



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXV, No. 3

SUMMER ISSUE

We Congratulate Taft Class of 2019

Graduations for Taft High School seniors are always a bit different, but members of earlier classes would find many similarities.

For several years Taft has taken advantage of its proximity to Rosemont and its theatre at River Road and Balmoral. Between mid-May and the end of June, this venue is booked solid by area high school districts. It has parking, it has accessibility and access to major routes. It has sufficient seating and was built with sightlines on the main floor and balcony. And, while it may take time to leave the parking area, it doesn't take two hours in rush hour traffic to reach earlier venue choices.

Principal Mark Grishaber challenged this year's seniors with incentives to replace misbehaving...and if they worked hard and met the goals, they could even earn extra tickets for the ceremony. On June 9 they marched in to Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," only to find that they would be sitting in chairs on the stage. The Wind Ensemble was against the back curtain, speakers and assistant principals were across the front, and close to 670 students were ushered into chairs in between,

Grishaber pointed out that this was their "reward" because on the Friday before graduation the audience seating proved to be oversold by 600. Their families could watch the ceremony on giant broadcast screens, and the class would have to wait to see the Senior Class video later.

The magnitude of this class, one of the largest since the 1970s, could be measured by how many choruses of "Pomp and Circumstance" were needed for the procession. Including pre-ceremony performances by the Taft chorus, the ceremony lasted more than three hours, before tassels were moved and a few inflated volleyballs flipped into the air.

For a number of years, with smaller classes and venues, the home room division teachers had recited their names, but

after the shift to Rosemont a few years ago, Brian Lavery from the Fine Arts Department had taken on the task. He left Taft for a new position last year, and it took three readers to replace him this year.

Grishaber encourages graduation audiences to recognize veterans and first responders. He asks graduates in the audience to stand and be recognized.

The "Taft Alumni Pledge" was added a few years ago, to remind new graduates that they are joining a larger group. There have been an estimated 106 Taft graduation ceremonies since June 1940, including the years when there were January classes. Staff members who are Taft graduates take turns leading the pledge, this year teacher Kayla Jaffe (2013), one of the senior division teachers, had the honor.

Taft's academic ratings have grown with its International Baccalaureate program, and 172 colleges and universities are listed as destinations for this year's graduates. They'll be studying in half of the states and have qualified for \$25,836.000 in scholarships.



Taft Alumni Network Pledge

I do solemnly pledge to faithfully fulfill my duties as a graduate of William Howard Taft High School.

I will endeavor to earn my own place among alumni, who by their devotion to this ideal have brought recognition and honor to their Alma Mater.

I commit myself to the highest standards of service to my country, my community and school and I will encourage them to contribute and participate in the activities and noble work of the Alumni Network.

Valedictorian Tells Classmates to be Strong, True to Selves

Taft's 2019 valedictorian, Beity Yang, reminded her classmates of the challenges of high school: long hours of homework, trying to get to school by the 7:30 a.m. starting times without dark circles under their eyes.

Those times are over, she said. The Taft class of 2019 will be heading out to the next stage of their lives: to college or the military or other career choices. Teachers helped them expand their minds, preparing them to integrate with the world, equipping them to persevere.

It may seem a frightening challenge, she said, but, "You Can Do It!"

Success in life, she insisted, is not defined by meeting societal pressures or being super-intelligent. Athletes achieve by working hard to improve their physical skills. Rosa Parks became a leader through her courage.

Everyone is capable of success, Yang added, "Be audacious. Be strong and be true to yourself."

Beity Yang has been an IB scholar, member of National Honor Society, active in the Helping Hand program and the Filipino Club.

2019 Alumni Scholarships

The Taft Alumni Association presented \$1,000 scholarships to three members of Taft's 2019 graduating class. Because of the advanced course work in Taft's curriculum, all three students have weighted grade point averages above A.



2019 Alumni Scholarship winners Ariel Avista, Mia Cinquini, and Isabella Aviles

Mia Cinquini, ranking 50th in the class, is the recipient of a scholarship donated by Ruth Artisuk, a retired Taft chemistry teacher, who donated this scholarship to

encourage graduates pursuing a career in science. Mia plans to get her degree in nursing and had been accepted at five universities when she applied for our scholarship.

She has been vice president of student government at Taft and a member of the Environmental Club, Student Voice Committee, and National Honor Society. As a junior she was an Eagle Mentor, helping freshmen.

She is team captain of both the Track and Field and Cross-Country teams. She earned the Eagle Award in Cross Country for her dedication and leadership. She runs despite a need to use an inhaler and has been an inspiration to her teammates.

Through her youth group at St. Robert Bellarmine parish, she has assisted in charitable programs to assist families in inner city neighborhoods. She worked with the Chicago Park District summer programs and when her local park hosted winter games for Special Olympics.

Isabella Aviles, 42nd in the class, has plans to go to medical school and become an obstetrician or gynecologist.

At Taft she has been captain of the Varsity Poms team for two years (Poms have one of the longest seasons in Taft's sports calendar) and won the Coach's award for her leadership. She was a member of Student Government and vice president of National Honor Society. She was a member of the Zumba Club and an Eagle Mentor for two years.

She has volunteered as a helper for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, assisting with childcare while parents attend information seminars, and hopes to help families, especially women, in overcoming health concerns. She worked several years at Whelan Pool as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Ariel Arista, ranking 25th, wants to be an elementary school teacher. She says she was inspired to pursue teaching after the positive experiences she had at Taft.

She is president of the South Asian Club, which performs for International Night at Taft, but also was involved in Hawaiian and Belly Dancing Club. She also was president of the International Baccalaureate Student Leadership group at Taft. She was a member of National Honor Society, the Eagle Mentor program, Helping Hands, badminton, and the Taft Tennis Club.

Although Taft offers IB study opportunities across the school, a select few pursue the extra challenges of earning an IB diploma, which can earn them world recognition. Ariel, a member of the French B diploma program was one

of 21 students from Taft who qualified for a special trip to France this spring.

Are you proud of your background at Taft?

Would you like to help future Taft graduates as they start into the world? Individuals, groups of friends or reunion classes are welcome to make donations to TAA's scholarship fund; memorials to classmates are also welcome.

Please contact TAA at eaqleemail@taftalumni.org or write to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185.

Will Taft Remember You?

Principal congratulates a record-breaking class



Principal Mark Grishaber called the Taft Class of 2019 record breaking in a number of ways at the June 9 graduation ceremony.

“You had to practice on a dirt field for four years. (As) you leave today we have a brand-new athletic field that so many students will be able to enjoy.

“So many students followed you and chose Taft over the selective enrollment and private schools that we needed to open a new Freshman Academy which will open this August. You can brag you’re the last Taft class that spent all four of your years at the Varsity campus.

“You all made history.

“You made it through your classes...through many late nights, the countless drills and inspections. You made it

through my speeches in the auditorium, and the best homecoming dances in the nation.”

Eighty-five students made it into the National Honor Society; 45 qualified as Illinois State Scholars. Chicago Public Schools requires 40 hours of community service, the graduates this year earned a collective 45,309 hours, and several personally reached even higher: Elizabeth Ahrens with 584 hours and Adan Mulvaney with 536.



Three City Champ plaques: Girls Varsity Poms Small Group, Varsity Football, and Boys Varsity Wrestling



Among the numerous trophies are Debate Team Blue Conference Championship, Girls Rugby 3rd Place State Girls Division, and from the IHSPLA Powerlifting State Championships

“Four years ago, Taft was being recognized as one of the top high schools in Chicago,” Grishaber said. “I asked you to make Taft the best IB school in Illinois, and you did... You leave here today, and Taft is being recognized as one of the best high schools in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.”

Grishaber said Taft is now the largest International Baccalaureate program in Illinois, and with close to 90 percent of the students coming from the Taft feeder community, he declared it (at least) the best neighborhood school in Chicago.

In four years, the class of 2019 teams earned 36 conference championships, played football at Soldier Field, won 11 city championships including, in 2018-19, Poms, Wrestling, Football and Boys Indoor Track. The counters in the main office were filled with awards by June.

“Will we remember you? How could we ever forget you?” Grishaber asked.

When Norwood Park Students Moved into Mobile Units

The Taft Class of 1969, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, started with a milestone.

The main building at Natoma and Hurlbut had already outgrown its first addition, and was on a 10-period day, with morning divisions for the upper grades and afternoon divisions for younger grades. An experiment, shifting some students to part of Norwood Park School, became a home for the entire freshman class in September 1965. There were about 900 in the class.

It was a similar solution (although considered to be less long term) to moving Taft's current 7th to 9th grades into a freshman academy this summer.

Jim and Marge Kelly and their family lived a block away. In fall 1965 their oldest son, George, was part of the freshman class. The youngest Kelly, Bob, started school in the portable classrooms (dubbed "Willis Wagons" for school superintendent Benjamin Willis) which were installed behind Norwood Park School for the whole grade school enrollment.

Mobile Units Cont'd

Jim was a local community leader, who helped to start the Norwood Park Historical Society in 1973. Marge became president of the Norwood Park School PTA.

This year, Bob, who likes to build models, assembled an exhibit with models of the mobile units and information on the near decade when Norwood Park School operated

outside of its 1916 school building. It wasn't until Taft got a designation for one part to be a Public Building Commission addition (June 1969)



Bob Kelly's model of the mobile units behind Norwood Park School, 5600 N. Nina, is on display through October at the Norwood Park Historical Society.

that planning could start for the wing where the offices, lunchroom, fine arts and library are now located.

Bob spent his grade school years in the mobile classrooms, and when he was choosing a high school, he picked Lane Tech. The impacts of the Norwood Park Branch reverberated in the community for several decades, and when local elementary enrollment stayed low, led later to relocating the old District One (later Sub-District One) offices to the far Northwest Side from Irving Park.

The mobile units exhibit will be on display through the end of October on the second floor of the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N, Newark Ave., one block west of Taft and a couple of doors north of Bryn Mawr. Regular hours are noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Reunion groups can call 773-631-4633 to make arrangements for special tours. Admission is free.

Lost Classmates

Roger Newman, Class of Jun '48 is looking for **Clarence Robert Johnsen**, Jan '48 who played basketball for Taft in 1948. Please pass along any information to the TAA by mail or to us at eagleemail@taftalumni.org and we will provide the "lost" classmate with Roger's contact information.



Are you looking for someone? For a donation of \$5 the TAA will print your request here. If the classmate you are looking for, or another person responds, we'll provide them with your contact information so that they may contact you.

Reunions



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!!

Taft 5th Annual All Class California Reunion Picnic

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2019 (Noon - 4pm)

Place: "House of Savage", 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA

Detail: \$8 includes Rosati's Chicago Pizza, non-alcoholic drinks. Bring a dish to share and BYOB.

Contact: Mike Day, Jun '60 (michael91942@yahoo.com) or Jan (Ostromencki) Savage, '74 (janhelloworld@hotmail.com)

Taft Class of January 1959 60 Year Reunion

Date: September 13-15, 2019

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines IL

Contact: Norm Gunther (nhgunther@aol.com) or Barb Peterson (847-934-0334)

Taft Class of June 1959 60 Year Reunion

Dates: October 4-6, 2019

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines IL

Contact: Anne Fear-McManus (630-584-9194) or Penni Eichin-Isaacson (847-945-5168)

Website: www.taftreunion1959.com

Taft Class of January 1965 55 Year Reunion

Date: 10/12/19, 6pm - 11pm

Location: Chandler's Chophouse, 401 Roselle Rd, Schaumburg, (847) 885-9009

Detail: \$50 per person includes buffet type dinner (cash bar available), music, fun, stories and of course great company (and maybe a surprise or two?)

Contact: taft65@yahoo.com

Taft Class of 1968 Luncheon

Date: 09/28/19, Noon – 4pm

Location: FONA Int'l, Inc., 1900 Averill Rd, Geneva, IL. 60134

Detail: \$18 (Includes appetizers, beverages - wine, soft drinks, coffee, tea, water, buffet luncheon, dessert), checks payable to Carolyn Toerpe, 527 Grimes Ave, Naperville, IL. 60565

Contact: Nancy Warzecha (Nancywarz@sbcglobal.net), Carolyn Toerpe (Carolyn.Toerpe@gmail.com), Maggie Cross (mccross1234@gmail.com)

Taft Class of 1969 50 Year Reunion

Date: October 19, 2019

Place: Moretti's Edison Park, 6727 N Olmstead, Chicago

Contact: Anne Lunde (alundewriter@gmail.com) or Laurel Kaage (kaagefamily@gmail.com) or Taft1969@aol.com

[Reunions Cont'd](#)

Taft Class of 1974 45 Year Reunion

Date: September 28, 2019, 7pm-11pm

Place: Moretti's Edison Park, 6727 N Olmstead, Chicago

Contact: Donna (Schaller) Evans (evans56@sbcglobal.net)

Taft Class of 1979 40 Year Reunion

Date: September 21, 2019, 6pm-?

Place: Moretti's Edison Park, 6727 N Olmstead, Chicago

Contact: Nancy (Clark) Flynn (flyntastic5@gmail.com)

Facebook: Taft High School, Chicago, Class of 1979

Taft Class of 1989 30 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019, 8pm-Midnight

Place: Moretti's Edison Park, 6727 N Olmstead, Chicago IL

Detail: \$29 per person

Facebook: Eventbrite link will be available in September

Contact: Kris Hardt (kristinehardt234@gmail.com)

Notice from the Principal

Mark Grishaber again reminds us that Taft High School no longer endorses any activities of the "Taft High School Foundation". Discussion has been initiated regarding the formation of a "Friends of Taft" organization as well as a booster club to support sports and other programs.

Questions should be addressed directly to the principal.

Messages from Our Members

Thank you for your hard work. I look forward to each newsletter.

Dorothy (Almquist) Engquist, June '56

Thank you! I truly enjoy receiving the newsletter.

Karen (Kloda) Stolzman, 1977

Dear Fellow Taft Alumni, I enclose an extra donation to the Alumni Association in appreciation of the very enjoyable all-

class reunion picnic held March 17, 2019 in Scottsdale, Arizona, and also to help pay for the extra cost of my print editions of the newsletter. Thank you for all your work for the Association!

Rodney Lowell, June '47

Rodney, we were tickled pink to have the company of you and your wife Kathleen at the picnic, and so happy that you won the raffle for the TAA baseball cap. You have enough school spirit and enthusiasm for 100 alumni! Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

In 1909, President William Howard Taft, in a message to Congress, recommended the adoption of a constitutional amendment giving the federal government the right to levy and collect an income tax. Not sure if I should cheer or not.

John Placko, June '65

A mixed blessing, to be sure, John. Thanks for the factoid on our presidential namesake. Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

Thanks, Paulette. Just got back from the old neighborhood and took a look at Taft. It is looking good. The neighborhood looks great. A wonderful place to grow up! Got to visit some of my old Taft friends!

Ken Paul, 1970

Ken, that's terrific. Who says you can't go home again? Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

Alumni – Taft, I graduated January 1950, played on the 1949 City Champ baseball team, played both in Sox Park and Wrigley Field.



HARRY JOHNSON

Senior

Intercollegiate
National, Orange, Columbus
Detroit, Toledo, Elmer, Saylor, Crumpton,
Illinois State, Chicago, Cleveland,
Illinois State, Indiana, Co. Columbus,
Chicago, City, Chicago
Tri-State, Chicago
Midwest, Chicago, District,
CVO, Harbor, Co. Wilcox

graduation night, walks across the stage, collected my diploma, walked out the door (did not stay), got on a train to St. Paul, MN, and won the United States Speed Skating Championship. I also have three pair of Silver Skates. Most important—I still skate four time a week!

Dr. Harry Johnson, January '50

Wow, Harry! That must have been such an exciting, not to mention stressful, time for a young man.

Thanks for sharing those memories with us and it's heartening to hear that you are still at it. Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor



My guess for the 1953 Taft photo identities [from the Winter 2019 newsletter]:
 Row 1: Unknown, Marion Johnson, Unknown, Heather Lundmark, Anita Thienemann
 Row 2: Carita Wick, Lois Lackner, Jim Regitz, Marilyn

Johnson, Fran?

Row 3: Sue Mulligan, Carolyn Johnson, Donna Larson, Marilyn Loh, Joan Bator

Marilynn Wennerstrom, June '53

Hi, Marilyn. Thanks for taking a stab at naming these classmates. You remembered nearly all of them! Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

For Bob Friedlander: Hi Bob, it's been a long time since we corresponded! Here are the records for 1954-55-56-57:

[Messages Cont'd](#)

1954 TAFT vs OPPONENT

SEASON

| | | |
|----|-------------|----|
| 28 | Roosevelt | 6 |
| 38 | Kelvyn Park | 0 |
| 12 | Amundson | 13 |
| 13 | Schurz | 6 |
| 36 | Marshall | 0 |

PLAYOFFS

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| 6 | Schurz | 14 |
|---|--------|----|

1955

PRACTICE

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----|
| 7 | Thorton Fract'l | 12 |
| 7 | Schurz | 27 |

SEASON

| | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| 20 | Tuley | 0 |
| 21 | Senn | 6 |
| 20 | Marshall | 0 |
| 37 | Kelvyn Park | 0 |
| 13 | Amundson | 6 |

PLAYOFFS

| | | |
|----|------------|----|
| 32 | Crane Tech | 0 |
| 7 | CVS | 40 |

1956

PRACTICE

| | | |
|----|----------|----|
| 20 | Lakeview | 13 |
| 9 | Schurz | 7 |

SEASON

| | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| 7 | Amundson | 7 |
| 48 | Kelvyn Park | 0 |
| 42 | Marshall | 0 |
| 29 | Senn | 7 |
| 39 | Tuley | 0 |

PLAYOFFS

| | | |
|----|-------------|----|
| 39 | Harrison | 12 |
| 13 | Morgan Park | 33 |

1957

PRACTICE

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 0 | Lakeview | 0 |
| 20 | Schurz | 0 |

SEASON

| | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| 12 | Marshall | 0 |
| 25 | Senn | 7 |
| 34 | Tuley | 9 |
| 32 | Kelvyn Park | 0 |

PLAYOFFS

| | | |
|----|-----------|----|
| 25 | Steinmetz | 0 |
| 0 | Fenger | 25 |

Taken from my yearbooks. Hope this helps. I'm anxious to see the CD's. I filmed the games in 1956 and 57 for Coach Kup. We had some pretty darned good teams! Had lots of fun driving a car full of co-eds to and fro in my Dad's '55, 4 door Chevy Bel Aire. Memories of those days were so great that a couple years ago I bought a 1957, 4 door Bel Air. The 55 -56 & 57 were basically the same car with different trim. Absolute Classics! Hope all is well with you and yours!

Bob Zaun, January '58

Bob, thank you so much for reaching out to Bob Friedlander to fill in some of the gaps and sharing memories of that Chevy classic.

Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor



Paulette, Great job you do! I saw Bob Friedlander's note in the last newsletter. I have the yearbook for my Class of 1956, so I checked and made copies of the football team scores, etc., and what was in the book. Please send them on to Bob. I have it in my "funeral notes" to send this yearbook back to Taft when I die, but I'm only 81 so you don't get it yet.

Thomas B Tubbs, June '56

Thomas, thanks for the kudos and for the yearbook copies. I've scanned them and sent them on to Bob Friedlander. We will be more than happy to wait for your yearbook many years from now. Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

Thanks for all your hard work putting this newsletter together. We all love getting it! Enclosed is my check for \$20 - \$15 for my membership and a little extra for mailing

costs. I'm old and I still like to read with a paper or book in my hands so thank you for that too. I'm finally retired after owning a gift shop for 37 years. Also, my husband of 54 years passed away so it's a whole new set of circumstances for me.

Lois (Knickerbocker) Boyer, June '62
Lois, we are sorry for the loss of your husband. I have visited your shop, "The Mole Hole", in South Bend, IN. It was always a delightful experience of discovery. We hope your years in retirement prove to be happy ones. Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

Erratum: Donald Gifford, January '58, Ray Setzke, June '62, Michael Parquette, June '64 and Nancy (Haaning) Johnson, June '56, and Richard Swanson, Jan '60, thanks for pointing out the mysteriously missing "Bryn" in Taft's address on the last issue's membership form. It has been corrected.
Paulette English, TAAN Newsletter Editor

Class Notes

1940s

Bess (Smith) Roggenbuck (Jun 1945), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, lives in Gulf Breeze, FL, business school, is a retired dress shop and gift shop owner, will be 92 in July and married to her Schurz graduate and WWII veteran husband of 73 years.

Red Jackson (Jun 1948), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, lives in Big Canoe, GA, ISU BS '56; US Army 1951-54, is retired from the insurance business, and celebrates 63 years of marriage in August with wife Cary Wallace of Worth, IL.

Mary Lou (Crotte) Zolli (Jun 1948), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Bella Vista, AR, is retired.

Jack Will (Jan 1949), married **Jerrie Biver-Squire** (Jan 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, North Central College BS '53; US Naval officer 1953-57, is the retired president of Magi Color Paint Co.

1950s

Joyce (Betting) Pilcher (Jan 1950), has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Tamarac, FL, is a retired bank supervisor.

Paul Skogstrom (Jun 1950), has 7 children, 17 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Clarksville, OH, UN MA '55, is a semi-retired psychologist.

Jerrie (Biver) Will (Jun 1950), married **Jack Will** (Jan 1949), has 3 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, is the retired owner of a beauty salon.

Joyce (Christensen) Johnson (Jun 1952), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired receptionist, and is enjoying retirement.

Patricia (Tuhy) Socha (Jun 1952), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Morton Grove, IL, is a retired legal secretary, says, "12 of us ladies get together for lunch 6 times per year".

Lois (Fredrich) Christoffersen (Jun 1954), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, National Louis U BA Ed '58, is a retired elementary school teacher of 40 years.

Robert Phillips (Jun 1954), has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, US Army 2 years, is a retired operating engineer, married Caryle Haptman, a 1958 Steinmetz graduate.

Ruth (Mathisen) Blomquist (Jan 1956), married **James Blomquist** (deceased) (Jan 1956), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in McHenry, IL, 2 years college, is retired.

Dorothy (Almquist) Engquist (Jun 1956), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Downers Grove, IL, is a retired RN (at last!), enjoys spending 6 months in Naples, Florida.

Nancy (Haaning) Johnson (Jun 1956), lives in Park Ridge, IL, and is playing bridge as much as possible.

Karen (Taylor) Fogarty (Jan 1957), has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright Jr Col AA, is a retired after-school program director at St. Isaac Jogues School in Niles, IL.

Donald Gifford (Jan 1958), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Germantown, WI, ISU BSME '63, is retired.

Carole (Hilden) Romor (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove Village, IL, is retired.

Rod Markgraf (Jan 1959), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, is retired.

Tom Wise (Jan 1959), has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Park Ridge, IL, UIC BSEE '72; US Navy submarine service 1962-69, is a retired electrical engineer, his wife, Jan 1960 Kelvyn Park HS graduate Gail (Brown) Wise, purchased and still owns the first Ford Mustang sold in the US.

Dorothy Engels (Jun 1959), lives in Chicago, IL, Drake U BFA '63, is a retired UAL flight attendant.

Anne (Fear) Mcmanus (Jun 1959), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in St Charles, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired swim coach, always enjoys the newsletters and teaching small children and babies to enjoy the water.

1960s

Richard Swanson (Jan 1960), has 1 child, lives in Liverpool, NY, IIT BS Math '64, NEIU MAT '68, OSU PhD Math Edu '72, is a retired author and mathematics education professor, spends winters in Ocala, Florida.

Nancy (Pittatsis) Miller (Jan 1961), married **Tom Miller (deceased)** (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is retired.

Steve Regopoulos (Jan 1961), has 4 children, 11 grandchild, lives in Inverness, IL, UI BS Phys ED/Soc '69, 2 years architecture; Real Estate Inst AA '75, is a real estate developer.

Margie (Mclean) Kullman (Jun 1961), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Plymouth, MN, is retired.

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

Class Notes Cont'd

Susan (Craumer) Corrao (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in South Barrington, IL, Wright Col AA; NIU BA Speech Pathology '66, is retired.

Barbara (Borowski) King (Jun 1962), married **Terry King (deceased)** (Jan 1960), lives in Vernon Hills, IL, is the retired assistant to the chairman at Stepan Co.

Ray Setzke (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Wimauma, FL, US Navy '62-'66, is retired from Ace Hardware corporate traffic, and plays softball or pickleball every day.

Jon Ingram (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Sumter, SC, is retired.

Jim Petersen (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Plainfield, IL, Wright College '66; Staff Sgt US Army, Vietnam 1967-69, is a retired IT program director.

Lee Schurter (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, is retired from State Farm Insurance.

Michael Lopriore (Jan 1964), married **Carol Votava** (Jan 1966), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Prospec Hts, IL, is semi retired.

Patrick Leavy (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Treasure Island, FL, is a retired industrial engraver and mold maker.

Michael Parquette (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, lives in Wonder Lake, IL, US Army '65-'67, is a retired field operations manager with Ameritech.

Lou (Andersen) Handley (Jan 1965), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, EIU BS Ed '69, is a retired secondary English teacher.

Carol (Votava) Lopriore (Jan 1966), married **Michael Lopriore** (Jan 1964), has 2 children 5 grandchildren, lives in Prospec Hts, IL, is a retired RN.

Judy (Swanson) Stone (Jan 1966), has 3 stepchildren, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Twin Lakes, WI, MS Curriculum Instruction, is a retired teacher, is a volunteer literary council manager, volunteer math tutor in county jail, and teaches ESL in the community.

Gary Andersen (Jun 1966), lives in Palatine, IL, NEIU BA; USMC 1968-69 with 4 combat citations, is a retired instructor for the National Safety Council, and is happy to report that he's still having birthdays.

Don McKenzie (Jun 1966), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Topeka, KS, KU BA Hist '70, is the retired owner of a music store.

Roy Bergstrom (1969), lives in San Francisco, CA, Knox College BA '73; UI AM '75; U of the Pacific MBA '00; UI PhD '80, is a retired university professor and administrator.

1970s

Theresa Vandorpe (1975), lives in Chicago, IL, UICC BA, is a claims account analyst at AM Trust Financial.

Sandi (Sanderson) Darnell (1976), has 2 children, lives in Lake Zurich, IL, is retired.

Karen (Kloda) Stolzman (1977), has 4 children, lives in Lake Forest, IL, is self-employed.



Friday Night Lights

On September 6, 2019, the Taft Eagles may be playing their first ever football game under lights against Brooks College Prep High School. This has been Principal Mark Grishaber's goal since arriving at Taft. Temporary lighting will initially light up the new varsity athletic field on Bryn Mawr. Grishaber hopes many Taft alumni will be in attendance.



Photo shared via Twitter by Principal Mark Grishaber



The new bleachers photographed by Anne Lunde

In Our Memories



Marvin E. Sopkin

Marvin E. Sopkin of Glenview, IL, died on May 14, 2019 at the age of 90. He taught Social Studies at Taft High School for many years beginning in the 1960s.

John Rafayko of Palatine, IL, Class of June 1949, died on March 20, 2019 of Alzheimer's Disease. He taught Social Studies and was a counselor at Taft in the 1960s.

LCDR Paul A. Muffler, Senior Naval Science Instructor, died on January 5, 2019. He was the second Commander of Taft's NJROTC.



John Rayfayko

Nina Marie (Burns) Grab Beall of New Port Ritchey, FL, Class of June 1943, died on March 25, 2019. She is was the proud great-grandmother to Alessa Yenco, Class of 2019, and Malena Yenco, Class of 2021.

Jeanette Josephine (Zaroski) Courtois of Vernon Hills, IL, Class of June 1944, died on June 2, 2019.

Vanece Maxine (Kendrick) Fillmore of Mountain Home, AR, Class of June 1944, died on March 3, 2019. She is survived by her brother Dale Alan Kendrick, Class of June 1950.

Vivian (Winkates) Borman of Framingham, MA, Class of June 1945 died on April 25, 2019. She is survived by her brother Bob Winkates, Class of February 1952.

Carol (Petty) Duda of Peoria, IL, Class of June 1945, died on June 14, 2019. She was valedictorian of her class.

Clyde William Diven Jr. of Hoffman Estates, IL, Class of January 1947, died June 19, 2019.

Lena Rose (Abboreno) McNamara of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1949, died on March 22, 2019.

Roy Almquist, Class of June 1950, died in 1976. He is survived by her sister Dorothy (Almquist) Engquist, Class of June 1956.

Raymond Paul Fredrich of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of June 1950, died in February 2013. He is survived by his sister Lois (Fredrich) Christoffersen, Class of June 1954.

Sylvia (Spencer) Reiling of Springfield, VA, died on June 1, 2019. While she did not graduate from Taft, having moved to Kansas City, MO, she felt attached to her Taft classmates of June 1950.

Lois Marie (Jespersen) Howard of Downers Grove, IL, Class of June 1951, died April 28, 2019.

Evvy Almquist, Class of June 1953, died in 1988. She is survived by her sister Dorothy (Almquist) Engquist, Class of June 1956.

Sonja Pearl "Sonnie" (Andruska) Berger of Cleveland, OH, Class of June 1954, died on May 18, 2019.

Terrance Edward “Terry” King of Vernon Hills IL, Class of January 1960, died on April 10, 2019. He survived by his wife Barbara (Borowski) King, Class of June 1962.



The Taft Alumni Association is looking for a few good people to serve on the Board of Directors. To be considered, you must be an active member of TAA and willing to attend the quarterly board of directors' meetings typically held at the school. Age is no barrier, and we'd love to see some of the younger classes join us. Interested? Please contact TAA President Anne Lunde at eagleemail@taftalumni.org.



Taft Alumni Association Merchandise

| Qty | Item | Specifics | Price Each | Total Price |
|-----|--|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo | Medium | \$25.00 | \$ |
| | Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo | Large | \$25.00 | \$ |
| | Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo | X-Large | \$25.00 | \$ |
| | Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo | XX-Large | \$25.00 | \$ |
| | Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo | XXX-Large | \$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 | \$ |

Shipping and Handling: Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$8.00

Total Remitted

Name (please print):

Grad Month/Year:

Address:

City/State/ZIP:

Phone: ()

Please use a separate order form for each address. Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to
Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185

Remember to Renew Your Membership!

Thank you for keeping current with your TAA membership. If you receive the newsletter by post, check your address label for the expiration date of your current membership with the Taft Alumni Association located just below the graduation date. If you receive the newsletter online, you'll receive a reminder by email, sent out twice annually.

There's a membership form on the next page. Update only the information that may have changed since your last renewal. You'll receive two full years of newsletters filled with news about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs.

Thanks to all who have opted to receive their newsletter electronically. It has made a BIG difference in our printing, mailing and handling newsletter costs. 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No changes | | | |
| *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 | | | |
| *First Name | * Last Name at Graduation | * Current Last Name | |
| Primary Phone | Email Address | | List in Email Directory <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| *Month/Year Spouse Graduated | Number of Children (if different) _____ 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 |
| 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 | |
| Please mail application and funds to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631-3185 | | | |

Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|---|
| Anne Lunde | 1969 | President, Historian |
| John Prochaska | 1961 | Vice President, Treasurer |
| Arlene (Laufer) Ware | 1960 | Secretary |
| Kevin Krieger | 1973 | Director, Webmaster |
| Paulette (Zemaitis) English | 1967 | Director, Web Editor, Interim Newsletter Editor |
| Judy Jacobsen | 1970 | Director |
| Paul Madsen | 1971 | Director |
| Wayne Schimpff | 1959 | Director |
| Ryan Glowacz | 2006 | Faculty Representative |

The Taft Alumni Newsletter
is a quarterly publication of the
Taft Alumni Association

Send news, photos, and general correspondence to:

Taft Alumni Association
6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave
Chicago IL 60631-3185

Or email by to eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Submission deadline for the next issue is:

September 31, 2019

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6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.
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