



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXX, No. 3

Summer 2014



SAVE THE DATE
Taft High School 75th Anniversary Celebration
Dinner & Dance - Saturday, September 27th, 2014

230 Tickets Sold for the 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration

Taft High School's 75th anniversary event promises to be a grand celebration as the school expects over 250 guests to purchase tickets to attend this historic event in Taft High School's 75-year history. The event will be at the Ridgemoor Country Club in nearby Harwood Heights and all Taft alumni are invited to be there. Guests include alumni from the 1940's to the 1990's, retired principals and teachers from the 60's, 70's and 80's, parents of current Taft students, Local School Council members, neighborhood business owners, local political leaders, and many current Taft teachers and administrators including Taft's new Principal, Mr. Mark Grishaber.

"Early-Bird" Individual tickets are still priced at \$58 and Tables of 8 are priced at \$400 (\$50 per person). These prices will remain in effect until Monday, September 1st, which is Labor Day, when tickets will be priced at \$68 and \$480 for tables of 8 (\$60 per person). The event features wonderful cuisine and refreshments, music and entertainment plus great fellowship with old friends and some new ones, too.

Complete information about the event and how to purchase tickets is available on the Taft High School Foundation website -- www.TaftHSFoundation.org

Welcome
Taft High School Graduates
from the Class of 2014

Three Seniors Awarded Taft Alumni Association Scholarships

The Taft Alumni Association presented three \$1,000 scholarships at the Taft High School graduation ceremonies, held this year on Tuesday, June 10, at the University of Illinois-Chicago Forum.

As Taft's graduation classes have grown larger, Taft chose to move several years ago from Wright College to Circle campus where there are large gymnasiums which can still allow each graduate to have enough tickets for family.

This year's class occupied three-quarters of the gymnasium floor, and projection screens were used to allow everyone to see the action on stage. *[continued on Page 3]*



Carolyn Rownd

Welcome, Mark Grishaber – New Taft HS Principal



I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all the members of the William Howard Taft High School community: students, potential students, teachers, staff, alumni, and community members. As you can see, I intentionally put students first. This is because I have and always will put our students first when it comes to making decisions affecting our school. As the 12th principal of this illustrious educational institution, I am honored to be following in the footsteps of founding Principal Mr. **Leo Hoefler**; Principal **John Graven**, whose leadership molded the lives of many of our Alumni Hall of Fame members; and Principal **Art Tarvardian**, who ushered us into the 21st century.

I come from a family who loves Chicago. My grandfather drove a cab for the Highland Southside Cab Company for 30 years, my father was a Chicago police officer for 33 years, and my wonderful mother has probably been in most of the homes on the northwest side of Chicago, having sold real estate most of her life. *[continued on Page 7]*

Class of June 1954 - 60th Reunion

Date: October 1, 2014

Place: Café le Cave – Des Plaines

Contact: - **Toni (Geisert) Lien** –
tlien002@san.rr.com or 858- 451-1445

Class of January 1959 – 55th Reunion

Dates: September 12-14, 2014, Dinner on the 13th

Place: Hilton Garden Inn O'Hare - Des Plaines, IL

Contact: **Norm Gunther** at NHGunther@aol.com
or 847-650-6676

Class of June 1959 – 55th Reunion (Other Classes Welcome!)

Dates: October 3 – 5, 2014 (Reception, Dinner, Sunday
Brunch, Possible Tour of TAFT & Grammar Schools)

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

Contacts: **Larry Marsh**, fairseas2u@gmail.com,
540-869-2644 or
Anne Fear-McManus, annemcmanus@me.com
630-584-9194

Website: taftreunion1959.com

Class of January/June 1963 – Picnic Reunion

Date: September 28, 2014 (Sunday)

Place: Arndt Park, Des Plaines, starting 11am-til?

Contact: **Cheryl Krupa**, cherylkrupa@yahoo.com
or 847-298 5484

Class of January/June 1964 - 50th Reunion

Date: October 4, 2014

Place: Chicago O'Hare Marriott

Contact: **Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper** 480-759-0930
Anita.steinkemper@gmail.com

Class of January 1965 - 50th Reunion

Date: September 26-28, 2014

Place: TBD

Contact: taft65@yahoo.com

Class of 1969

Date: October 18, 2014 (RSVP by Sept 8)

Place: Edison Park Inn – 7pm – til?

Contact: **Val Stewart Sosnowski** – tafths1969@gmail.com
or 224-420-1464

Class of 1974 - 40th Reunion

Date: Saturday, August 9, 2014

Place: Moretti's (previously The Snuggery) in Edison Park -
6733 N. Olmstead - Chicago - 7-11pm

(Tickets are \$25 if paid online or \$35 at the door)

Pizza buffet, DJ and cash bar

Contact: **Jan (Ostromencki) Savage** - 858-353-3559
janhelloworld@hotmail.com - or

Barbara Moriarty - 847-492-8212 bmoriarty8@aol.com - or

Donna (Schaller) Evans - evans56@sbcglobal.net - or

Marcia Kuhr - mckuhr@yahoo.com - or

Sharon (Kasluga) Biernat – 847-410-3829 –
sharonb@creativepromo.net



Class of 1995

Date: August 7-8, 2014

Place: Evening Boat Cruise, School Tour, BBQ picnic.

Contact: **Jermaine "J. Wesley" Day** –

jermaineday@yahoo.com or

Ala (Rychlik) Sen - bialarozajuno.com or

Mark Humbert - mhumber76@yahoo.com

Facebook: "Taft Class of 1995"

12th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic FLORIDA-WEST

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2015

Place: TBD – Looking for location suggestions. Need ASAP!

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

Photo shoot: 2:30 pm

Contact: **Leon Kathan**- 863-835-2211 leonkathan@yahoo.com
or **Jerry Stephenson** - 920-559-7440 jbbloom@charter.net

2nd Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic FLORIDA-EAST

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015 - Noon - 4pm

Place: [REDACTED]

(For those unable to attend the Florida west coast affair)

Pot Luck: a food item to share (BYOB)

Contact: [REDACTED]

Jerry (Beesley) Stephenson - jbbloom@charter.net

5th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic ARIZONA

Date: Spring 2015, 11am - 3pm

Place: Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale, AZ

Pot Luck: Beer permit (non-glass containers)

Donation: \$3 per person, bring lawn chairs

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

Paul Frizane, aztaftalumni@yahoo.com, or

Paulette English, eagleemail@taftalumni.org

1st Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic CALIFORNIA

Date: July 12, 2014, 11am – til?

Place: Buena Vista Park & Pond, 1601 Shadow Ridge Dr,
Vista CA (Suburb of San Diego)

Pot Luck: a food item to share + BYOB (non-glass containers)

Donation: \$3 per person, bring lawn chairs

Contact: **Paul Laudicina** (June 1961) longbeach1942@
gmail.com or **Mike Day** (June 1960) -
michael91942@yahoo.com

TAA Scholarships [Continued from Page 1]

Acting Principal **Carolyn Rownd** led the presenters. **Anne Lunde**, TAA vice president, congratulated the following winners of our scholarships:



Julianna Shewchuk

Julianna Shewchuk, ranking 22nd in a class of 669, started at Taft in seventh grade in the Academic Center, where her older brother had preceded her. By eighth grade she had started volunteering, learning to manage the Taft football team, which she continued to do for the next five years, taking over as head manager by sophomore year. She won high praise from Football Coach Matt

Walsh. She also played on the girls softball team, helped to manage the wrestling team and volunteered with the basketball team.

Julianna also maintained excellent grades in the International Baccalaureate program and advanced placement (AP) course work. She plans to become an academic trainer for a college or professional team.



Shannon Staunton

Shannon Staunton, ranking 149th, has been very active in extracurricular and sports activities. She was president of Student Government, helping to organize many fundraisers such as Breast Cancer Week activities; vice president of Irish Club in sophomore year; vice president of the Letterman Club, which supports every Taft team; a member of the Senior

Committee, National Honor Society, and After School Matters, where she became certified in CPR and life guarding. In the FOCUSS program, she was invited to present a money-saving plan at the Museum of Science and Industry, She was entertainment and copy editor for the Taft Today, helping to broadcast news and post it to the Taft website.

Shannon also was active in sports, where she was captain of the water polo team (this was the first time Taft made the playoffs, she says), captain of the girls swim team (and on the relay team placing fifth place on the 200 meter this year), and manager of the boys swim team.

Shannon plans to major in communications at Marquette University/and would like to become a spokesman for companies.



Kyra Vidas

Kyra Vidas received the John P. Graven scholarship, which is donated each year by Anastasia Graven, in memory of her husband, Taft's fourth principal. The Vidas family has a strong Taft tradition. Kyra followed two older brothers at Taft, and their father, Kurt, has been on Taft's

physical education faculty for 17 years.

Vidas, ranking 25th in the class, plans to double major in communications and business. She has been in National Honor Society, an editor for the Aerie yearbook, a member of the Senior Committee, Student Government, the Letterman Committee and the Principal Student Advisory Club.

She played varsity softball, basketball and golf, and hopes to continue basketball and golf at college. One of her dreams, being of Greek-American heritage, is to play overseas on the Greek national team, before going into broadcasting full time.

Taft 1969 reunion

"We're Rockin' Again – 45 years in '14, Countdown to 2019." The Taft Class of 1969 will meet for a 45th year reunion at 7 p.m. on Oct. 18, 2014 at the Edison Park Inn, 6715 N. Olmsted Ave., Chicago (by the Edison Park Metra station). Appetizers, pizza, coffee and soda are included in the \$25 admission. Cash bar. RSVP appreciated by Sept. 8 to tafths1969@gmail.com, or call 224-420-1464, or write to **Val Stewart Sosnowski** at 1813 Longmeadow Dr., Lindenhurst IL 60046.

Letters to the Editor

To TAA,

My name is **Ted Dobrowolski** (January 1946), but you won't find my picture in the year book because on June 10, 1945 I was on my way to Great Lakes Naval Training Base.



So I enclose my picture taken in June 1945.

[Also] enclosed is a check for \$116 for two tickets to the 75th Taft Anniversary, on Sept. 27, 2014.

I'd like to inform all Taft WWII Vets about a free one day trip to Washington D.C. to see the Veterans Memorials, sponsored by Honor Flight Chicago. I took the trip a year ago, a day I'll never forget. Contact them for an application at 773-227-VETS (8387) or at www.honorflightchicago.org to learn more.

Ted Dobrowolski (January 1946)

Dear Mr. Heyer,

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the **John P. Graven Scholarship Award** to be granted to a deserving student who is currently attending Taft High School and who will graduate this June.

I thank you for keeping me informed of the progress of the Taft Alumni Scholarships. John worked diligently with the faculty and staff during the eight years that he was Principal of Taft to provide an outstanding education for the students. The community was an integral part of Taft's success.

Sincerely Yours,

Anastasia Graven
(Mrs. John Graven)

Hello to all the staff,

Enclosed is my check for \$15.00 renewing membership for the TAA newsletter.

As always I can't thank you enough for doing this job. You are much appreciated. My husband also enjoys reading the newsletter, he is a Chicagoan but did not attend Taft; his school is no longer in existence. I especially enjoy the "Hall of Fame" issues and hopefully one day there will be an issue with all those inducted (lots of work, I'm sure)

Thanks Again, **Joan (Denney) Sandecki** (January 1956)



Jerry (Beesley) Stephenson (June 1962) recently re-visited **Warren** (January 1961) and **Jill (Wagner)** (June 1963) **Schimpff** at their Jeffersonville, IN vintage candy store and factory – Schimpff's Confectioneries this past April. So WHY should anyone want to retire with when they have kind of business to run?

To TAA:

Keep up the good work. Look forward to receiving each copy.

Wally Wilson (June 1948)

Hello, Paulette,

This is Bud Trick's daughter. He wanted me to scan and send you this photo of his brother and himself... He's so happy to share it.

Lindsay

[Photo is **Chuck (Bud) Trick** (June 1941) on the right and his brother Burt in their new uniforms. Bud said, "We were original members of the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps. I, as a drummer was one of the first four drummers that started the Corp. I think the picture was taken about the time we marched at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. I'd love to hear from anyone who might recognizes us in the picture - budvontrick@netzero.net".



To [Leo Drummer],

So glad that I know that a lot of you are still around. I remember my days at Taft with good memories: ROTC unit, those in Miss Devenish's homeroom; going to football games with my nutty few friends and their screwy instruments to make more noise; Mr. Johnson's chem class and the physics labs; walking to school thru the RR underpass; seeing Steigerwaldt's construction company fence and the small store just off campus. Great memories. Sorry I have made so few, actually only one reunion, but my work kept me away from many. Seeing your names on the "TO" part of this email brings back familiar faces, whether you remember me or not. Thanks, Leo (January 1957). I hope to see you at the 75th anniversary celebration this year. I sure plan on attending whatever events I can.

Claude Smith (January 1957)

A BIG Thank you

to the class of 1969 who donated \$100.00 for the Taft Alumni Association (TAA) Scholarship Fund in memory of classmate **Andrew Madsen**, Taft Alumni Association board member who passed away on March 20, 2014.

Paulette,

Another great issue to read --- on my iPad! Thanks to all of you for your fine work. It's enjoyable for us to peruse the events, names and pictures of our Taft classmates from last century. :)

Ron Napier (June 1958) La Quinta, CA

[Thank you, Ron. We appreciate your feedback and we hope that you'll be attending the First Annual California Reunion Picnic near San Diego in July.]

Paulette,

It's possible your dad **Frank Zemaitis**, (June '40) and my mom **LaVerne (Gutzman) Anderson**, (June '41) knew each other [at Schurz before Taft opened]. They lived just a few blocks from the school. Of course now it's on the south side of the Kennedy. Wish she was here so I could ask her.

Thank you... for such a wonderful newsletter. We are three generations that came through Taft. Aside from my mom and aunt and uncles, I graduated in 1968 and our son in 1997. It was a proud moment at our son's graduation when they asked all the former grads to stand. And there was me and my mom, plus a few others, but I think we were the only ones with multiple grads in the same family. Great memories.

And I still have her 1941 yearbook that I'd like to donate. It's very delicate, but I love looking at the photos. Reminds me of watching all the old movies that I love. The ones from that era. Someday I'll get that book to you.

Karen (Anderson) Manzella (June 1968)

[Karen, thank you for the offer of the yearbook. I know that TAA would love to have it in its archive. My folks still have theirs, a little piece of history. Paulette, TAA Web Editor]

Jerry,

I paid my dues for the newsletter and have not received anything...I tried to get into the newsletter and needed a Username and Password...don't have those either.. Could you get me up to date on this? Thanks...

Barb Behrens (January 1953)

[Barb, we're sorry this isn't working for you as expected. The school office has been difficult to access lately due to all the construction and remodeling going on. The Taft Alumni Office is inaccessible at the moment. So, some checks were processed a bit delayed. We learned your check was deposited May 10th. We've given you the password to access the newsletter now. Jerry Stephenson, TAA Newsletter Editor]

Hello Taft High School Alumni!

I would like to give you a brief update on the exciting things happening at Taft. Our Local School Council recently offered Mr. Mark Grishaber a 4-year (renewable) principal contract. He is replacing our former principal, Mrs. Mary Kay Cappitelli, who retired in April. Mr. Grishaber was formerly the Assistant Principal at Whitney Young High School. We are all very excited as we begin a new chapter at Taft and wholeheartedly support Mr. Grishaber's efforts to continue to improve Taft in many ways.

If you still live in the area you may have noticed all of the construction equipment in and around the school. This is all part of a \$17 Million Capital Improvement Project and is long overdue. Some of the work includes tuck pointing, power washing, complete window replacement, new lockers and a lot of fresh paint on the walls and ceiling. Please visit the website at www.tafths.org to see some work in progress pictures. I learned that as all of the old lockers were being removed, there were many interesting items found. There may even have been some secret notes that you wrote to someone special that they never received!

Finally, you have heard that Taft High School is 75 years old this year (1939-2014). A first ever large- scale fundraising dinner dance is planned for Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ridgemoor Country Club (near the school). Please visit the Taft High School Foundation website at www.TaftHSFoundation.org for more information and to purchase tickets or make a donation.

Thank you for your support of Taft High School. Go Eagles!

Lisa Schwieger, Chairwoman
Taft High School Local School Council

Dear Jerry,

I'm writing this letter, to express my disappointment with the people running the 75 year anniversary for Taft High School.

In the [Taft Alumni Association] Spring Newsletter, no names or phone numbers are listed for contact [in the Taft High School Foundation promotion article]. Just a Web Site.

I do not own a computer. Nor do I know how to use a computer. This makes it impossible for me to - make contact - make a reservation - pay my \$58.00.

I hope this letter will reach the right people, so some changes can be made [to the way reservations are taken].

Craig Sabey (June 1962)

[Craig, thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention. I'm sure the Taft High School Foundation wants to have you be part of their event. I'm also sure there are many others, especially in the earlier year classes who have the same difficulty as you've experienced. I understand the 75th anniversary reservations mailed to the school have been difficult to access, due to the recent construction going on, and also that the Taft Foundation does not have an office at the school. So, their mailing is being directed to the Taft Alumni Association mailbox and then forwarded to the appropriate person handling the reservations by our TAA board by our TAA board member, Frank Heyer. I believe you have now been contacted by John Prochaska, TAA board member and our liaison to the Local School Council, who is working with the Taft High School Foundation on this event. He advised you to write a check for \$58.00, payable to the Taft High School Foundation, with the words "75th Anniv. Celebration "on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

*Taft High School Foundation
% Principal Mark Grishaber
6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631*

Jerry Stephenson, TAA Newsletter Editor]

To the Class of '62 Reunion Committee:

You all did a wonderful job in planning a most delightful time at the Taft Reunion. Everyone was smiling all evening and having just a great time. I surely appreciate all your hard work and efforts in making this event such a success. It was so nice to see everyone and catch up on things. Some of my fondest memories have been of my years spent at Taft and knowing all of you.

So until we see each other again, stay healthy and happy!

Barb (Neubert) Schulz (June 1962)

Letters to the Editor – (continued on Page 7)

Taft Memories of Bill McIlvaine

Submitted by his daughter Mary McInvaine

I always enjoy the Taft Tribune [meaning the current Taft Alumni Newsletter].

One of the best lessons I took from Taft was learning to play the baritone horn under the direction of "Pop" Rapier.

I was a member of the Wright Junior College Band for a couple of years. When I moved to Racine, Wisconsin in 1958 I joined the Johnson Wax Band. Then I joined the Zion, Illinois Christian Community Band and still play in it on Thursday evenings. I played with a German band for two years while in Germany on a civilian work assignment. For the last 25 years I have been a member of the Belle City Brassworks. This is a forty-member ensemble which performs several concerts annually. For several years I have been recognized as the oldest horn player in Chicago's Tuba Christmas at the Palmer House Hilton. [I am from the Taft class of June 1948.]

The music skills I learned at Taft have brought me (and, I hope, others) a lifetime of enjoyment.



Taft High School Alumni Football Game Saturday - October 4th

Taft Alumni Association and Taft High School Foundation will be honoring all Taft Alumni at the Saturday, October 4th game between Taft and our old "red division" rival, Schurz High. The game will be played at Lane Tech Stadium located on Addison Street between California and Western avenues and kick-off is at 12:45pm. Tickets are only \$5.00 at the stadium gate and donations in any amount above the ticket price will be graciously accepted. There will be a special alumni section in the stands between the 45-yard lines and half-time will feature a ceremony recognizing all alumni men and women athletes of Taft High School.

So if you were a cheerleader, a football player, a swimmer, a GAA participant, a bowler, a volleyball player or a fan in the stands, please join us for a wonderful afternoon celebrating our alma mater. There will be a post-game party at a nearby restaurant for alumni to share some memories and enjoy a beverage and a bite. Complete post-game party details will be available at the game. All alumni are enthusiastically invited to attend both events that day.

Memorial Day Remembrances

Submitted by **Beth (Samuels) Charvat** (June, 1967)

Yesterday was May 17, 2014. Why is that date special? - well, later, I'll fill you in on why...

Mother's Day was last Sunday and my brother, Jim, Taft 1968 to 1971, came Chicago-way for a "surprise visit" to my Mom. She is 91 - sorry Mom! Women do not tell their age! Mom is Grace Petersen, now Van Arsdell. She, like myself, graduated from Taft High School. That was way back when, being a member of the second graduating class at Taft HS. Last Monday we all decided to revisit, via a "road trip", the many places of our past. Those places included our Edison Park home, Edison Park Lutheran Church, downtown Edison Park, Ebinger School on Pratt Avenue (Mom went there too!), Norwood Park pool, Taft High School, driving Northwest Highway and seeing all the changes that have occurred along the way. Gone is the library on the corner in Norwood Park, Borg florist where, no doubt, many of us had flowers from for proms and special events. There used to be an Andes Candies, a music store, a stationary store on the "highway". Garretts "dime store", bakeries (one was Brengles) where fresh baked bread costed less than 25 cents, and those extra pennies gave one enough for a delicious cookie or two. Or just maybe, the lady behind the counter would just "slip us" a free cookie or two and those pennies would go home with us. Well, many things were "once upon a time" and many changes have occurred over the many years since I graduated in June, 1967. I remember the BIG snow storm of 1967. How could I forget - roads shut down, going to a NW Highway grocery store with Mom, a sled in tow. Yep, a long time ago. Along our "memory lane" journey we even stopped for delicious hot dogs at SuperDawg on the corner of Devon and Milwaukee Avenues. My bother asked

about going there even before he came back to visit. And Whalen pool - still there, but the the toboggan slides are gone. What do you remember?

There was a fellow student of mine at Taft named **Spencer Goethe** (June 1967). I never spoke a word to him nor he to me. We traveled in a different group of friends. He was a football player, I believe. Very nice looking! Perhaps even very popular. I was more or less quiet, studied hard as it never came easy to me. Worked at the "old folks home" in Norwood Park as a nurses' aide. I was paid \$1.00 an hour! (Imagine!) It's still there today, with a different name, and Monday I saw how much it has expanded. Still looks to be the very nice home as it was long ago. When driving around last Monday, I could not help but to think about many things. And, likewise, I thought of Spencer as I often have over the years. (My memories were again "with me" yesterday as my next door neighbor readied for his Senior Prom - held at Navy Pier last night. He was handsome in his tux! My Senior Prom was held Friday, June 2, 1967, Sherman House, a Chicago hotel, demolished in 1973 - I just remember.) There was an article about Spencer in the *Chicago Daily News* newspaper in May, 1970. I have the article. It's in my year book from 1967. The article told of the death of Spencer, April, 1970, a CPL Army soldier in Viet Nam. There was a photo with the article that showed his Dad and beloved cat Snowflake. Snowflake was a gift to Spencer on his 7th birthday. I reread the article again just now. It still moves me like it did many years ago. And, I today have a beloved cat. I love cats.....

A number of years ago I had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC. I spent time with a Taft classmate. He took me to the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Together we looked up "Spencer Goethe" and also "**Martin Huska**" (June 1967), another classmate, in the BIG telephone-like directory at the wall. This book told us where Spencer and Marty's name would be located on the wall display. We did find the names on the wall.

YESTERDAY, May 17th, I did a google search on "Spencer Goethe". Just was thinking of him again. Information about Spencer was right there - easy to find and there was even an etching of his name as displayed on the Memorial Wall. The information told his date of casualty and also his birthday. Back to May 17th - HIS BIRTHDAY WAS YESTERDAY, MAY 17TH ! Of 365 days in each year, yesterday was Spencer Goethe's birthday! It did hit me hard - why in the world would I have looked up Spencer yesterday, his birthday?

So, I need to say - "Thank you Spencer! You are someone I have never forgotten!" I thank you today and everyday for the greatest gift you have given me and all American's - your life. Given for our freedom. Let me and each one of us, as Memorial Day comes in about a week, remember Spencer Goethe, Martin Huska and every American soldier who gave a most precious gift for us and our country, THEIR LIFE ! Rest in peace dear ones! You are missed ! Again, THANK YOU !



Principal Mr. Grishaber [continued from Page 1]

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank all of my wonderful teachers from St. Tarcissus Elementary School and St. Patrick's High School for serving as excellent role models and guides for me and for their other students. Every great teacher I have met over the years has always had one thing in common: they all had at least one teacher whom they loved and who thus influenced them to enter the noblest of professions. I have had too many to mention here, but I would just like to say thank you to every teacher who taught me even on those days when I did not want to learn.

The first room I visited when I became principal was the alumni office, and I have been devouring the history of this glorious institution. The changes to our buildings and our campus are especially fascinating to me. I have found that our early yearbooks talk about alumni landing on the beaches of Normandy and the jubilation of the war's end in the late 1940s. Yet the 1950s yearbooks are my favorite readings. I now know why our alumnus **Jim Jacobs** was influenced to co-write the musical *Grease* [with the late Warren Casey].

I recently met Mr. **Richard Winge**, Class of 1970, at a Local School Council meeting; and my heart was touched by his memories and his love of his years at Taft. His efforts have spurred the creation of the Taft Foundation, a fund raising group at our school who recently renovated our locker rooms. If his passion for our school is any indication of our alumni's commitment to the betterment of our campus, we can all rest assured that our campus will be benefiting from his and other alumni members' efforts.

Speaking of our alumni, I feel privileged to be walking the same hallways as such notables as the great **Jim Grabowski**, who was on the Green Bay Packers' first two Super Bowl teams; **Terry Kath**, who founded the band Chicago; **Jerry Krause** of the Chicago Bulls; and **Donna Mills** of *Knots Landing* fame. (Yes, I will admit that I watched the show!) I would like to publicly invite all alumni to stop back at our school and visit. Come share your memories and knowledge with us. Please remember that even though you have graduated, you are still part of our family. It is upon your lofty shoulders that we rise. Please come back and inspire our teachers with the memories of your teachers and how they helped mold your life. I have heard much about many wonderful Taft teachers who selflessly devoted their lives to their students. Teachers like **Mr. Stamm**, **Ms. Murphy**, **Mr. Lyons**, **Mr. Tiritilli**, and **Mr. Nishibayashi** are just a few of the teachers who have built our fine institution.

I would like to take this moment to thank everyone who has helped me make my transition to this amazing school. As we move forward, I am more than confident that with the help of the finest faculty in the Chicago Public Schools, the most committed coaches, and the city's best kids, we will make our alumni proud.

In closing I would like to say that in 1988 and 1989 I lived in Alaska. One of my fondest memories of Alaska was one weekend when I went camping in the mountains near

Valdez and watched a family of American bald eagles ride the warm currents off the coast of Prince William Sound. It was one of those wonderful, peaceful moments that I hope everyone can recognize in some form in their own lives. I am honored that every day of the next four years and --I hope-- 20 years, I will get to watch our Taft Eagles fly. Go Eagles!

Help Wanted to Fill Board Positions

Don't be shy! We know you have talents and skills, so in the spirit of volunteerism, please lend a hand to TAA.



With the recent passing of **Andy Madsen** (1969), and the retirement and moving out of the area of **Joe Popp** (1969), we have openings to fill and would love the opportunity to talk with you about how you can fit in. Responsibilities include quarterly meetings to discuss and handle decisions of TAA business, or more often when major projects are being worked on. Local persons preferred.

We need someone locally who will go to Taft weekly to pick up and sort the TAA mail, deposit members' checks at the bank at Northwest Hwy and Raven, and mail merchandise from our inventory. This person will work with **Frank Heyer** ('48) who has been doing this task for 14 years. If interested, contact Frank at 773-631-4701 or fgheyer@gmail.com.

Additionally, we need someone to share a few duties with the web editor. This person will update the TAA website (www.taftalumni.org) as needed, so knowledge of common web language is a must. **Paulette English** (1967), web editor and **Kevin Krieger** (1973), webmaster, will provide support. Contact them at eagleemail@taftalumni.org.

Letters to the Editor (continued from page 5)

To TAA:

I ride on the METRA commuter train with an architect doing work on the TAFT renovations. He mentions there will also be upgrades to ten Science Labs!! I don't know the exact details where the classrooms are located. I swung by the school to see the updates on the renovation work.

Here are a few photos of the work in progress taken Saturday, May 10th. Notice the new brickwork on the girl's gym and swimming pool windows on the southwest corner. New lintels are being installed throughout the older section on the windows. See photos on page 13.

Bob Johnson (January 1965)



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. **Kay (Carlson) Kuciak, President TAA**

1940s

- Virginia (Hunt) Barnett-Buchner** (June 1941) lives in Placerville, CA, has 3 children, 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and is a retired HS registrar.
- Charles "Bud" Trick** (June 1942) graduated from Knox College BA 1946, U of MO MJA 1948, lives in Cape Coral, FL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired school administrator.
- Ralph Capparelli** (June 1942) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired Illinois state representative, 13th district, member of the Taft's Founders Club and TAA Hall of Famer.
- Betty (Lemke) Stewart** (January 1942) graduated from North Park 1945, lives in Chagrin Falls, OH, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired receptionist.
- Margaret (Marek) Neumar** (June 1943) lives in Glenview, IL and is a retired secretary.
- Barbara (Lawton) Loeschen** (January 1946) lives in Sarasota, FL, has 3 children 1 grandchild and is a retired professional fashion model.
- Richard Strauss** (June 1946) graduated from De Paul BS 1956, lives in Elk Grove, IL, and is a retired purchasing agent.
- Marilyn (Ellis) Bury** (January 1947) graduated from Governors State BA 1972, lives in Park Forest, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.
- Grace (Hogland) Hansen** (January 1947) graduated from North Park AA 1949, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired administrative secretary.
- Lidia (Rigoni) Piper** (June 1947) has 4 children (all Taft grads), 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and is a retired accounting clerk.
- Corinne (Sir) Thompson** (June 1947) graduated from Northwestern BS 1951, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired realtor.
- Matilda (Molnor) Rusteberg** (January 1948) graduated from Northern BS 1965, Northeastern BA 1973, MA 1975, lives in Chesterfield, MO, has 5 children, 21 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a retired guidance counselor and science teacher.
- Jack Bergren** (June 1948) married **Lalia (Maiworm)** (June 1950); they live in Burlington, WI, have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and both are retired, Jack was a sales manager for Architecture Magazine.

Ray Ihrcke (June 1948) graduated from IL State BS 1957, lives in Kalamazoo, MI, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is a retired business owner.

James Peterson (June 1948) graduated from U of I BSME 1953, lives in San Diego, CA, has 6 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired engineering manager from General Dynamics.

Leonard Hamachek (June 1949) graduated from Eureka BS 1959, lives in Rockford, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired sales administrator.

Bernard Nugent (June 1949) lives in Hot Springs, AR and is a retired resort owner.

Jessie (Douglas) Usdrowski (June 1949), lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

1950s

- Dennis Schachner** (June 1950) graduated from De Paul BA, lives in Estero, FL and is a retired communications engineer.
- John Sladkey** (June 1950) graduated from Iowa State BS 1954, lives in Leawood, KS, has 6 children, 20 grandchildren and is retired.
- John Nelson** (January 1951) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired AT & T supervisor.
- Ronald Aron** (June 1952) graduated from U of Illinois 1958, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and is a retired director of purchasing at US Gypsum.
- Phyllis (Geisert) Umphres** (January 1953) graduated from Wesley Memorial Hospital RN 1956, lives in Chatsworth, CA, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is a retired RN and a docent at the Ronald Reagan Public Library.
- Jerry Becker** (January 1954) graduated from Lake Forest BA, lives in Deerfield, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.
- Richard Mattick** (June 1954) graduated from Carnegie-Mellon U 1958, lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.
- Joan (Gaertner) Mc Innis** (January 1955) graduated from Northwestern BS 1958, Farleigh Dickinson Computer Science MA 1984, lives in Tinton Falls, NJ, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired computing consultant.
- Alan Swanson** (January 1955) graduated from U of Illinois BS 1959, lives in Spring Lake MI, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.
- Kenneth Kolconay** (June 1955) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is retired.
- Arlene (Johnson) Schoessling** (June 1955) lives in Chicago, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired secretary from Maine East and now a volunteer at Shriners Hospital.
- Susan (Dokka) Nelson** (January 1956) married **Roger** (January 1951); they live in Fredericksburg, VA, have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and are retired.

Lynn (Bletziner) Hammersmith (June 1956) lives in Park ridge, IL, has 6 children, 7 grandchildren and is a homemaker.

Bruce Weinwurm (June 1956) graduated from St Olaf BA 1960, Loyola MBA 1976, lives in Middletown, NJ, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired general manager.

Ronald Underwood (January 1957) graduated from Northwestern BSBA 1961, U of I MBA 1967, CPA 1975, lives in Surprise, AZ, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired CPA consultant.

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

Marianne (Burgbacher) Cele-Murcia (January 1958) graduated from U of Illinois BA 1962, UCLA MA 1964, PhD 1972, lives in Venice, CA, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is a retired professor of applied linguistics at UCLA.

Mary (Hughes) Kober (January 1958) graduated from Knox BA 1962, lives in Zion, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired music teacher.

Robert Wolter (January 1958) graduated from MI State BA 1962, lives in Ellenton, FL, has 5 children, 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is a retired food service manager.

Janet (Lewis) Baker (June 1958) graduated CO State BS 1962, Wesley ME 1990, lives in Greenwood Village, CO, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher of HS English & journalism.

Fred Kaiser (June 1958) graduated from Knox BSEE 1963, U of Southern CA MSEE 197, lives in Orange, CA, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired electrical engineer.

Lynn (Anderson) Lee (June 1958) graduated from De Pauw BSN 1962, lives in Three Lakes, WI, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is a retired RN.

Leslie (Barthel) Slowik (June 1958) lives in Apache Junction, AZ, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

Dan Isacksen (January 1959) graduated from Bradley BS 1964, Rutgers 1982, lives in Bourbonnais, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired bank president.

1960s

Jo Anne (Barry) Edwards (January 1960) graduated from U of Illinois BS 1964, MS 1966, lives in Leesburg, FL and is a retired biology teacher from Wheeling HS.

Terry Rennhack (January 1960) lives in Indio, CA, has 6 children, 11 grandchildren and is retired.

Jacqueline (Metcalf) Abbott (June 1960) graduated from Marquette-Dental Hygiene 1962, Michigan State BA 1986, lives in Okemos, MI, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

Dennis Ferson (June 1960) lives in Wakefield, MI, has 2 children 3 grandchildren and is a retired labor relations manager.

Charles Kofink (June 1960) married **Linda (Johnson)** (January 1966); they live in Hanover Park, IL, have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and both are retired.

Norm Phoenix (June 1960) graduated from Wright AA 1963, IIT BSEE 1967, MSEE 1972, Nat'l Lewis MAT 2008, lives in

Chicago and is a retired electrical engineer and Math & Physics teacher.

Stephen Wren (June 1961) graduated from Illinois Masonic Hospital RN, St Leo U BA, Golden Gate U MPA, lives in Largo, FL and is retired from U of Southern Florida.

Ellen (Isacson) Arnold (January 1962) graduated from U of Michigan BA 1965, Duke Med 1968, Nova EdD 1992; lives in Swain, NY, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is an educational consultant and author.

Marilyn (Prochaska) Copeland (June 1962) graduated from Northern AA 1965, lives in Tampa, FL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is an executive administrative assistant.

James Fenner (January 1963) graduated from Cal State BA 1973, lives in Cumming, GA, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is President of Ayastar, Inc.

Bill Green (January 1963) graduated from U of Illinois BS, Loyola JD, lives in Roselle, IL, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is an architect/writer/publisher.

Mary (Terlecki) Mc Kelvey (January 1963) graduated from Northern BA 1967, lives in Sun City West, Arizona, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired staff development-coordinator.

Lloyd Marquardt (June 1964) graduated from U of Illinois BS 1968, Purdue MS 1972, PhD 1974, lives in Smyrna, GA and is a human resources consultant.

Nancy Noble (June 1964) graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago and American Academy of Art, lives in Indio, CA and is an artist and TAA Hall of Famer.

Wendy (Ziemann) Quigley (June 1964) lives in Sublimity, OR, has 6 children, 17 grandchildren and is retired.

Richard Anderson (January 1965) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

Bob Krukowski (January 1965) graduated from Southern Illinois U BS 1984, Webster MBA 1992, lives in Huntley, IL, and is a retired author of several books, under the pen name of Robert Lloyd Frankland.

Bill Pavelec (January 1965) graduated from College of Artesin BA 1967, lives in Auburn, FL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is a personal trainer.

Lynn (Hintz) Pozsgay (June 1965) lives in Mt. Prospect, IL and is a retired banker and realtor.

Judith (Reid) Preston (June 1965) lives in Carefree, AZ, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a realtor.

Brad Schnell (June 1965) graduated from U of Illinois BS 1971, Loyola MBA 1979, MS 1991, lives in Des Plaines, IL and is a retired rehab teacher.

Dennis Stephens (June 1965) married **Judi (Luga)** (June 1965); he graduated from U of Illinois BSEE 1969, MSEE 1971; Judi graduated from U of Illinois BS, Middlebury College MA; they live in Barrington, IL, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren. Dennis is an electronics engineer and Judi is a housewife.

Michael Megaris (June 1966) graduated from U of Missouri BBA 1988, MBA 1990, lives in Overland Park, KS, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is an adjunct accounting professor.

Alan Nelson (June 1966) married **Audrey (Johnson)** (June 1966), he graduated from Southern Illinois U BS 1970, De Paul MS 1978, CPA 1979; she graduated from Mankato BS 1970. They live in Carmel, IN, have 3 children, 3 grandchildren and are retired.

Dean Gritsonis (January 1967) graduated from Northern BS 1971, lives in Carol Stream, IL, has 3 children and is a retired retail manager from Burlington Coat Factory.

Charles Bajerski (June 1967) lives in Cary, NC, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren and is a recycling supervisor.

Robert Naatz (June 1967) graduated from U of Illinois BS 1971, CPA 1972, CPCU 1985, lives in Elgin, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is an account manager for CNA Insurance.

Linda (Culpepper) Peterson (June 1967) lives in Bensenville, IL, has 1 child and is retired.

Kathleen (Suba) Firnsin (1968) lives in Villa Park, IL, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and is a retired customer service representative.

Cheryl (Brandt) McCauslin (1968) lives in Lake Villa, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired from retail sales.

Sharon (Holm) Najdowski (1968) lives in Sugar Land, TX, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is a homemaker.

Gail (Galla) Nehrig (1968) graduated from U of Missouri BS 1978, lives in Estes Park, CO, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a homemaker.

Carolyn (Sykes) Toerpe (1968) graduated from Southern Illinois U BA 1972, Northeastern MA 1980, lives in Naperville, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired HS guidance counselor.

Glenda (Hodgson) Vitek (1969) graduated from Chicago City College RN 1971, lives in Wichita Falls, TX, has 2 children and is a retired RN, now a comptroller.

1970s

John Montgomery (1970) graduated IL State BS 1974, U of WI MS 1976, MPA 1977, lives in Madison, WI, has 2 children and is a retired deputy state budget director and now a tutor in Madison schools.

Timothy Arado (1971) graduated from Illinois State BS 1975, Control Data Institute 1981, lives in Chicago and is a property manager.

Brian Johnson (June 1971) graduated from U of Iowa BS 1975, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 2 children and is a senior partner in Mjlnir Holdings.

Richard Lindberg (1971) graduated from Northeastern BA 1974, MA 1987, lives in Chicago and is a marketing manager at DTZ, Inc. and a professional published writer.

Marge (Taff) Clements (1974) lives in Charlotte, NC, has 2 children and is in credit analyst.

Karen (Jones) Cogan (1974) graduated from Illinois State BS 1978, lives in Fairfax, VA, has 3 children and is an IBM operations planner.

Philip Soto (1979) graduated from De Paul BA 1985, lives in Chicago and is a real estate developer.

1980s

Ralph Walton (1982) graduated from Loyola BBA 1986, lives in San Diego, CA and is a VP at Union Bank.

1990s

Ala (Rychlik) Sen (1995) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a stay at home Mom.

Lost Classmates

Are you looking for old classmates with whom you've lost touch? We will help you in your search by publishing the name(s) in this newsletter. **If that party responds to us and agrees to share the information, we'll forward that person's name and address to you.**

Send your request and/or response to Taft Alumni Association, c/o Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or email us at taftalum@cox.net.

The suggested donation for this service is \$5 per name. Can you help ??

Phyllis Verbrugge, class of January 1954 is looking for **Doris Davis** also of January 1954. They both attended Beaubien.



Boys Gym at Bryn Mawr Entrance

In Our Memories

June Louise (Pemble) Roby, class of June 1941, passed away on December 30, 2013.

Fred Jahn Fassnacht, class of January 1942, died in June 1985. He was the husband of Patricia (Peterson) Whitney (January 1942).

Patricia (Peterson) Whitney, class of January 1942, died April 12, 2014. She had been married to both the late Fred Fassnacht (January 1942) and Ross Whitney (June 1943).

Jane Elizabeth (Goodman) Seifert, class of June 1942, passed away on March 29, 2014. After graduating from Taft, she enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard (Spars). She will be buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St Louis, MO with full military honors on July 3, 2014.

Wanda (Fisher) Walls, class of June 1942, died May 30, 2014, in Sun City, Arizona.

Elaine Annette Passow, class of January 1943, died April 3, 2014. She is the sister of Robert (June 1941), Lawrence (January 1947) and Carole (Passow) Watkins (January 1945).

Ross Alvin Whitney, class of June 1943, died November 26, 2003. He was the husband of Patricia (Peterson) Whitney (January 1942).

Kent Lambert Thoren, class of June 1944, died in June 2014. He is the father of Laurel (Thoren) Kaage (June 1969) and father-in-law of Irvin Louis Kaage III (June 1969).

Carol June (Passow) Watkins, class of January 1945, died in the fall of 1954. She is the sister of Robert (June 1941), Lawrence (January 1947) and Elaine Passow (January 1943).

Leona Claire Irma (Nettland) Olson, class of January 1946, died June 12, 2014.

Marilyn Febe (Bergstrom) Moore, class of June 1946, died from a stroke on April 27, 2014. She is the sister of William Bergstrom.

John Edward Paszkiet, class of June 1951, died November 28, 2013 from Alzheimer's Disease.

Eugene "Gene" Hollis Zahn, class of June 1951, passed away June 6, 2014. He served in the Navy during the Korean War.

Thomas George Kruchten, class of June 1954, died May 21, 2014 after suffering a massive stroke.

George Mogensen, class of June 1954, died March 22, 2012.

William James Fredendall, class of June 1955 passed away January 30, 2014 of complications from surgery.

Clarence Mogensen, class of June 1956, died November 14, 2013.

Donna Lee (Severance) Lesker, class of June 1956, passed away May 16, 2014.

Jerome Charles Slowik, class of June 1958 died in April 2012. His wife was Leslie (Barthel) Slowik (June 1958).

Marsha Altha Erickson, class of January 1962, is deceased, date unknown.

Carl William Munson, class of January 1962, is deceased, date unknown.

Robert James Zahnen, class of June 1962, is deceased, date unknown.

Robert Mathias Krupp, class of 1971 passed away June 15, 2014 in Crivitz, Wisconsin. He collapsed - the victim of a sudden heart attack. He was a Chicago firefighter.

Patricia (Tabisz) Goodwin, class of 1973, passed away in 2009. She is sister to Chris, Steven (1978) and Jim (1974) Tabisz.

Robert A. Derrickson, class of 1974, died May, 2014. He is brother of Dianne (Derrickson) Teipe, James and Edward Derrickson, the late Nancy (Derrickson) Scholl and the later Charles Derrickson, Jr.

Karen Didomenico, class of 1974, died from breast cancer, date unknown.

Patti Duncan, class of 1974, passed away from a heart attack, date unknown.

James Tabisz, class of 1974, passed away in 2007. He was brother to Chris and Steven (1978) Tabisz, and Patty (Tabisz) Goodwin (1973).

Chuck Zelez, class of 1974, passed away in December 2013.

Steven Tabisz, class of 1978, passed away in 2010. He is brother to Patty (Tabisz) Goodwin (1973), Chris and Jim (1974) Tabisz.

"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. We always appreciate your help to keep our files up to date.



30 Years, and Counting...

This is the 30th anniversary of TAA. It is a milestone not to be ignored. We are very proud of all we've accomplished over the years, with your support. Ten years ago (Summer 2004 issue) we did a breakdown of TAA membership demographics by state and country. At that time we had an active membership count of 3,909 graduates, which included 130 retired teachers and some other friends. We had members living in every state in the union, including Washington DC, some serving in the Armed Services and there were 11 countries represented by Taft grads around the world.

Our TAA President, **Kay (Carlson) Kuciak** (January 1963) recalls those early days when there was no Taft Alumni Association. She, and her late husband Tom started to work on resurrecting the original TAA from the 1940s, in anticipation of organizing the 50th anniversary of Taft's founding. She said, "Our first newsletters [in 1984] were put out with the help of the PTA's bulk mail postage number since we didn't

have one until possibly the third newsletter. As I'm sure some of you remember, for a while (can't remember how long) newsletters were all 'cut and paste', then delivered to the printer. Then, of course, for so many years (until 1998) the assembling of the newsletter for mailing took over almost all the rooms in my house for weeks. Volunteers from the membership would come every day to help with these tasks of assembling pages, folding, labeling and sorting. Then, we would load my car so I could take the completed newsletters to the post office.

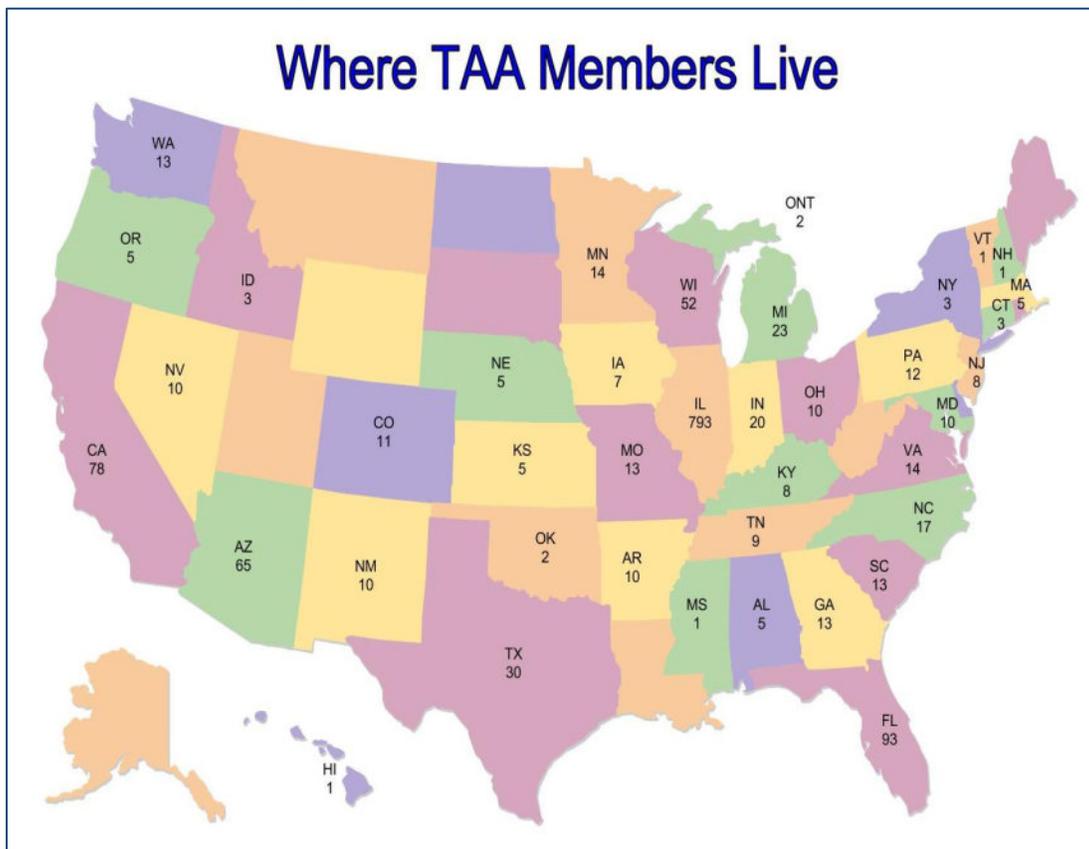
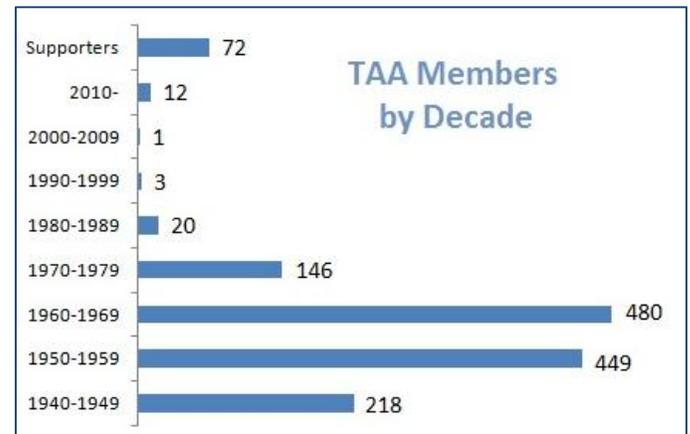
"My TAA office for many years was my entire dining room until my son went to college, and then I took over his room! Early on, I would get excited with every new member application that were returned after the newsletters came out. Remember, this was before the web and Facebook. It was all word of mouth, or through any event I could attend to spread the word like class reunions and the annual Taft women's luncheons."

In 2004, the largest number of Taft grad members were represented by the 1970s decade, followed by the 60s. The total number of known graduates in our Alumni files at that time totaled 15,316.

Today, the numbers are down. We currently have only 1401 active members and a master grad/teacher/friend file of 27,452 names. We no longer have a presence in every state in America. Nor, are we all over the world as we were ten years ago. Of course, many of these names were lost because they are now deceased, especially in the earlier classes. And, there are many for whom we do not have a current address. But, it is important to keep this list with ALL

names because Taft grads rely on using this list to locate all their classmates for class reunions, living or not.

Why are the numbers decreasing? We have been asking that ourselves, with no definitive answer. Maybe it is due to the earlier classes, who were more involved are no longer around to participate. And, the grads from 1980s to the present are finding other methods to keep in touch with former classmates, either through social media outlets, like Facebook or they are too busy with life's activities of getting jobs, getting married, having young families and other interests. When they start thinking about reunions, they seem to connect with each other in smaller groups, rather than organized reunions. Volunteers are hard to find in the younger generation(s). [Thanks to **Paulette (Zemaitis) English** (June 1967) for compiling these figures for 2014.]





(Old) Main Entrance on Natoma Ave.



Bricking in Girls Gym Windows



New Lintels and Insulated Windows



(Construction photos submitted by **Anne Lunde** (June 1969) and **Bob Johnson** (January 1965))

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):				
Address:				
City/State/ZIP:				
Grad Month/Year:				
Phone: ()				
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.				

Patience Needed

Due to the recent “remodeling” to the Taft building, access to the office and our TAA mail, your renewal checks and checks for merchandise may be delayed. We will continue to monitor the work being done, and as soon as they allow us back into the building, we will retrieve our mail and your checks. Thanks for your patience!!!

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: 1942 Jun (1), 1943 Jun (1), 1945 Jun (1), 1946 Jun (1), 1949-Jun (1), 1985 (24), 1986 (47), 1987 (76), 1990 (52), 1991 (9), 1992 (132), 1993 (5), 1994 (56), 1995 (183), 1996 (65), 1997 (52), 1998 (153), 1999 (150), 2000 (351), 2001 (122), 2003 (76), 2004 (77), 2005 (56), 2006 (40), 2007 (40), 2008 (40).



Time to Renew?!!

Thanks to all who read our plea 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 were reviewed by your TAA Board and determined there was NOT a need to increase dues this year. However, if your expiration date is close, we urge you to 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			Summer 2014

Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

Kay (Carlson) Kuciak	1963	President, Newsletter Assistant
Anne Lunde	1969	1 st Vice President, Historian
Frank Heyer	1948	2 nd Vice President
Arlene (Laufer) Ware	1960	Secretary
John Prochaska	1961	Treasurer
Jeraldene (Beesley) Bloom Stephenson	1962	Director, Newsletter Editor jbbloom@charter.net (920) 559-7440
Kevin Kreiger	1973	Director, Webmaster webmaster@taftalumni.org
Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	Director, Web Editor eagleemail@taftalumni.org
Mike Hionis	1968	Director
Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director
Paul Madsen	1971	Director
(Vacant)	-----	Director
(Vacant)	-----	Director
Susan Gross	-----	Faculty Representative

Taft Alumni Newsletter www.taftalumni.org

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 Stephenson
(note SUMMER/FALL address)
444 N. 3rd Ave – Upper Front
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
or email jbbloom@charter.net

**Submission Deadline for the Spring Issue:
September 30, 2014**

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

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.
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