



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2

Spring 2012



## Welcome! Taft High School's Newest Principal

**Mrs. Cappitelli** has been an assistant principal at Taft for the past three years. She formerly taught at St. Juliana School in Edison Park, at Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette, and then as head of the English Dept. and an assistant principal at Amundsen High School.

She was introduced to parents and members of the community March 28 at the candidate forum for the LSC. The LSC said she is prepared to carry on current Principal Art Tvardian's legacy and hold Taft's standards high.

And, of course, she will be Taft's second female principal, taking over July 1<sup>st</sup>, upon Art's official retirement.

[Photo courtesy of Anne Lunde]

## BBC Radio Documentary Seeking 1955-1965 Alumni

We were recently contacted through Taft's webmaster, Trent Eaton, with an interesting request from Mark Burman of the BBC. Mr. Burman wrote:

"We would like to find alumni from Taft who have strong memories of growing up in the mid to late 1950's in the North West side part of Chicago. Former "Greasers" who had belonged to any of the gangs at the time like the Goombahs or Pink Ladies and others with strong memories of those days or indeed those from Jim Jacobs graduating year."

"Timewise I guess we are looking at early summer to be out there but yes, we can create a specific email for this project if there will be a lot of hits and get something ready for the spring issue. I think if we look at the time span from 1955 to say '65 that might do it. Really it's social history we're after, a feel for that world of Taft, NW Chicago and working class youth culture. Aspirations, places, music, stories and a Chicago that may well have long since passed into memory."

Should anyone be interested in being contacted by the BBC to take part in this production, please forward your name, year of graduation and how you would like to be contacted to [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org).

Jim Jacobs asks that we remember that the BBC's reputation for quality programming and professionalism is tops, but in light of the recent media scandals in Great Britain, avoid providing full names or other personal information as you share your memories of Taft and the Northwest side during that remarkable era.

## Donation Thank You

The Taft Alumni Association is about to receive a large collection of classical CD's for the Taft Library from **Lucy (Brun-drett) Jefferson**, class of June 1951. Her generous gift is in memory of former Taft Music Teacher and popular Band Director, Pops Rapier. He also composed our "Taft Loyalty Song".

# Class Reunions

## Class January 1952

**Date:** October 6, 2012

**Place:** Hackney's on Lake - Glenview

**Contacts:** **Phyllis (Holowaty) Albrecht**, albrectp@aol.com

Bill Becker, hwbeck@aol.com

Earl Carlson, earlcarlson@charter.net

Gordon Guth, gdides@flash.net

## Class June 1952

**Date:** September 22, 2012

**Place:** Elk's Club - Des Plaines

**Contact:** Carol Brokaw Yeaman mrsyea@comcast.net

Anita Nehring Petersen anitapeterseg@att.net

Carol McGovern Clark 847-537-7385

Louise Van De Merkt Lowry 847-566-6828

## Class June 1959 - (All classes welcome)

**Date:** October 6, 2012 (6pm, Dinner)

October 7, 2012 (9am, Breakfast Buffet)

**Place:** Hilton Garden Inn - Des Plaines

**Contact:** Pat (Santell) Lutz - patlutz@comcast.net

or Larry Marsh - fairseas2u@gmail.com

www.taftreunion1959.com

## Class June 1961

**Date:** September 22, 2012 (NOTE: date correction!)

**Place:** Wellington Restaurant and Banquets,

Arlington Heights, IL

**Contact:** John Prochaska & Art Kay

TaftJune61Alums@aol.com

## Class 1968

**Date:** TBD (looking for committee members)

**Place:** TBD

**Contact:** Robert Clark - clark7811@msn.com

## Class 1972

**Date:** June 23, 2012

**Place:** The Nil Tap - Chicago - 6 pm - 'til?

**Contact:** Patricia (Wendt) Wiemer - pmwiemer@yahoo.com

## Class 1981

**Date:** October 29, 2011 - 7 PM

**Place:** Hilton - Northbrook

**Contact:** Toni Hartsell, tonihartsell@yahoo.com

www.greatreunions.com

## 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/ths/1987

## **Wait! There's More...**

### 10th Annual Reunion Picnic

#### SouthEAST

**Date:** Saturday, March 9, 2013, 11am - 3pm

**Place:** Ft. DeSoto Pk, St. Petersburg, FL Shelter 14

**Donation:** \$3 per person (+ \$5/car parking fee)

**Pot Luck:** a food item to share (BYOB)

**Photo shoot:** 2:30 pm

**Contact:** (if needed): Leon Kathan, 117 Monte Real Blvd.,  
Sebring, FL 33876 - leonkathan@yahoo.com

### 3rd Annual Reunion Picnic

#### SouthWEST

**Date:** Spring 2013

**Place:** TBD

**Date:** Spring 2013 - 11am - 3pm

**Photo shoot:** at 2pm

**Pot Luck:** Beer permit

(non-glass containers)

**Donation:** \$3 per person

Bring lawn chairs for greater comfort

**Contacts:** Paul Frizane, aztaftalumni@yahoo.com

Paulette English, eagleemail@taftalumni.org;

Kay Kuciak, taftalum@cox.net



## **Classmates - Lost and Found**

Lost touch with old classmates? We can help by publishing the name(s) in the newsletter. If they respond and agree, we'll forward that person's name and address to you.

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



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Jerry,

When the Taft Alumni Newsletter arrives, it is the first of my mail I read. Always fun to see what my classmates and those of my two sisters who attended Taft (1947 and 1953) are doing. My sister **Shirley Huntman Taylor** graduated in June of 1947 and kept in touch with Taft friends until her death in 2009 in Florida. Sister **Jeannette Huntman Sutfin** is from the class of January 1953 and still meets with Taft classmates.

My granddaughters in Wisconsin and Illinois have both been in their high school productions of *Grease* and are impressed that I was part of the area they portray. Greasers were a hot topic in 1950.

My first date with my future husband **Stan Giese** (1945) brought quite a surprise. When I visited his summer home on Lake Michigan, sitting on the beach was **Mrs. Milada Wolavka**, my teacher at Norwood Park School. She was his step-grandmother by marriage. Luckily, she was a favorite of mine.

Friends from Taft are still important in my life. At Christmas time for many years some of us meet at **Carol (Nordengren) Larson's** home for lunch and catching-up. Enclosed is a photo from December 2011. We were saddened by the death of Carol's husband Bob a few months earlier. Carol lives in the house that was built for the family of a grade school (NPS) friend, **Betsy Packard**. When we meet there it is like a time warp. So many fond memories.

The English classes at Taft established a firm foundation for the writing life I have pursued since my five adult children are on their own. A lifelong dream became real in 2010 when I published *The Eye of God: A Fisherman's Tale*. The novel is a fictionalized characterization of the life of Simon Peter, the gusty Galilean fisherman who followed the rebel Jesus of Nazareth. It is available both as an E-book and hardcopy. Poetry is the other side of my writing life. It is hard to image what form communication will take 50 years from now. The bow of knowledge is stretched taut, ready to fly, but where is the target? Thanks for keeping the spirit of Taft High School alive and well.



Seated, L-R; **June (Jacobson) Reimer** (June 1950), **Marge (Schwende-man) Murdock** (Jan 1950), **Dale (Esthus) Miller** (June 1950), **Carol (Nordengren) Larson** (Jan 1950), **Marilyn (Huntman) Giese** (Jan 1950); Standing, L-R: **Velna (Lewis) Kolodziej** (June 1950), **Beverly (Harper) Kautz** (June 1950). Not pictured, is classmate **Bev (Kautz) Stewart** (Jan 1950).

[Editor's note: *Marilyn, although I'm 12 years behind you, we have several common threads! My father, Ralph Beesley also had Mrs. Wolavka as a teacher at Norwood Park School in the late 1920s, as well as many of my classmates who graduated with me from Norwood in 1958. She is fondly remembered by MANY students who passed through her classroom door over those many years. And, the Greasers who hung around Mulkern's Drug Store at the corner of Nina and Circle Avenue are remembered by me as kinda scary guys I avoided, and caused me to walk on the other side of the street while they played "Pitch-A-Penny" on the sidewalk.* Jerry Bloom, TAA News Editor]

**Roger A. Johnson** (January 1950) called Jerry Bloom recently after encouragement from his upstairs neighbor in the same apartment building, **Betty Lou (Olson) Bukowski** (June 1942). He called to ask for a membership application. Apparently, Betty Lou had been sharing her copies of the TAA Newsletter with Roger when she was done reading them. Now Roger decided to join TAA so he could get his own personal copies each quarter. Welcome aboard, Roger!

### Re: Taft June 61 class reunion

Fellow Alums,

A small working group has arranged for a class reunion event on Saturday September 22, 2012. The place is the Wellington Restaurant & Banquets on Arlington Hts. Road just south of Golf Rd.

There will be a Pizza gathering event on September 21, and a tour of Taft on Saturday morning if there is enough interest. We hope to send out information packets in about

ten days, along with a Preference sheet for you to complete and return. We also hope to have a directory & short personal statement from everyone. The Saturday dinner will run \$40, including the directory. Pricing is not yet firm on the Friday night event.

If you are in contact with any other Taft alums, please let us know the full name & email & / or postal address. In addition to the email address ([Taft-Jun61Alums@aol.com](mailto:Taft-Jun61Alums@aol.com)), we have a postal address: Taft June 61 Reunion, PO Box 369, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

Please send us a short response so that we have your correct address. Also, ladies, please always give us your both maiden & married names on any messages & correspondence.

**John Prochaska**, co-chair

[Editor's Note: Your event date was incorrectly published last issue as October 22. However, it has been corrected to September 22 in this newsletter. Apologies!!! Jbb]

Dear Jerry,

Your last Alumni News with the colored photos was quite striking!!!

I do not know if the enclosed black & white photocopies are of interest to you.

Feel free to use any or none. [Ed. Note: THANKS for the memories! jbb]

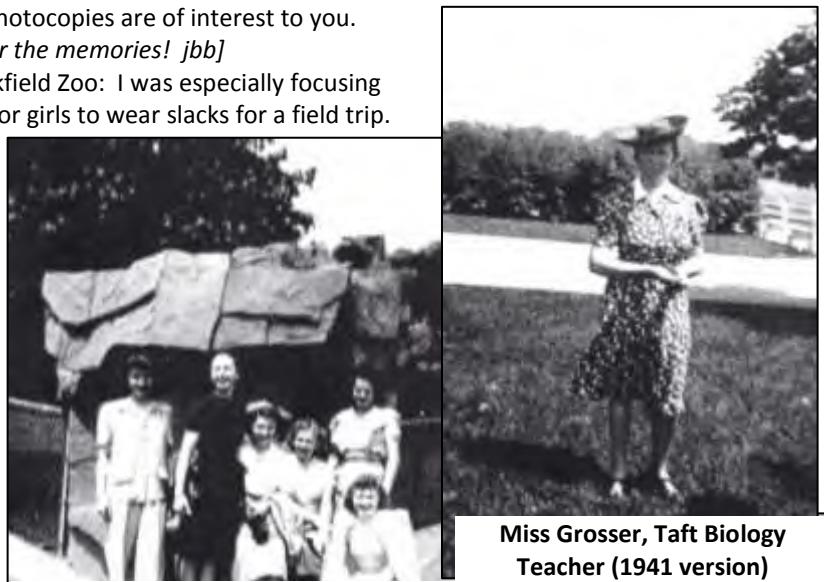
The Spring 1941, 2B biology field trip to Brookfield Zoo: I was especially focusing on what **Ms. Grosser** wore! Love that hat. It was OK for girls to wear slacks for a field trip.

The summer of '43 photos include friends in classes of '43 and '44. We got to Lake Michigan on public transportation to the end of the line and walked the rest of the way to Foster Ave. Beach. I guess we did not wear sunglasses in those days.

Even though World War II was in progress and many of our friends went to war and others worked in factories, we still had good times. Pictures like these stir up wonderful memories of Taft High.

Thanks for keeping the newsletter going. We octogenarians love hearing about old friends!!!

**Claire Chulay Agger** (January 1944)



Miss Grosser, Taft Biology Teacher (1941 version)

Virginia Kissel, Ann Danielson, Joan Richy, Rosemary Wollstein, A. Peterson and Ann Maidak



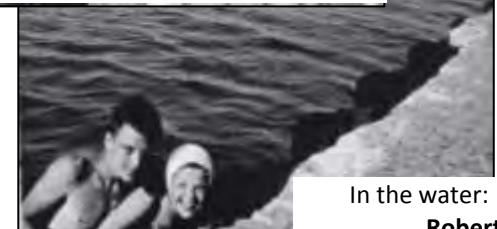
Claire Chulay by Taft Auditorium Doors



Arline Rohner, Felix Matarese, Joyce Mathison, Don Pedlar



Bob Matheson, Vanece Kendrick, Paul Kendrick, Arline Schaibly



In the water: George Fischer and Roberta Kirkpatrick

### Attention All TAA Alums!

Be sure to let us know when you change your street address or email address. USPS charges us each time we get a notification when a newsletter is returned, with the TAA addressee noted as "Moved". They do not forward bulk mail. We don't even have that advantage with email addresses. Those messages get bounced back or just go into the deadly "black hole."

And, it costs you time in a delayed newsletter when we have to resend mail (if we can find you). We'd hate to "lose" you. Let's keep in touch!!!



"On the rocks": Hank Andersohn, Don Fillmore, Bill Schueller, Jim Semar

## **Second Annual Southwest All-Class Picnic**

On St. Patrick's Day, twenty-three alumni and their intrepid spouses gathered for the Second Annual Southwest All-Class Picnic at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale, Arizona. We enjoyed mild weather, fabulous food and lots of memories. It was fun watching classmates reconnect, but also to see new inter-class connections made through shared life experiences, and, of course, to meet our TAA President, **Kay Kuciak** (January 1963)

This picnic is still in its infancy (compared to its sister, the Southeast Picnic in Florida) but we were thrilled with the turnout, greater than last year's. Next year, we will plan for a larger ramada and perhaps some additional activities. Thanks to everyone for making this a resounding success!



In attendance were - Jan 1949, **John Will**; Jun 1955, **Melvin Beaver**; Jun 1956, **Henry (Glen) Beachler**; Jan 1957, **Joseph (Jay) Forbregd**, **Barbara Swanson Klein**; Jun 1957, **Robert Broda** (and spouse Genine); Jun 1961, **Eileen Gierke Rasmussen**, **Lynn Syvertsen Haye**; Jan 1962, **Janet Swanson Cnota**; Jun 1962: **Gloria Kuhles Adams** (and spouse Jim); Jan 1963, **Kay Carlson Kuciak**; Jun 1963, **Donna Maag Esposito**, **Kirk Novak**, **Susan Schlote Novak**, **Robert (Bob) Olson**; Jun 1964, **Anita Grabowski Steinkemper**; Jun 1965, **Wilbur (Bill) Chew**, **John Placko**; Jun 1966, **Patricia Zowal Kalesz**; Jun 1967, **Paul Frizane** (and spouse Bea), **Paulette Zemaitis English**; Jun 1968, **Wayne General**; Jun 1971, **Brian Johnson**. Our sincerest apologies go to anyone, especially spouses, for whom we failed to register names. You're all terrific!



**Ron Underwood** (January 1958) and **Joe Forbregd** (January 1957) are pictured at the left, where they attended Winter Range (Marksmanship contests with old Western Weapons) held February, 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona. Far cry from how they grew up on the Northwest side of Chicago!

### **Are You on TAA E-Mail List?**

1. Go to the TAA website ([www.taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org)).
2. On the blue header across the top of the page, look for the link called "Email Directory" (top of the second column) and click on it.
3. The directory will appear listed in order of class year, followed by "Name Then" listed alphabetically.

## Re: Taft 1959 Christmas/New Year's Mini-Reunion 2011

Dear TAFT Classmates;

The Class Christmas/New Year Mini-Reunion photo below was taken on Thursday, December 29th, at the Des Plaines Hilton Garden Inn on River Road. It was taken after we had lunch, welcomed Santa, and just before we sang our Fight Song! **Anne Fear McManus** was unable to make the luncheon but sent everyone a Taft colors wrapped Christmas candy Life Savers (*we all need to keep saving life these days!*), **Penni** had made delicate snowflake Christmas ornaments, and, as you can see, Santa delivered Santa Hats and candy canes.

*A good time was had by all! The following attended:*

Fred and Anne Alle-gretti, Les and Ellen Zurawic, Larry and Barb Marsh, Bruce and Penni (Eichin) Isaacson, Jim and Jackie (Schmidt) Sheehan, Mike and Bonnie Murray, Tom and Gail Wise, Pat (Santell) Lutz, Rita (Glaubich) Morser, Carol (Lubinetz) Vix, Denise (Kussy) Paske, Ruth (Haasis) Babka, Les Torrey



## Class of June, 1952 Needs Your Help!

The Reunion Committee for the Class of June, 1952 needs your help in locating our approximately 240 classmates. Our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion of Taft June 1952 high school class will be held on September 22, 2012 at the Elks Club in Des Plaines, IL. Attire for the event will be casual wear. In order to be successful, we need the resources of everyone to find as many classmates as possible.

We have not come up with the cost of the reunion per person as yet, but we have booked a block of rooms as follows for out-of-towners:

Hilton Garden Inn, Chicago O'Hare Airport, 2930 S. River Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60018 (adjacent to the new River Casino), (847) 296-8900 [www.chicagoohareairport.hgi.com](http://www.chicagoohareairport.hgi.com) To confirm and guarantee your reservation, please call the hotel and ask for the **Taft High School 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Group** or visit the hotel website and plug in the group code **TAFT60** in the group/convention box before **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012** to receive the special \$94.00 group rate (plus tax). Each individual reservation may be cancelled up to 24 hours prior to arrival date. They have a 24 hour shuttle every ½ hour from/to O'Hare Airport, and will also have one shuttle to/back for approximately 13 classmates to the Des Plaines Elks Club at no charge.

If responding to this article by e-mail, please put "Taft June, 1952 Reunion" in the subject line. We are looking forward to seeing you, and thank you for any help you can

give us in locating our classmates and assisting to make this a successful reunion.

**Carol Brokaw Yeaman** ([mrsyea@comcast.net](mailto:mrsyea@comcast.net))

**Anita Nehring Petersen** ([anitapeterseg@att.net](mailto:anitapeterseg@att.net))

**Carol McGovern Clark** (847-537-7385)

**Louise Van de Merkt Lowry** (847-566-6828)

Paulette,

I have an idea regarding the addition of a "Photos from the past" gallery, available as a part of the Taft Alum web site.

I have many pics from the 1951 class. Each photo could have a short caption. Each year (Jan & Jun) would have its own folder.

A volunteer from each year would be the editor before submitting the photos to the webmaster. I only bring this idea up now because "time" is running out for those who attended Taft in the early 40's.

I'm sure someplace in their homes is a school picture that many of us would love to view.

**Ed Archambault** (June 1951)

[*Ed, we always welcome photos from any year, but I do understand what you're saying. We can find a place for them on the TAA website as well as on the TAA Facebook page where we've posted a number of them. You can send photos to eagleemail anytime and we'll figure out the best way to display them for all to enjoy. Thanks! Paulette, Web Editor*]

## '73 and '74 Ladies Gathering in Glenview



Back row standing:  
Linda Weiss Ross , Pam  
Shuey Dettman, Diane John-  
sen Martin, Joyce Luga  
Selker

Middle row:  
Beth Stewart Martin, Peggy  
Suhajda Shea

Front row seated:  
Mary Kay Mo Kretch Haben,  
Chris Paddock Polony, Rene  
Carlson Ulreich, Pam Wojcik  
Littwin

Jerry:

Just received my first emailed copy of the Taft Newsletter. I went to the Taft website, absolutely great!!! Living in Idaho, it is always a sheer pleasure to get the newsletter and read about what is happening at Taft. The Alumni Board does a fantastic job and it is really appreciated.

**Dick Williams** (June 1960)

Dear Taft Alumni Association,

I hope this finds you all well. I'm happy to report that I am very well. I'm writing to give you a brief update on my progress this year. My success is certainly a reflection on you and your organization for having faith in me and providing me with a scholarship. My major at the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana is: Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Conservation. With a 3.7 GPA this first semester, I made the Dean's list-despite the agony of Chemistry! I have a heavier course load this semester including my 2nd of four necessary Chemistry classes for my major; its tough, but I'm working hard.

I am a member of the Illini Service Dog Training Program, which trains service dogs that will be given to people with disabilities, free of charge. This is a program that is very dear to my heart. I have also taken on a leadership role in this organization as the key fundraiser. I hope to be a primary handler of one of our puppies next year; he or she would actually live with me and do to all my classes and activities. I am also a member of the Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, which I joined to further enhance my knowledge in the field that I am majoring in. This organization also affords me the opportunity to work side by side with graduate students. I am actively pursuing a minor in Leadership Studies while also pursuing a Leadership Certificate for the purposes of broadening my cultural knowledge and to learn how to approach different leadership situations and conflicts.

Through the campus work-study program, I work for as a staff assistant for intramural sports and also as a data entry assistant for the Education Department. I am really enjoying my college experience. Thank you again for your support.

**Megan Anne Glowacz** (2011)

[Ed Note: Megan was awarded the "Class of 1960 Scholarship". J. Bloom]

Dear Paulette,

It appears that two additional names are absent the class of June '41, In Our Memories archives. **Bob Holiday**, baseball team, class clown and WWII Marine Corp. fighter pilot. As was written in the Taft Alumni Newsletter some years ago, Bob passed away at the much too early age of 44. Another victim of the big "C". Also, **Walter Leahy**, erstwhile Taft "Boy of the Month". My memory is hazy on this, but I believe he was lost during WWII while a Navy aviator.

On a lighter note, thought I'd share an amusing Taft tale with you. Brother **Nob [Norbert Klafta]** (June 1943) and **Don Martinez** (June 1943), bosom buddies and pair of jokers signed up for cooking class. The only boys in this otherwise distaff domain. In their typical mischievous thinking, they created a chocolate chip cookie recipe, substituting Ex-lax for a key ingredient and shared this delight with their classmates. Don't know what the repercussions were but I am certain that they did not escape unscathed.

**Adam E. Klafta**, (June 1941)

[Adam, always a pleasure to hear from you. I'll have to get you in touch with my father, **Frank Zemaitis**, Class of June 1940. I'll bet you both knew many of the same students. He was on the baseball team, too. I've made the entries into our records regarding your deceased classmates. Bob Holiday I figured must have died around 1967. Walter Leahy was not in our records at all, but I've added him. He may, like many others, have quit school before graduation to sign up. I listed his date of death with a question mark, 194?. Paulette, TAA Web Editor]

Hi again Paulette:

Excusez moi! In my last e-mail re: In Our Memories, I misspelled **Walter Lahey's** surname. This is probably the reason why you did not find him in the records. If you check the June '41 yearbook, page 5 of the Feb. 14, 1941 Taft Tribune, you will find his picture and "Boy of the Month" story. Nobody's perfect! I was bound to eventually do it.

Adam E. Klafta (June 1941)

Hi Kay ....

Was EDDIE FISHER at TAFT .... singing w/ Army Band ???? I have a friend that somewhat remembers this happening in our FRESHMAN YEAR ....That would be 1952. Is there any way to find out?

Judy (Herud) Nelson (January 1956)

[Ed. Note: Anyone else recall this (?) fact. Send us a note!  
Also, see message below, asking about Judy. Fun to keep in touch. Jbb]

Jerry,

..Just received my copy of the Alumni Newsletter, and turned to the "In Our Memories" page and see my name is not listed.. **Keep up the good work** .. You live in Stuart, FL [for the winter].. was down in your neck of the woods, Jan7/8 enroute to Ft Lauderdale and a cruise ship. Stayed with my brother-in-law at Mariner Sands; next time I will stay with you and drink your wine. Not sure when we will be back, not this year. Retired and doing well, Oak Ridge, 20 minutes north of Knoxville. Fish a lot and travel.

Thanks for all you and the team do in keeping the newsletter going. I saw that my membership expired (I think), and I sent in for 2 more years anyway. JUDY..HOW ABOUT A 57th CLASS REUNION ?? [You were] in charge of our 50th reunion...Sept 2006. **Tom Plath, Robert Nannini, Lou Knudtson** were all there ..saw Nannini's name in the latest issue. Amazed at how many grads generally stayed in the greater Chicago area ..within 50 miles TAFT.. Too much

traffic and too many toll roads for me.

Hal Osucha (class of January 1956; how time flies)  
Paulette,

Many thanks! I speak for many grads when I say how much we appreciate the fine, dedicated, and professional work you continuously do for our outstanding Alumni Association. Please keep it up!

Larry Marsh (June 1959)

[*Thank you, Larry. Your kind words make our efforts worthwhile. Paulette and Jerry*]

[*Ed. Note: This e-message was forwarded to us by TAA Board Member and fellow classmate Arlene Ware (June 1960), and we thought it good to share with you. See a special tribute elsewhere in this issue. J. Bloom*]

Dear ATC Family and the Company of **The Original Grease**,

I received a call yesterday from Jim Jacobs. Shirley DeWeese passed away last night. She succumbed to pneumonia after a battle with cancer. Shirley, a classmate of Jim's at Taft, was instrumental in putting THE ORIGINAL GREASE together. She chaired the Taft Class of 1960 50th Reunion, and personally coordinated the Taft Weekend at ATC. She also coordinated the tour of Taft, and shared her vivid stories of being a teenager on the Northwest Side. She was known by her graduating class (as well as our staff) as the Taft "mother hen".

I remember sitting in her home as she pulled out a ton of nostalgia from her high school days. In fact, Alaina Mills, our Patty Simcox, wore her original gym class green jumper for a few weeks in the show. I always enjoyed watching her and Jim lovingly argue about the way things were (or weren't). She was so proud to be a part of THE ORIGINAL GREASE and helping to bring Taft alumni into the experience. Because of her over 270 Taft Alumni saw the show over the Taft weekend. Listening to the Class of 1960 sing their fight song to our cast was certainly one of the most memorable moments last year. We will all miss her.

PJ Paparelli, Artistic Director  
American Theater Company

## **Taft Grads - Need Identifying**

Where do these people belong? In our efforts to provide accurate and complete listing of Taft graduates from each class, there are some inconsistencies or missing links to a few names in our master file. Below are 21 people who have been identified by various Taft alumni as being from Taft. But, we have no confirmation from the Chicago Public School records. It is possible those who are of the WWII era probably left school to enlist, and were not included in the official student listing of graduates.

Can you help us? We need confirmation of name, married names or maiden names for the females, date of graduation and possibly date of death for those whom we have been advised have died, with no known date. Please respond to our keeper of records, Paulette at webmaster@taftalumni.org

Karen Gustavson (d 1991 Sep 10)

Michael McBrien (d 2006 Feb 08)

Grace Grassmuck (d 1999 May 18)

Timothe Klujewski (d 1999 Aug 03 - drowned rescuing 2 friends)

Michael Neumann (deceased, date unknown)

Karl Bass (d 1996 Jun 28)

Joseph Pistilli (d 2007 Jan 12 - cancer)

Miquel Montalvo (d 1989 Apr)

Michael Wodrich (d 1996 Jul 14)

Michael Wiezorik (deceased, date unknown)

Joanne Rizeb Kocher (d 1993 Jan 17)

Joan Beecroft (d 2001 Sep 15 - Edison School 1955-1962))

Bobbie Smart

Mayra Zapata

Thomas Schumaker (deceased? - WWII Gold Star Honor Roll)

Ernest Leason (deceased? - WWII Gold Star Honor Roll)

Alan Hoff (deceased? - WWII Gold Star Honor Roll)

George Manning

Ann Shute

Toni Wrobell

Charlene Schmoldt

# Class Notes



## 1940s

**George Fillebrown** (June 1940) lives in Stuart, FL, has 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and is consultant in the paper industry.

**Muriel (Davies) Kaminski** (June 1940) lives in Lindenhurst, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired receptionist. She also received the first diploma given out at Taft, which is on display in the school lobby.

**Irene (Wells) King** (January 1941) lives in Waunakee, WI, has 8 children, 10 grandchildren, 1 great grandchildren and is retired.

**Barbara (Whittier) Hanson** (June 1945) graduated from Northwestern PhB 1951, Western Reserve MA 1961, lives in Northbrook, IL, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, winters in FL and is a retired teacher.

**Dolores (Koch) Reichert** (June 1945) graduated from Wright AA 1948, lives in Walnut Creek, CA, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

**Bill Avery** (January 1946) graduated from U of I BA 1950, lives in Stuart, FL, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired financial advisor.

**Annette (Stieber) Hanisch** (June 1946) lives in Huntley, IL, has 3 boys and 9 grandchildren and is **retired**.

**Connie (Collar) Myhre** (June 1946) graduated from Wright AA 1950, lives in Bellingham, WA, has 6 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired Washington State worker.

**Lowell Sonderman** (June 1946) graduated from U of WI BS 1951, lives in Brookfield, WI, has 4 children, 13 grandchildren and is a retired business planner.

**Virginia (Behr) Meyer** (June 1947) lives in Fox Lake, IL, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and is retired from the USPS.

**Mary Jane (Chmielowski) Schaeferle** (June 1947) graduated from Cornell BA, U of Iowa MD, lives in Garwin, IA and North Port, FL, has 5 children, 12 grandchildren and is retired from private practice.

**Dorothy (Bicking) Halverson** (January 1948) lives in Old Town, FL, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired department manager.

**Richard Akin** (June 1948) graduated from Santa Ana AA 1963, lives in Diamond Springs, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is the retired owner of Telecom Data Consultants.

**Don Bretwisch** (June 1948) lives in Waupaca, WI, has 7 children, 15 grandchildren and is a retired carpenter.

**Matthew Granett** (June 1948) graduated from Wright AA 1950, American Academy of Art 1954, lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

**Daniel Hubert** (June 1948) lives in Round Lake Beach, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is retired.

**Philip Klezek** (June 1949) graduated from Purdue BS 1953, lives in Brighton, MI, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired manager from Ford Motor Co.

## 1950s

**Fred Pottinger** (June 1950) graduated from Northern BA, U of Chgo MA, lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

**Carol (Boldt) Bentsen** (June 1951) married Ronald (June 1951), she graduated from Northeastern BA 1974, Northern MS 1977, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

**William Kammer** (June 1951) lives in Ft Lauderdale, FL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired real estate appraiser and enjoys being a beach bum.

**Charles Keaton** (June 1951) graduated from U of I BS 1955, lives in Indianapolis, IN, has 3 children and is a retired actuary.

**Gordon Guth** (January 1952) graduated from U of I BA 1957, lives in Evanston, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren; summers in Kjostad Lake, MN and is a retired self employed industrial designer.

**La Verne (Chmielowski) Podolski** (January 1952) lives in Barrington, IL, has 3 sons, 11 grandchildren and is retired.

**Thomas Vrabec** (January 1952) lives in Lake Barrington, IL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired builder and business owner.

**Joanne (Adams) Stout** (June 1952) graduated from De Pauw BA 1956, lives in San Diego, CA and is a retired probation officer.

**Kent Anderson** (June 1953) graduated from Northwestern BSME 1960, lives in Madison, WI, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired executive.

**Carolyn (Halldorson) Hinds** (June 1953) graduated from Northern 1957, lives in Centennial, CO and is a retired teacher.

**Matt Joswick** (June 1953) graduated from IL Benedictine BS 1970, lives in Glen Ellyn, IL, has 1 child and is a retired realtor and author.

**John Petrie** (June 1953) graduated from MIT, lives in San Angelo, TX, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired data processing executive.

**Janet (Rebscher) Eastman** (January 1954) lives in Northbrook, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a travel manager and meeting planner.

**John Demes** (June 1954) lives in Janesville, WI, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is a retired dispatcher for Nortran RTA.

**Gregory Jaeger** (June 1954) graduated from Northwestern BSBA 1959, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is semi retired.

**Robert Roehl** (June 1954) lives in Homasassa, FL, has 2 girls, 2 granddaughters and is retired from General Motors, control branch manager.

**Ray Whitehead** (June 1954) graduated from De Paul BMed 1985, U of I Med 1968, EOD 1974, lives in Landrum, SC, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

**William Fredendall** (June 1955) graduated from U of I 1959, lives in South Elgin, IL and is an airline captain.

**James Hartzer** (June 1955) graduated from De Paul BA 1959, MI State MA 1968; lives in Norwalk, CT, has 3 children, 6

## Class Notes

grandchildren and is president of a TV production company.  
**Rosalie (Davis-Evans) Zweifel** (June 1955) lives in Dodgeville, WI, has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and is a ceramics artist.

**Chester Kowalski** (June 1956) graduated from IIT BS 1967, lives in Norfork, AR, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired manager.

**Art Perrone** (June 1956) graduated from De Paul BS 1960, lives in Newport Beach, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an investment banker.

**Linnea (Swanson) Root** (June 1956) graduated from U of I BS 1960, Northwestern MA 1962, lives in Batavia, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired speech/language pathologist.

**Virginia (Blum) Schroer** (June 1956) lives in Streamwood, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and is retired.

**Robert Philipp** (January 1957) graduated from U of I BA 1961, Law 1967, lives in Vienna, VA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired Veterans law judge.

**Chandler Voorhees** (January 1957) graduated from Luther College BA 1961, lives in Park Ridge, IL and is retired.

**George Wallace** (January 1957) lives in Chicago, has 2 children (Taft grads), 5 grandchildren and is retired.

**Donald Birgerson** (June 1957) graduated from Wittenberg U BA 1961, lives in Grayslake, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired from sales.

**Lynnette (Dickow) Clooney** (June 1957) lives in Fox Lake, IL and is a purchasing manager.

**Beverly (Sprecker) Laseke** (June 1957) graduated from Harper AS 1977, Concordia BA 1980, lives in Rockford, IL, has 6 children, 7 grandchildren and is an office manager.

**Carol (Wold) Schmidt** (June 1957) married **Ken Schmidt** (June 1952) lives in Palatine, IL, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired from United Airlines.

**Linda (Griesbach) Mac Millan** (January 1958) graduated from Blackburn RN, lives in Jackson, WY, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired RN.

**Judy (Schraffenberger) Thornton** (January 1958) graduated from FL Southern BS 1962, U of GA Med 1970, Sed 1980, lives in Venice, FL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired education consultant.

**Gregory Banser** (June 1958) lives in Rotonda West, FL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired business owner.

**Robert Witt** (June 1958) graduated from De Paul BSC 1962, UCLA JD 1965, U of So CA MPA 1978, lives in Cerritos, CA, has 2 children and is a lawyer.

**Wayne Schimpff** (January 1959) graduated from U of WI BS 1963, Northern MS 1971, lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher from Von Steuben; has also been in Boy Scouts since 1949.

**Fred Allegretti** (June 1959) graduated from U of MD MBA, lives in Johnsburg, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is CEO of Callahan Group Consulting.

**Arden Byers** (June 1959) graduated from Blackburn BA 1963, lives in Bristol, WI, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired USAF.

**Bruce Lohr** (June 1959) graduated from De Paul BA 1986, American Academy of Art AA 1961, lives in Naperville, IL, has 3 children and is a print production supervisor.

**Ken Monahan** (June 1959) graduated from Northwestern BS 1963, MA 1964, PhD 1972, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 children and is an educator.

## 1960s

**Thomas Klein** (June 1960) graduated from Lewis U BS 1968, Northern MBA 1969, lives in Fresno, CA, has 5 children, 9 grandchildren and is a retired administrator.

**Elaine (Bober) Lecinski** (June 1960) graduated from U of I BA, lives in Spring Grove, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

**Marlys (Johnson) Swanson** (January 1961) lives in Waukesha, WI and is an RN-breast care coordinator.

**Bob Tookey** (June 1961) married **Doret (Cunis)** (June 1961), they both graduated from Miami of Ohio 1965, they live in Hermitage, PA, have 3 children. Bob is VP sales for Sharon Tube Co., Doret is a HS English teacher.

**Linda Norris** (January 1962) lives in Healy, AK, has 2 children and is a school district administrative assistant.

**Richard Hendricks** (January 1962) lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired quality control auditor.

**Maria (Pappas) Economos** (June 1962) graduated from Northeastern BA 1966, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is a retired elementary teacher.

**Karen (Rinkach) Johnson** (June 1962) lives in Fox River Grove, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired from Gillick Real Estates.

**Carol (Lohr) Magin** (June 1962) graduated from U of MN BA 1966, Nat'l Lewis MAT 1999, lives in Mundelein, IL, has 2 children and is a special ed teacher.

**R. Dawn (Koenig) Spychalski** (June 1962) graduated from De Vry 1964, lives in St Charles, IL and has 2 children and 1 grandchild.

**Phyllis (Sheldon) Wharton** (June 1962) graduated from Northern BS 1967, MS 1977, lives in Palatine, IL, has 5 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

**Kathie (Schroeder) Whitehurst** (June 1962) lives in Crossville, TN, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

**John Knecht** (January 1963) graduated from U of I BSEE 1968, Loyola MBA 1973, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a retired electrical engineer.

**Anne (Flexman) Warner** (January 1963) graduated from St Mary's RN 1968, lives in York, PA, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired recovery room nurse.

**Dlorah (Rud) Hayden** (June 1963) lives in Sarasota, FL, has 7 children, 15 grandchildren and retired as an owner of a Christmas tree farm.

**Patricia Mc Kevitt** (June 1963) graduated from WA U MSU 1969, lives in St Louis, MO and is a social work director at WA U medical center.

# Class Notes

**Jeffrey Wilk** (June 1963) married **Diane (Peterson)** (June 1963). They both graduated from Northern BS 1967, live in Harwood Hts, IL, have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are both retired.

**Margaret (Wingert) Hardy** (January 1964) graduated from Northern BS 1968, lives in Aurora, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired elementary teacher.

**Linda (Berg) Hermann** (June 1964) lives in Kent, OH, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired from Kent State.

**Anne (Karr) Smith** (June 1964) lives in Casselberry, FL, has 2 children and is in sales at Dillards.

**Steve Gotz** (January 1965) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 4 children and is a plant manager.

**Janet (Clune) Klopp** (January 1965) graduated from Northern BS 1968, Acct 1978, MBA 1983, lives in Mundelein, IL and is retired from Allstate.

**Marie (Wittendorfer) Goodkin** (June 1965) graduated from U of I BA 1969, MA 1972, lives in Oak Park, IL, has 2 children and is an office administrator.

**Mary (Strandin) Goodlow** (June 1965) graduated from U of I BA 1969, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, has 4 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired loan officer.

**C. Ronald Lindberg** (January 1966) graduated from Augustana BA 1970, U of I MS 1972, U of Chgo MD 1976, lives in Willowbrook IL, has 2 children and is an ophthalmologist.

**Theresa (Klein) Davis** (June 1966) lives in Hurley, WI, has 4 children and is a middle school art teacher.

**Patricia (Lannon) Johnson** (June 1966) graduated from MN State BS 1970, U of UT MS 1974, U of AZ MPH 2002, lives in Mesa, AZ, has 2 children and is a neonatal nurse practitioner.

**Timothy Coyne** (June 1967) married **Mary (Gaughan)** (June 1967) they live in Cincinnati, OH, have 1 child and are retired.

**Philip Deetjen** (June 1967) married Susan (Eggers) (1969), he graduated from College of Du Page AA 1975, they live in Addison, IL, have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and he is a VP at GM bus sales.

**Penelope (Coughlin) Fluger** (June 1967) graduated from SIU MS 1972, lives in Little Rock, AR, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a preschool director.

**Carol (Smythe) Evans** (1968) graduated from Rosary College BA 1972, US Inter'l U MA 1979; lives in Sparks, NV and is retired US Navy commander.

**Mary (Stoklosa) Fernandina** (1968) graduated from Western IL BS 1973, lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children and is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

**Larry Lonson** (1968) graduated from Columbia 1972, Western Int'l MBA 2000, lives in Longboat Key, FL, has 2 children and is a retired executive.

**Karen (Anderson) Manzella** (1968) lives in Chicago, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is an executive assistant.

**Trudy (Stromquist) Calef** (1969) lives in Lake Forest, IL, has 2 children and serves on the Lincolnshire Board of Trustees.

**Gail (Mathison) Cristoe** (1969) graduated from Northeastern

1973, lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

**Irv Kaage** (1969) married **Laurel (Thoren)** (1969), he graduated from Lakeland BA 1973, Laurel College of Lake Co ABS 1973, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 3 children, 5 grandchildren. Irv is president of Transor Filter.

**Emil Kane** (1969) lives in Westchester, IL, has 2 children and is a VP in sales & marketing.

**Christine (Wirth) Maxwell** (1969) graduated from IL State BS 1973, lives in Wheaton, IL, has 2 children and is a special ed teacher.

**Katherine Slonina** (1969) lives in Andover, NJ and is a VP regulatory compliance officer.

## 1970s

**James Betlej** (1970) lives in West Chester, OH, has 2 children and is a process engineer.

**Linda (Drakert) Cooper** (1970) graduated Lutheran General RN 1973, Grand View College BSN 1998, MPH 2003, MHA 2004, lives in Marshalltown, IA, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is an RN in ICU.

**Cynthia (Gallagher) Cumpian** (1970) graduated from U of I BA 1974, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a writer.

**Joanne (Stefely) Heintz** (1970) graduated from Loyola BS 1974, lives in Lindenhurst, IL, has 2 children and is a facilitator/IT consultant.

**Constance (Sowa) Newton** (1970) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 1 child and is an import manager.

**Melody Childs** (1971) graduated from Northeastern BS 1975, U of I MS 1977, U of NM BSN 1989, lives in Sandia Park, MN and is an RN/freelance writer.

**Deborah (Pokorny) Kolze** (1971) graduated from Triton AA1981, Rosary BA 1984, lives in Wood Dale, IL and is a business & life certified coach.

**Christine (Sover) Willard** (1971) lives in Carmel, IN, has 2 children and is a radiation therapist.

**Sandra (Bakanowicz) Davidson** (1972) lives in Mt Pleasant, MI, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a receptionist.

**Carolyn (Sinclair) Shaw** (1972) graduated from Northwestern BS 1976, BSN 1984, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 1 child and is a nurse.

**Michael Suba** (1972) graduated from Wright AA 1974, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children and is in electrical/mechanical maintenance.

**Diane (Martin) Johnson** (1973) graduated BS 1977, MA 1997, MA 2000, lives in Elburn, IL, has 2 children and is a PE teacher.

**Joyce (Luga) Selker** (1973) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and is a medical receptionist.

**Clare Welter** (1973) graduated from Northern BS, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a care giver.

**Laurie (Hillstrom) Karman** (1975) graduated from Western IL BBA 1978, U of I MBA 1984; lives in Buffalo, IL and is a managing supervisor regulatory affairs.

**Donald Wolff** (1975) graduated Northern 1979, lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 2 children and is owner of Wolff's Market Place.

**Larry Coffey** (1976) lives in Kildeer, IL, has 2 children and is an

## Class Notes

insurance account manager.

**Scott Sinclair** (1976) graduated from Northeastern BA 1981, lives in Grayslake, IL, has 2 children and is self employed.

**Keith Engelmann** (1979) graduated from Northern BS 1983, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a general manager.

**Mary (Costello) Jones** (1979) graduated from Marian College BA 1983, lives in Sweetwater, TX, has 2 children and is an HR manager.

**Kathy (Kamowski) King** (1979) lives in Villa Park, IL and has 2 children.

### 1980s

**Dina (Banash) Kwit** (1982) graduated from Mt Mercy BA 1986, Roosevelt Para Legal 2003, lives in Elmhurst, IL, has 2 children and is a professional photographer.

**Kathleen (Lindquist) Brantley** (1985) lives in Kenosha, WI, has 3 children and is a housewife.

**Patricia (Banash) Engelmann** (1985), graduated from U of IA BA 1992, lives in Ames, IA, has 4 children and is a VP at Rainbow Enterprises.

**August (Gus) Francis** (1985) graduated from De Paul BS 1989, Kent College JD 1994, lives in Chicago and is an attorney.

**James Carlson** (1986) married **Katherine (Banash)** (1987), she graduated from Oakton AA 1995; they live in Ames, IA where Katherine is a school bus driver & VP Ideal Inc.

### 1990s

**Nicholas Manzella** (1997) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a facilities manager.

## In Our Memories

**Francis T. (Frank) Kleber**, class president for June 1940 class, died February 22, 2011 from a muscular degenerative disorder.

**Floyd Gilbert**, class of January 1941, passed away February 21, 2012. He was a member of the Norwood Park American Legion Post, and was in every parade color guard for most of our lives. He joined the Army Air Corps right out of Taft, then back into Air Force for Korea. He lived with his sister Helene Wingert and her family; he also had a twin brother Lloyd Gilbert. Floyd proudly wore his Taft jacket, T-shirt, and cap until his death.

**Lenore M. Green**, class of 1941, passed away of natural causes on January 24, 2012.

**Doris (Johnson) Bauer**, class of June 1945, passed peacefully on September 7, 2011. She lived in McHenry, IL, and is the sister of Charlene (Johnson) Hurt, class of June 1951.

**Lorraine (Kochler) Biscoll**, class of January 1946, died in September 2011.

**Elaine (Jones) Csar**, class of June 1946, died on March 8, 2012.

**Joan (Daugaard) Adomitis**, class of June, 1952, unexpectedly passed away on February 27, 2012 at her home in Grand Island, FL.

**Audrey (Judy) (Holzman) Tridemy**, class of June 1954 died August 8, 2011 from lung cancer. Her husband is Ed Tridemy, class of January 1951.

**Robert Harvey**, class of June 1953, died April 23, 2011. He is the brother of Taft grad Susan (Harvey) Wood, class of June 1959.

**William R. Staats**, class of January 1953, passed away January 14, 2012, of prostrate cancer. He is the brother of Susan (Staats) Apel, class of January 1964).

**Charles R. Edwards**, class of June 1966, passed away in January 2012. He is the brother of Carl, Robert, Edward Jr. and Carol Edwards.

**Eugene James (Gene) Kelly**, class of January 1957 died March 16, 2012.

**Richard S. Rocziky**, class of 1967 (?) passed away July 21, 2011. He lived in Schaumburg, IL.

**Richard Kudish**, class of June 1967, died at home near Madison, WI on January 5, 2012. He is the brother of Clare Kudish, class of January 1959.

**Mark Johnston**, class of 1976, passed away on May 1, 2011.



## Remembering Shirley DeWeese

By Anne Lunde

On Feb. 26, 2012, the Taft Alumni Association lost one of our most enthusiastic members, **Shirley Kalivoda DeWeese**.

Shirley, 69, has served as our long-time TAA treasurer. This was often in combination with duties as secretary or first vice president. She managed to multi-task.

A graduate of Ebinger School, Shirley was a member of Taft's June 1960 class. She and her late husband, Ted, raised their daughters Dena (Craig) Crider and Jessica DeWeese in Hoffman Estates. Shirley was also the proud grandmother of Jesse Arthur and Amanda Lynne Crider. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Diana DeWeese Bois and was the aunt of Dana Bois, Chelsea and Tory Draper and Bob and Denise Bois.

She gave credit to all her years as a PTA mom for giving her officer leadership experience. She was a member



Following her lifelong dream of writing, **Marilyn (Huntman) Giese** (January 1950) recently completed her fictional story of Simon, the fisherman who followed Jesus of Nazareth. "The Eye of God: A Fisherman's Tale" is a story that brings these ancient characters to life in a way that you can almost experience yourself East while researching for her book, she felt even more out her Biblical characters. Giese adds this book to Marilyn's poetry efforts. Through their connections in "Baby Blessings: Inspiring Poems and Prayers of Baby-Celebrating Home and Family." Thanks to Stephanie Hunsberger of The Beacon-News, a Chicago Sun Times publication for the western suburbs, for her article in "Our Towns" section, dated July 1, 2011. The Book "Eye of God" can be found and obtained at [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com).



of the PTA board at Armstrong School in the Chicago suburbs from 1975 to 1990, and the president from 1983 to 1984. Later she served in the district PTA leadership, too.

High school memories were always special to her. When we were organizing Taft's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1989, Shirley produced her green gym suit out of the closet, and it became a highlight of the 1960s exhibit room. We all remembered our gym suits but few of us ever kept them.

In an era when many classes were hiring reunion companies to track down classmates and organize reunion events, Shirley and the other 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee for the June 1960 class decided to organize their own. They wanted it to be special. Their class was not only from the era of bobby sox and poodle skirts – they were the "Grease" class. Jim Jacobs, co-creator of the record breaking musical, had based great portions of the show on his Taft experiences as a member of that class.

As many Taft classes have discovered, there is a special bond that develops at high school. Reunions reunite old friends and make new ones because they share the day to day detailed knowledge of people and teachers and events and the music hits of the day. Shirley never lost her bubbly spirit or her wacky sense of humor.

She often was called upon to be a local contact for the class, whenever there was a tour of the show hitting town, or when a reality TV show started to audition new Sandys and Dannys for a Broadway revival. Stevenson High School in the NW suburbs came to Shirley for their Chicago Metro History project, which advanced to the state history fair. Shirley was very supportive and proud of their efforts.

In 2010, the January and June 1960 classes joined efforts to have a big, wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Shirley was a guiding spirit for the project, and the committee named her their "mother hen."

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## In the News

being there with them. After a personal visit to the Middle connected to her story. This experience helped her flesh two others, where author June Cotner included several of the Naperville Writer's Group, her poems are included in "hood" and "House Blessings: Prayers, Poems and Toasts

Hunsberger of The Beacon-News, a Chicago Sun Times publication for the western suburbs, for her article in "Our Towns" section, dated July 1, 2011. The Book "Eye of God" can be found and obtained at [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com).

**Rich Lindberg**'s (Class of 1971) sixteenth book, "Whiskey Breakfast: My Swedish Family My American Life," published by the University of Minnesota Press last October won the prize for "Top Biography of 2011," from the Society of Midland Authors (SMA) at their annual Awards Banquet, held on May 8th at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza. Founded in 1915, SMA is a literary society comprised of published authors, poets and playwrights from the 12-state Midwestern "Heartland." Rich's book is a poignant, touching autobiography and memoir of his Swedish forebears and growing up under difficult circumstances in Norwood Park in the 1960s. The book has been featured on "Extension 720" and Rick Kogan's "Sunday Papers" program on WGN Radio. Here's a link to "Whiskey Breakfast" on Amazon.com: [http://www.amazon.com/dp/0816646848/ref=rdr\\_ext\\_tmb](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0816646848/ref=rdr_ext_tmb)

<b>TAA Merchandise Order Form</b>				
<b>Qty</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Specifics</b>	<b>Price Each</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
	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	\$40.00	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Taft Alumni Logo Fleece Jacket	XXX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Taft Yearbook (be sure to state year)	Year:	\$30.00	\$
<b>Shipping and Handling:</b> Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$6.00				\$
Total Remitted				\$
Name (please print):		Grad Month/Year:		
Address:				
City/State/ZIP:		Phone: ( )		
<b>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.</b>				

## **Yearbook Inventory**

Some years are hard to keep in supply. All requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis. As of today, we have the following yearbooks for purchase: 1948 Jun (1), 1954 Jan (1), 1985 (24), 1986 (48), 1987 (77), 1990 (52), 1991 (9), 1992 (132), 1993 (5), 1994 (57), 1995 (183), 1996 (65), 1997 (52), 1998 (154), 1999 (151), 2000 (351), 2001 (123), 2003 (76), 2004 (77), 2005 (56), 2006 (40), 2007 (40), 2008 (40).



## **Time to Renew?!!**

Thanks to all who read our plea in the summer issue about keeping current with your membership. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you'll find an emailed reminder in your inbox when you are about to or have lapsed. If you receive the newsletter by post, check your address label for your year of graduation above the eagle logo on the back page. Is it correct? Also, check the expiration date of your current membership with the Taft Alumni Association located just below the graduation date.

If your expiration date is close, sit down NOW, complete the membership form on the next page and write out a check for \$15 or just \$20 for husband/wife graduates at the same address. You'll receive **TWO** full years of newsletters filled with opportunities to learn about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs. Be sure to use the application on the following page to share with us the latest updates in 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	Elementary School Attended		
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 <a href="http://www.taftalumni.org">www.taftalumni.org</a>			
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 postage	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive the newsletter by email and 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: <b>Taft Alumni Association, 6530 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631</b>			Spring 2012

**Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors**

Kay (Carlson) Kuciak	1963	President, Newsletter Assistant (623) 544-0226
Anne Lunde	1969	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Historian
Frank Heyer	1948	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Rich Lindberg	1971	Secretary
Vacant	1960	Treasurer
Jeraldene (Beesley) Bloom	1962	Director, Newsletter Editor <a href="mailto:jerrybloom@fales.org">jerrybloom@fales.org</a> (920) 559-7440
Kevin Kreiger	1973	Director, Webmaster <a href="mailto:webmaster@taftalumni.org">webmaster@taftalumni.org</a>
Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	Director, Web Editor <a href="mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org">eagleemail@taftalumni.org</a>
Mike Hionis	1968	Director
Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director
Joe Popp	1966	Director
Andrew Madsen	1969	Director
Paul Madsen	1971	Director
William Skar	-----	Faculty Representative
Arlene (Laufer) Ware	1960	Director
Jim Hartford	1979	Assistant to Frank Heyer

**Taft Alumni Newsletter**

The TAA publishes the *Taft Alumni Newsletter* quarterly.

Please address general correspondence and changes to:

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or email [taftalum@cox.net](mailto:taftalum@cox.net)

Send photographs and articles for the next issue to:

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**Submission Deadline for the Summer Issue:**  
**June 30, 2012**

eNewsletter or TAA Email Directory Signup: [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org)

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