962) lives in Downers Grove IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a designer floor specialist at Home Depot.

PAULA (SIMONIDES) WEGLARZ (June 1962) graduated from IL State, BA '66, lives in Palatine IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired associate writer.

JEANETTE (OLSON) GILBERTSON (January 1963) graduated from Northeastern, BA '65, lives in Tampa FL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

MARK ANDERSON (June 1963) graduated from Wright, AA '66, lives in Huntley IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is chairman of the board for BDG International.

JON INGRAM (June 1963) lives in Sumter SC, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is the owner of a paint & decorating center.

JIM KOSICK (June 1963) graduated from Northern 1967, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is in banking.

LEON SCHURTER (June 1963) lives in Thousand Oaks CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired attorney/negotiator.

JAMES THOMAS (June 1963) married **MARY (FIJAK)** (June 1963). Jim graduated from Roosevelt, BS, U of I, MA; Mary graduated from U of I, BS '70, they live in London, Ontario, have 2 children, 5 grandchildren; Jim is a human relations consultant, Mary is an accounting consultant.

PATRICK LEAVY (June 1964) lives in Treasure Island FL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired industrial engineer.

GINGER (NORBERG) YACTOR (June 1965) lives in Palatine IL, has 2 children and is a student supervisor at Palatine HS.

NANCY (KNAPP) GRECO (June 1966) lives in Schaumburg IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is an assistant manager for Hallmark.

SUSAN (GRANDT) RODEN (June 1966) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

ROBERT ELEZIAN (January 1967) graduated from Southern IL U, BA '76, lives in Scottsdale AZ; has 2 children and is a software engineer and freelance flight instructor.

GEORGE GAUDIO (June 1967) graduated from Loyola, BBA, lives in Stevensville M; has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is in telecommunications.

EDWARD KRZEMINSKI (June 1967) lives in Countryside IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is director of

engineering at a Chicago hospital and was elected Mayor of Countryside.

CHRISTINE LILLA (June 1968) graduated from Triton, LPN '84, Harper, AA '89, lives in Schaumburg IL and is an RN.

GENE PETROVITS (June 1968) graduated from Bradley, BSME '73, Benedictine, MBA '98, lives in Plainfield IL, has 3 children and is a mechanical engineer.

LINDA (ANGLE) MESTLING (1969) lives in Mc Henry IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is an office manager.

BARBARA (MUSUR) STAEHLE (1969) graduated from De Paul BS 1982, lives in Downers Grove, IL, has 1 child and is a VP manager for Northern Trust.

1970s

DEBBIE (EWANIC) ALLEN (1970) corrections - graduated from U of I, BS '74, U of I - Chicago, M.Ed. '81 and lives in Columbia MO.

MARGARET (KOSINSKI) LACCERRA (1970) married **FRED** (1970); she graduated from the School of Cosmetology, lives in Park Ridge IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a cosmetologist/genealogist.

JUDY MAGNOWSKI (1970) lives in Arlington Hts IL and is a retired dietary specialist.

NANCY MATELING-CIBIC (1972) graduated from Roosevelt U, BS '98, lives in Chicago and is an FAA airport program manager.

DIANE (SICILIANO) BUGAJSKI (1975) lives in Arlington Hts IL, has 1 child and is an audit assistant.

KAREN (KLODA) STOLZMAN (1979) lives in Lake Forest IL, has 4 children and is self employed.

GRACE (GIZA) LO BIANCO (1978) lives in Elk Grove IL, has 4 children and is a homemaker.

KEVIN GRANIERO (1979) graduated from De Vry, BSEE '81, lives in Madison WI, has 1 child and is an electrician.

1980s

JOHN GILMORE (1980) graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering, BS '86, EMT-B '03, lives in Racine WI, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is in law enforcement, K-9 handler-search and rescue team.

DINA BECKER (1986) graduated from the Chicago School of Massage Therapy '93, Esthetician '10, lives in Round Lake Beach IL and owns a massage therapy business.

KAREN (LEPINSKI) SIDLOW (1988) graduated from U of I, BS '92, MS '95, lives in Grayslake IL, has 1 child and is an IT lead analyst.

1990s

2000s

Wedding Celebration

Taft alumni and families were invited to the wedding of **Mary Paton Clements** and **Paul Wozniak**, both from the class of 1972. The two became friends in kindergarten at Norwood Park School in 1960 and later attended Immaculate Conception School. Mary's late husband, **Gary Clements** (also 1972 alum) passed away in 2009. Paul and Mary were wed in a private ceremony on July 9, 2011 at the Norwood Park Historical Society Museum headquarters. A public celebration picnic was held on Sunday, July 10, 2011 at Twin Lakes Recreational Area, Palatine. TAA sends congrats to the happy couple!

40's & 50's TAFT REUNION 2011

Thanks to Fran Hughes, Marlene Douglas and Judi Hardman for all the hard work they did coordinating this special gathering of Taft grads. Attendees to the reunion held at Moretti's Restaurant in Mt. Prospect, IL on June 25, 2011 were:

Marleen (Martin) Romano (June 53) Ventura, CA; **Beverly (Kintz) Barker** (January 56) Roselle, IL; **Judi (Moers) Hardman** (June 53) Mt. Prospect, IL; **Fran (Marino) Hughes** (June 53) Park Ridge, IL; **Marlene (Fenske) Douglas** (June 53) Mt. Prospect, IL; **Marion Wanschow** (June 53) Huntley, IL; **Philip Klezek** (June 49) Brighton, MI; **Lois (Nielsen) Wanschow** (June 54) Chicago, IL; **Ron Klezek** (January 53) Palatine, IL; **Jane (Adramchik) Meadows** (June 53) Skokie, IL; **Jeannine (Sebby) May** (June 53) Harvard, IL; **Caroline Guthorle** (June 61) Arlington Heights, IL; **Valerie (Zetek) Blaue** (January 53) Des Plaines, IL; **Lois (Plechaty) Rolf** (January 53) Niles, IL; **Sue (Burhop) Origer** (June 55) Palatine, IL; **Shirley (Burhop)**

Iverson (June 52) Des Plaines, IL; **Carole (Green) Lubecker** (June 53) Fox River Grove, IL; **Ralph Harris** (June 52) Chicago, IL; **Margaret (Hase) Harris** (June 54) Chicago IL; **Mathew F. Joswick** (June 53) Glenn Ellyn, IL; **Paulette (Hase) McGuire** (June 56) Frankfort, IL; **Virginia (Rosenke) Koelling** (June 54) Des Plaines, IL; **William Bruhn** (January 53) Rosemont, IL; **Herb Ehlers** (June 53) Park Ridge, IL; **Annette (Knuth) Gustafson** (January 56) Belvidere, IL; **Ed Iverson** (June 53) Park Ridge, IL; **Howard Jacobsen** (June 49) Chicago, IL; **L.Terry Betz** (June 54) Mt. Prospect, IL; **Stuart Crippen** (June 58) Denver, CO.

Classmate Lost and Found

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 and agrees, we'll 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.

This issue, we are looking for:

Dina Becker, class of 1986 looking for Timothy Himmelmann, also from the class of 1986. She can be contacted at 847/846-7870.

Tom Drynan, class of June 1962 is looking for David Bernahl, class of June 1961. His contact is 480/802-2653.

In Our Memories

Jane (Geib) Mellor, class of June 1941, passed away on May 9, 2011. She was the wife of **Herb Mellor** (also class of June 1941) and they were married nearly 69 years.

Jeanne (Lutz) Busse, class of June 1942, passed away on March 24, 2011.

Warren Dritlein, class of June 1942, passed away January 11, 2011. His wife was **Marjorie (Crockett) Dritlein** (January 1943).

Jeanne (Koch) O'Malley, class of June 1944, died February 12, 2011.

Tom Roeser, class of June 1946, was a distinguished conservative political commentator and radio talk show host on WLS. He passed away May 29, 2011. He also was the founder and former chairman of the editorial board of a Chicago Internet newspaper, The *Chicago Daily Observer*, as well as a lecturer, teacher and former vice president of The Quaker Oats Company of Chicago.

Nancy (Burns) Hallquist, class of January 1948 died February 11, 2010. She was the sister of **Nina (Burns) Beall** (June 1943).

Mary (Christensen) English, class of June 1948, is deceased with date unknown.

Robert Galitz, class of January 1950, died on December 25, 2010.

W. Timothy Johnsen, class of June 1954, passed away on Good Friday, April 22, 2011. He was the husband of **Anita (Andrews) Johnsen** (January 1955).

Carol Downing, class of January 1963, died in March of 1971 from Lymphoma.

Linda (Kemblowski) Fitzgerald, class of June 1964, died on April 22, 2000.

Antoinette/Toni (Sessa) DeSalvo, class of June 1965, died in June, 2010 from cancer.

Nancy (Edfeldt) Jehlik, class of August 1966, passed away May 29, 2008 from cancer.

Patricia (Sessa) Farrar, class of 1968, died July 19, 2010 from stomach cancer.

Gary Clements, class of 1972 died in 2009. He was husband of **Mary (Paton) Clements** from the same class.

Frank Mark Zemaitis, class of June 1972, died May 19, 2011 of a heart attack. He was the brother of **Paulette (Zemaitis) English**, our TAA Web Editor and son of **Frank Zemaitis**, class of June 1940, TAA Hall of Fame and former TAA board member.

Daniel Perz, Class of 1970, died in 2003 in Portland, OR of natural causes.

(Letters to the Editor, continued from page 9)

Hi,

Well, here we are, still on the planet, still kicking, just not as high. We're from one of the first alumni way back in '42 & '43 when Taft first opened. We've been together for 82 years & live 5 minutes from each other

We are still in touch with a few of our classmates such as **Vera (Obsala) Kovach**, **Arlene (Edgren) Schalk** and **Pat (Dolan)**

Webb; also **Bud Von Trick** and **Violet Fara**.

Like all our age we often talk about the great times we had at Taft. I had to go to Schurz my first year of high school. We had great football and swim teams. Friday night we



[L-R - Marianne Harris (January 1943) and Mary Lou (Enger) Krakowski on the right.]

had dances in the gym. Well, all you young people, I hope you are enjoying your high school years as much as we did.

Mary Lou (Enger) Krakowski (June 1942)

Dear Jerry,

Just received the Spring letter and was digging about in some of my "old stuff".



Found this picture of **Buzz Killoren**, **Bill Lingenfelder** and **Joe "Kup"** [Kupcinet] that I took at a practice in 1942. They are all gone now, but the first great football team was 41/42/43 when Taft went to semi-finals. The teams were Taft, Austin, Fenger, Tilden. Because the first letters of four schools spelled "TAFT" we all felt that was a good omen and we would win it all! Unfortunately we lost to Tilden, a very rough game. But the guys all played like it was the last one. Sadly that's how it did turn out as the war claimed several of them.

I played on basketball team, also swim and golf teams. Still remember all the great friends I had at Taft and until October last year **Dan Novak** (1942) and I spent a lot of time together!

Dave G. Whittier (January 1943)

TAA Merchandise Order Form

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon drawstring bottom printed with white Taft Alumni 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	\$
	Fleece Jacket, Taft Alumni logo	Medium	\$40.00	\$
	Fleece Jacket, Taft Alumni logo	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Fleece Jacket, Taft Alumni logo	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Fleece Jacket, Taft Alumni logo	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Fleece Jacket, Taft Alumni logo	XXX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	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: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631 Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</p>				



Yearbooks available for purchase: *Some years are hard to keep in supply. All requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis. As of June 9, 2011, we have the following yearbooks: 1954 Jan (1), June 1955 (1), 1966 (1), 1982 (1), 1985 (24), 1986 (48), 1987 (78), 1990 (52), 1991 (10), 1992 (132), 1993 (4), 1994 (57), 1995 (183), 1996 (64), 1997 (52), 1998 (153), 1999 (151), 2000 (351), 2001 (123), 2003 (76), 2004 (77), 2005 (56), 2006 (40), 2007 (40), 2008 (40).*

Are You 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. So, look now. If your expiration date is close, sit down NOW and write out a check for \$15, or just \$20 for husband/wife graduates at the same address.

Even though postal rates have been steadily increasing, you still get your alumni membership and newsletter at the same price as before. 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 share with us the latest updates of your life.

Taft Alumni Association Membership Application

Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the newsletter's *Class Notes*.
Only fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.

*First Name (PLEASE PRINT)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Home Phone	Email Address		
*Month/Year You Graduated	Name of Spouse		Year Married
Month/Year if Spouse is a Taft Grad	Number of Children	Number of Grandchildren	
Schools of Higher Learning, Degrees, Year of Graduation			
Occupation		Interests	
Other news you'd like to share			
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be listed in the <i>TAA Email Directory</i> on the TAA website www.taftalumni.org			
You have three options for receiving the quarterly <i>TAA Newsletter</i> . Please select <u>one</u> of the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive the newsletter by postal service only <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive an e-newsletter by email to defray the costs of printing/postage <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive the newsletter by email <u>and</u> by postal service			
Dues are \$15.00 for a two year membership or \$20.00 for an alumni couple (give spouse's name if a Taft graduate).			
Enclosed is a check or money order for dues in the amount of <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00		<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a check or money order donation in the amount of \$ ____ .00	
Please mail this completed application along with your check or money order to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631			Summer 2011

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Taft Alumni Newsletter

The TAA publishes the *Taft Alumni Newsletter* quarterly.

Please address general correspondence and changes to:

Taft Alumni Association
6530 West Bryn Mawr Ave
Chicago, IL 60631
or email taftalum@cox.net

Send photographs and articles for the next issue to:

Jerry Bloom
1237 N. 3rd Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
or email jerrybloom@fales.org

**Submission Deadline for the Spring Issue:
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eNewsletter or TAA Email Directory Signup: eagleemail@taftalumni.org

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