



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXIX, No. 1

Winter 2013

John Prochaska Joins TAA Board

We'd like to welcome the newest member of the Taft Alumni Association board of directors, John Prochaska, a member of the June Class of June 1961. John will be filling the vacant board seat of the late Shirley Kalivoda DeWeese, and will also fill the remainder of her term as treasurer.

John earned his MBA in Finance and Accounting at Northern Illinois University. He's a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Governmental Financial Manager. He has 13 years' experience in nonprofit and management experience. John was administrator, COO and CFO, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer for Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, an informal research affiliate of the Cook County Health & Hospital System. (continued on page 5)

74 years and counting

In fall 2014, William Howard Taft High School will mark the 75th anniversary of its opening.

We celebrated the school's 50th anniversary in 1989, and we'd like to make plans to have a similar celebration in 2014. We'd like to include alumni from as many of these eight decades of graduating classes as possible, to plan ways to represent these times of our lives.

Alumni who still live in the Chicago area are invited to join a planning committee, which will be organizing later this year, to develop ideas for the anniversary with the school leadership. We will be looking for memorabilia for exhibits, help with assembling multi-media presentations, and folks with memories which you would like to share.

If this is of interest to you, please drop a note to the Taft Alumni Association, care of Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago IL 60631, Attention: Anne Lunde.

Five to be honored in March at Hall of Fame induction

Five distinguished graduates of Taft High School will be honored on March 15 at ceremonies at the school, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago.

The program is scheduled for 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Forum Room. (Enter from Bryn Mawr Avenue, going north behind the old building to the new main entrance; the Forum Room is down the hall to the right). Alumni, family, friends, past recipients, and former faculty are welcome to attend, but we ask that you make advance reservations so we

can have sufficient seating. Please contact Frank Heyer at 773-631-4701 or email <frankheyer@msn.com>, to make reservations.

Chosen for induction in the Hall of Fame Class of 2012-13 are: Dr. Robert Holmes and the late Thomas Roeser from the Class of June 1946, Reid Lewis from the Class of January 1958, Gary Blohm from the Class of January 1960, and Robert Wislow from the Class of 1962.

The chemist



Dr. Robert Holmes, one of the top students in his Taft June 1946 class, earned graduate degrees in chemistry and physics, emerging with a PhD in chemistry in 1953. For the next nine years he taught at Carnegie Institute of Technology (Carnegie Mellon) in Pittsburgh. Research work for Bell Telephone Laboratories (1962-66)

gained him international recognition. He then was hired as a professor of chemistry at University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, teaching there until 1998 but continuing his research work through 2007. (continued on page 3)

Taft Wall-to-Wall International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme Status

From Web page of Mary O'Connor
Alderman 41st Ward

I was joined [December 13, 2012] by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Public School's CEO Barbara Boyd-Bennett, State Senator John Mulroe and officials from William Howard Taft High School to announce some very exciting news about the future of the 41st Ward's only neighborhood high school.

Beginning in 2013-2014 school year, Taft High School will officially become home to Chicago's newest Wall-to-Wall International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme.

With this new designation, every student within the school's attendance boundary will have the opportunity to take advantage of a high quality and academically enhanced education without having to navigate a Selective Enrollment Tier System that has traditionally placed our neighborhood students at a disadvantage.

Taft High School will benefit from investments in technology, science laboratories and other improvements to the campus. An additional full-time IB Coordinator will also be on hand to help ensure a smooth transition.

(continued on page 6)

Class January 1957

Date: October 25, 2013

Place: Zia's Trattoria, 6699

Northwest Hwy, Chicago

Contact: Sue Moshier

susanmathews@live.com

by October 5th (must RSVP)



Class 1962

Date: Spring 2014

Place: TBD

Contact: Judy Merrill Ruegsegger -

judy.ruegsegger@yahoo.com

Class 1963

Date: TBD (looking for committee members)

Place: TBD

Contact: Diana (Rhodes) West –

vlchapels@mchsi.com

Class 1968

Date: TBD (looking for committee members)

Place: TBD

Contact: Robert Clark - clark7811@msn.com

Class 1993

Date: August 10, 2013

Place: TBD

Contact: 20 Year Reunion Committee: http://weplanreunions.com/www/reunion_info/reunions_tai93.html

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: March 17, 2013, 11am - 3pm

Place: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale, AZ Stillman Ramada

Pot Luck: Beer permit (non-glass containers)

Donation: \$3 per person, bring lawn chairs

Contacts: **Kay Kuciak**, taftalum@cox.net

Paul Frizane, aztaftalumni@yahoo.com

Paulette English, eagleemail@taftalumni.org

James J Stamm Tribute Concert

Date: June 1, 2013

Place: Taft H.S. Auditorium

Contact: www.JJStammTaftTribute.com

Terry Kath Tribute Concert

Date: November 15, 2013

Place: TBD

Contact: Faro Vitale at kingtut1953@yahoo.com

You Can Help Taft Every Time You Use Your Target Redcard!

Looking for an easy way to support Taft? Make sure that you have directed Target to donate 1% of everything you charge to Taft High School in Chicago (School ID: 46000).



It's easy! It doesn't cost you anything and it helps Taft! Each year Target donates millions of dollars to schools in the U.S.A. so, make sure that your card is registered to help Taft. Also, your family and friends across the country can also designate Taft to receive a contribution based upon their charges.

To enroll in the program for the first time and designate Taft go to: <https://www.secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/designate?schoolId=46000&enroll=yes>

If you are already in the program and want to change your designation to Taft you can go to: <https://www.secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/designate?%20schoolId=46000%20&enroll=no> Don't delay!!!!

(Hall of Fame Inductees - continued from page 1)

His work has centered on structural analysis of phosphorus and silicon interaction, using 3D X-ray analysis as technology became available, promoting wider understanding and analy-

Shirley DeWeese Scholarship Fund Created

Shirley (Kalivoda) DeWeese (June 1960) was so proud to be an alumna of Taft. She showed her pride by serving on the board of the Taft Alumni Association in several different capacities over many years. She passed away in February 2012.

In honor of Shirley's service to TAA, her love of Taft and her fellow classmates, a scholarship fund has been established in her name. The scholarship will be given to a future deserving senior chosen by a TAA committee.

Contributions may be sent by check to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631. Please indicate the "Shirley DeWeese Scholarship Fund" on your check.

(See article "Remembering Shirley DeWeese" Spring 2012 Newsletter.)

Lost Classmates

Christine (Wojtowicz) Batalden, June 1961

(christinewill2@juno.com) is looking for addresses or phone for **Diane (Koerner) Gerlinger**, 1963 and **Chrystal (Swanson) Umnus** (?)

sis methods of inorganic molecular chemical functions, and leading to development of new silicon compounds. His team won world recognition for their innovations in hypervalent chemistry.

He edited three publications: "Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements"; "Main Group Chemistry News", and "Main Group Chemistry News and Communications." He has been invited to speak to fellow scientists around the world and received many honors, including the 1997 Award for Research Excellence from the International Conference on Main Group Chemistry.

The commentator



Thomas F. Roeser (who died in 2011) was heading for a career in journalism when he left Taft in June 1946, but graduate studies at DePaul, Harvard and Loyola Universities also added political science degrees.

In Minnesota, he served as a press secretary for two congressmen and a governor, and director of communications for the state Republican Party. He began Quaker Oats' governmental relations program, returning later as a vice president of the company. He worked as assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He worked as director of public affairs and Congressional relations for the Peace Corps.

Back in Chicago, he was president of the City Club for 17 years, was founder of Project LEAP (a watchdog group promoting fairly conducted elections) and helped to found the Catholic Citizens of Illinois and the Republican Assembly of Illinois. He volunteered for years with the Haymarket Center of Chicago, which works with recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, and authored a biography of the center's long-time leader, Father Ignatius D. McDermott. Over the later years of his life, he became a familiar personality on local television and radio programs, providing a conservative perspective on Chicago and national issues.

The explorer



Reid Lewis, from Taft class of January 1958, combined his initial career, as a French language teacher, with a love of history and his Boy Scout camping training, to become a modern day explorer. He had done French language studies at Champaign-Urbana, Berkeley, CA, and Paris France. He taught high school French in Crown Point, IN, and in Elgin

IL. An early adventure was in 1971, as part of an underwater dive team searching for Sir Francis Drake's ship, The Golden Hind, off the coast of Ecuador.

In 1973 he was the leader and organizer of a journey to reenact the 1673 explorations of Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette, a 3,000 mile voyage by canoe, which included one of the first encounters by white explorers with the Chicago region. This was followed in 1976-77 by a more ambitious trek, LaSalle: Expedition II, retracing Robert Cavalier De La Salle's explorations 1681-82 travels from Montreal, Canada. *Taft Alumni Newsletter Winter 2013*

da, through Chicago, and down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. He led six other adults and 16 of his Elgin high school students on a once-in-a-lifetime eight-month voyageur journey by canoe and foot. His brother, Ken Lewis, was part of both expeditions.

These two trips, especially LaSalle II, earned praise and awards from leaders in Canada, France and the United States. They worked with Jacques Cousteau on his National Geographic special on the Mississippi, and Reid has portrayed LaSalle in other film programs. He has done extensive speaking programs around the world, inspiring educators and students.

For many years he and his wife have run Adventure Francaise, a French language summer camp. He is a member of Chicago's Sister Cities committee for Paris, France. One of his current projects is to verify a shipwreck, believed to be LaSalle's long-lost "Griffon" in the Great Lakes, in the hopes of establishing a permanent museum.

The entertainer

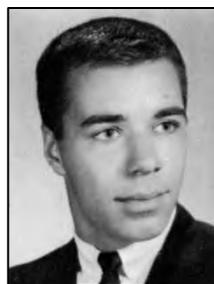


Gary Blohm, a Taft June 1960 graduate and Mixed Chorus alum, was discovered by Broadway talent scouts when he performed at Northwestern University's WAA-MU Show and launched a multi-faceted career in the entertainment industry that has spanned 45 years.

In addition to acting in New York and in touring and regional musicals, he worked as a production unit manager for ABC Television, the West Coast Director of Recording Operations and Administration for Columbia Records, an independent record producer, and a professional television writer.

He created, produced, wrote and directed two children's TV series for NBC-TV, the award-winning "Rainbow Patch" and "The Kid-A-Littles." He is a member of six entertainment-related unions and has served as an arbiter in entertainment related negotiations. Other jobs have varied from serving as special consultant to the California Arts Council, teaching courses at Sherwood Oaks College, serving as Director of UCLA's Instructional Technology Department, and volunteering for the San Antonio Symphony.

The developer



Robert Wislow, from Taft class of January 1963, is a founder of U.S. Equities, a Chicago-based commercial real estate firm which handles projects on the local and international level. These have included the construction of U.S. Cellular Field (which replaced Comiskey Field as the new home of the Chicago White Sox), the new main headquarters of the

Chicago Public Library (the Harold Washington Library), and involvement in the transformation of part of the Grant Park corridor into Millennium Park.

A graduate of North Central College, he stepped in to help organize construction of a new football stadium, after the old stadium was destroyed.

In addition to more than 40 years in real estate management and development, he has chaired the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Development Council, the Chicago Public Library Foundation, served on the board of Metra (the commuter rail system in the Chicago area), and been a leader or board member in many of the city's fine arts organizations, and the boards of North Central College, Columbia College and Rush University Medical Center. Among his honors was the Urban Land Institute of Chicago's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Photos of the five recipients were obtained from Taft yearbooks submitted by Anne Lunde.

Letters to the Editor

Hi Paulette,

I would appreciate it if you could change my email to ==. Thank you for all that you do. I live in Thousand Oaks, Ca and always look forward to the newsletter.

Leon Schurter (June 1963)

[Leon, thank you so much for updating your email address. Everyone should check to be sure they are listed correctly so no one missing that message from a long lost classmate. Glad you enjoy the newsletter. Paulette, TAA Web Editor]

To TAA:

Thanks so much for the "Taft Alumni Newsletter. Every issue is better than the one before. The Autumn one was excellent and very informative. So again thanks to the Alumni Association for all their hard work. May all your holidays be healthy and happy.

Joanne (Krause) Meissner (June 1953)

Dear Jerry,

[Below] you will find the group photo from the January 1955 "Wow- We Turned 75" Reunion we had in October 2012. It was at the Elks Lodge in Des Plaines - a place we would highly recommend. We had a terrific time and it was wonderful to see so many of our former classmates, - dare I say "old friends"?

We were delighted to have folks come in from as far away as California, Nevada, Wisconsin and New Jersey, and we are filled with wonderful memories. Thank you for all you and the Alumni Association do to keep us connected.

Meg (Goodell) Magee (January 1955)



Back row: Gary Johansen, Joan (Gaertner) McInnis, Beverly (Black) Mykisen, Kathleen (Miller) Dass, Jean (Williams) Oldenburg, Dillis Allen, Judy (Wilkinson) O'Callaghan, Walter Guyer, Alan Avery and Allen Daugaard. Front row: Connie (Popovich) Pavich, Nancy (Linn) Ollila, Ginny (Petersen) Rebmann, Meg (Goodell) Magee, Marilyn (Oehl) Edgar and Carol (Staiger) Ellinghausen.

Dear Ms. Bloom,

This note is to inform you of the death of a Taft Alumna from the class of 1976, 1977. **Susan Murphy Milano** died of cancer in South Carolina, October 28, 2012. She made a contribution to the social understanding and awareness of domestic abuse in our country by writing books on the subject and appearing on national television, such as the Oprah Winfrey program.

Nancy Drew-Sheehan, Former Taft Teacher

[In a previous TAA Newsletter, we highlighted Susan Murphy Milano when she published her new book entitled "Moving out, Moving On". It is an invaluable handbook for those who are contemplating divorce, especially those escaping domestic violence. She was a long-time advocate for battered women. It appears TAA records do not have a correct graduation date for Susan.]

If you know the exact year, we would appreciate knowing, so we may amend our records. Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]

Dear Alumni Board,

It is a pleasure to enclose a renewal check for my membership because every issue of the Taft Alumni Newsletter brings me memories and smiles from so many years ago. You deserve a special award for the great job you do. Special enjoyment: "Chi-caw-go" in the [Summer 2012] issue. All the fine pictures each issue as are also fun to see.

As I had written a couple of years ago, I remained close friends with **Florence Devenish** after graduation. She passed away in 2010 at the age of 102. Among her belong-

ings I found the enclosed picture [below] taken at Taft in 1965. I do not know the occasion.

Miss **Margaret Grant** had been my homeroom teacher and math teacher, and I had kept in touch with her until she died many years ago. Does anyone remember her? Keep up the good work. I look forward to each issue.

Bernadette (Gucwa) Becker (June 1950)

[Bernadette, Seeing the first names of each of these teachers brings smiles to me. Who knew their "real" names? They were only known to us as "Mr " or "Miss" or "Mrs". Proper etiquette certainly did not permit such intimacy in those days The 1965 photo looks like it was taken in the old cafeteria and may have been one of the "Teacher Appreciation" days. I wonder if that is still a tradition at Taft... Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]



Standing: **Hattie Marquart, C. E. Johnson, Janette Fox, Helen Unseth, Tony Favaro.** Seated: **Edith Halverson, Florence Devenish and John Pioppo.**

Jerry,

I have just printed off an obituary for Beatrice (Hanson) Jakubowski, class of '49. Do I send that to the Alumni Association in Chicago, or to you for details for your next Newsletter? The death of my friend precipitated my thinking of others at Taft and wondering about their lives. That is why I reached out for Taft News.

Of all things, Frank [Heyer] called me. I knew him back at Taft. He then sent the Newspaper which I could brag about. As I probably told you, I was "captured" when I started reading it. So well done! Even as I read about people I didn't know, I found myself reading with great interest. I don't want to go back and find the first email I sent to you....I may never get back....so forgive me if I have repeated myself.

Jeannine Marilyn (Forrest) Gibbens
(Schurz class of Summer 1949)

P.S. ... I was in the [Taft] class of '49 for all of high school but went to Schurz in the summer to take a few hours so I could graduate early. I went on to college that Fall.

[Jeannine, Thank you so much for notifying us of the passing of your friend, Beatrice (Hanson) Jakubowski, class of January 1949. A formal mailed copy "proof" of her death with the obituary is not necessary, as we do not have room to publish full obituaries of deceased alums. So, this notification is all that we need. Your last paragraph in your message was interesting, as we sometimes have contact with people who indicated they were Taft grads, but we had no record of them in the Chicago Public School files. The fact that you actually graduated from Schurz, even though you were at Taft for four (?) years gives us another reason why we cannot "locate" some people as Taft grads. Jerry Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]

Dear Jerry,

I am writing to report the recent loss of two Taft alums who were also our beloved siblings. Our brother, **Louis Anderson** (class of June 1954), died on May 16, 2012 after a long illness. He was a longtime resident of southern California where he moved after graduating from the U. Of Iowa in mechanical engineering and where he and his wife raised their family. Sadly, on September 6, 2012, we then lost our sister, **Dolores (Anderson) Morning** (class of January 1947), in Carlsbad, California. "Dee" was a graduate of DePauw University and worked as a reference librarian for a community college in Elgin, Illinois before retiring to California.

Thanks to you and the board for all you do to make our alum group such a thriving organization. We are avid readers of the newsletter, as were our two siblings.

Janet (Anderson) Mills (January 1953) and
John Anderson (June 1951)

To whom it may concern:

I recently renewed my TAA membership. I subsequently received a membership card in the mail. Just a suggestion, but wouldn't it be more efficient and cost effective to send an email with a printable membership card? With the cost of postage going up all the time, this might be an alternative worth considering.

Regards,

Richard Beaver Jan 1964

[Richard, thank you for your suggestion. I think it's a very good idea. If we can make this work well it will save us a lot of time and postage. Kay Kuciak, TAA President]

John Prochaska (Continued from page 1)

He previously worked for 20 years in governmental internal auditing. He also taught accounting and auditing as an adjunct faculty member at Roosevelt, Northeastern Illinois and National-Louis University. Among his professional credits, he has served in various positions at the Institute of Internal Auditors Chicago Chapter, is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, a founding member of the Chicago Chapter of the Illinois CPA Society, and a life member of the Association of Fraud Examiners.

John and his wife Cindy (Ludtka, class of June 1964) raised their two daughters and son in Park Ridge. Some of his first jobs were there, including caddying five years at the Park Ridge Country Club and working during high school in the mailroom at the General Mills Midwest Regional Headquarters. He became very active in there in community affairs.

John served in the U.S. Army in the 1960s, headquartered in Japan. In Park Ridge's Mel Tierney Post 247 of the American Legion, he is a past post commander, and, for nearly 40 years, has served as adjutant/executive secretary. Since 1974 he has served as chairman of the Park Ridge Memorial Day Parade (a cooperative venture between the Legion post and the Park Ridge VFW). For three decades he has also assisted in decorating the graves of the almost 700 military veterans buried at Town of Maine Cemetery.

John was a co-chair of the Taft Class of 1961 reunion committee. He served for 16 years on the scholarship evaluation committee for the Illinois Senate 27th District. At Our

Lady of Ransom Catholic Church, he was president of the school board, and has served as an usher and Eucharistic minister.

Remembering the Fallen

War can be a defining milestone for a generation. Taft opened in 1939, just as World War II was breaking out in Europe, and over the next few years, our students and graduates and a few faculty members in service corresponded with the Taft Tribune from their postings around the world. The local community and the school assembled a plaque to list the young men who served in the war, and within that group, to identify those who lost their lives.

We are not as lucky with the Vietnam War (spelled as Viet Nam in those days). We don't have a complete list of those who served, and we don't know the names of casualties with Taft connections. It was a more politically divided conflict and American involvement began in the 1950s, escalated in 1963, and continued to a rocky conclusion in 1974. American troops served in other parts of Southeast Asia. There were often no clear answers at the time whether troops had been exposed to the deadly defoliant, Agent Orange, if it had not officially been used where they were serving.

Taft has been contacted in recent months with inquiries on whether a memorial could be developed for our alumni who lost their lives in military service in those years.

LCDR Paul Muffler, who commands and is the senior Naval instructor for Taft's current Naval Junior ROTC program, is trying to assemble such a list, but we would like it to be as complete as possible. Commander Muffler's initial investigation proved how difficult it could be to narrow down the Taft names. There are some 58,000 from Illinois who lost their lives in Viet Nam, and approximately 200 pages of the names in the database are from Cook County. There is not a list broken down by city or postal/zip code or high school attended.

The NJROTC students will be working to narrow the search, and identify as many of the Taft alumni. They have asked to work with the Alumni Association to compare the database names with graduate and student names from the period of the war years. However, for those who enlisted before graduation, or those who were already in military careers before Viet Nam, there may be others who were lost. We have seen the closing of several of the local American Legion posts in recent years, so we have fewer groups to ask who might have known about the casualties.

We are hoping that some of our alumni readers – who are aware of classmates or relatives or neighbors from Taft who died during the war – will send us those names.

One resource is those class reunion committees who have already had several reunions and have researched what happened to their classmates.

Do not worry that you may be duplicating names, because we would rather receive a name several times than to miss it. If you have names of casualties and are not sure if

they attended Taft, please send them with their approximate age, and we can check against class lists.

We would also be interested in any names you can supply of Taft military casualties from Korea, Desert Storm, the War on Terrorism (Iran, Afghanistan), or other major conflicts.

Please send your information to the Taft Alumni Association, care of Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago IL 60631, Attention: VN Project.

IB Programme Taft (continued from page 1)

I am very excited about what this new IB designation will do for strengthening the bond between Taft High School and the surrounding community. In many ways, this is the news 41st Ward residents have been waiting for.

What is a "wall to wall" model?

In a whole school (wall to wall) model, every student will benefit from the International Baccalaureate model. Every 9th and 10th grade student will participate in the Middle Years Programme (MYP), either in an honors track or regular track. At the end of the 10th grade, students will opt for one of 4 IB related pathways for grades 11 and 12. These "tracks" are designed to accommodate all range of students:

- **IB Diploma Programme-** A comprehensive and challenging pre-university program for academically advanced and highly motivated students
- **IB Core-** This program includes three core requirements (Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge, Creative-Action-Service) that are designed to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding
- **IB Course Certificate-** A program for students who complete the Middle Years Programme, but do not enroll in the IB Diploma. Students can enroll in one or more IB Diploma Courses ranging from English, Spanish, History, Math, Biology, and Visual Arts
- **IB Career Related Certificate (IBCC)-** This track allows the educational principles, vision, and learner profile of the IB into a unique offering that specifically addresses the needs of students who wish to engage in a career-related education

In a recent analysis of the IB Programme in the Chicago Public Schools, the highly regarded Consortium on Chi-

(continued on page 11)

Taft Reacts to News

A program initiated under the leadership of former Taft Principal Art Tarvardian is a reality again with the announcement that Taft is one of several Chicago Public Schools to become a full (wall-to-wall) International Baccalaureate (IB) school.

With a special announcement program in the school auditorium, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and other dignitaries explained the IB Programme. The Taft Eagle Singers under the direction of Taft Music Chair Brian Lavery performed several

songs from their winter concert program during the morning ceremony, making it a positive and somewhat emotional event.

The Taft teachers are cautiously enthusiastic about the change, hoping they will be able to continue teaching there after extensive training with the new curriculum.

There are five other CPS high schools in the full school IB programme. They are Lincoln Park, Senn, Clemente, Hyde Park and Back of the Yards. Some are new to this concept, while others have had partial curriculum compatible with the IB programme.

Back of the Yards H.S. is still under construction, and expected to open July 1st and ready for the fall 2013 school year with a capacity set at 1200 students. The IB programme will be as with Taft, mandatory for the first two years of classes, with students testing in for the IB honors classes and continue with IB collegiate programme or optional vocational-type IB classes in the last two years.

Lincoln Park High School, formerly known as North Division when it opened in 1899, then Waller High School has historically been a strong north side school, and had their IB curriculum since 1981. Senn also has been a strong school with high scholastic standards. This school, established in 1913, started its IB program in 1999.

Hyde Park has a long history, originally established in 1863, it has been in its present location in the Hyde Park district since 1914, was turned into a magnet school in 1973 and later changed to a "career academy" in 1996. Then, in 2001 the name was changed to Hyde Park Career Academy when it offered the IB programme. Roberto Clemente Community Academy replaced aging Tuley High School in the West Town neighborhood in 1974. It opened with goal of high standards for its students. Both Hyde Park and Clemente had IB programmes similar to what Taft had under Principal Art Tarvardian.

Student & Staff Safety is Everyone's Concern

Submitted by Taft PTSA newsletter

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many people impacted by the tragic events at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Student and staff safety is an important concern that is on everyone's mind daily and, tragic events in the media can make us feel more anxious. In light of the Newton tragedy the Chicago Public Schools has focused even more on the safety of our local schools including Taft.

Recently at Taft there was a Code Red - **DRILL** to hopefully prepare everyone *just in case* an emergency occurred at our school.

Unfortunately, recently there have been situations at another school named Taft H.S. located on the West coast reported in the press that have been alarming. Please listen closely to where the school being reported on is located - there are numerous Taft schools in the U.S.A. and many people in Chicago automatically assume that any news report about incidents at a Taft H.S. are happening at the one we hold dear, in Chicago. So, listen closely and make sure a news report is about **Taft H.S. in Chicago** before getting unduly concerned!

Caution -Be Alert- Taft Alumni Imposter Sites

When looking on Facebook or "Google" searching on line, be sure you get what you want. There are sites out there that want your personal info or are offering things that are not from Taft Alumni Association - your own Taft H.S. organization. We only are **www.taftalumni.org**.

Sites such as "High School Network" and "Class Mates", www.alumni.com, www.allhighschools.com/school/taft-high-school/ and www.tafthighschoolalumni.com are imposters. Please use caution!

In the News

How Bill Got His Groove Back

For seven years, **Bill Blomquist** (June 1967) lived with "single-sided hearing", the result of sudden sensorineural hearing loss. A standard hearing aid would not restore his hearing. Bill explains, "...similar to vision, glasses help with bad vision, but won't do any good if you have a faulty retina."

Recently, however, a small device has returned his hearing. The SoundBite Hearing System, according to their web site, "is the world's first non-surgical and removable hearing solution to use the well-established principle of bone conduction to imperceptibly transmit sound via the teeth."

In other words, this hearing aid, which fits in the mouth, in conjunction with a small behind-the ear microphone unit, uses the skull as a sounding board. The result is

that Bill can once again hear his favorite brass music in stereo. As he put it, "I could live perfectly fine without the device...but it's a quality of life thing."

Bill was a member of the Taft band and orchestra under Walter Freedman, and has been active in drum and bugle corps. The *Chicago Tribune* recently featured Bill's remarkable story. You can read about it here:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-x-0102-single-sided-deafness-20130102,0,235668.story>





Class Notes

To all TAA members,

Your Class Notes section here includes both TAA new members and renewals, when received and when space permits. If you don't provide new information, we reprint what we currently have on file for you. If you want your name to include "other" special details, you need to include that information when you send in your dues with the form as shown on the inside of the last page of this newsletter.

1940s

- Frank Zemaitis** (June 1940) lives in Porter, IN with his wife, **Jane (Jewell) Zemaitis** (June 1943), has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired camera technician.
- Herb Mellor** (June 1941) graduated from Northwestern BA 1948, lives in Tacoma, WA and is retired from the Air Force and Civil Service.
- Doris (Venema) Brunkhorst** (January 1941) lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.
- Dorothy (Workman) Brouder** (January 1946) lives in Minocqua, WI, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.
- Loretta (Hoppe) Liveris** (June 1947) lives in Peachtree, City, GA, has 7 children, 15 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and is retired.
- Doris (Johnson) Wolter** (June 1947) lives in Lincoln, NE, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is a homemaker.
- Robert Munsell** (June 1947) graduated from U of I BA 1951, LLB 1954, lives in Clearwater, FL, has 4 children, 11 grandchildren 13 great grandchildren and is a retired attorney.
- Robert Wilson** (June 1947) married **Joan (Hackell)** (June 1947) he graduated from Lawrence BS 1951, Joan graduated from Northeastern BA 1971, they live in Sarasota, FL, have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and both are retired.
- Gloria (Arnold) Klingaman** (January 1948) lives in South Beloit, IL, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.
- Jeanine (Forrest) Gibbons** (June 1949) graduated from Central State 1960, lives in Tulsa, OK, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.
- Lois (Moller) Laing** (June 1949) lives in Amelia Island, FL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and is a retired employment supervisor.
- Jenine (Rex) Schoolcraft** (June 1949) graduated from Northwestern RN 1953, lives in Littleton, CO and is a retired nurse.

1950s

- Harry Johnson** (January 1950) graduated from Northern BS 1954, Northwestern MS 1958, DDS 1960, lives in Pro-

spect Hts, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired dentist. Was a champion speed skater in 1950, now is a medical missionary in Chile and Mexico.

- Robert Lilla** (June 1950) lives in Northbrook, IL and is retired and working at Kemper Lake Golf Course.
- John Pitt** (January 1950) graduated from Loyola BS 1961, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren and is consultant for automotive services.
- Carol (Delinger) Doyle** (June 1951) graduated from IL State 1955, Nat'l College of Education 1982, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.
- Patricia (Tuhy) Socha** (June 1952) lives in Morton Grove, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired, spending 6 months in Minocqua, WI.
- Don Swanson** (June 1952) graduated from Lake Forest MBA 1956, Northwestern CPA 1958, lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and is in accounting and finance.
- Jim Tortorelli** (June 1952) graduated from Chicago State BA 1956, Loyola MA 1962, lives in Barrington, IL, has 6 children, 13 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired teacher.
- Carol (Brokaw) Yeaman** (June 1952) lives in Barrington, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.
- Tim Barcanic** (June 1953) graduated from Roosevelt BSBA 1965, lives in Perrysburg, OH, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired airline pilot, now an instructor.
- Carol (Goetz) Nelson** (June 1953) lives in Chico, CA, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.
- Joanne (Krause) Meissner** (June 1953) lives in Wood Dale, IL has 6 children, 17 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and is retired.
- Darlene (Sweeney) Mc Grath** (January 1954) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 girls, 5 grandchildren and is a retired collection manager.
- Walter Valters** (January 1954) graduated from Loyola BSC 1958, PHD 1983, lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired auditor.
- Carol (Johnson) Heck** (June 1954) lives in Woodstock, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired executive secretary.
- Patricia (Dunn) Hall** (June 1955) lives in Huntley, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired travel agent
- Dick Griesenauer** (June 1956) lives in Itasca, IL, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is a retired maintenance supervisor.
- Sandra (Eis) Plesha** (June 1956), lives in Barrington, IL and is retired.
- Ronald Enck** (January 1957) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired analyst.
- Karen (Taylor) Fogarty** (January 1957) graduated from Wright AA 1959, lives in Chicago, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and volunteer's weekly at St Stanislaus Kostka soup kitchen and a retired director for an after school program.
- Judith (Sullivan) Sorman** (June 1957) lives in Apopka, FL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

Brenda (Billharst) Schmahl (January 1958) graduated from ELCA AA 1985, lives in San Jose, CA, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired administrator.

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

Lawrence Rose (June 1958) lives in Grimes, IA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired general manager.

Camille (Nigro) Caccavari (January 1959) lives in Franklin Park, IL, has 2 children, is retired and works at Target.

Karen (Whitney) Rogala (January 1959) lives in Cary, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

James Fisher (June 1959) graduated from Grinnel College BA 1963, lives in Terre Haute, IN and is a screen writer.

Carol (Vix) Lubineta (June 1959) graduated from De Paul, lives in Chicago and is an attorney.

1960s

Valerie (Duszak) Mesun (June 1960) graduated from Lutheran General Hospital 1964, lives in Lake Tomahawk, WI, has 6 children, 10 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and is a retired RN.

Judith (Greasley) Mich (June 1960) graduated from Northwestern BA 1964, Cornell MA 1966, lives in Ann Arbor, MI and is a retired teacher.

Richard Williams (June 1960) graduated from U of ID BS 1965, Base State MBA 1973, lives in Garden City, ID, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired and a small business consultant.

Richard Wegner (January 1961) graduated from Northwestern BA 1965, lives in Portland, OR, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is a sales manager for wood products.

Joan (Weiglein) Welch (January 1961) graduated from Elmhurst College 1966, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired x-ray technologist.

Christine (Wojtowski) Batalden (June 1961) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 6 children, 17 grandchildren and is a housewife.

Kathleen Appleby-Cooper (January 1962) graduated from Northern BS, Northeastern MA, lives in Lake City, FL, has 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is the owner of Vision Associates.

Leslee (Dombek) Lamp (June 1962) graduated from Evanston Hospital RN 1965, lives in PeWee Valley, KY, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired RN.

Edward Parquette (June 1962) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired repairman for Marriott Corp.

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

Bob Cella (June 1963) graduated from U of I, lives in Geneva, IL, has 5 children, 9 grandchildren and is a sales engineer.

Edmund Feldy (June 1963) graduated from IIT BSME 1968, MME 1970, U of Chicago MBA 1975, lives in Evanston, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired mechanical engineer.

James Petersen (June 1963) lives in Plainfield, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired IT.

Richard Beaver (January 1964) lives in Lady Lake, FL and is retired.

Thomas Fizzell (January 1964) lives in Phoenix, AZ, has 4 children, 20 grandchildren and is retired.

Louise (Knuth) Stewart (January 1964) lives in South Elgin, IL, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and is a retired quality supervisor.

Lesley (Krause) Best (January 1964) married Jerry (January 1964), the live in Elk Grove, IL, have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and she is a retired secretary with the Elk Grove Police.

Karen (Huber) Rudnik (January 1964) graduated from Mayfair Jr College RN 1976, De Paul BSN 1983, National College cert. school nurse 1990, lives in Carol Stream, IL and is a school nurse.

Elizabeth (Wahrbein) Masley (June 1964) graduated from Mundelein BS 1968, lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

Kris (Warzecha) Tyler (June 1964) graduated from Northeastern BA 1968, National College Med 1985, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is a retired teacher.

Judy La Marche (January 1965) graduated from U of WI BA 1968, MS 1970, Utah State PhD 1984, U of AL MBA 1998, lives in Miramar Beach, FL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a psychologist/neuropsychologist.

Terry Long (June 1965) graduated from U of I BS 1972, lives in Waterford, WI, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is a retired engineer.

Linda (Rennert) Dreffin (June 1965) lives in Woodstock, IL and is a retired flight attendant for American Airlines.

Richard Ulasz (June 1965) lives in Mc Henry, IL and is a retired mechanic.

Martin Emrath (January 1966) graduated from U of I BS 1969, MBA 1972; lives in Brentwood, TN, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired senior account manager.

Cheryl (Kosloff) Kopinski (January 1966) lives in Park Ridge, IL and is retired.

William Ott (June 1966) graduated from De Vry BEET 1976, Keller MBA 1988, lives in Naperville, IL and is a retired technical consultant.

Norm Pflomm (June 1967) graduated from Wright AA 1969, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is a national sales manager for Maurice Sporting Goods.

Kathleen (Marquardt) Tellefsen (1968) graduated from Southern BS 1972, lives in Eden Prairie, MN, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a homemaker. Stephen Mack (June 1960) graduated from Northwestern BSBA 1969, MBA 1970, lives in Barrington, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired auditor/CPA.

1970s

Catherine (Moriarty) Duffy (1970) graduated from Northeastern BA 1974, lives in Merrionette Park, IL, has 1 child and is a program administration assistant at Northeastern.

Craig Keitman (1970) lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a skier.

Ourania Malliris (1970) graduated from Radcliffe BA 1974, Harvard Medical MD 1978, lives in Seattle, WA, has 2 children and is a pediatrician.

Frank Berauer (1971) married Eileen (Dunn) (1973), they live in Mt Prospect, IL, have 3 children and is an accountant.

Jill Forbes (1971) lives in Chicago and is an EMT.

James Wisniewski (1971) graduated from Roosevelt BS, BS 1976, and MS 1978, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 2 children and is an executive director, national tax department at Ernst & Young LLP.

Randy Cygan (1973) graduated from U of I BS 1977, Penn State MS 1980, PhD 1983, lives in Albuquerque, NM, has 2 children and is a research geochemist.

Richard Bake (1978) graduated from Northeastern BA 1983, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is chief investigator of the IL Dept of Financial Institutions.

Tina (Foster) Hauri (1978) graduated from Northwestern BS 2005, Loyola MBA 2012, lives in Libertyville, IL, has 3

stepsons, 2 grandchildren and is a risk management executive.

Deborah Altman (1979) lives in Chicago and is a graphic artist.

Dawn (Ruscitti) Simmons (1979) lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 2 children and is a ReMax realtor.

1980s

Ronald Kitowski (1980) married Jacqueline (Zerbe) (1980); they live in Chicago. Ron is a lieutenant with the Chicago Fire Department and Jacqueline is an accounts analyst at Central States H & W.

Jeannine (Bensen) Lafin (1980) married Thomas (1977), he graduated from U of TX, MBA 1996, CPA 2006,; they live in Flower Mound, TX, have 2 children; she is in marketing and Tom is an accountant

Patty (Bookman) Brummond (1981) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 2 children and is a sales manager.

Linda Pempek (1988) lives in Park Ridge, IL and is a billing associate.

Terry Kath Tribute Concert Rocks the House

Recently, my husband, **Fred LaCerra** (1970) and I joined hundreds of Taft alums to enjoy a special tribute concert at Taft High School. We were there to celebrate the music and memory of fellow alum, **Terry Kath**. Quietly, we flipped down the seats and settled ourselves in the school Auditorium. More than forty years ago similar chairs had supported us through numerous school assemblies and an occasional entertaining student talent show, mixed chorus or orchestra concert. It seemed the Auditorium had held up physically just about as well as the rest of us had. After visually scanning the familiar surroundings and seeing several old pals, my thoughts then turned to the encouraging promise of the night's tribute concert.

Terry Kath, a June 1964 graduate of Taft High School, distinguished himself as a founding member of the historic rock band, **Chicago**. From humble garage-band beginnings in the mid 1960's the band produced and sold over 100 million records since 1969. Kath's amazing professional career as a song writer, guitar player and vocalist became internationally recognized. His unexpected death in 1978 at the height of his career left many wondering what else might have been. Those questions dissipated with Taft's house lights as the **Chicago Tribute Anthology** band members took the stage and struck the first familiar notes on their instruments. Suddenly, it was the 1970's and Taft's Auditorium was full of excited teenagers of long ago.

The professional musicians performed a brilliant selection of the bands most famous compositions. The songs: "Does Any-Body Really Know What Time It Is?", "Saturday In the Park" and the soaring finale "25 or 6 to 4", brought the

submitted by **Margie Kosinski-LaCerra** (1970) audience to their feet raucously singing and swaying to Chicago's signature brassy, rock, jazz, blues, pop sound.

Backstage, Terry Kath Tribute concert organizer, **Faro Vitale** (1971) explained the overwhelming enthusiasm



for the concert. He stated, "Terry Kath played in Taft's music department and later became a legend in the music business. As we speak, there is a radio station somewhere in the world playing one of his songs. How could we not honor this talented man and bring his music back to Taft where his first performances occurred?" Out front, thunderous applause from three hundred and fifty cheering concert-goers emphatically agreed with Vitale.

The stage was shared with the Taft High School Chorus, and then the Jazz Band. Taft High School's Music Director, **Brian Lavery** was proud to be asked to conduct his chorus as was **Kevin Harriman** to orchestrate the Taft Jazz Band in a

pair of opening act selections that night. Lavery and Harri- man's enthusiastic young performers sung and played in re- sounding harmony, each group echoing Terry Kath's artistry. Vitale pointed out how tremendous pre-concert interest brought another famed entertainer to see the show. **Jim Ja- cobs** (June 1960), co-producer of the musical "*Grease*" took time out of his busy schedule to take part in this celebration of talent, applauding with the entire audience as the perfor- mance ended.

Importantly, the Terry Kath tribute concert not only was an entertainment event, it also generated funds for Taft High School. Proceeds from the concert will total twenty-five hundred dollars for Taft High School. Principal **Mary Kay Cappitelli** was enthused. Her first year as Taft's principal has been filled with many wonderful new relationships and experi- ences. This concert is a highlight event that will always play fondly in her memory. She was impressed and energized by the opportunity that exists at Taft. An exuberant Vitale said, "Everyone is enthusiastic about Taft organizing another concert next year." And you won't want to miss it because next year's show, (planned for Friday November 15th) will be an- other great celebration with some wonderful additions.

The Terry Kath concert is the school's first *tribute* performance to honor a student or faculty member. Taft's next tribute performance to honor Mr. **James J. Stamm** will be held on Saturday June 1, 2013. Mr. Stamm was Taft's mu- sic instructor, Mixed Chorus and Broadway Show director for nearly thirty years and his acclaimed staging of concert per- formances, Broadway musicals and talent shows influenced two generations of young adults. Information about that up- coming concert is available at: www.JJStammTaftTribute.com. Inspired work of visionaries like Terry Kath, Jim Jacobs and James Stamm began at Taft High School. For them, as well as many others, Taft's classrooms, Auditorium and playing fields are where young minds developed an appreciation for the value of learning, the satisfaction of achievement and the genuine interest in serving others. May many more alums return to Taft to celebrate their beginnings.

Photos provided by Marge Kosinski-LaCerra who has permission to use the group photo from John Springbrunn of the group *Chicago Tribute Anthology*.

Taft IB Programme (continued from page 6)

cago School Research at the University of Chicago suggests the following:

"International Baccalaureate students are entering college with strong academic skills and powerful confidence about their ability to engage and excel in college courses"

"International Baccalaureate students [more prepared to attend] four-year colleges, attend more selective colleges, and persist in college at higher rates than similar students in honors programs and selective enrollment high schools"

This investment in Taft High School will provide stu- dents with a first-rate education and put them on track to

succeed by creating an environment that encourages excel- lence. Parents will have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that their children will have the tools and training to excel in college and beyond.

Taking Taft High School to the next level has been a top priority of mine since being elected alderman. I want to thank the parents, students, teachers and administrators at Taft for working so closely with my office over these last 18 months. As a result of your hard work and dedication, this neighborhood school has experienced a remarkable turna- round in recent years. With today's news marks a new and exciting chapter in your journey to make Taft High School the best our public school system has to offer.

Reunion - June, 1952 Class

Submitted by **Anita Nehring Petersen**

On September 22, 2012, the Taft class of June 1952, had their 60th Reunion. It was held at the Elks Club in Des Plaines, IL.

There were 40 classmates that attended (65 people altogether). The food was excellent and service was great. The committee members brought homemade cookies, for an added personal touch.

The social hour began at 5 p.m. with a cash bar and snacks on the tables. It was fun getting acquainted again, as some of us have changed just a little since our 50th reunion. There was a table with class memorabilia, including a book with of pictures and memories from our high school days, put together by **Joyce Christensen Johnson**, and a beautiful board listing our 70 classmates who have passed away, made by **Carol McGovern Clark**. A photographer took many pic- tures so that we could all remember this reunion, including some group pictures. All those who attended, and those or- dering a directory only, have received a disc of pictures taken. There was piped in music from the 50's, but as an added treat, our classmate, **Lee Burswold**, played some of that same music on the piano, reminding us of the beautiful music he played during our years at Taft.

Before dinner, our emcee, **Norm Eichhorn**, had a few words to say, and lead us in the Taft Loyalty Song. **Carol Brokaw Yeaman** also spoke, and introduced all of the reunion committee members. Joyce Christensen Johnson acknowl- edged all the classmates who came from far distances.

We all want to thank everyone for attending this reunion, and hope you had a good time. I, personally, want to thank Carol Brokaw Yeaman for starting this idea to have a 60th reunion, and all the committee members for their hard work these past several months. Even though this was a vol- unteer job, the success of this reunion was our reward.

Committee: **Lorry Olson Barlow, Carol Mc Govern Clark, Joyce Christensen Johnson, Joan Weir Lease, Louise Van De Merkt Lowry, Anita Nehring Petersen, Pat Tuhy Socha and Carol Brokaw Yeaman.**

In Our Memories

"In Our Memories" page on our web site now includes veterans with their branch of service and which conflict, if any, they were involved when that information becomes available. Feel free to contact us with any updates or corrections.

Thank you to the class of 1952 for sending us their extensive list of deceased classmates that were found during the planning stage of their recent reunion. We have included here the names of those who were not previously acknowledged in past issues. We always appreciate your help to keep our files up to date.

Marilyn (Wenzel) Blim, class of June 1944 passed away on September 30, 2012.

Hazel (Idle) Lowell, class of January 1946, passed away on January 2, 2013. She was the wife of **Taft Lowell** (January 1945).

Edwin Kalm, class of January 1947 passed away in September, 2012.

Dolores (Anderson) Morning, class of January 1947, died September 6, 2012. She was the sister of John (June 1951), Louis (June 1954) and Janet (Anderson) Mills (January 1953).

Beatrice (Hanson) Jakubowski, class of January 1949 died October 2, 2012 in Olympia, Washington.

Robert Hoeckelberg, class of June 1950 passed away on October 13, 2012. His wife is Dolores (Fell), June 1949.

Jeanette (Nelson) Clough, class of June 1950 died February 3, 2012. She is the wife of Ron Clough, January 1950.

Donald A. Altergott, class of June 1952, died January 16, 1991.

Robert A. Arnold, class of June 1952, died in 2007.

Joanne Mary (Berg) Hammershoy, class of June 1952 died December 21, 2004. She lived in San Diego, CA.

Marjorie Ruth (Boughen) Dvorak Rinda, class of June 1952 died June 19, 2000. She lived in Walworth, WI.

Joan Marilyn (Bowden) Farmer, class of June 1952, died in July 7, 2008. She lived in St. Petersburg, FL.

Arthur B. Chosnyk, class of June 1952, passed away May 1, 2011.

Elizabeth Ann (Clausen) Cull, class of June 1952, died December 31, 2005.

Geraldine V. (Costanzo) Montonovich, class of June 1952, died, date unknown.

Joan Elizabeth (DeWitt) Swanson, class of June 1952, passed away May 29, 2004.

Joan Helen (Drogos) Ohlrich, class of June 1952, died August 21, 1996 in Wonder Lake, IL. She was the wife of the late Harold A. Ohlrich, class of January 1947.

Ronald Jerome Fredericks, class of June 1952 died March 4, 2001. He was a Korean Vet.

Mary C. (Garland) Marshall, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Roger Calmer Gasmann, class of June 1952 died November 30, 2008.

Stanley J. Glowacki, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Donna R. (Granzin) Wrisley, class of June 1952 died sometime before 1962.

Lillian Ruth (Grundgeiger) Shumon, class of June 1952 died November 27, 2010.

Arthur P. Hahn, class of June 1952 died in 1997.

Robert Banister Horsley, class of June 1952 died July 30, 2009.

Berton Wayne Jensen, class of June 1952 died March 31, 1985.

Jon Blaine Johnson, class of June 1952 died October 30, 2005.

Kathleen R. Johnson, class of June 1952 passed away March 7, 1954

Phyllis Lou (Klecan) Burke, class of June 1952 died in 1959.

Charles Lawrence Kleeman, class of June 1952 died December 23, 2007.

James John Krejci, class of June 1952 died February 26, 2002.

Cornelia E. (Lenard) Bein, class of June 1952 died May 16, 2009.

Merritt Lee Lewis, class of June 1952 died November 14, 2010. He is the husband of Joyce (Ruttkey) (June 1956) and brother of Velna (Lewis) Kolodziej (June 1950).

John Donald Mansch, class of June 1952 passed away September 10, 2002.

Gail F. (Martin) Hess, class of June 1952 died June 19, 1996.

Marylou E. (Martin) McClelland, class of June 1952 passed away July 29, 2008.

Lawrence James Mason, class of June 1952 died May 3, 2001.

John Thomas Matson, class of June 1952 died January 20, 2004.

Robert E. Merki, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Doris Evelyn (Meyers) Witte, class of June 1952 died October 23, 1911. She was the sister of Gerald (June 1951) and Lois (Meyers) Harvey (January 1947).

Carl Erland "Sonny" Oberg, class of June 1952 died October 26, 1998 and was a Korean Vet.

Carol Ann (Olsen) Paul, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Shirley (Paddi) Schneider, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Frank Robert Pilarski, class of June 1952 died May 23, 1995.

Stuart Robert Pottinger, class of June 1952 died June 23, 2007.

Carlene M. (Raymond) Howell, class of June 1952 passed away February 9, 2012.

John H. Reimers, class of June 1952 passed away April 25, 1992

Henry Harley Russell, class of June 1952 died March 2, 2010.

Ronald Paul Schilf, class of June 1952 died November 29, 2002.

Sallie J. (Scotten) Sears, class of June 1952 passed away September 13, 1975.

Robert Truman Shirley, class of June 1952 died February 21, 2002. He lived in Arlington Heights IL.

Jean Ann (Sparrer) Poque, class of June 1952 died December 22, 2009. She lived in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Betty Rose (Steinbrink) Mazzullo, class of June 1952 died in Surprise, AZ February 4, 2006.

Barbara J. (Svendson) DeRochers, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

John W. Swanson, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Betty J. Ullrich, class of June 1952 passed away August 24, 2011. She is the sister of Helen (Ullrich) Blum (June 1945) and Joyce (Ullrich) Hayden (June 1954).

Valerie A. (Vehrs) Olquist, class of June 1952 died, date unknown.

Ernest S. Wennerstrom, class of June 1952 passed away April 7, 1992.

Dolores Ann (Willems) Kozak, class of June 1952 passed away December 16, 2002.

Frances Elizabeth (Wills) Kraft, class of June 1952 died August 15, 1997.

Richard Walter Worones, Sr., class of June 1952 died August 20, 2006. He lived in Goodyear, AZ.

Mary Jane (Wurster) Jones, class of June 1952 passed away April 30, 1992.

Robert (Bob) Christensen, class of June 1953, passed away on September 18, 2012 of cancer. Bob owned Edison Press Inc. in Des Plaines, IL. He was the brother of Joyce (Christensen) Johnson, class of June 1952.

John Fratzke, class of January 1953 passed away on November 8, 2012. His wife is June (Norton) (June 1953).

Robert L. Fizzell, class of June 1957, died June 12, 2012. His brother Jim (June 1953) recalls when he played football with Joe Kupciet in the city championship game against Vocational H.S. in '57.

Louis Anderson, class of June 1954, passed away May 16, 2012. He was the brother of John Anderson (June 1951), Dolores (Anderson) Morning (January 1947) and Janet (Anderson) Mills (January 1953).

Sonia (Lubinetz) Swanson, class of June 1954 died in October, 2009.

Susan DeLance, class of 1968 passed away on September 20, 2012.

Curt Wittendorfer, class of June, 1969, died suddenly on December 21, 2012 at his home in Renton, WA and was a retired United Airlines employee. His sister is Marie Wittendorfer Goodkin (June 1965).

Susan (Murphy) Milano, class of 1976(?) died of cancer in South Carolina October 28, 2012. [See: Letters to the Editor" section in this issue.]

JJ Stamm Tribute Concert Plans Proceeding

Hundreds of alumni have been checking out the website set-up for the JJ Stamm tribute concert; www.jjstammtafttribute.com.

The concert will be Saturday, June 1, 2013 beginning at 6:00PM. The dual purpose of this Tribute Concert is to honor a retired Taft High School teacher who influenced thousands of students during his near 30 year career at Taft and raise needed funds for the High School that provided the forum for him to do so. Taft's new principal, Mrs. Mary Kay

Cappitelli is highly committed to honoring Taft's legacy of excellence on Chicago's northwest side and she heartily welcomes alumni to participate in this celebration of a wonderful era in Taft's history.

There will be two tiers of tickets; General admission seats and Premium admission seats. General admission seats will be \$15 while Premium admission seats will be \$40. All PREMIUM ADMISSION TICKET HOLDERS are invited to attend the post-concert reception at the Norwood Park Historical Society, which is just one block west of Taft High School on Newark Avenue, a short 5 minute walk. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres along with wine, beer and soft drinks will be served. Attendees at this reception will include Taft High School Principal, Mary Kay Cappitelli, members of the Local School Council, several Taft teachers and of course, Mr. J.J. Stamm. One hundred PREMIUM tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets are on sale via the JJ Stamm Taft Tribute website; www.JJStammTaftTribute.com. You will be able to simply click on the PayPal tab there to purchase tickets. Importantly, all ticket proceeds will be used to improve and enhance the Auditorium of the High School.

There will be a commemorative Playbill produced for all concert attendees. Advertisements in the Playbill will be available for a small fee, (details are on the website) and folks who wish to may place a "well wish" to JJ Stamm, promote their business enterprise, say hello to an old friend, or any message the purchaser wishes to convey.

The evening's program will feature Taft Music Department Chairman, Mr. Brian Lavery, conducting his Mixed Chorus. Some of the most memorable songs from famous Broadway musicals like *West Side Story*, *Carousel*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Guys and Dolls*, *South Pacific*, *The Fantasticks*, *Grease* and many more will be performed.

This next feature may sound improbable but is truly exciting. The Tribute Committee is working on the logistics of inviting a large cadre of Mr. Stamm's former Mixed Chorus students onto the Taft Auditorium stage that night. The group will sing a special one-song selection. This final tribute performance will be led by venerable guest conductor and guest of honor, Maestro James J. Stamm. More details about this stirring possibility are forthcoming in the months ahead. Please register on the website to stay apprised of these arrangements.

Many alumni and current Taft students are involved in creating this wonderful memory-in-the-making and everyone is graciously donating their time, energy and enthusiasm to make this event a huge success. If you would like to help please send Richard Winge an email at richardwinge@earthlink.net whenever you wish. Thank you for your interest in Taft High School, the JJ Stamm Tribute Concert and our event planning committee.

Please note: The Tribute Concert committee is an independent group of Taft alums and not directly affiliated with the Taft Alumni Association.

TAA Merchandise Order Form

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Medium Only	\$25.00	\$
	Baseball Cap—blue embroidered “Taft Alumni” with full-color eagle	One Size Fits All	\$15.00	\$
	Car Sticker—clear printed in blue/gray “You Can’t Hide That Eagle Pride”	----	\$ 3.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Medium	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	X-Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - Taft Alumni Logo	Medium	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - Taft Alumni Logo	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - Taft Alumni Logo	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - Taft Alumni Logo	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - 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>				

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), 1982 (2), 1985 (24), 1986 (47), 1987 (77), 1990 (52), 1991 (9), 1992 (131), 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 last year’s 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.

Membership rates are expected to increase at the end of this year. 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 Graduated From	
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 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			Winter 2013

Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Anne Lunde	1969	1 st Vice President, Historian
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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:

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 (note WINTER address)
2600 SE Ocean Blvd, Unit O-12
Stuart, FL 34996
or email jerrybloom@fales.org

**Submission Deadline for the Summer Issue:
March 31, 2013**

eNewsletter or TAA Email Directory Signup: eagleemail@taftalumni.org

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.
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