



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXI, No. 1

Winter 2015

Kay Carlson Kuciak Was the Spirit of Taft

By Anne Lunde (1969)

The Taft Alumni Association regrets to inform our members that **Kay Kuciak**, our president for the past 30 years, died on December 30, 2014, one day after her 70th birthday, in her adopted home of Surprise, Arizona. Her heart was wide, and she shared that love with Taft High School.



**Tom and Kay (Carlson)
Kuciak**

A funeral service was held in Sun City West, Arizona, on Jan. 5, 2015. For those who could not attend, TAA is planning for a memorial gathering in Chicago this spring. More details will be available soon, on our web site, and in our spring newsletter.

She had learned in early fall that she was ill, but mustered on. She continued to stay in touch on TAA planning and business till the end.

Her January 1963 classmates at Taft High School knew her as Kay Jean Carlson. Her senior yearbook reminds us she had served on Student Council and Dance Committee, was a library helper, hall guard and teacher helper, and a member of Pep Club and the Bowling Team.

"She gives her friendship to all, but her heart to only one," the yearbook explained. That "one" was Tom Kuciak from June 1962, the class half a year ahead of her. His yearbook prophesy said, "Although he's not tall, he's a friend to all." *[Continued on Page 14]*

Nominations for next TAA Alumni Hall of Fame

It's time. The Taft High School Alumni Hall of Fame is accepting until the end of June 2015 for its next class of inductees.

There are many Taft alumni of whom we all can be proud. Some are celebrities. Some are honored in their careers. Some are generous, hard-working individuals who make their mark in their contributions to the wider

community. If you have someone you'd like to recognize, this is your chance.

The Taft High School Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes Taft graduates who exemplify the best of Taft, people we can be proud of holding high as our colleagues and peers. They bring honor to the name of Taft High School through their accomplishments in their careers, personal achievements, service to others, leadership and courage. They carry the standards of Taft onward, upward through their lives.

This honor is open to alumni of Taft's senior high school program, alive or deceased. Since rules were upgraded in 2009, the awards are given every three years instead of every five, and each induction class is limited to five individuals. Nominations are accepted from family, classmates or any Taft alumni, or Taft faculty, past or present, but not from nominees themselves. A nominee may submit a nomination for a different. *[Continued on Page 6]*

New TAA Officers

The Taft Alumni Association has approved new officers to fill vacancies through the end of the 2014-15 term, following the death of our president, Kay Carlson Kuciak, in December.

Anne Lunde, TAA historian, who has been serving as first vice president, advances to president. Anne, a member of the June 1969 class, has spent most of her career in community journalism, including 35 years covering Taft and its feeder school territory for the Edison-Norwood Times Review and the Edgebrook-Sauganash Times Review.

She got involved as a member of TAA's 50th anniversary committee and the "Best of Taft" production in 1989, and joined the Alumni Association board the following year. She was inducted into Taft's Hall of Fame in 1989.

Anne's activities at Taft as an alumna have ranged from assisting with local history consultation for the 1976 Bicentennial celebration, directing and doing production work for several student drama productions and serving as an alumni rep on the Taft PTSA, to judging on various scholarship committees, organizing special events and exhibits, and writing stories for the TAA newsletter. She has also served on five of her Taft 1969 class reunion committees. She chaired the 65th anniversary for Taft in 2004.

John Prochaska, our treasurer, will also serve as first vice president. John, a member of the June 1961 Class, joined our board in 2013. He chaired his June 1961 Class's 50th reunion. *[Continued on Page 7]*



2nd Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic CALIFORNIA

Date: July 18, 2015 1am-4pm

Place: 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA

Details: \$8 for pizza and beverages, Chicago dogs extra, grandkids free. Bring side dish, salad or dessert to share. BYOB. Swimming pool.

Contacts:

Paul Laudicina (June '61) longbeach1942@ gmail.com

Mike Day (Jun '60) - michael91942@yahoo.com

Jan (Ostromencki) Savage, janhellokitty@hotmail.com

Grade School Reunion

Garvy - Classes of January/June 1956

Date: July 25, 2015 (afternoon/evening)

Place: Foss Mansion, Lake Forest, IL

Contact: **Phil Foss** - philfoss@aol.com

or **Stu Dunn** - smdunn19@sbcglobal.net

Class of 1995

Date: August 7-8, 2015

Place: Evening Boat Cruise, School Tour, BBQ picnic

Contact: **Jermaine J. Wesley** Day -

jermaineday@yahoo.com - or

Ala (Rychlik) Sen - bialaroza@juno.com - or

Mark Humbert - mhumber76@yahoo.com

Facebook: "Taft Class of 1995"

12th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic FLORIDA-WEST

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015 (11AM - 3PM)

Place: Sand Key Park, Clearwater, FL - Shelter #1)

(Note the new location!) \$5 parking fee) **

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

Photo shoot: 2:30 pm

Contact: **Leon Kathan** (Jun '56) 863-835-2211

leonkathan@yahoo.com

or **Jerry (Beesley) Stephenson** (Jun '62)

920-559-7440 - jbbloom@charter.net

**** Recommendation from Bob Munsell (June '47)** - The location and a route to avoid and spring beach traffic. Sand Key Park, 1060 Gulf Drive, Clearwater FL. HIS route: US 19 to East Bay Dr. which is Fl. 686 turn West. All the way to Gulf Dr. turn right; About two miles to the park on the left, gulf side. East Bay becomes West Bay but it still one road to follow to the Gulf. Hope to see you there!

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 (June '62)

jbbloom@charter.net

5th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic ARIZONA

Date: Sunday, March 22, 2015, 11 am - 3:30 pm

Place: Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale, AZ

Pot Luck: Bring something to share; Brats \$1

BYOB: non-glass containers only

Donation: \$3 per person, bring lawn chairs

Paul Frizane, aztaftalumni@yahoo.com

Paulette English, eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Letters to the Editor

To TAA:

Many thanks. The online TAA is a beauty, but ...Why have a name and password request? **John Heinz** (Jan '52)

[Good question, John. The TAA newsletter is the heart and soul of the organization, so we prefer to have our dues paying members have exclusive access to it. That is why we provide a username and password. Paulette English - TAA Web Editor]

Jerry,

[The Autumn TAA} newsletter arrived yesterday. I was pleased to read about **Mr McGlothlin**. He was a favorite and really piqued my interest in reading and literature. Never knew a thing about his roots. **Gary Anderson** (June '66)

To TAA:

Really love the very nicely done Alumni news (paper copy as well as via the Internet)... Mary and I receive one paper copy and that is FINE... Sorry to have missed the recent big celebration.

Please change my e mail address in your records. I married **Mary (Papciak) Samborski** Taft class of June 1961. If it's not a problem, could you add her email address to the list as well?

Darryl Samborski (June 1962)

[Darryl, we always appreciate our members' feedback. We can easily accommodate both email addresses. Thank you for keeping us updated and for your continued support. Paulette English, TAA Web Editor]

TAA is planning for a memorial gathering in Chicago this spring for Kay (Carlson) Kuciak. More details will be available soon, on our web site, and in our spring newsletter.

Historical Perspectives – 75 Years Strong!

Don Ringer Proud of His Alma Mater

“I went to Taft.”

Know Your Yells, Show Your Spirit

In September 1944, the Taft Tribune encouraged students to go to the football games and “Give a yell!” and to be in the stands “a rootin’ and a cheerin’ for your team as you’ve never cheered before!”

There was a certain competition between rival teams for boosting their side’s morale and cat calling the other team. So the Trib staff provided a few cheers to help encourage our “fellas on the field” to victory.

Do you remember these?

**Sock ’em in the beezers,
Sock ’em in the chin,
Come on Taft
We’re out to win!**

**Put ’em in a tin can
Seal ’em up tight
Eagles, Eagles,
Fight! Fight! Fight!**

**Push cart, hand cart
Engine full of steam
We’re from Taft
(Whistle as though at a blonde)
Some team!**

**Touch down, Touch down
That’s our aim
Holler a little louder
And we’ll win this game.**

**Taft has got the team,
Roosevelt’s got the ham
Cheer for (name of player)
‘Cause he’s our man!**

**Kick ’em in the teeth,
Kick ’em in the eye,
Get the hearse ready
‘Cause Roosevelt’s gonna
(Sing ‘Funeral March’)**

**They’ve got a team
But it’s not so hottra
They need vitamins,
Just like Sinatra!**

(This letter, written to Taft’s first principal, **Leo Hoefler**, is a wonderful glimpse into the thoughtful young graduates who left from the first Taft classes and right into military service. This was printed in the Taft Tribune around 1944, just before the end of World War II)



Leo Hoefler

Dear Mr. Hoefler,

I have just been doing a bit of thinking about the pre-war days of home and school and just thought I’d write you a few lines seeing as though I spent the best four years of my life with you and Taft. I hope the faculty and you are just fine and that the enrollment hasn’t been hit too hard by the increase of high paying war jobs, or the wrong idea of glory and need of enlistment in the service.

I heard where several more gold stars have been added to the school honor roll. I wish this mess would end; the loss of human life and the destruction of property is just terrible. The whole world would be better off if God would step in and take over, I think. The price the whole world will have to pay and pay for the duration of time is more than the human mind can realize.

Everything is going quite well with me, and the progress of the war is encouraging. I’ve made up my mind that my education is going to continue after the war no matter what the cost. From what I’ve read about the G.I. Bill of Rights, I may be able to profit by it. But it seems to have too many loop holes in it for the average soldier. It’s hard to predict the post-war plans of the government. The main thing to do is bring the post war world into being.

I see Taft is still showing an excellent sports record. I’m proud of what Taft is turning out into the world as citizens, and fighting men, and am glad that I can say, “I went to Taft.”

Best wishes for your continued success and I wish all future “grads” good luck.

Regards, Don Ringer (January 1944)

Miss Mary Keech’s Memories

Founding teacher Miss Mary Keech, reflects upon the 1939 Grand Opening in a 1989 letter to Frank Zemaitis, written for Taft’s 50th anniversary celebration. She remembers Frank as one of her students in her Solid Geometry class. Frank is from our first graduating class, the class of 1940 and one of our first Taft Hall of Famer recipients for being instrumental for creating the FIRST Taft Alumni Association in the 1940s:

[continued on page 4]

[Continued from pg 3] I remember so well September 1939. Taft opened with 2309 pupils. No seats, no library books, no science equipment, almost no nothing!

But what spirit! Lessons as usual after the first few days. Each teacher was given one rickety folding chair to sit on and another for a desk. The pupils sat on the floor or leaned against walls. They got so accustomed to filling out forms or doing homework with papers plastered against the blackboard that actually after regulation equipment arrived it was several days before they remembered they could use desks. I loved those few weeks, it was almost a fantastic experience.

As were many experiences I had at Taft, I loved that student body – even the monitoring of the lunchroom became interesting. It got to be a game – how to anticipate which of you lively students (I almost said “lively pups” til I remembered you are no doubt staid business men and women with families) were about to pyramid your pop bottles, which would sneak out ahead of the bell, where a little notebook copying would take place, which would be impressed by me putting your names in my little black book and which needed a conk on the head. I never really conked anyone on the head, but I wanted you to think that I might.

Anyway, have a good time! I hope some of you remember me with a few kind thoughts.

Sincerely, Mary Keech

The Taft Code

Preamble

The aim of education at Taft is to develop the good citizen of today and tomorrow. With this in mind the Code Committee presents the following set of carefully chosen principles which it believes are the six most important ideas underlying sound citizenship here at Taft. The students most representative of Taft will be recognized by his acceptance and practice of these ideas.

Pledges

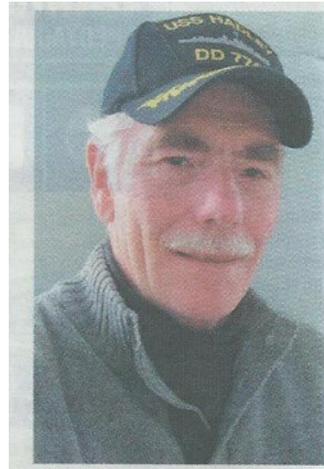
Accordingly I pledge That:

1. *I will have the utmost respect for God, My Creator, the Author of all my rights, by giving Him at all times the first place in my life.*
2. *I will recognize and respect all those holding authority because I am aware that respect for authority which comes ultimately from God is absolutely necessary for peace, order, and progress among men.*
3. *I will seek to develop a worthy character by striving for the highest ideals and values in life.*
4. *I will respect the rights of others because I know that this is the only way true freedom is preserved in a democracy.*
5. *I will devote my best efforts to my studies and general mental development because intellectual competence is the surest basis for success and happiness in life.*
6. *I will support All Taft activities and take an actual part in them whenever possible because this is an excellent means for practicing my talents and being of service to my school.*

**The Taft colors are Silver and Blue.
The Taft symbol is the Eagle.**

This Taft Code was part of what was passed out in the 50s, 60s and 70s, but it was written during the Hoefer years, by the Taft student leaders, and became a model for many other schools.

Name in the News



Jeff Veesenmeyer (June '67) recently published a gripping historical and semi-biographical novel of his Great-Uncle. Louis Veesenmeyer. The book is entitled “Kamikaze Destroyer” and is filled with action and excitement surrounding his experiences during WWII, and a battle where he lost his life during an attack by 156 Japanese Kamikaze bombers during the time he was stationed on the USS Hadley on May 11, 1945.

Jeff’s book was three years in the making, as he did extensive researching military websites, archives and at a USS Hadley survivor’s reunion to compile the facts needing for the book. As a family affair, Jeff’s nephew Ryan Oswald, a Lake Zurich artist, was the illustrator for his book. Ryan’s mother, **Jan (Veesenmeyer) Oswald** is also a Taft grad from the class of 1970. This story was highlighted in an article written by Laura Pavin (for Sun-Times Media) found in the [Lake Zurich Courier](#) on October 23, 2014.

Sixty Years of Memories

Submitted by
Toni (Geisert) Lien (June '54)

On the evening of October 1, 2014 the January and June classes of 1954 celebrated their 60th year reunion at the Café la Cave in Des Plaines. We had 82 attendees, 58 graduates and 24 guests. Our graduates had the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with former classmates, share memories of their years at Taft, enjoy a lovely dinner and join in a lively "sing-along" with Dick Mattick.

The following day we met with Taft's new principal, **Mark Grishaber** and toured the old and new sections of the school. Afterward we walked to the Norwood Park Historical Society building for a tour. That evening the alumni enjoyed a "good-bye" pizza party at the Edison Park Inn and joined in a wish to gather together for a 65th Taft High School reunion!

The committee consisted of: **Richard Austin, Norine Anderson Kmett, Bob and Alice (Sarau) Bebee, Toni Geisert Lien, Richard Mattick, Novelle Cunningham Pallanich, Donald Ring, Rosalie Streng, and John Sundquist.**

Hefty Gift To Taft Bodes Well For Future Sports

By **Gary Andersen** (June '66)
Photos by **Kent Stocking** (June '66)
and **Bob Johnson** (June '65)



Taft Athletic Director Ryan Golwacz, Len Wislow, on right

Thanks to **Len Wislow** (June '66) Taft's student athletes, physical fitness buffs and faculty/staff members have a lot of new exercise equipment - upper body and abdominal machines, bench press and squat machines, a Roman chair and more - in the school's weight room with which to flex their muscles and tone their shapes. Since his years at Taft Len has realized great business and personal success. And he has never forgotten how formative, meaningful and enjoyable those years were.

A five varsity letter winner, all-state football

player and track and field star, Len still holds the Chicago Public School record for shot put distance, 59-feet 1-inch. A record set 49 years ago.

Set up in what many alums will remember as **Wally Freedman's** band room, according to gym teacher **Nick Nishibayashi** the weight room plays a key role in junior and senior elective P.E. classes and hosts "a lot of before and after school use." Assistant Principal **Eric Flores** describes the set up as "valuable for an ongoing healthy lifestyle. Plus our athletes use it, the equipment all the time." Taft's Athletic Director, **Ryan Glowacz**, relished the "strength and conditioning the donation provides and how it has become a bigger part of the athletic program."

Wrestling Coach **Brad Engle** has great aspirations for his athletes. "We've been building one of the top wrestling programs in Chicago." He boasts. "Tops in the

state is on my horizon. Without the weight room equipment we would not be able to achieve this status."

So what motivated Len Wislow to arrange and pay for the moving of \$20,000 worth of weight lifting equipment to Taft? Very modestly he replied, "My memories, my hope for Taft, my belief in the value of physical fitness and I just want to help others."

Finally, would he want to see his shot put record broken? After a slight pause, Len replied with a delightful yes. "Especially if it's by an Eagle."



Jessica Katzin and classmates from Taft's Academic Center check out the equipment.

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.

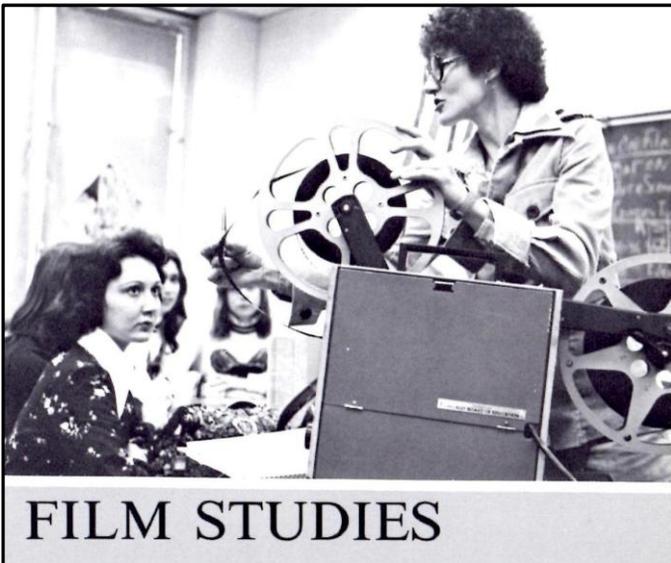


Teacher Appreciation Lingers Through the Years

Submitted by
Louise Varzhabedian Jaeschke (June 1968)

I am writing this little note to express my appreciation to **Mrs. Patricia O’Keefe Daniels**, retired Taft English teacher. What a great teacher she was! Not only did she teach us critical thinking as we poured through the literary classics, but she shared some of herself with us as well, and was an outstanding role model for the girls in her classes. I viewed her as being fun, brave, and forward thinking—traits I would undoubtedly still recognize in her today. Although I was her student when her name changed from Miss O’Keefe to Mrs. Daniels, and know her by both names, I think of her as “Miss O’Keefe.”

So.....thank you, Miss O’Keefe—you made an impact on many; on me in particular, and that impact has been much appreciated. (And how did you ever find enough copies of the then-out-of-print “The Once and Future King” without the Internet?!)



FILM STUDIES

Patricia (O’Keefe) Daniels was an English teacher who introduced film studies at Taft. By the time she retired they were shifting to video cameras

50th Reunion Review

Submitted by **Terry Lindberg** (1964)

A large gathering of sophisticated, beautiful women was joined by an equal number of distinguished, handsome gentlemen at the O’Hare Ballroom of the O’Hare Marriott on Saturday, October 4, 2014 to celebrate the 50th Reunion of the Wm. Howard Taft High School Class of 1964. Many alums enjoyed a Friday evening

cocktail party, but only a few braved the cold, wet weather Saturday afternoon to attend the Taft-Schurz football game. Everyone was ready for more cocktails and dinner Saturday evening, followed by lots of dancing and renewal of acquaintances. 120 people came from Arizona, California, Colorado, North and South Carolina, Wisconsin and all over Illinois to attend.

January 1964 alum **Bill Luikaart** summed up everyone's feelings: "After 50 years, we have grown to really appreciate each other's company."

[HOF Nominations - Continued from Page 1]

When the Hall of Fame was extended to deceased alumni, the number of applications increased, which means that we received nominations for many qualified individuals last time. We encourage nominators to resubmit their candidates who have not won yet, with updated information.

It is important to remember that information should focus on the individuals and their personal accomplishments, potentially in many facets of their lives and careers, with documentation from published articles, awards, etc., as available. Printouts from Wikipedia or a blog site will not be considered as primary references, although one or two may be included in a larger submission. If you are nominating someone, we encourage you to talk to them, their family, friends and peers to be sure the information submitted is complete and accurate.

There is a scoring system in place, based on a 60-point scale. Candidates whose scores average 40 points or higher from within the judges' individual scoring round will advance to the finals.

Rules and nomination forms (interactive or PDF format) are available from the Taft Alumni Association web site, www.taftalumni.org, or you may send a written request for a printed form to the Taft Alumni Association, care of Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago IL 60631.

The actual completed nomination packets, with accompanying articles, copies of awards, photos, etc., must be mailed to the Taft Alumni Association (U.S. mail), care of the same address. Do not send the only original copy of documents.



On left, Taft's second new addition showing **Dr. John Graven** with students in 1974.

[New TAA Officers – Continued from Page 1]

Most recently, he served as TAA's representative on the 75th anniversary committee. He's been out promoting the Taft Alumni the past year with entries in several local community parades.

A U.S. Army veteran, he has been very active in Park Ridge's Mel Tierney American Legion Post 247, where he is a past post commander, the long-time executive secretary/adjutant for the post, and chairman of the committee organizing the annual Park Ridge Memorial Day parade since 1974.

He and his wife, Cindy (also a Taft graduate from June 1964), raised their family in Park Ridge.

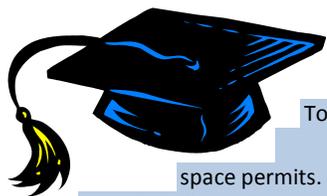
His career has included five years of industrial and 20 years of governmental internal auditing; 13 years' experience in nonprofit and management experience; and teaching accounting and auditing on the adjunct faculties at Roosevelt, Northeastern Illinois and National-Louis universities. John was COO and CFO, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer for Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, a research affiliate of the Cook County Health & Hospital System. He has served in various positions and is a life member of the Institute of Internal Auditors Chicago Chapter, a life member of the American Institute of CPAs, a founding member of the Illinois CPA Society's Chicago Chapter, and a life member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Frank Heyer, Class of 1948, continues as second vice president. Frank worked for Pyramid, a metal working firm near Elston and Central for 40 years, rising from production work to sales manager. He's run his class reunions from Hitch School, and his Taft class's 50th, 55th and 60th reunions. Since his retirement, TAA has been lucky to have Frank doing a lot of our local errands, picking up mail and shipping TAA orders, and escorting many reunion classes around the school. He plays an important role in keeping the alumni and the school in touch on a regular basis. His wife, Ruth, generously shares some of his time with us.

Arlene Laufer Ware, Class of June 1960, has been our secretary since the end of 2013; she became a board member in 2006. Arlene, a member of the June 1960 class (a classmate with 'Grease' co-author Jim Jacobs), attended Elmhurst College. Her husband, Ron Ware (Taft, January 1956), died in 2002.

Arlene worked for Illinois Bell and AT&T until her daughter was born. She was active in PTA committees and a Girl Scout leader. She also volunteered at a telephone "Helpline", answering calls and listening to individuals who were experiencing problems with family, depression, possible suicide, and also elder abuse. Later she worked in retail, selling wallpaper, window treatments, and doing some interior design work.

She now lives in Mundelein in a DelWebb community for those 55 and older, but we're pleased she also thinks young and helps the Alumni Association.



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** (Jun 1940), married **Jane Jewell** (Jun 1943), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Porter, IN, is a retired camera technician, and is a member of the TAA Hall of Fame.
- Doris (Venema) Brunkhorst** (Jan 1941), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Sun City West, AZ, is retired.
- Charleton Bard** (Jun 1941), married **Evelyn Sievers (deceased)** (Jun 1942), has 4 children, 11 grandchild, lives in Pittsford, NY, attended U of Chicago BS, BPh '46; MS '48, PhD '50, is a retired chemist.
- Norma (Light) Mann** (Jun 1941), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Muskego, WI, attended Columbia Bus Coll, is a retired school secretary.
- Ruth (Quiram) Rigg** (Jun 1941), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, lives in Huntington Beach, CA, is retired.
- Marge (Anderson) Rosberg** (Jun 1941), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Burlington, WI, is retired.
- Marion (Gercken) Rettke** (Jun 1943), lives in Barrington, IL, attended Wright Jr Coll AA '45, is a retired sales manager.
- Jane (Jewell) Zemaitis** (Jun 1943), married **Frank Zemaitis** (Jun 1940), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Porter, IN, is retired, and enjoys her new tablet.
- Virginia (Cato) Preston** (Jun 1944), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Itasca, IL, attended U of NM BBA '50; Northern Med '67, is a retired teacher.
- Dorothy (Workman) Brouder** (Jan 1946), has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Minocqua, WI, is retired.
- Carol (Simonson) Fitch** (Jan 1946), has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Rockville, MD, attended IA St BS '50; U of IL Med '58, is a retired program director and retreat leader.
- Lois (Bassett) Willhard** (Jan 1946), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Webster, WI, is retired.
- Clyde Diven** (Jan 1947), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, is retired.
- Loretta (Hoppe) Liveris** (Jun 1947), has 7 children, 15 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, lives in Lake In The Hills, IL, is retired.
- Robert Munsell** (Jun 1947), has 4 children, 11 grandchild, 14 great grandchildren, lives in Clearwater, FL, attended U of IL BA '51, LLB '54, is a retired attorney.
- George Turner** (Jun 1947), married **Rosemary Cheli** (Jun 1948), has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Homewood, IL.
- Joan (Hackell) Wilson** (Jun 1947), married **Robert Wilson** (Jun 1947), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren,, lives in Sarasota, FL, attended Northeastern BA '71, is retired.
- Robert Wilson** (Jun 1947), married **Joan Hackell** (Jun 1947), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren,, lives in Sarasota, FL, attended Lawrence U BS '51, is retired.
- Doris (Johnson) Wolter** (Jun 1947), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Lincoln, NE, is a homemaker.
- Gloria (Arnold) Klingaman** (Jan 1948), married **William Klingaman (deceased)** (), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in South Beloit, IL, is retired, and meets with 6 Taft friends of 80 years starting from kindergarten.
- Henry Sanderson** (Jun 1948), has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired bricklayer.
- Mary Lou (Crotte) Zolli** (Jun 1948), has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Bella Vista, AR, is retired.
- Janice (Jeffery) Burden** (Jan 1949), has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Mesa, AZ, is a homemaker.
- Ronald Lemanski** (Jun 1949), has 6 children, 16 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Niles, IL, is a retired Lt. Niles FD.
- Carmella (Walsh) Patke** (Jun 1949), married **Ronald Patke (deceased)** (Jun 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, is retired from sales.

1950s

- Harry Johnson** (Jan 1950), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, attended NIU BS '54; Northwestern MS '58, DDS '60, is a retired dentist, and was a US champion speed skating champion in 1950 and still skates three time a week.
- John Pitt** (Jan 1950), has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, attended Loyola BA Econ '61, is an automotive consultant, and plays banjo with the Windy City Jammers.
- Walt Wolf** (Jan 1950), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Burlington, VT, attended Oregon St '58; Santa Clare U MBS '70, is a retired nuclear fuel broker.
- John Koepke** (Jun 1950), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Mill Valley, CA, attended Northwestern BS '54, is a self-employed consultant.
- Carol (Dehlinger) Doyle** (Jun 1951), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, attended IL St '55; Nat'l Coll of Edu '82, is a retired teacher.

Chuck Fitzhugh (Jun 1951), has 3 children, 12 grandchildren, lives in Mundelein, IL, attended U of IL BSEE '56; Lake Forest Coll MSM '73, is a retired electrical engineer.

Patricia (Moore) Socha (Jun 1952), has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Glendora, CA, attended Cal State BA, is a retired teacher.

Don Swanson (Jun 1952), has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, lives in Sun City West, AZ, attended Lake Forest MBS '56; Northwestern CPA '58, is in accounting and finance.

Pat (Matthews) Hall (Jan 1953), has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Wheeling, IL, attended graduated Oakton Comm Coll LPN '86, is a retired RN.

Bob Harsch (Jan 1953), has 7 children, 15 grandchildren, lives in Venice, FL, attended Beloit Coll BA Econ '57, is a realtor.

Jean (Zachary) Maskus (Jan 1953), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Charlotte, NC, is a retired homemaker.

Tim Barcanic (Jun 1953), has 5 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Perrysburg, OH, attended Roosevelt U BS, BA '65, is a retired airline pilot, now an instructor.

Jeannine (Sebby) May (Jun 1953), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Harvard, IL, is a retired volunteer choir director.

Joanne (Krause) Meissner (Jun 1953), has 6 children, 17 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, lives in Wood Dale, IL, is retired.

Carol (Goetz) Nelson (Jun 1953), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Chico, CA, is retired.

Marleen (Martin) Romano (Jun 1953), married **Joe Romano** (Jun 1952), has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, lives in Santa Barbara, CA, is retired.

Carol (Scheihing) Ruster (Jun 1953), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Fort Wayne, IN, attended DePauw U, is a retired secretary/office manager.

Marilynn (Loh) Wennerstrom (Jun 1953), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Mesa, AZ, attended Art Inst of Chicago BAE '60, is a homemaker.

Wally Valters (Jan 1954), has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, attended Loyola U BSC '58, PhD '83, is a retired auditor.

Lois (Fredrich) Christoffersen (Jun 1954), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, attended Nat'l Louis U BA '58, is a retired kindergarten teacher, and her children are Taft graduates.

Novelle (Cunningham) Pallanich (Jun 1954), has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Lees Summit, MO, attended Northwestern BS '57; U of Utah MS '67, is a retired consultant and professor.

Don Ring (Jun 1954), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, attended NIU BS '58; U of MI '61; Cornell U Ph D '69, is the retired principal of Niles West High School.

Ernest Stolle (Jun 1954), has 2 children, lives in Des Plaines, IL, attended North Park Coll AA '57; Northeastern BA '72, MA '74, is a self-employed wood broker.

Rosalie (Davies) Zweifel (Jun 1955), has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 11 great grandchild, lives in Dodgeville, WI, is a ceramics artist.

Paula (Meyer) Hovland (Jan 1956), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Island Lake, IL, is retired.

Thomas Plath (Jan 1956), married **Pat Schumacher** (Jun 1957), has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Eston, PA, is retired.

Ben Campanella (Jun 1956), has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Milpitas, CA, is a retired producer broker.

Mary Ann (Kennett) Doherty (Jun 1956), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Monona, WI, attended Wright Jr Coll '58, is a retired office manager.

Leon Kathan (Jun 1956), has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, lives in Sebring, FL, attended Triton Coll AA '73; Florida St BS '77, is a retired auto electrician.

Victoria (Kalinowski) Klassen (Jun 1956), has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Winter Garden, FL, attended NIU BS '60; Andover-Newton Theological Sch Mdiv '74, PsyD ABD '87, is a professor, college administrator and minister.

Diane (Klier) Dierks (Jan 1957), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Marengo, IL, is retired.

Leo Drummer (Jan 1957), has 1 child, 6 grandchildren, lives in Elgin, IL, is a retired ice cream plant manager.

Marcelyn (Haerr) Norris (Jan 1957), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Lombard, IL, is a homemaker.

Robert Kennett (Jun 1957), married **Joan Eis** (Jun 1958), has 4 children, 11 grandchild, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Bonita Springs, FL, is retired.

Barbara (Walker) Lewis (Jun 1957), has 2 children, lives in Mt Home, AR, attended CTC BS '61; Northeastern IL dMS Edu '69, is a retired teacher.

Pat (Schumacher) Plath (Jun 1957), married **Thomas Plath** (Jan 1956), has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Roswell, GA, is a retired artist.

Carole (Tobiasz) Rodi (Jun 1957), has 1 child, lives in Sarasota, FL, is retired.

Judith (Sullivan) Sorman (Jun 1957), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Apopka, FL, is retired.

Ray Iden (Jan 1958), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in West Dundee, IL, attended Idaho St Coll BA '64, is self-employed.

Brenda (Billhardt) Schmahl (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in San Jose, CA, attended ELCA AA Ministry '85, is a retired administrator.

Diane (Prosser) Degrenier (Jun 1958), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Cary, IL, is retired.

Penny (Neeb) Hoffman (Jun 1958), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Olympia, WA, attended Northwestern BS Journ '62, is a retired editor.

Joan (Eis) Kennett (Jun 1958), married **Bob Kennett** (Jun 1957), has 4 children, 11 grandchild, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Bonita Springs, FL, is retired.

Ron Kozemczak (Jun 1958), has 2 children, lives in Cary, NC, attended Coe Coll BA '62; NIU MA '67, is a retired PE teacher.

Chester Lee (Jun 1958), has 2 children, lives in Westlake Village, CA, attended Roosevelt U BS Comp Sci '77, is a retired senior software engineer.

Bonnie (Tibbett) Parker (Jun 1958), has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Wauconda, IL, is retired.

Camille (Nigro) Caccavari (Jan 1959), has 2 children, lives in Franklin Park, IL, is employed 14 yrs at Target.

Tom Croston (Jan 1959), has 1 child, lives in Wheeling, IL, attended Coe Coll BA '63, is retired.

Connie (Wie) Felter (Jan 1959), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Mesa, AZ, is a retired credit authorizer.

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

Ruth (Haasis) Babka (Jun 1959), lives in Chicago, IL, attended North Park Coll '63; Concordia U '77, is a retired teacher.

Jim Zubert (Jun 1959), married **Lauren Congiusti** (1969), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Wauconda, IL, is retired.

1960s

Frank Braun (Jan 1960), married **Charlotte Rizzo** (Jan 1961), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is a retired Deputy Chief, Cook County Sheriff's Dept and Security Dir at Hyatt-O'Hare.

Marian (Schleede) Busta (Jun 1960), lives in Park Ridge, IL, attended Northwestern BS, is an RN.

Judy Caloud (Jun 1960), lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

Carol (Ptak) Dewire (Jun 1960), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Punta Gorda, FL, is retired.

Marilou (Beaver) Epifano (Jun 1960), has 1 child, lives in Palatine, IL, is an administrative assistant.

Valerie (Duszak) Mesun (Jun 1960), has 6 children, 10 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, lives in Lake Tomahawk, WI, attended Lutheran General Hosp '64, is a retired RN.

Bonnie (Engel) O'Leary (Jun 1960), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Ft Myers, FL, is a retired aerobic instructor.

Dick Williams (Jun 1960), has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Boise, ID, attended U of ID BS '65; Base St U MBS '73, is a retired consultant for small business.

Charlotte (Rizzo) Braun (Jan 1961), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL.

Nancy (Pittatsis) Miller (Jan 1961), married **Tom Miller (deceased)** (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is a payroll assistant.

Joan (Weiglein) Welch (Jan 1961), has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, attended Elmhurst Coll Radiologic Tech '66, is a retired x-ray technologist.

Christine (Wojtowicz) Batalden (Jun 1961), has 6 children, 17 grandchildren, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is a homemaker.

Rudy Drost (Jun 1961), married **Lynn Anderson** (Jun 1961), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, attended St. Olaf - Roosevelt BA '85, MA, is a psychologist in private practice and a youth center volunteer counselor.

Lynn (Anderson) Drost (Jun 1961), married **Rudy Drost** (Jun 1961), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, attended Coe Coll BA '65; John Marshall Law Sch, is an insurance broker and president of his own agency.

Loretta (Phillips) Samborski (Jun 1961), married **Darryl Samborski** (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Beach Park, IL, attended Northeastern IL BA, is a retired teacher's aide in special education.

Kathleen Appleby-Cooper (Jan 1962), has 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Lake City, FL, attended NIU BA; Northeastern IL MA, is the owner of Vision Associates.

Tom Cook (Jan 1962), married **Kathy Catalano** (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Woodstock, IL, attended Notre Dame '65; Loyola MD '69, is a retired physician and medical director.

Wendy (Thornton) Davidson (Jan 1962), lives in East Peoria, IL, attended WIU BS '66, is a retired rural outreach coordinator for Hemophilia Center.

Judy (Jopp) Williams (Jan 1962), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Wesley Chapel, FL, attended NIU BS Ed '66, is a real estate broker and golf course owner.

Nancy (Miller) Ashby (Jun 1962), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Linn, MO, is retired, has 7 stepchildren and her husband taught ROTC at Taft from 1970-1972.

Lois (Knickerbocker) Boyer (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in South Bend, IN, is the owner of "The Mole Hole of South Bend" gift shop.

Rose Marie (Carone) Channon (Jun 1962), lives in Skokie, IL, attended Northeastern IL BA '66, MA '77, is a retired educator.

Leslee (Doubek) Lamp (Jun 1962), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Pewee Valley, KY, is a retired RN.

Edward Parquette (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, is a retired repairman for Marriott Corp.

Karen (Olson) Swenson (Jun 1962), has 1 child, lives in St Charles, IL, attended NIU BS Ed '85; Nat'l Coll of Edu MA '89, is a retired kindergarten teacher.

Robert Zerwer (Jun 1962), has 1 child, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, attended NIU '71, is a buyer for Truserv Corp.

Ginny (Sutton) Evert (Jan 1963), has 3 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Chicago, IL, attended American Acad of Med Tech, is fund raising for a nonprofit organization.

Linda (Stoll) Kudelka (Jan 1963), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove, IL, is a retired Jewel bake shop manager.

Carol (Lundberg) Miller (Jan 1963), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Larchwood, IA, is a retired librarian and bookkeeper.

Wayne Andersen (Jun 1963), has 6 children, 9 grandchildren, lives in Glenview, IL, attended Harvard BA '67; U of IL JD '70, is a retired district federal judge, and a member of the TAA Hall of Fame.

Phyllis (Beltle) Brown (Jun 1963), has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, attended Northeastern IL BA '67, is an insurance reviewer.

Bob Cella (Jun 1963), lives in Geneva, IL.

Edmund Feldy (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Evanston, IL, attended IIT BSMAE '68; MME '70; U Chicago MBA '75, is retired mechanical engineer.

Rick Kasper (Jun 1963), lives in Chicago, IL, is the retired owner of a real estate office and was employed by the City of Chicago.

Jim Petersen (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Plainfield, IL, is retired from IT.

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

Ernst Cornielsen (Jan 1964), lives in Lake Geneva, WI.

Kris (Warner) Finnigan (Jan 1964), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Bainbridge Island, WA, is a consultant.

Karen (Huber) Rudnik (Jan 1964), lives in Carol Stream, IL, attended Mayfair Jr Coll RN '76; DePaul BSN '83; Nat'l Coll Cert Sch Nurse '90, is a retired school nurse.

Richard Baran (Jun 1964), has 1 child, lives in Batavia, IL, attended Northeastern IL BA '67, MS '69; Loyola MBA '72, is retired.

Warren Luckner (Jun 1964), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Lincoln, NE, attended Luther Coll BA '68, U of MD MA '70, U of KY MA '72, is retired actuary and university professor.

Gay (Malewicki) Sweely (Jun 1964), has 2 children, lives in Richmond, KY, attended Il Wesleyan BA '68; U of UT MA '73; U of Melbourne, is an associate professor of art history at Eastern Kentucky University, and a member of the TAA Hall of Fame.

Daniel Lazar (Jan 1965), has 1 children, lives in Bloomingdale, IL, is retired.

Bill Moody (Jun 1965), has 3 children, lives in Dallas, TX, attended Iowa St BS Ind Admin '70, is working in public relations.

Janice (Alberti) Morrison (Jun 1965), lives in Shabbona, IL.

Richard Ulasy (Jun 1965), lives in Mc Henry, IL, is a retired mechanic.

Janet (Howarth) Arehart (Jan 1966), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, attended North Park Coll BA '70.

Don McKenzie (Jun 1966), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Topeka, KS, attended U of KS BA '70, is the owner of a music store.

Karen (Clausen) Regan (Jun 1966), lives in Kansas City, MO, attended Mayfair Jr Coll AA '69, is retired.

Lynne (Lyle) Backer (Jan 1967), lives in Wauconda, IL, attended NIU BA '70, MA '72, is a retired teacher.

Alan Dittmer (Jan 1967), lives in Tucson, AZ, attended U of IL BA '73; IL Benedictine MBA '79, is president of National Recovery.

Mary Mount (Jan 1967), lives in Georgetown, TX, is a retired US Customs & Border Protection assistant.

Susan (Oenning) Halihan (Jun 1967), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in West Dundee, IL, attended Harper Coll AA Nurs '81, is a retired RN.

Bill Eckholm (1968), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, attended Rochester Inst of Tech AS Mkt '78, is president and CEO of Firetrace Int'l.

Wayne General (1968), lives in Phoenix, AZ, attended Loyola BS Psych '72; Roosevelt MA '75; Inst Tech PhD '80, is a neuropsychologist.

Christine Lilla (1968), lives in Schaumburg, IL, attended Triton Coll LPN '84; Harper Coll AA Nurs '89, AA Sci '89, is a semi retired RN.

Ron Olsen (1968), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Oregon, WI, is retired.

Kathleen (Marquardt) Tellefsen (1968), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Eden Prairie, MN, attended SIU BS Ed '72, is a homemaker.

Michaeline (Tworek) Wong (1968), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Silver Spring, MD, is retired.

Robert Kanen (1969), has 3 children, lives in Ridgewood, NJ, attended Northeastern BA Soc '74; BA Psych '75, IL Sch of Prof Psych PsyD '83, is a clinical forensic psychologist.

Larry Wojcik (1969), has 1 child, lives in Palos Hills, IL, is working in hotel services.

George Zittnan (1969), lives in Fishers, IN, attended U of IL BS Bus/Mkt '77, is president of Speedway Steel Industries.

Lauren (Congiusti) Zubert (1969), married **Jim Zubert** (Jun 1959), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Wauconda, IL, is retired.

1970s

Carol (Davies) Bonk (1970), has 4 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Summit, IL, is in public relations at AMC Corp.

Catherine (Moriarty) Duffy (1970), has 1 child, lives in Merrionette Park, IL, attended Northeastern IL BA Ed '74, is a program administrative assistant at Northeastern.

Craig Heitman (1970), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Chicago, IL, is a skier.

Frank Berauer (1971), married **Eileen Dunn** (1973), has 3 children, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is an accountant.

Jane (Krusinski) Dvorak (1971), married **Dale Dvorak** (1971), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Waco, TX, attended Northeastern IL BA '75, is a teacher.

Dale Dvorak (1971), married **Jane Krusinski** (1971), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Waco, TX, attended West Point BS '75; Boston U MBA '95, is an e-commerce business owner.

Raymond Rzewnicki (1971), has 3 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Tempe, AZ.

Jim Wisniewski (1971), has 2 children, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, attended Roosevelt BS '76, MS '78, is an executive director for Ernst & Young LLP.

Lorree (Green) Campbell (1972), lives in Bethesda, MD.

Mike Hanrahan (1972), has 2 children, lives in Plymouth, MN, attended U of IL BA '71, is the owner of an advertising agency.

Judy (Sparesus) Lubinski (1972), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Clarendon Hills, IL, attended U of IL BA Biol '75; U of IL Med Ctr Pharm '78, is the pharmacist owner of Clarendon Pharmacy.

Eileen (Dunn) Berauer (1973), married **Frank Berauer** (1971), has 3 children, lives in Mt Prospect, IL.

Randy Cygan (1973), has 2 children, lives in Albuquerque, NM, attended U of IL BS Chem '77; Penn St MS Geochem '80, PhD '83, is a research geochemist.

Richard Evans (1973), married **Donna Schaller** (1974), has 2 children, lives in Elgin, IL, is a vice president in information technology.

Donna (Schaller) Evans (1974), married **Richard Evans** (1973), has 2 children, lives in Elgin, IL, is a homemaker.

Tom Lafin (1977), married **Jeannine Benson** (1980), has 2 children, lives in Flower Mound, TX, attended U of TX MBA '96; CAP '06, is an accountant.

Bob Pahl (1977), has 2 children, lives in Lake Villa, IL, is director of field operations for a pharmaceutical company.

Phil Priest (1977), has 3 children, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, attended U of IL AB '81; Nat'l Lewis MAT '92, is a 4th grade elementary school teacher in Lake Zurich.

Keith Rang (1979), has 3 children, lives in Chicago, IL, is a service supervisor for People's Gas.

1980s

Jeannine (Bensen) Lafin (1980), married **Tom Lafin** (1977), has 2 children, lives in Flower Mound, TX, is working in marketing.

Scott Schwieger (1981), has 2 children, lives in Chicago, IL, attended Northeastern IL BS '85, is a Chicago Police lieutenant.

Linda Pempek (1988), lives in Park Ridge, IL, is a recovery representative.

Memorial opportunities

One of the new projects which the Taft Alumni Association has begun working on is a collection of memorabilia cases. Taft's new principal, **Mark Grishaber**, is hoping to exhibit photos and memorabilia from the decades since Taft opened, to give students and faculty a sense of pride in the school, its history and its achievements. We are collecting items from school life, teams, clubs, etc.

The cost of these cases will be \$1,000 each, not counting the costs for preparing and labeling the display materials. If there are alumni, either as individuals, or groups (reunion classes, friends, family of graduates) who would be interested in donating toward the cost of purchasing a case, please contact **John Prochaska**, first vice president and treasurer, at [312-208-2582](tel:312-208-2582) or Taft1961reunion@aol.com.

Donations are also welcome to TAA's scholarship fund. These may be specifically designated in memory of

specific Taft graduates or faculty, or can be specified "TAA Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. You are welcome to include information about the person you are honoring. It's a way to pay forward to new Taft graduating seniors your own appreciation for the opportunities the school offers. Memorials made in memory of **Kay (Carlson) Kuciak**, our founding president, will be designated in a named scholarship fund.

On Donations

The Taft Alumni Association has a federal not-for-profit exemption status, so your donations to TAA are tax deductible on your federal income taxes. We will provide you with verification letters for each individual donation of \$250 or more, as required by IRS regulations.

In Our Memories

Robert Lawrence Passow, class of June 1941, died suddenly December 26, 2014. He is brother to Carol (Passow) Watkins (January 1945), Elaine Passow (January 1943) and Lawrence Passow (January 1947). He enlisted into the US Army in 1943, where he served as a radio operator on a troop ship and spent time in the Far East.

Davis Garrett Whittier, class of January 1943, died November 5, 2014. He served his country overseas as a medic in the

US Army from 1943 to 1945. He is brother to Barbara (Whittier) Hanson (June 1945) and Margaret (Whittier) Shanahan (June 1948).

George Edward Workman, class of January 1944, died October 16, 2014.

John "Jack" Daly, died January 4, 2015. He would probably have been in the class of Jun 1944 had he remained at Taft. He was only 17 when he eagerly enlisted in the U.S.

Marine Corps in 1943, setting off for the Pacific Theatre of WWII. He served gallantly in Guam and Okinawa.

Leonard Piekarski, class of January 1947, died August 3, 2014. He was a WWII Navy Veteran.

Charles C. Davis, class (approx.) 1948, died December 21, 2014. Formerly from DesPlaines, he recently retired to Ft. Myers, FL. He served his country in the Korean War.

Kenneth Carl Fischer, class of January 1948, died January 19, 2015. He served in the US Air Force after graduation.

Paul Hugo Felgenhauer, class of June 1951, died on July 5, 2014 after a battle with cancer.

Russell Loh, class of January 1952, died April, 1954 in an auto accident. He is brother to Marilyn (Loh) Wennerstrom (June 1953) and Richard Loh (January 1957).

Caryl Jean Rose Aiello, class of June 1952, passed away January 3, 2016 in Mesa, AZ. After graduation, she served her country during the Korean War as a licensed practicing nurse in the US Navy.

Frank Van Brock, class of June 1953, died in April 1954 auto accident.

Richard Loh, class of January 1957 died November 16, 2014. He is brother to Marilyn (Loh) Wennerstrom (June 1953) and Russell Loh (January 1952).

Judith Ellen (Young) Watts, class of June 1959, died November 3, 2014. She was the wife of Tom Watts (January 1959).

Thomas Watts, class of January 1959, died November 4, 2014. He was the husband of Judith (Young) Watts (June 1959) and brother to Howard Watts (January 1957).

Terry Louis, class of June 1961, died December 14, 2014. He served 20 years in the US Navy, fought cancer for many years and lived in rural Arkansas where the fishing was good.

Edward Leon Samp, class of June 1961, died January 3, 2006. He is the husband of Nancy (Stankiewicz) Samp and father to Edward Jr. (1988) and John Samp (1991).

Nancy (Stankiewicz) Samp, class of June 1961, died November 19, 2014. She is the wife of Edward Samp, Sr. and father to Edward Jr.(1988) and John Samp (1991).

Beverly (Borowski) Bornhorst, class of June

1962, died August 28, 2014 of cancer. She was married to John (Jack) Bornhorst (Jan 1963), for 48 years. Beverly is the twin of Barbara (Borowski) King (June 1962).

Kay Jean (Carlson) Kuciak, class of January 1963, passed away December 30, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was wife to the late Tom Kuciak (June 1962) and brother to the late Ken Carlson (January 1966). See an expanded tribute on page 1 of this newsletter.

Frank Thomas Tholke, class of June 1964, died in September 2014. He was formerly with the Chicago Police Department and a Korean War Veteran.

Virginia Keller, class of June 1964, is deceased, date unknown.

Sally Elizabeth (Thomas) Serpico, class of June 1964, died November 11, 2004.

William Frederick Traudt, class of June 1965, passed away on November 2, 2014 after a sixteen year battle with multiple myeloma. He is the brother of James (1969), Richard, Janet Arrasate, Christopher and the late Kenneth (1971) Traudt. He also is the son of Rita (Rydelski) Traudt (June 1944).

Robert Conrad Steele, class of January 1967 died December 28, 2014. He was brother to Lorraine L. (Steele) Johnson (January 1963) and John M. Steele. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Randall Leonard Wendt, class of 1968, died November 29, 2014. He is sister to Nancy (Wendt) Gunning (June 1965).

Phillip Michael Athens, class of 1979. Died peacefully in his sleep August 8, 2014. He was a special student at Taft and brother to Basil Athens (1977)..

"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.

TAA President **Kay (Carlson) Kuciak** and **Sarah (Welk) Machaj** (1988) presenting new band uniforms to Taft band students in 1990. Sarah served on TAA board and was our secretary about the time she was in college.



[Kay Kuciak- Continued from Page 1]

If ever a yearbook prediction came through, it was Kay's. She was a friend to thousands.

Her interest in volunteering may have developed because her parents were also community leaders. Dad Art was a Boy Scoutmaster. Mom Janet was a Girl Scout leader.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Tom and her brother Ken. She is survived by her son, Michael; granddaughters Chloe and Haley; sister-in-law Mary Carlson; nephews Jaret and Ryan Carlson, George and Tim Grom (Tom's sister Nancy's sons), and niece Melissa. Her Aunt Irene and Uncle Henry Fransen and eight Fransen cousins were also part of the extended family. Irene was an early member of TAA's board.

The family notice shared these thoughts: "Kay was kind, spirited, gregarious and fun-loving but would never hesitate to call it like she saw it. She had a sincere love for animals, especially cats, and discovered a talent for creating stained glass after her retirement."



**Kay Carlson
c.1963**

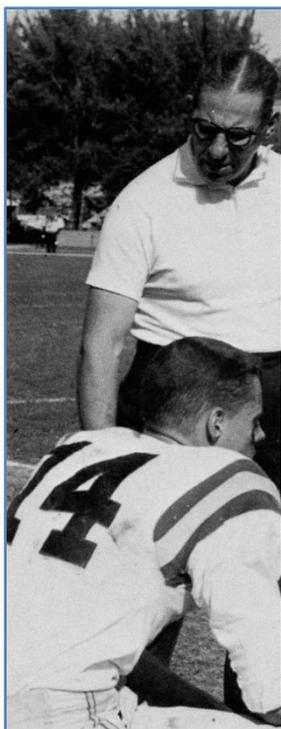
The Kuciaks settled in nearby Des Plaines, raising Mike. Tom worked for Centel (later Sprint) Telephone, finishing as fleet manager. Kay worked for a number of years at the Des Plaines Animal Hospital, near their home.

In about 1983, Taft **Principal Sam Ozaki** and teacher **Ron Dluger** were

exploring the potential of creating an alumni group for Taft. Kay was one who stepped up, and she agreed to be

president. The group officially organized as the Taft Alumni Association in 1984. There had been a previous TAA, founded in 1940 by **Frank Zemaitis**, a member of Taft's first graduating class, but that group gradually fell apart. So many graduates were dispersed during World War II, it was hard to keep members in touch.

Among the earliest TAA projects was organizing the dedication of the boys' (large) gym in honor of **Joe Kupcinek**, Taft's first and long-time football coach. Modern grads might better have known Joe's brother, Sun-Times columnist **Irv "Kup" Kupcinek**, but for students at Taft in 1960, Coach Joe Kupcinek was a hero – beloved by his players, he led the Taft Eagles to their first city championship. The dedication service gathered all the heroes



Coach Joe Kupcinek

from that team, many of whom went into professional football after college. Brother Kup came as emcee.

Kay and Tom worked as a team, although he often stayed behind their little home computer, stretching its capacity to store the names and addresses of graduates as TAA found them. There were no easy online references in those days and they could not surf the web for anything. The lists were assembled slowly and carefully, often one at a time, along with information about marriages and careers. They devoted years of their time to this project.

The Alumni Association became a visible presence in the Taft area as preparation started to celebrate Taft's 50th anniversary in fall 1989. Kay gathered a big committee to do publicity, share memorabilia exhibits, with rooms dedicated to decades, and plan special activities. One of these was a show, "The Best of Taft," featuring dozens of cast members from several decades of musicals, performed for two nights. Another was the induction of the first seven members of the Taft High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

Kay refused at first to be considered for the Hall of Fame herself, but in 1999, when she received a record number of nominations, she reluctantly agreed. We included her and Tom together, because they were always a team.

Kay turned producer in spring 1990 with a combined alumni and student cast in "Grease," the record-setting musical inspired by high school experiences of Taft grad **Jim Jacobs** (June 1960) and his writing partner, Warren Casey. TAA also produced student productions of "Mame," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Play On," "The Dining Room" and "Crowd Control" and reorganized annual alumni concerts to sing the Mixed Chorus Christmas season favorites which no longer were included in modern choral concerts.

Kay spent many days visiting class reunions, answering letters, stopping at Taft to talk to teachers and future graduates. She studied Taft so well, she could have earned a doctorate.

Perhaps the most exciting TAA event came during a visit by a "Grease" touring company at the Rosemont Theatre. Rock star Frankie Avalon, who'd played Teen Angel in the film version of the musical, was repeating that role in the touring cast. Through Jim Jacobs, Taft arranged to have the cast visit to try to break the world hand jive record. Avalon joined the chorus on stage and played some numbers with the Taft Steel Drum band. The record accomplished, Jacobs took Avalon to Dino's on Higgins to taste some authentic Chicago Italian Beef.

One of the most popular offerings by TAA was the quarterly newsletter which shared news of Taft, its graduates and teachers, and their memories. Bulk mail required a lot of hand-sorting and assembly, and earlier generations of TAA board members would take turns around the Kuciak dining room and living room for weeks to finish the mailings for the post office.

The biggest challenge was the summer newsletter, which until several years ago went to every alumni address we had, up to 13,000 at one time. Eventually, when postal rates skyrocketed, we cut back on mailing to people who did

not pay dues, but everyone in a new graduating class got an introductory copy. Members were offered the option for receiving newsletters online.

Alumni scholarships began being presented to cast and crew participants in our student shows, and then we switched to reviewing seniors' applications. Various alumni and their friends and families began to donate funds specifically for scholarships; several, in memory of **Dr. John Graven** and of 1960 alum **Robert Hendricksen**, continued for a number of years.

The Hall of Fame continued on a five-year cycle through 2009, although we reduced the cycle to three years after that. Kay's hope was for current Taft students to be introduced to these inspiring former students who had started where they are and gone on to amazing lives.

Eventually, experiencing some breathing difficulties that Chicago's air quality seemed to aggravate, Kay found that wintering in Arizona was much better for her health. She and Tom retired to Surprise, but she maintained an active role in TAA. By that time, the expansion of WiFi and internet and email made it possible to maintain connections. She was one of several board folks who attended the new southwestern annual reunions.

She lost Tom in 2010, downsized to a smaller place, and continued to live a fulfilling life.

She had hoped to get to Chicago for a spring TAA celebration of Taft's 75th year and to see her friends. We hope her friends will join us to celebrate Kay's generous spirit and love of Taft.

Historic Photographs of Taft – Who Do You Recognize ?



On the left, students posed for art classes but there was nothing risqué about this model's skirt in 1963. A few years later when mini skirts came into vogue with the Beatles and Carnaby Street's mod fashions, the conservative teachers had girls kneel on chairs to be sure their skirts were below their knees.

On right, Dr. Ben Willis, General Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools, receives an apple and scroll for his educational leadership and inauguration of the first Teach Appreciation Week for Chicago in 1963. **Dr. Gerald J. Haley**, principal, and **Mr. Gerald Cuny** look on as **Nancy Grudzien**, **Mary Rick** and **George Knickerbocker** make the presentation.





How about those Taft Eagles? We share a pride for our teams and our school, no matter when we were at Taft.
Homecoming Celebration – c 1990



Prom Night - 1967



Social Studies teacher Gerald Cuny helped to orient these 1960s students to how the world was changing.



National Honor Society

You know you've successfully reached your goal when you get your diploma and move the tassel on you cap.



Postcard of newly built Taft High School - 1939

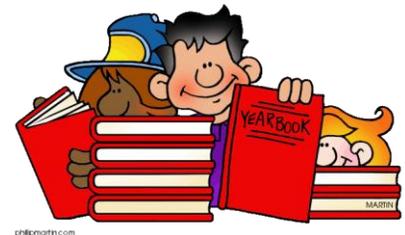
Taft Alumni Association Merchandise

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 – embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Medium	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered 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: 1943 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 (64), 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.

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.

Thanks to all who have opted to receive their newsletter electronically. It has made a difference in our printing, mailing and handling newsletters. Bottom line, it gives us more opportunity to use our funds for other important TAA projects for Taft.

**Taft Alumni Association
Membership Application**

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

About You

*First Name (PLEASE PRINT)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address		List in Email Directory <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children, _____ Grandchildren, _____ Great Grandchildren, _____ Great Greats?		
Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			<input type="checkbox"/> Do not publish my information in the Class Notes

About Your Taft Graduate Spouse

*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years		
Occupation	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			

Enclosed is a check or money order for:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 2-year single membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 2-year alumni couples membership <input type="checkbox"/> Donation in the amount of \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter online <input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter by mail <input type="checkbox"/> Send both by mail and online
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Please mail application and funds to:
Taft Alumni Association, 6530 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631
Winter 2015

Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

Anne Lunde	1969	President, Historian
John Prochaska	1948	1 st Vice President/Treasurer
Frank Heyer	1961	2 nd Vice President
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Kevin Krieger	1973	Director, Webmaster webmaster@taftalumni.org
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(Vacant)		Director
(Vacant)		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 eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Send photographs and articles for the next issue to:

Jerry Bloom Stephenson
 444 N. 3rd Ave – Apt. 1
 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
 or email jbbloom@charter.net

**Submission Deadline for the Spring Issue:
MARCH 31, 2015**

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

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